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# Study on Urban Access Restrictions



## Study Abstract

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## Abstract

This document reports on the results of a study funded by the EC – DG MOVE to investigate the state-of-the-art of Access Restriction Schemes (ARS) in Europe and identify actions in which the European Union could engage to promote better awareness of the ARS concept, of the implementation options and of their effects, and to foster the dissemination and exchange of best practice in this field. It explicitly addresses Action 7 of the Urban Mobility Action Plan, adopted by the EU on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009:

*“Action 7 — Access to green zones*

*The Commission will launch a study on the different access rules for the different types of green zones across the EU in order to improve knowledge on how the different systems work in practice. On the basis of the study results, the Commission will facilitate the exchange of good practices.”*

The study has relied on the combination of extensive desk work with direct interaction with stakeholders, including two questionnaire-based surveys and a dedicated stakeholders workshop.

While the nature and functioning of the existing schemes are in general well documented, the study confirmed that the availability of data on the impacts of scheme implementation is extremely limited, and in general of episodic nature.

Many of the drivers, enablers and barriers experienced by cities that decide to implement an ARS are common to all types of schemes, irrespective of the specific features of the scheme itself.

The stakeholders consultation showed that ARS are seen as a powerful policy instrument by most stakeholders groups, and that their potential in addressing the major challenges of urban sustainability (notably air quality, congestion, but also the need to forcefully strengthen the role of non motorized modes) is recognized as considerable.

Recommendations primarily concentrate on actions that the EU could undertake in order to make the most of the good practices developed in those EU cities that have already accrued a meaningful experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of schemes, notably including (i) the development of a harmonised guidance on ARS good practice that would support cities without prescribing standardized solutions (ii) the establishment and maintenance of a single-window information resource on all ARS aspects, (iii) the funding of large ARS demonstrators.