Enabling City Transformation

eCIM

Elbasan Climate-Neutral Innovation in Mobility

ELBASAN, ALBANIA

Emissions domains adressed by the ECT Activity

All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

Key Terms

Smart Corridor | Policy Sandbox | Pop-Up Infrastructure | Data-Driven Governance | Community Co-Creation | Capacity Building

Levers of Change

Data and Digitalisation | Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Procurement | Social innovation | Technology/infrastructure

Context & Challenges

eCIM addresses Elbasan's rapid shift to car dependency by creating a smart mobility corridor on Aqif Pasha Boulevard. The project combines physical infrastructure (pop-up bicycle lanes, smart crossings), institutional innovation (cross-departmental collaboration, policy testing sandbox), and community engagement (university student partnerships) to demonstrate that sustainable mobility is possible. By building local capacity and generating real-time data, eCIM creates a replicable model for Balkan cities transitioning away from car-centric development.
The specific challenges: Car use doubled to 41% in a decade while walking/cycling dropped to 44%. Transport produces 31.9% of city emissions. Only 1 km of bicycle lane exists despite 1,681 km of roads. City lacks mobility data systems, technical expertise, and cross-departmental coordination to manage sustainable transport.

Objectives

- Develop comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Test 1000m temporary "pop-up" bicycle lane with real-time data
- Install smart pedestrian crossings with air quality sensors
- Establish Inter-departmental Task Force (40+ stakeholders)
- Create Policy Sandbox for testing mobility regulations safely
- Launch "Mobility Students" program with university
- Train municipal staff in data-driven mobility planning
- Develop public-private partnership and green procurement models

Activities & Innovations

- **Physical:** 1000m pop-up bike lane, smart pedestrian crossing with air quality sensors, bicycle counting systems
- **Governance:** Inter-departmental Task Force, Policy Sandbox for testing regulations, international study tour
- **Capacity:** Municipal staff training, university student research program, Car-Free Street events
- **Financial:** Public-private partnership models, green procurement guidelines
- **Data:** Real-time collection system integrated with Google Maps for public access

Expected Impact & Outcomes

Short-term (within ECT project timeline):

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan completed and adopted
- Pop-up lane operational with usage data collected
- 40+ stakeholders collaborating through Task Force
- Real-time mobility data publicly accessible on Google Maps
- Municipal staff trained in data-driven planning
- University students engaged as mobility researchers

Long-term:

- Data-driven decision-making becomes standard city practice
- Policy Sandbox continues as permanent governance tool
- Replicable model adopted by other Balkan cities
- Enhanced cross-departmental collaboration citywide
- Cultural shift toward sustainable mobility visible
- Baseline established for tracking transport emission reductions

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