

Sustainable Urban Transport in Albania

Towards data-driven sustainable urban mobility action in Albania

The challenge

Mobility in Albanian cities faces increasing pressures from rapid motorization and its effects on air quality, road safety, and quality of life. The number of vehicles continues to rise, contributing to severe congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution.

Public transport systems in and between Albanian cities require modernization, while walking and cycling infrastructure needs significant improvement. Sustainable transport modes remain underfunded, and institutional capacities for planning and implementing mobility reforms require strengthening.

To tackle these challenges, investments must focus on improving the quality of public transport, promoting active mobility, and enhancing institutional capacities at national and municipal levels. A data-driven approach is crucial to supporting evidence-based decision-making and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Albania's urban mobility transition.

Our approach

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is collaborating with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and other municipalities, to drive sustainable urban mobility reforms across Albania.

The Sustainable Urban Transport in Albania (SUTi II) Project builds on the successful experience in Tirana to expand best practices nationwide. The project focuses on modernizing public transport, supporting active mobility, and introducing innovative data-driven decision-making frameworks for sustainable urban mobility.

Project name	Sustainable Urban Transport in Albania (SUTi II)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Albania
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE)
Implementing agency	Municipality of Tirana
Duration	2024 – 2028

The project has three main areas of intervention, accompanied by multiple data and demonstration projects:

- National Actions:**
Institutional Strengthening and Policy Reform
 - Enhancing the regulatory frameworks and policies for promoting sustainable transportation practices.
 - Supporting national institutions in aligning domestic legislation with European Union standards.
 - Developing a National Bus Transport Authority to oversee public transport operations.
- Municipal Actions**
Public Transport Modernization
 - Improving bus systems with digital solutions, such as real-time tracking.
 - Supporting the introduction of BRT System in Tirana and environmentally friendly public transport options.
 - Establishing a sustainable financing model for public transport.
- Digital Transformation**
And Active Mobility
 - Expanding and improving walking and cycling infrastructure across cities.
 - Deploying digital mobility management tools for data-driven urban transport planning.
 - Implementing pilot projects to test innovative mobility solutions.



Expected Outcomes



National and local institutions implement data-driven mobility planning and policy reforms, leading to more efficient and well-coordinated urban transport initiatives.



A modernized and environmentally friendly public transport system is in place, improving service quality, affordability, and reliability for citizens.



Improved infrastructure for walking and cycling enhances accessibility and quality of life, promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing congestion.



Strengthened cooperation between national and municipal authorities fosters a cohesive approach to sustainable mobility.

The Benefits

The project aims to transform Albania's urban mobility landscape by fostering institutional capacity, digital innovation, and sustainable transport investments. With improved public transport services, expanded active mobility infrastructure, and robust policy frameworks, Albanian cities will become more livable, inclusive, and environmentally friendly.

By integrating digital solutions and data-driven planning, the project ensures that decision-making processes are more transparent and effective. This leads to better resource allocation and long-term urban mobility improvements.

Additionally, increased investments in public and active transport modes will reduce reliance on private vehicles, ultimately lowering emissions and improving air quality.

The modernization of public transport services will not only benefit daily commuters but also contribute to economic growth by making cities more attractive for investment and tourism.

The development of cycling and pedestrian-friendly spaces will further enhance social inclusivity and improve the overall urban experience for all residents and visitors.

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