

Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge: Preliminary Report

Programme Duration: April 2023 - March 2024

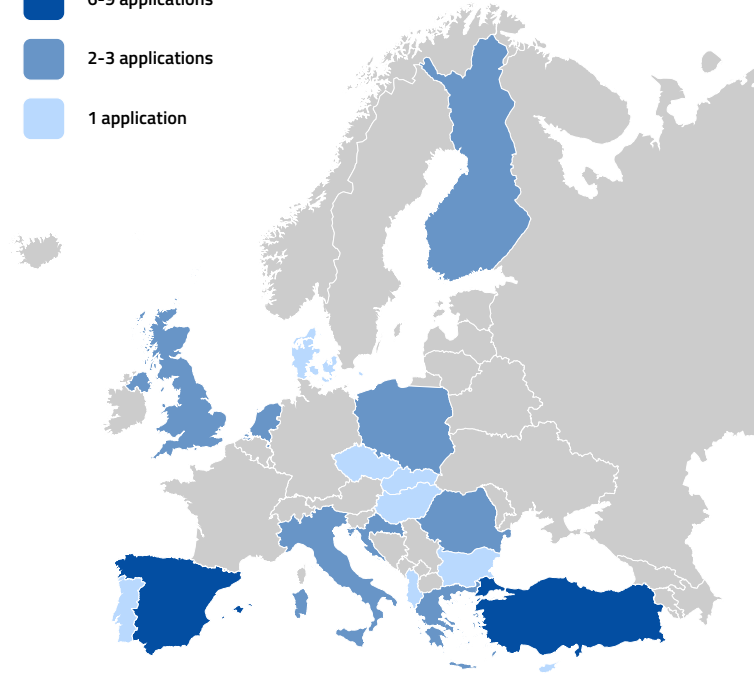
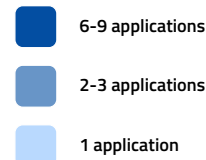
Programme Background:

Responsible for more than 70 per cent of global CO2 emissions, cities can lead Europe's pathway to a zero-carbon world. To support this transition, the Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge¹ was launched in January 2022. FedEx granted EIT Climate-KIC and EIT Digital \$597,000 USD to develop the Challenge aimed at supporting European cities to adopt innovative approaches and solutions for low-carbon, sustainable mobility.

Initially, the aim was to identify urban mobility related innovations by entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs and link these to transport teams in European cities. After consultation with a handful of city transport teams, the challenge was reframed to focus on the transport decarbonisation needs of cities, and to align more closely with NetZeroCities, an initiative coordinated by EIT Climate-KIC and funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme to achieve 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030.

The reframed call, which ran for six weeks in October and November 2022, invited towns and cities across Europe (>25,000 population) to submit proposals for impactful and innovative projects to accelerate the take-up of active, shared, collective and/or electric mobility, as part of efforts to decarbonise urban transport.

A total of 43 applications from 19 countries



¹ The original programme name was the Sustainable Cities Climate Impact Challenge. It was renamed to the 'Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge' for the 2024 edition.

Overall, **nine main themes** emerged (some project proposals focussed on more than one theme simultaneously):



Promotion of active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling)



Infrastructure (mainly for walking, cycling and wheeling)



Cargo bikes and e-cargo bikes



Behaviour change/citizen engagement



Digital applications (apps)



Electric vehicles (promotion, EV charging facilities)



Data and monitoring for sustainable transport



Public transport



Shared mobility

The four municipalities selected for funding based on the clarity of proposal, potential environmental/social benefit, learning and replicability in other cities:



London Borough of Hackney, UK (pop. 280,000)
Zero Emissions Network project (awarded 70K USD)

The Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) project built upon previous work by the city council to create an active network of businesses committed to zero-emissions transport. Activities included setting up an e-cargo bike hub to catered to local businesses, e-bike and e-van roadshows, loan schemes to enable businesses to trial cargo bikes, and the creation of a ZEN toolkit to enable others to benefit from lessons learned. Grants of up to GBP 2,500 were provided to 14 local businesses committed to switching from petrol/diesel vehicles to cargo bikes and e-bikes.

Espoo, Finland (pop. 272,000).
It's like riding a bike! project (awarded 60K USD)

The City of Espoo trained 128 first- and second-generation immigrants (mostly women and girls) to cycle. Across the city, public workshops and mobile "repair cafes" fixed over 70 bikes and trained 220 people on bike maintenance. The project helped increase independence among new Espoo citizens, especially women and girls, promoted healthy physical activity and provided opportunities for social interaction, as well as facilitating cycling as accessible, affordable, family-friendly and sustainable transport. Involving the city's bike shops in repair events delivered additional economic benefits.

Olot, Spain (pop. 36,000)
Olot Green Parking project (awarded 60K USD)

While transport officers in Olot (Catalonia) promote active travel for local journeys, they have identified the fear of bike theft as a barrier to cycling, particularly among employees who have to leave their bikes for hours at a time. To address this issue, Olot City Council is installing a network of secure longer-stay bike parking facilities for key employment sites and other transport demand generators in the city, including Olot's hospital, bus station, health and sports centres. There have been some delays to Olot's project due to political changes in the Council. However, the new team fully supports the project and is proceeding to implement as agreed.

Karasu, Turkey (winter pop. 35,000 / summer pop. up to 500,000)
Karasu Micromobility Corridors project (awarded 50K USD)

This project focused on creating safe and effective active travel corridors for pedestrians, bicycles and scooters by reallocating street space. Activities included adding 2.2 kilometres of safe micromobility corridors using road markings and physical delineators, and installing five bicycle parking racks with repair/tool stations along the bicycle path in the coastal area and in the city centre. The city partnered with a regional university to deliver the project, involving students and academics, thereby amplifying learning and positively influencing the next generation of city planners. In addition, an array of studies were conducted focused on citizens' bicycle usage and active transportation.

