

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN MOBILITY

# REDUCING DIVERSITY OF URBAN VEHICLE ACCESS REGULATIONS



# PUM Action No. 7: Reducing diversity of Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs)

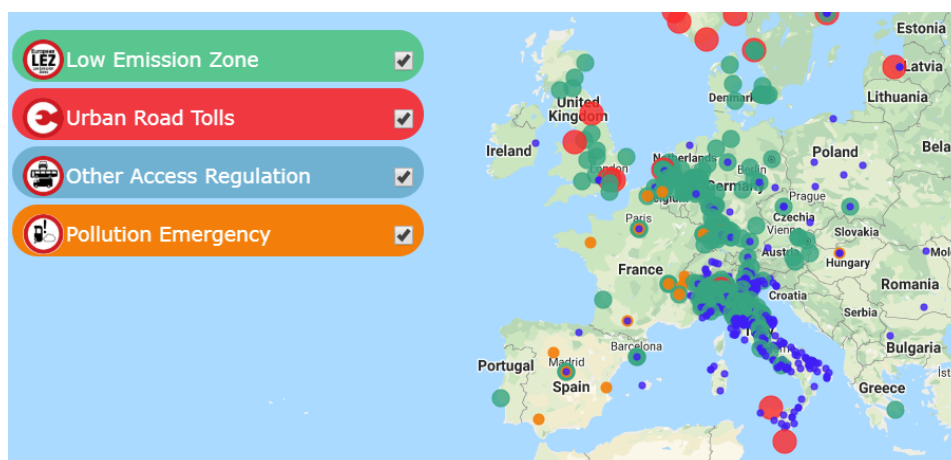
The growing number of schemes for Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs) within the EU may create confusion for citizens and businesses. This action was created to increase transparency and, where possible, support the effectiveness of existing approaches to UVARs.

Many cities struggle with the balance of congestion, “liveability”, air pollution, noise levels, accessibility, damage to historic building and other pressures of urban life. The effects of these phenomena highlight the problematic reigning in urban areas across the EU: Air pollution is behind 310.000 premature deaths in Europe each year, traffic incidents caused 39000 fatalities in Eu in 2008, congestion is costing 1% of the EU’s GDP and noise contributes to at least 10.000 cases of premature mortality each year. To battle this, some cities have regulations or restrictions for vehicles going into all or part of their area.

The Commission has acknowledged the environmental objectives of these actions. However, it has also highlighted the risk of creating a fragmented patchwork of urban areas with new 'border lines' across Europe. In order to enable a wide use of UVARs without creating disproportionate barriers to mobility for citizens and goods, the Commission develops guidance for the development of harmonised UVARs.

## Outputs

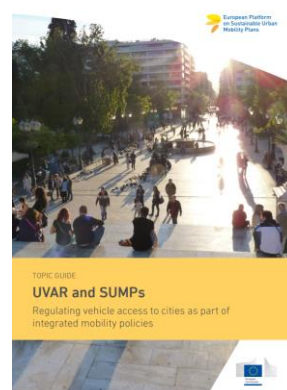
(1) Updated **UVAR information** on a **website**:



To increase transparency of the schemes and make available relevant information to the public more accessible and effective, the Commission founded the UVAR portal. The website includes multi-lingual general information on Urban Vehicle Access Regulations (UVARs) and on all the existing schemes in the EU, including low emission zones, pedestrian zones and congestion charging zones. The Commission has continuously supported the portal, through participation in its steering committee. The website is regularly being updated and it will continue to be so in the future.<sup>1</sup>

- (2) **UVAR guidance document** prepared by the Commission with cities, Member States and stakeholders (including PUM partners):

In October 2019, following a number of workshops with Member States and stakeholders (including PUM partners), a dedicated topical guidance document on UVARs was published as part of the revision of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) guidelines. It provides recommendations and best practices that can support local administrators in designing and implementing urban vehicle access regulations as part of a comprehensive local transport plan. All the topical guidance documents are available at the EU Urban Mobility Observatory (ELTIS).<sup>2</sup>



## Follow-up actions beyond the project phase of the Partnership on Urban Mobility

- (1) Updated UVAR information: Member States have to make accurate real time traffic information available (as from 2020, in line with the Directive on Intelligent Transport Systems), and implement swiftly the Single Data Gateway Regulation in relation to UVARs.
- (2) Address fragmentation and patchwork of the schemes while respecting the subsidiarity principle: the Commission is analysing a way forward based on input gathered so far from Member States and stakeholders and taking into account the priorities of the new Commission. Further actions will be considered also following the result of the evaluation of the 2013 Urban Mobility Package.

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<sup>1</sup> UVAR portal: <http://www.urbanaccessregulations.eu>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eltis.org/guidelines/second-edition-sump-guidelines>



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For further information on the Urban Agenda for the EU,  
the Partnership for Urban Mobility and the final deliverables please visit:

[www.ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda](http://www.ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda)

[www.ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-mobility](http://www.ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-mobility)



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