

ELBASAN CLIMATE-NEUTRAL INNOVATION IN MOBILITY (ECIM)

Context

Elbasan’s journey towards climate neutrality faces significant challenges in the mobility sector. The eCIM initiative aims to transform the city’s mobility system, shifting away from its car-dependent model towards one prioritizing active transportation and climate resilience across all urban areas. Through the NetZeroCities Enabling City Transformation Programme under the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral Cities, this project will implement initial pilot interventions at strategic locations, that can later be scaled across the city. Aqif Pasha Boulevard will serve as a demonstration site, transforming from a car-centric street into a smart corridor promoting bicycles and pedestrian areas. Key components include implementing a temporary “pop-up” bicycle lane, deploying smart infrastructure, enhancing pedestrian areas (particularly in the “Kalaja” neighborhood), and using data-driven approaches to monitor and improve new mobility solutions. These pilot sites will help develop comprehensive mobility models that will be scaled and implemented throughout Elbasan, potentially serving as a blueprint for other car-centric Balkan cities.



Project aim

Transform Elbasan’s mobility systems to address environmental and economic challenges through developing data-driven policy frameworks and innovative strategies such as behavioral analysis, community engagement, and fostering a flexible environment for policy testing. The project aims to reduce transportation emissions while improving public health and creating more livable urban spaces.

Deliverables and activities

- **Data-Driven Mobility Policy Sandbox:** Development of an integrated policy testing environment including green procurement guidelines, regulatory frameworks, and financing mechanisms for sustainable mobility solutions.
- **Smart Mobility Capacity Building:** Training programs for municipal staff incorporating climate budgeting, data interpretation, behavioral insights, and sustainable transport planning.
- **Mobility Students Program:** Educational experience on urban sustainability concepts, community engagement techniques, and equity principles in mobility planning.
- **Community Engagement Events:** Small-scale activities led by a citizen engagement expert to design outreach campaigns, develop communication strategies, and ensure inclusive participation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DONORS:  
EU/Horizon Europe  
(HORIZON-RIA-SGA-NZC)

PARTNERS:  
•Municipality of Elbasan  
•Urban Research Institute

DURATION:  
01/04/2025 - 31/03/2027

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About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society /Soros Foundation, etc.

