

## **Abstract**

To meet the ambitious goals of carbon neutrality by 2050 that the European Union has set for itself, urban mobility is going to have to contribute much more to the overall reduction of greenhouse emissions. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) are the latest policy of choice coming from the European Commission set to deal with this issue. Interdisciplinary and based on best practices, this holistic transport strategy focuses on people, both as stakeholders in the planning process and as its ultimate beneficiaries. Although successful and popular, the take up process of these policies has been rather uneven across European cities. This paper attempts to uncover what possibly influences decision makers in small and medium sized European cities to adopt a SUMP, via binomial logistic regression on a large subset of cities (296) in 12 EU countries. The findings suggest that cities, which are in geographic proximity to an award-winning city, that have in their vicinity a higher education institution and that have continuously participated in European Mobility Week events, exemplify a higher likelihood to adopt a SUMP. Additionally, we differentiate between city networks, by grouping them as a “commitment” network and a “project” network. The findings indicate that, “commitment” networks have no significant effects. Membership in “project” networks, on the other hand, indeed shows a significant positive correlation with SUMP take up.

## **Keywords**

sustainability, European Union, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, transport planning, policy diffusion, organized interests, academic cooperation, Europeanization, multi-level governance, city networks

## **Title**

Policy determinants in the context of the EU’s carbon neutrality goals