Recommendations for strengthening the role of Regions in achieving sustainable urban mobility

Dr. Maria Morfoulaki
Ms. Maria Chatziathanasiou
Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)
Hellenic Institute of Transport (HIT)
marmor@certh.gr
Main conclusions arise from REFORM project

Through regional and interregional learning exchanges
REFORM aims to trigger the SUMP development process and amplify the SUMP adoption rate making use of the key role of the Regions in the SUMP development process increasing also the capacity of the local authorities’ staff

Area of intervention
Different models of the regional role in SUMP development and monitoring…

Greater Manchester 2040 Vision and Transport Strategy
Different regional problems and needs on SUMP development…

✓ Minimum knowledge on how to integrate sectoral planning in SUMP

✓ Minimum knowledge on methodologies/tools in achieving effective stakeholder engagement

✓ Ensure complementarity of local plans among them and consistency with regional strategy

✓ Action plan with measures based on the action lines that have been defined

✓ Lack of capacity and knowledge to procure SUMP development

✓ Wider staff having knowledge of SUMP process

✓ Lack of capacity and knowledge to monitor and participate into SUMP measures’ development

✓ Lack of capacity or knowledge on the implementation and delivery of SUMP measures
There are many best practices that answer to the Regional Needs.

The Regions must select..

Document available at: https://www.interregeurope.eu/reform/library/
Allocation of a role to regional authorities in SUMP adoption & development

**Why?**

There are legal, institutional, technical and financial barriers, which hinder the capacities of regions to act as coordination bodies. These barriers include e.g. the fragmentation of responsibilities across different public authorities or the non-alignment of local SUMP time plans.

**How?**

REFORM recommends to open a close cooperation and consultation process between the national governments, the regional authorities and representatives of local authorities to clarify the allocation of roles and responsibilities among the different levels of governance as regards the SUMP development, implementation and evaluation.
Establishing and maintaining a constant communication with local governments, stakeholders and citizens, at the regional level

**Why?**

Regions and metropolitan authorities face several issues regarding the cooperation with stakeholders and citizens due to:

- the “stand-alone” administrative culture of certain local authorities which hinders the communication among municipalities and between local authorities -stakeholders and citizens.
- lack of structured involvement of stakeholders in specific policy areas,
- lack of guidance (i.e. instruments and/or methodologies) at national or regional level
- tensions over competing interests – both between administrations, and between the different entities involved (i.e. administrations, stakeholders and citizens)

**How?**

In order to create a common planning culture in a region, REFORM recommends to:

- organize regular meetings with representatives of the local authorities of the region, technicians and relevant stakeholders to exchange opinions and experiences on planning and decision-making
- prepare awareness-raising events and campaigns and launch open dialogues and active participation processes on sustainable urban mobility planning.
Enhancing regional capacities to enable regions to support cities in SUMP development, implementation and monitoring

Why?

- Because they do not belong to the main authorities in charge of the development and implementation of SUMP, staff of regional bodies sometimes lack of experience and/or good examples of regional action regarding supporting SUMP development.

- They might also experience a lack of technical skills, and knowledge on some specific areas of SUMP development and implementation.

- This hinders the capacity of regions to provide support to cities and to ensure a well-coordinated development of valid and successful SUMP on their territories.
Enhancing regional capacities to enable regions to support cities in SUMP development, implementation and monitoring

**How?**

*REFORM recommends the:*

- ** organisation of training programmes on SUMP development and implementation for the staff of regional bodies**
- ** implementation of Regional Competence Centres on SUMP development and implementation. These centres, managed by regions, could act as support bodies for local authorities, providing answers for all cities of the regions and adapted to the local contexts**
- ** collection and promotion of existing knowledge and tools on SUMP – especially those that are the most relevant to the type of cities of the region, or those that are available in the local language - in a “SUMP knowledge library”. This library should be managed by the region**
- ** development of regional SUMP guidance and specifications, based on the European ones, adapted to the local contexts and provided in the local language**
Ensuring the complementarity of SUMPs in a regional planning context and ensuring their consistency with other plans, strategies and objectives

Why?

Several issues arise when it comes to the complementarity between SUMPs and between SUMPs and other sectoral plans and strategies. Those barriers include:

➢ sectoral “silo approach”
➢ lack of integration in the strategic planning approaches between the regional and local levels
➢ competition between different policy areas and objectives, promoted by different entities.

REFORM recommends to:

➢ develop a regional depository of local measures and plans which would give a better overview of the current and future strategies, to identify the potential synergies and to avoid conflicting policies.
➢ the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which can prove particularly worthy for the collection, management and use of data from the municipalities and, thus the effective assessment and monitoring of current and future planning activities.
Ensuring effective assessment, monitoring and future planning, through the use of a common regional set of performance indicators

Why?

Cities and regions do not necessarily use a common approach toward data collection and management and regions might face:

- fragmentation in the type and amount of data collected across cities,
- difference in data collection methodologies
- lack of skills and knowledge regarding the analysis and use of data.

REFORM recommends the:

- use of common ICT tools to collect, manage and properly use data of municipalities
- development of regional mobility data repositories.
- development of Regional models that simulate and evaluate proposed planning activities and policies in regional level
Regions taking the responsibility and/or supporting local administrations in securing funding for SUMP and Action Plans implementation

Why?

Many regions are facing issues regarding:
- the non-continuity of funding
- the prioritisation of measures to be funded
- assurance of funding for transformational infrastructure.

How?

REFORM recommends to:
- align SUMP implementation plans with the Regional Operational Programmes to maximise the funding of measures.
- update of SUMP at specific intervals, following the renewal of regional planning priorities which could facilitate the commitment of regional funding.
A supporting and coordinating role of the regions does not mean the transfer of planning responsibilities to regions, nor the interference into local contexts without considering the will and aspiration of single municipalities, of their populations and stakeholders. On the contrary, giving a more important role to the regions aims at further and better supporting cities and towns. This is a driver for securing necessary funds for their actions and measures and for coordinating projects that concern areas and populations larger than those included in the geographical boundaries of a city or a town.
Thank you!