



SMART GREEN MOBILITY

**BATS**



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**SUMPs for BSR**

## Baltic Active Mobility 2026: Shaping Future Cities

### Final conference of BATS & SUMPs for BSR projects in Gdynia, Poland

Venue: *Pomeranian Science and Technology Park*

*Al. Zwycięstwa 96/98, 81-451 Gdynia, Poland*

**On the 8-9 September 2026**, the Baltic Active Mobility 2026 conference brings together practitioners, experts and decision makers at local, regional and national levels across the Baltic Sea Region to explore how active mobility and strong Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) can shape healthier, more resilient and future-ready cities.

The event is organised by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects [BATS](#) and [SUMPs for BSR](#), supporting cities in accelerating the transition towards active and sustainable urban mobility.

Strategic debate is combined with practical exchange and peer learning, creating space for both political dialogue and hands-on insights. A dedicated high-level representative exchange will bring together European, national and local decision-makers to discuss how cities can accelerate the transition towards climate-neutral, resilient and healthy mobility systems, and how governance, policy frameworks and funding can better support this shift.

In addition, the programme will highlight practical experiences from cities, innovative approaches to measure implementation, monitoring & data collection, stakeholder engagement, and cross-border cooperation. Participants can expect interactive formats, inspiring examples, and opportunities for direct exchange across levels of governance.

The event week will start with the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting. **On 7 September 2026**, the pre-conference day will be organised with site visits in Gdynia. Focusing on active mobility and wider sustainability topics, the meeting offers UBC member cities and other interested municipalities & organisations the opportunity to exchange perspectives, shape joint priorities, and influence the future work of the Commission.

# Agenda

Monday, 7 September 2026

## UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting Celebrating 30 years of cooperation – shaping the future together

Venue: *Pomeranian Science and Technology Park*  
*Al. Zwycięstwa 96/98, 81-451 Gdynia, Poland*

11:30 – 12:00 Arrival and registration

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch (for Commission meeting participants)

Venue: [Room A](#)

Moderator: Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

13:00 – 13:30 **Anniversary opening: 30 years of UBC SCC cooperation**

A celebratory opening marking three decades of sustainability collaboration within the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission. The session will highlight key milestones, achievements, and defining moments from 30 years of joint work. Eyewitness reflections by:

- **Mikko Jokinen**, Member and Co-Chair of the Sustainable Cities Commission (1991-2013)
- **Björn Grönholm**, Head of the Sustainable Cities Commission Secretariat (2006-2021)
- **Dagmara Nagorka-Kmiecik**, Advisory Board Member of the Sustainable Cities Commission (2006-2026)

13.30 – 13.45 **Keynote: From sustainable to resilient cities – Welcome to 2036**

What might our cities look like in ten years? This keynote explores the next frontier of urban development, focusing on key trends shaping resilient cities and presenting future scenarios inspired by 30 years of experience and learning.

- **Magnus Qvant**, Nordic Urban Resilient Institute, Malmö, Sweden

13.45 – 14.45 **Resilient future cities lab**

An interactive session addressing city needs. In this session, cities will pitch their key challenges from the fields of mobility, climate resilience, and climate governance. The session will continue with a group discussion, where participants will co-create ideas and share solutions. Together, we will turn current needs into actionable opportunities.

14.45 – 15.15 **Co-creating the SCC Action Plan 2027**

Energised by coffee, in this session we will explore how the Commission can best support its member cities going forward. Through group discussion, participants will reflect on future projects, collaborations, and priorities. What EU funding opportunities are available, and how can our Commission better support you in the coming years? Let's identify concrete initiatives together!

15.15 – 15.30 **Closing remarks and transfer to city centre**

**Agnieszka Ilola**, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

16:00 – 17:30 Walking tour in Gdynia (for Commission meeting participants) (registration limit: 30 participants)

19:00 – 21:00 *Anniversary dinner (for Commission meeting participants)*

## Site visits

Meeting point: [City Centre - Skwer Kościuszki, by the fountain](#)

14:00 – 15:30 Walking tour in Gdynia (registration limit: 30 participants)

14:00 – 16:00 Cycling tour in Gdynia (registration limit: 30 participants)

14:00 – 15:00 Walk-shop - experiencing reduced mobility (registration limit: 30 participants)

15:00 – 16:00 Walk-shop - experiencing reduced mobility (registration limit: 30 participants)

## Innovation, Policy & Active Mobility

Venue: [Room C - Auditorium \(sala audytoryjna C\)](#)

09:00 – 09:30 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening & Welcome**

- **Aleksandra Kosiorek**, Mayor, City of Gdynia, Poland
- **Magda Kopczyńska**, Director-General, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
- **Adrian Mazur**, Director of Transport Strategy Department, Ministry of Infrastructure, Poland

Host: **Alicja Pawłowska**, Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, Poland

10:00 – 10:30 **Towards Climate-Neutral and Healthy Mobility in the BSR**

The EU goals for sustainable mobility and the TEN-T regulations serve as a catalyst for cities, pushing them towards climate neutrality goals and requiring and supporting the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

This keynote highlights multilateral collaboration as a driver for progressive change across the Baltic Sea Region. By focusing on active mobility, the keynote offers a resilient and hopeful outlook for the future, demonstrating how healthy, green transport can stabilise and transform our urban environments during uncertain times.

Keynote speaker:

- **Dr. Stefanie Wodrig**, Deputy Director of International Affairs and Head of the Unit for Northern and Eastern Europe and Baltic Sea Cooperation, Hamburg Senate Chancellery, Germany

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee & networking*

11:00 – 12:00 **The role of sustainable mobility in reaching the climate and environmental goals and improving the quality of life**

Sustainable mobility, such as walking and cycling, is a pillar of good quality of life in cities – contributing to health, social cohesion, and environmental quality. Despite the ambitious climate goals, active mobility is still receiving insufficient attention in many cities.

This panel discussion explores the best practices and solutions for the Baltic Sea Region cities in promoting walking and cycling and how to overcome barriers. We will discuss also how to impact the modal share and how it can improve the liveability of our cities.

Panel discussion:

- **Piotr Rapacz**, Policy Officer & Team Leader, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

- **Dr. Stefanie Wodrig**, Deputy Director of International Affairs and Head of the Unit for Northern and Eastern Europe and Baltic Sea Cooperation, Hamburg Senate Chancellery, Germany
- **Elina Rantanen**, Deputy Mayor, City of Turku, Finland
- **Madara Jenerte**, Head of Development, Cēsis municipality, Latvia
- Deputy mayor, City of Gdynia, Poland

Moderator: **Karen Vancluysen**, Secretary General, POLIS

12:00 – 13:00 *Networking lunch*

13:00 – 14:00 **Local and Regional Cooperation through Governance Innovation**

The revised TEN-T regulation strengthens the role of cities, requiring urban nodes to adopt and monitor Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) by 2027. At the same time, the focus on functional urban areas raises new governance challenges.

This panel discussion will explore how governance innovation can enhance local and regional cooperation, support better integration of policy, planning, and implementation and what lessons can be drawn from Baltic Sea region cities and countries.

Panel discussion:

- **Maria Perkuszevska**, Head of Innovative and Sustainable Mobility Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure, Poland
- **Merlin Rehema**, Senior Officer, Mobility Development and Investments Department, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
- **Tommi Vollmann**, Head of Secretariat, Scandria Alliance, Joint Spatial Planning Department, Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany
- **Jokūbas Leipus**, Head of City Development, Panevėžys City Municipality, Lithuania
- **Dan Mollgren**, Executive Director Urban Development, City of Porvoo, Finland

Moderator: **Wolfgang Backhaus**, CEO, Rupprecht Consult

14:00 – 14:30 *Coffee & networking*

14:30 – 15:30 **Beyond Pilots: Designing year-round solutions for active mobility**

For active mobility to reach its potential for creating climate-neutral and healthy cities, it must be safe and feel safe and attractive in all seasons. This requires specific attention to suitable infrastructure, optimal traffic systems and effective procedures for the removal of snow, ice and leaves from roads and paths.

This session explores why year-round active mobility is important for the Baltic Sea region, by showcasing the results of the BATS project. We bridge the gap between theory and practice—presenting strategic recommendations, introducing practical toolkits and guidance and showcasing real-world city applications.

Speakers:

- **Phoebe Schütz**, Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, Germany
- **Camilla Sandberg**, Innovation Manager Liveable cities, Bax Innovation, Spain

- **Liis Ojamäe**, Associate Professor, Marketing Unit, Department of Business Administration, TalTech University, Estonia
- **Marina Järvis**, Assistant Professor, Organisation and Management Unit, Department of Business Administration, TalTech University, Estonia

15:30 – 16:30 **Beyond Pilots: What is measured can be managed**

Cities need effective ways to measure the real impact of their sustainable mobility plans and actions, particularly the shift towards walking and cycling.

This session highlights Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) as a strategic framework for cities, emphasising the critical role of monitoring and evaluation in tracking progress, adapting and learning from experience, and informing better decision-making. Based on the SUMP for BSR project experiences, the session will showcase how robust data and indicators can support more effective, evidence-based active mobility policies across the Baltic Sea region.

Speaker:

- **Marcin Wołek**, Associate Professor, Department of Transport Market, University of Gdansk, Poland

16:30 – 17:00 **Key takeaways & outlook for tomorrow**

Host: **Alicja Pawłowska**, Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, Poland

19:00 – 21:00 *Gala Dinner (for participants of the day's programme)*

## Practical solutions & Cross-Border Cooperation

08:30-09:00 *Welcome Coffee and Networking*

09:00-10:00 **The European and Global Momentum for Active Mobility**

Venue: [Room C - Auditorium](#)

This keynote will give an overview of global progress on national active travel policies, with regional updates including the Pan-European Masterplan for Active Mobility. It will also introduce new developments, emerging policies and city level examples of adapting active mobility to diverse climate conditions and for promoting health.

Keynote speaker:

- **Jim Walker**, Director and Founder of Walk21 Foundation

Joining for a fireside chat:

- **Dr. Susanne Elfferding**, Policy Officer for the Strategic Development of Pedestrian Mobility and Accessibility, Ministry of Transport & Mobility Transition, Hamburg, Germany
- **Stella Aaltonen**, Project Manager, City of Turku, Finland

Moderators:

- **Phoebe Schütz**, Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, Germany
- **Camilla Sandberg**, Innovation Manager Liveable cities, Bax Innovation

10:00 – 10:30 **Solutions showdown: You have a challenge - we have a solution!**

Venue: [Room C - Auditorium](#)

This session introduces the practical solutions for active mobility & SUMP, developed within the BATS & SUMP projects for BSR projects:

- Model for Experimenting with Active Mobility Measures
- Citizen Activation Guide for Year-Round active Mobility
- Year-Round Active Mobility Toolkit
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for effective Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning

10:30 – 11:00 **Active Mobility marketplace for mobility planners**

Venue: *Foyer*

In the marketplace, you have a chance to explore the BATS & SUMP projects for BSR tools and solutions and talk with the organisations that developed and tested the solutions.

11:00– 11:30 *Coffee & networking*

11:30 – 13:00 **Parallel sessions on local pilots in BATS & SUMP for BSR**

**Session 1: Making change on the ground: Resilient active mobility solutions**

Venue: [Room F/H](#)

This session will dive into the planning, implementation and evaluation of small-scale, resilient active mobility measures. Cities will demonstrate the piloted active mobility solutions and the lessons learnt – from improved bicycle parking to innovative lighting solutions and protective elements for bike lanes.

- University and Hanseatic City of Greifswald, Germany
- Panevėžys city municipality, Lithuania
- Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Borough of Altona, Germany
- City of Umeå, Sweden
- City of Gdynia, Poland
- City of Klaipeda, Lithuania

**Session 2: Get people onboard: Citizen Activation & Behavioural Change**

Venue: [Room D](#)

This session will focus on the approaches to citizen engagement and promotion of behavioural change using tailored campaigns, events, and test groups in the piloting of year-round active mobility measures, and the lessons learnt.

- City of Turku, Finland
- Cēsis municipality, Latvia
- City of Gdynia, Poland
- City of Kalundborg, Denmark
- Municipality of Kiili, Estonia
- City of Porvoo, Finland

**Session 3: How to know if it is working: indicators, monitoring & evaluation**

Venue: [Room E](#)

From the city-wide monitoring and evaluation to monitoring of active mobility – in this session we will discuss the selection of indicators, data collection and monitoring the progress in active mobility.

- City of Gdynia, Poland
- Gävle municipality, Sweden
- Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Borough of Altona, Germany
- Gdansk University of Technology, Poland
- Walk21 Foundation

13:00 – 14:00 *Networking Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30 **Cross-Border Cooperation opportunities for greener and well-functioning mobility system – the way forward**

Venue: [Room C - Auditorium](#)

Active mobility is the backbone of resilient and well-functioning cities, and we need to ensure the commitment to it.

This panel will discuss cities' needs for support in sustainable urban mobility planning and active mobility, identifying the transnational cooperation opportunities. Together, we will explore the ways to support cities in gaining the capacity to respond to emerging trends and slow systemic changes.

Panel Discussion:

- **Sebastian Hentsch**, Project Officer, Joint Secretariat & Managing Authority of Interreg BSR programme
- **Agnieszka Ilola**, Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, Finland
- **Tina Šipkēvica**, Spatial Planning Expert, PA Spatial Planning Coordinator for EUSBSR, VASAB, Latvia
- **Evelina Loberg**, Environmental strategist, Gävle municipality, Sweden

Moderator:

- **Ira Sibelius**, Special Advisor, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, Finland

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee and networking*

16:30 – 16:45 **BSR SUMP Competence Centre – Hub for SUMP knowledge in the Baltic Sea Region**

This session introduces the BSR SUMP Competence Centre as a Hub for SUMP information – source for tools, guidelines, training materials and best practices supporting cities in SUMP.

Speakers:

- **Marcin Wołek**, Associate Professor, Department of Transport Market, University of Gdansk, Poland

16:45 – 17:00 **From practice to policy – next steps for Urban Mobility**

The BATS & SUMP for BSR are ending but the work continues across governance levels.

This session will share information about the opportunities for cities and regions in the Baltic Sea Region. The BSR Urban Mobility platform consolidates the results and lessons learnt from 17 projects into policy recommendations, and peer learning activities & capacity building activities.

Speakers:

- **Tommi Vollmann**, Head of Secretariat, Scandria Alliance, Joint Spatial Planning Department, Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany
- **Oona Uusitalo**, Project Coordinator, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, Finland

17:00 – 17:30 **Key takeaways**

- **Ira Sibelius**, Special Advisor, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, Finland
- **Phoebe Schütz**, Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, Germany

Host: **Alicja Pawłowska**, Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, Poland