

## SUMP for public transport in the city of Thessaloniki

Institutional cooperation

Greece – Thessaloniki



### → Context, objectives and target group

One of the key components in the SUMP process is public and stakeholder engagement in the planning process. The main objective of this initiative was to bring together all the main players (stakeholders and public transport users) at the same table in order to agree on issues related to the strategic public transport planning of the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki. This participatory approach is one of the key elements highlighted in the ENDURANCE project, and which is very important for other Greek cities facing the same challenge.

### → Description of the activities

Within the framework of the ATTAC EU project, Thessaloniki Public Transport Authority (THEPTA) developed the first ever SUMP in Greece. A Mobility Forum was established as a Basic Consultation Instrument; THEPTA Identified, mobilized and committed all stakeholders involved in the design of the Metropolitan Area mobility and transport, focused on public transport (10 members in total). The members committed to strongly collaborate in order to overcome any barriers faced in the implementation of 12 specific measures/actions. The measures are directly or indirectly related to public transport, such as electronic ticketing, the introduction of a tramway system, etc. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by all the members and now the city has a common policy vision, independent from who is in power. This was the first time where the relevant stakeholders agreed on a set of measures to be implemented in a short-, mid- or long-term timescale. The measure posing the most difficulty was electronic ticketing, where public transport providers need to agree on various aspects including financial and technological terms. In the first year of the agreement, no objection or refusal has occurred among the parties.

## → Communication

All of the Mobility Forum meetings were advertised through press releases produced by THEPTA and through the local municipal television news.

## → Costs and who paid them

The Mobility Forum was an action within the ATTAC project. The total budget for the project was approximately € 2 million. The meetings took place at the offices of THEPTA. A SUMP unit was established at THEPTA after the end of the project.

## → Project objectives, indicators, data and impact/results

OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	DATA USED	IMPACT/RESULTS
Make decision makers and transport users collaborate with each other and commit	Number of stakeholder groups engaged (government units, associations and NGOs)	Number of Mobility Forum meetings per year	Policy makers and transport users collaborating positively
n/a	8	2	n/a

It was the first time that stakeholders and public transport users collaborated in order to find solutions to public transport related problems. The solutions were usually accepted by all the parties.

## → Barriers

- Difficulties in finding a common way of working: Usually associations found the forum as an opportunity to make complaints about issues unrelated to the SUMP process.
- A lack of resources available to expand the membership of the forum.

## → Drivers

The whole action was taken through an EU funded project. This means that the objectives, timeframe and other parameters were clearly set – serving as pressure to achieve the expected result.

## → Contact information

Chrysa Vizmpa and Christina Paschalidou  
Thessaloniki Public Transport Authority  
info@sasth.gr

## → Details

<http://www.thita.gov.gr/sites/default/files/Project/Project/svak-thessaloniki-2014.pdf>



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