

Report on the common needs for national support mechanisms for SUMPs in BSR countries

THE AIM

How can national authorities in **Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany** better support cities in developing, implementing and maintaining Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans? The report compares existing national support with what cities say they need and turns the remaining gaps into joint recommendations.

Evidence base: seven national peer-transfer workshops · seven country profiles · six-country National SUMP Contact Point survey

WHERE NATIONAL SUPPORT THINS OUT



FIVE THINGS THE EVIDENCE SHOWS

- Support is strongest for planning, weaker for making it happen.**
Support is already there, but it often weakens after planning. Cities need continued help to implement measures, monitor results and keep successful solutions going.
- The widest gap sits between planning and implementation.**
Staff shortages, unstable funding and unclear ownership become more visible as measures move from planning into implementation.
- One support model does not fit every city.**
Lower-capacity and less experienced cities need practical guidance, templates and direct support; more experienced ones need advanced support for implementation, monitoring, coordination and scaling.
- Cities need usable data, not simply more of it.**
Cities need common methods, clear indicators, compatible datasets, and the tools and skills to turn monitoring results into decisions.
- Politics and public acceptance shape what gets implemented.**
Even sound measures can stall without engagement, clear communication and support for behavioural change.

NINE MOVES FOR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

01 Support the whole journey.

Link planning guidance with implementation, monitoring and long-term continuation.

02 Adjust support to city needs.

Match support to capacity, SUMP maturity and local context.

03 Make guidance practical.

Use templates, training, case examples, mentoring and expert helpdesks.

04 Agree on common indicators.

Use core indicators, shared methods, compatible datasets and analytical support.

05 Enable planning across city borders.

Support joint planning, compatible data and coordinated investment across functional urban areas.

06 Build public and political support.

Treat engagement, communication and behavioural change as part of implementation.

07 Make peer learning routine.

Maintain practitioner networks and share what worked — and what did not.

08 Use what already works.

Embed tested SUMPs for BSR tools in national guidance and support programmes.

09 Keep the region connected.

Sustain cross-border exchange — the hardest problems do not stop at borders.

It is time to help cities move beyond planning and give them the support they need to turn plans into lasting change.

[Visit the BSR SUMP Competence Centre for further resources](#)