

Baltic Active Mobility 2026: Shaping Future Cities

Final conference of BATS & SUMPs for BSR projects in Gdynia, Poland

On the 8-9 September 2026, the Baltic Active Mobility 2026 conference brings together practitioners, experts and decision makers at local, regional and national levels across the Baltic Sea Region to explore how active mobility and strong Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) can shape healthier, more resilient and future-ready cities.

The event is organised by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects BATS and SUMPs for BSR, supporting cities in accelerating the transition towards active and sustainable urban mobility.

The event week will start with the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting. On 7 September 2026, the pre-conference day will be organised with site visits in Gdynia. Focusing on active mobility and wider sustainability topics, the meeting offers UBC member cities and other interested municipalities & organisations the opportunity to exchange perspectives, shape joint priorities, and influence the future work of the Commission.

Agenda

Monday, 7 September 2026

UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting Celebrating 30 years of cooperation – shaping the future together

11:30 – 12:00 Arrival and registration

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch (for Commission meeting participants)

13:00 – 13:30 **Anniversary opening: 30 years of UBC SCC cooperation**

Eyewitness reflections by **Mikko Jokinen** (Member and Co-Chair of the Sustainable Cities Commission, 1991-2013), **Björn Grönholm** (Head of the Sustainable Cities Commission Secretariat, 2006-2021) and **Dagmara Nagorka-Kmiecik** (Advisory Board Member of the Sustainable Cities Commission, 2006-2026).

13.30 – 13.45 **Keynote: From sustainable to resilient cities – Welcome to 2036**

Magnus Qvant (Nordic Urban Resilient Institute, Malmö, SWE)

13.45 – 14.45 **Resilient future cities lab**

14.45 – 15.15 **Co-creating the SCC Action Plan 2027**

15.15 – 15.30 **Closing remarks and transfer to city centre**

Agnieszka Ilola (Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission)

- 16:00 – 17:30 Walking tour in Gdynia (for Commission meeting participants) (registration limit: 30 participants)
19:00 – 21:00 *Anniversary dinner (for Commission meeting participants)*

Site visits

- 14:00 – 15:30 Walking tour in Gdynia (registration limit: 30 participants)
14:00 – 16:00 Cycling tour in Gdynia (registration limit: 30 participants)
14:00 – 15:00 Walk-shop - experiencing reduced mobility (registration limit: 30 participants)
15:00 – 16:00 Walk-shop - experiencing reduced mobility (registration limit: 30 participants)

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Innovation, Policy & Active Mobility

- 09:00 – 09:30 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*
09:30 – 10:00 **Opening & Welcome**

Aleksandra Kosiorek, (Mayor, City of Gdynia, PL), **Magda Kopczyńska** (Director-General, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission) and **Adrian Mazur** (Director of Transport Strategy Department, Ministry of Infrastructure, PL). Hosted by **Alicja Pawłowska** (Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, PL)

- 10:00 – 10:30 **Towards Climate-Neutral and Healthy Mobility in the BSR**

Keynote speaker **Dr. Stefanie Wodrig** (Deputy Director of International Affairs and Head of the Unit for Northern and Eastern Europe and Baltic Sea Cooperation, Hamburg Senate Chancellery, GER).

- 10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee & networking*

- 11:00 – 12:00 **The role of sustainable mobility in reaching the climate and environmental goals and improving the quality of life**

Panel discussion by **Piotr Rapacz**, (Policy Officer & Team Leader, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission), **Dr. Stefanie Wodrig** (Deputy Director of International Affairs and Head of the Unit for Northern and Eastern Europe and Baltic Sea Cooperation, Hamburg Senate Chancellery, GER), **Elina Rantanen** (Deputy Mayor, City of Turku, FI), **Madara Jenerte** (Head of Development, Cēsis municipality, LV) and Deputy mayor, City of Gdynia, PL. Moderated by **Karen Vancluysen** (Secretary General, POLIS).

- 12:00 – 13:00 *Networking lunch*

- 13:00 – 14:00 **Local and Regional Cooperation through Governance Innovation**

Panel discussion by **Maria Perkuszevska** (Head of Innovative and Sustainable Mobility Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure, PL), **Merlin Rehema** (Senior Officer, Mobility Development and Investments Department, Ministry of Climate, EE), **Tommi Vollmann** (Head of Secretariat, Scandria Alliance, Joint Spatial Planning Department, Berlin-Brandenburg, GER), **Jokūbas Leipus**, (Head of City Development, Panevėžys City Municipality, LT) and **Dan Mollgren**, (Executive Director Urban Development, City of Porvoo, FI). Moderated by **Wolfgang Backhaus** (CEO, Rupprecht Consult).

14:00 – 14:30 *Coffee & networking*

14:30 – 15:30 **Beyond Pilots: Designing year-round solutions for active mobility**

Speakers: **Phoebe Schütz**, (Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, GER), **Camilla Sandberg**, (Innovation Manager Liveable cities, Bax Innovation, ES), **Liis Ojamäe** (Associate Professor, Marketing Unit, Department of Business Administration, TalTech University, EE) and **Marina Järvis**, (Assistant Professor, Organisation and Management Unit, Department of Business Administration, TalTech University, EE).

15:30 – 16:30 **Beyond Pilots: What is measured can be managed**

Marcin Wołek (Associate Professor, Department of Transport Market, University of Gdansk, PL)

16:30 – 17:00 **Key takeaways & outlook for tomorrow**

Host: **Alicja Pawłowska** (Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, PL)

19:00 – 21:00 *Gala Dinner (for participants of the day's programme)*

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Practical solutions & Cross-Border Cooperation

08:30-09:00 *Welcome Coffee and Networking*

09:00-10:00 **The European and Global Momentum for Active Mobility**

Keynote speaker: **Jim Walker** (Director and Founder of Walk21 Foundation). Joining for a fireside chat: **Dr. Susanne Efferding** (Policy Officer for the Strategic Development of Pedestrian Mobility and Accessibility, Ministry of Transport & Mobility Transition, Hamburg, GER) and **Stella Aaltonen** (Project Manager, City of Turku, FI). Moderators: **Phoebe Schütz** (Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, GER) and **Camilla Sandberg** (Innovation Manager Liveable cities, Bax Innovation).

10:00 – 10:30 **Solutions showdown: You have a challenge - we have a solution!**

10:30 – 11:00 **Active Mobility marketplace for mobility planners**

11:00– 11:30 *Coffee & networking*

11:30 – 13:00 **Parallel sessions on local pilots in BATS & SUMP for BSR**

13:00 – 14:00 *Networking Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30 **Cross-Border Cooperation opportunities for greener and well-functioning mobility system – the way forward**

Panel discussion by **Sebastian Hentsch** (Project Officer, Joint Secretariat & Managing Authority of Interreg BSR programme), **Agnieszka Ilola** (Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, FI), **Tina Šipkēvica** (Spatial Planning Expert, PA Spatial Planning Coordinator for EUSBSR, VASAB, LV) and **Evelina Loberg** (Environmental strategist, Gävle municipality, SWE). Moderated by **Ira Sibelius** (Special Advisor, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, FI).

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee and networking*

- 16:30 – 16:45 **BSR SUMP Competence Centre – Hub for SUMP knowledge in the Baltic Sea Region**
Marcin Wołek (Associate Professor, Department of Transport Market, University of Gdansk, PL)
- 16:45 – 17:00 **From practice to policy – next steps for Urban Mobility**
Speakers: **Tommi Vollmann** (Head of Secretariat, Scandria Alliance, Joint Spatial Planning Department, Berlin-Brandenburg, GER) and **Oona Uusitalo**, Project Coordinator, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, FI).
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Key takeaways**
By: **Ira Sibelius** (Special Advisor, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, City of Turku, FI) and **Phoebe Schütz** (Project Manager BATS, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Altona, GER). Host: **Alicja Pawłowska** (Senior Sustainable Mobility Expert, City of Gdynia, PL).