





Newsletter 4/2025



An EU Project co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED that aims at upscaling to a new generation of urban logistics and planning enabling the transition to



























What you'll find in this newsletter

The latest progress from MED COLOURS	p.1
Where are we today?	p.1
Latest news	p.2
MED COLOURS at the European Climate HOrizon 2030 Day	p.2
• MED COLOURS joins the European Mobility Week in Cesena (Italy)	p.3
MED COLOURS at the Second Institutional Policy Dialogue	p.4
MED COLOURS at the POLIS CONFERENCE	p.5
Updates on project activities	p.6
• MED COLOURS presents the Guidelines for Resilient Urban Logistics	5
Planning	p.6
Koper launches free on-demand electric delivery service for larger	
packages	p.7
• Pilot Cities in Action: Local Solutions for Sustainable Urban Freight	
Upcoming events	p.9
MED COLOURS suggested readings for a more resilient and	
sustainable Urban Logistics	p.10
• What if ambitious policies to reduce road vehicle emissions could sa	
millions of lives globally?	p.10
• How can we reimagine the future of last-mile delivery in our cities?	p.11
• What are the key challenges and opportunities in improving local la	st-mile
delivery?	p.11
 How can the HORECA sector contribute to greener and smarter last 	-mile
delivery?	p.12
How can public space be rethought as a core infrastructure for urba services?p.12	n deliver
How can spatial planning support smarter urban freight systems?	p.13
About MED COLOURS project	p.14
About MED COLOURS partners	
Contacts	p.18
	_





The latest progress from MED COLOURS

Where are we today?

The MED COLOURS project is entering an exciting final phase, with partner cities now moving decisively from preparation to concrete action. After completing the core methodological work and the resilience-oriented planning tools, the project's pilots - Cesena, Livorno, Lyon, Lisbon, and Koper - are advancing their local initiatives and beginning to generate **first results on the ground.**



Across the Mediterranean, cities are experimenting with new approaches to urban freight: digital tools for smarter logistics planning, upgraded loading and unloading systems, innovative delivery solutions, and coordinated stakeholder engagement processes. Each pilot reflects the city's specific priorities, but all share the same ambition: making urban logistics cleaner, quieter, and more resilient in the face of climate and mobility challenges.

Meanwhile, MED COLOURS continues to strengthen the strategic framework supporting these actions. CERTH has finalised the joint methodologies and tools for resilient urban logistics planning and presented the Resilient SULP guidelines at the POLIS Conference.

These guidelines, co-designed with partner cities, offer a practical roadmap for assessing vulnerabilities, defining resilience goals, and identifying feasible adaptation measures.

The pilots are also gaining momentum:

- Koper has launched its on-demand electric delivery service;
- Lyon and Livorno are progressing steadily with their respective studies and implementation steps;
- Lisbon is advancing its tender procedures for key components of its Low Emission Zone transition;
- Cesena is finalising its logistics dashboard and training municipal staff for its deployment.

Each of these actions contributes to building the future **Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULPs)**, which will consolidate local insights into long-term strategies.

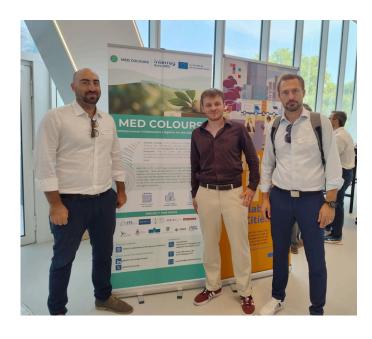
Together, these efforts demonstrate how MED COLOURS is turning concepts into practice and **generating replicable knowledge for cities across the region**. As we move forward, new evidence, tools, and success stories will continue to emerge, supporting Mediterranean cities on their path toward resilient, low-carbon urban logistics.

The coming months will bring new insights and concrete achievements, helping shape more sustainable logistics across the Mediterranean. Stay tuned!





MED COLOURS at the European Climate HOrizon 2030 Days



From 26–28 August 2025, the city of Lyon (France) hosted ECHO – European Climate HOrizon 2030 Days | Scalable Cities Final Conference, organised by our partner SPL Lyon Confluence.

This in-person event marked the conclusion of a five-year journey of the Scalable Cities Secretariat, supporting 134 cities involved in 28 Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects working towards smart and climate-neutral cities. It was also a moment to set out the path for what lies ahead in Europe's climate transition.

The MED COLOURS project actively contributed to the "Decarbonised Mobility group" on Wednesday, 27 August, with two presentations:

- Danilo Čeh (Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj): "Decarbonised mobility solutions in the Mediterranean area":
- Lorenzo Cello (ITL, MED COLOURS coordinator): "Urban Logistics: Experiences from the Emilia-Romagna Region and the MED COLOURS project".

the intervention Through of our coordinator. MED COLOURS project hiahliahted its role in exploring innovative solutions for decarbonised mobility and sustainable urban logistics in the Mediterranean area, and in connecting regional experiences to the broader European discussion on climate neutrality.

In addition, **Judith Cazas** (Urban Planning Project Manager & Interreg Euro-MED Policy Officer, Région Sud) joined the panel "Liveability of Cities: Concrete pathways to involve stakeholders and citizens in the long run".









MED COLOURS joins the European Mobility Week in Cesena (Italy)

On September 20th, the MED COLOURS project took part in the event "La mobilità che innova", organised by the Municipality of Cesena (Italy) as part of the European Mobility Week 2025.

MED COLOURS was presented as an example of how Urban Logistics can be redesigned towards decarbonisation and collaboration. The event was a great opportunity to engage with citizens, local authorities and stakeholders, and to reflect together on how last-mile logistics can become fully compatible with environmental goals and urban well-being.











Urban logistics in focus

On September 22nd, MED COLOURS project joined the event "La mobilità che innova. Progetti, esperienze e buone pratiche a Cesena" (Mobility that innovates. Projects, experiences and best practices in Cesena) hosted at Cesena City Hall as part of the European Mobility Week 2025.

During the session dedicated to Urban Logistics, **Lorenzo Cello from ITL**, lead partner of the project, presented MED COLOURS' initiatives to foster Sustainable Freight Distribution in Mediterranean cities.

The event also featured fruitful exchanges with other initiatives and stakeholders, highlighting how Last-mile delivery solutions and proximity logistics hubs can become key enablers of sustainable mobility in city centres.











MED COLOURS at the Second Institutional Policy Dialogue



Our partner OPEN ENLoCC joined the **Second Institutional Policy Dialogue** organised by the **Green Living Areas Mission**, a key governance project funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme.

The workshop, held on 15-16 October in Brussels, gathered policy partners, thematic project, and other key Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders to exchange knowledge and develop strategies to enhance sustainable urban development in this region.

As part of the Participative Policy Training Session – "Mind your message: how to effectively communicate sustainability policy", MED COLOURS has joined the discussion sessions on the GREENMO strategy and the Thessaloniki 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan, to share the project experience in the sustainable urban logistics practices, but also to gain news insights among the other stakeholders.













MED COLOURS at the POLIS CONFERENCE



On 26-27 November, the MED COLOURS project participated at the **Annual POLIS Conference**, held in Utrecht, in the Netherlands.

Organised by **POLIS network** and hosted by the **City of Utrecht**, the event gathered major public and private stakeholders fostering innovation in urban mobility across the EU.

ITL, OPEN ENLOCC and CERTH presented to the audience the MED COLOURS Project's results and ongoing pilot actions among the other exhibitors, exchanging ideas and experiences to drive the sustainable mobility in European cities.

Many thanks to the POLIS network for hosting this exciting and inspiring event!













Updates on project activities

MED COLOURS presents the Guidelines for Resilient Urban Logistics Planning

CERTH, partner of the MED COLOURS project, has successfully completed Activity A1.2 – Joint methodologies and tools for sustainable and resilient urban logistics planning. The draft version of this work was presented during the POLIS Conference, held on 26–27 November 2025.

The Resilient SULP (Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan) guidelines are grounded in an evidence-based process combining established resilience concepts with practical input from six MED COLOURS partner cities.

Phase 4: Implementation & Monitoring

Step 11 (Monitor): Install "Adaptive Triggers" (autoresponse to weather alerts).

Step 11 (Communicate): Publish a quarterly Resilience Dashboard.

Step 12 (Review): Conduct mandatory "Post-Disruption Debriefs" after shocks.

Phase 1:
Preparation & Analysis

Step 2 (Scope): Map the "Risk-shed" (critical ecosystem), not just city limits.

Step 2 (Plan): Define Review Cadence (e.g., biannual) for living updates.

Step 1 (Structure): Add Climate & Energy Experts to the core team.

Step 3 (Data): Deploy Dataspace Tools for dynamic inventory (vs. static surveys).

Phase 3: Measure Planning

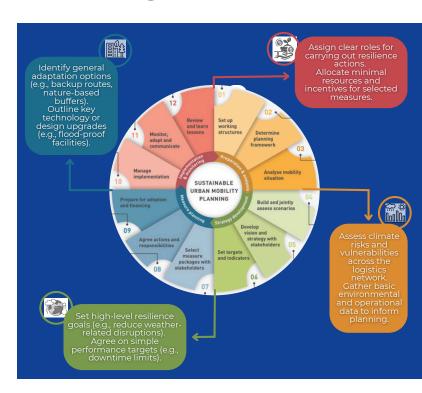
Step 7 (Measures):Prioritize Asset Hardening & Network Diversification.

Step 8 (Funding): Calculate the "Cost of Inaction" to justify investment.

Step 8 (Responsibilities): Create a Resilience Risk Register linked to specific owners Phase 2: Strategy Development

Step 4 (Scenarios): Develop "Climate Shock Narratives" to stress-test visions

Step 6 (Targets): Set Quantitative Resilience Metrics (e.g., % redundancy).



A focused review of European guidance and climate-risk data provided the foundation, while the two-pillar analytical framework helped assess each city's context. Using an innovation readiness self-assessment and а qualitative SUMP/SULP review. the process highlighted common gaps between strategic aims and delivery. The findings were then distilled into an improved planning cycle tailored to the shared vulnerabilities of Mediterranean urban logistics.

By consolidating these insights into practical tools, Activity A1.2 provides MED cities with a robust framework to strengthen the resilience of their urban freight systems and to better align long-term planning with real-world challenges.







Updates on project activities

Koper launches free on-demand electric delivery service for larger packages



Koper has long been committed to liveability enhancing the and attractiveness of its old town introducing urban freight restrictions and limiting delivery windows. While these measures help reduce congestion and protect the historic core, the Municipality also recognises the need to flexible alternatives provide residents, business owners, and tourists who require deliveries outside these time slots.

To address this, Koper is piloting a free on-demand electric delivery service to improve the transport of larger packages beyond regular delivery windows. The service uses a small electric vehicle capable of carrying one passenger (in addition to the driver) and a package or piece of luggage. The vehicle is operated by the company Arriva. A designated parking area near the city centre will support the service, with charging available at existing stations in and around the old town. Specific parking and pick-up locations will also be set to optimise operational efficiency and user accessibility.

The Municipality of Koper (Slovenia), one of the MED COLOURS pilot cities, has officially introduced a new free on-demand electric delivery service designed to transport larger packages beyond regular delivery windows within the historic city centre. Operational since 17 November 2025, the service represents a significant step towards more efficient, sustainable and user-friendly urban delivery solutions.



During the five-month pilot period, **deliveries** will take place Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 15:00. Service users are required to make a prior booking by contacting the provided telephone number, or they can stop the vehicle by raising a hand. The initiative not only supports local businesses and residents but also helps accommodate the needs of tourists, an important group for Koper, given its popularity as a travel destination.



CONSULT THE KOPER PILOT FACTSHEET







Updates from the MED COLOURS Pilot Cities

Pilot Cities in Action: Local Solutions for Sustainable Urban Freight

From zero-emission delivery services to smart loading bays and digital planning tools, the MED COLOURS pilot cities continue to advance innovative solutions to reshape urban freight across the Mediterranean. Each city is addressing its own logistics challenges through targeted actions, and several pilots have reached important milestones in recent months.

Lyon

Lyon is integrating urban logistics into a new underground mobility hub.

The Lyon pilot has moved into a new phase. The studies for the design phase are now complete, and construction of the mobility hub will begin in the coming days. Stakeholder meetings are planned in the coming months to support implementation. In addition, a new study will be launched to assess the feasibility of a potential mobility hub in the Confluence area, as a replication of the MED Colours pilot.

Pilot Factsheet

Cesena

Cesena is developing a digital tool to support smart and sustainable logistics planning.

The city is close to finalising its logistics dashboard: all core functions have been defined, and the scenarios to be simulated are undergoing a final refinement with the Municipality. Training sessions with municipal technical staff are underway, ensuring smooth adoption of the tool.

Pilot Factsheet >



Livorno

Livorno is rethinking access rules and implementing sensor-equipped microhubs.

The Livorno pilot is ongoing: the city is currently finalising the technical specifications for the upgraded loading and unloading base and platform. The pilot is expected to be completed around March 2026.

Pilot Factsheet

Lisbon

Lisbon is preparing its Low Emission Zone for a logistics transition.

In Lisbon, the tender for the remaining studies was launched on October 2025. Final deliverables are foreseen for early 2026.

Pilot Factsheet >







Upcoming events

MED COLOURS plans to take part in TRA Conference 2026

Transport Research Arena (TRA)
Budapest (Hungay), 18-21 May 2026

MED COLOURS plans to take part in the **Transport Research Arena (TRA) Conference 2026**, the largest research and innovation event on mobility and transport in Europe. The conference will take place in Budapest, Hungary, from 18 to 21 May 2026.

More details about MED COLOURS' participation will follow soon.

MED COLOURS Final Event in Brussels

MED COLOURS Final Event Brussels, 8-9 June 2026

The incredible MED COLOURS journey is coming to an end, but before it does, we want to create an opportunity to exchange insights with other projects, municipalities and external stakeholders to **discuss the results and the concrete impacts of our work**. This will take place during the MED COLOURS Final Event, scheduled in Brussels on 8–9 June 2026.

The first day will be dedicated to the consortium meeting with project partners and associated partners. The second day, open to external participants, will showcase the project's main outcomes, including:

- the MED COLOURS Guidelines for Resilient Urban Logistics Planning;
- **presentations by the six MED COLOURS cities**, sharing their SULPs and the process behind their development, offering valuable insights for representatives of other MED-area municipalities attending the event;
- a roundtable session on Urban Transition Scenarios towards zero-emission urban freight systems in MED cities.

More information will be available soon.

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OFFICIAL WEBSITE
TO STAY UPDATED ON ALL
THE LATEST NEWS!











Starting in September, the MED COLOURS project launched the column "MED COLOURS recommended reading for a more resilient and sustainable Urban Logistics", dedicated to the topic of resilient and sustainable urban logistics.

Once a month, through our social channels and website, the column will present articles, insights and studies of particular interest for the topics related to the project, with the aim of increasing knowledge of the topics and stimulating debate and knowledge exchange, essential ingredients for achieving the objectives of our project.

Find out about all the latest articles published:





The study "Global health benefits of policies to reduce on-road vehicle pollution through 2040", published in Environmental Research Letters, Volume 20, N.6, evaluates the health impacts of strong mitigation policies targeting on-road vehicle pollution.

The findings are striking: reducing emissions could prevent over 4 million premature deaths worldwide by 2040, offering a compelling case for transformative changes in transport policy.

For cities striving for cleaner air and more sustainable urban logistics, this evidence reinforces the importance of shifting towards low emission vehicles, promoting active mobility, and designing people-centered urban environments.











The study is available by clicking here

Last-mile delivery faces growing challenges due to rising eCommerce demand, urban congestion, sustainability goals. The study "Innovative Sustainable Urban Logistics: Optimizing Networks and Operations for the Future of Last-Mile Delivery" by Pinar Ozyavas (University of Groningen) explores how innovative logistics strategies and smart planning tools can help tackle the growing complexity of urban freight.



The report "Last Mile Delivery -**Challenges and Opportunities"** by CIHT dives into how UK cities can address growing pressures on urban freight through better regulation, design, and innovation. Among the main challenges identified: limited kerbside access, outdated planning frameworks, increasing congestion, and fragmented coordination across sectors. coordinated approach involving planners, logistics operators, local authorities, and technology providers is essential unlock to smarter, cleaner and more inclusive delivery ecosystems.



The report is available by clicking here











In Rimini (Italy), the HORECA LAST MILE **Project** is rolling out an innovative model to improve goods distribution for hotels, restaurants and cafés. By centralising deliveries through a refrigerated micromulti-operator with capability, supported by advanced orchestration low-emission software. and using vehicles, the initiative aims to reduce congestion, cut pollution, and make the logistics efficient citv's more sustainable.

This pilot shows how tailored urban logistics solutions can support both local businesses and the environment, keeping vibrant city centres liveable while reducing the footprint of logistics. Shared distribution hubs, cleaner vehicles, and coordinated delivery systems are powerful tools for reducing emissions in tourist destinations: an approach that can inspire other cities across Europe and the EuroMed area.





Discover more about Rimini's initiative

Far from being just "neutral backdrops", public spaces are strategic assets: they can host micro-hubs, facilitate cargo bike flows, or enable shared delivery zones that reduce congestion and pollution. This perspective underlines the importance of integrating logistics into urban planning, making cities not only more liveable but also more resilient in the face of growing e-commerce and mobility demands.



This is the perspective presented in the article "Public space as core infrastructure for urban delivery services", published on CityLogistics.info by Walther Ploos van Amstel.





The article is avaiilable by clicking here









Key insights from the study:

- Urban logistics remains poorly integrated into planning and zoning, yet curbside space, hubs and loading areas are central to city life.
- Embedding logistics considerations into urban design can support decarbonisation, efficiency, and liveability.
- Four case studies demonstrate opportunities: planning urban consolidation centres close to city cores, integrating loading/unloading zones in public spaces, and aligning building projects with delivery needs.
- A new research agenda calls for reframing urban freight as part of infrastructure and urban form rather than just traffic.



The study "Integrating city logistics in spatial planning - creating the conditions for decarbonization and hubs" by Bram Kin & Hans Quak (2024) explores how the physical and policy environment of cities can be leveraged to make urban logistics not only greener, but also more efficient and space-sensitive. This study gives us a fresh lens: consider loading/unloading logistics, hub placement, shared spaces and urban form as part of the sustainability equation.





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About MED COLOURS Project

MED COLOURS is a European project co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED programme. It addresses one of the key challenges of our time: reducing the environmental impact of urban freight transport while supporting the transition to climate-resilient and sustainable cities.

Urban freight is a major source of emissions and congestion, especially in Functional Urban Areas (FUAs). To meet EU Green Deal targets, cities must go beyond vehicle decarbonisation and rethink how goods move through urban space. MED COLOURS empowers cities to develop **next-generation Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULPs)** - resilient, integrated and innovation-based strategies designed to reduce environmental impact and enhance urban quality of life.

The project involves partners from Italy. France. Spain. Greece. Slovenia and Portugal, and focuses on real-world testing through pilot actions in selected MED cities: Cesena, Livorno, Lyon, Lisbon. Thessaloniki and Koper. pilots aim to validate new planning tools. technologies. and governance models to make urban efficient logistics more and sustainable.







Project duration 33 months

Total budget € 2.667.400,00

Interreg Funds € 2.133.902,00

Visit our website to find out more: medcolours.interreg-euro-med.eu/

Key objectives:

- Promote low-carbon freight systems in MED FUAs.
- Strengthen cooperation across public and private actors.
- Enable access to funding for climate-resilient logistics solutions.
- Foster knowledge exchange and alignment with other EU projects.









About MED COLOURS partners

The **Institute for Transport and Logistics (ITL)** is the Lead Partner of the MED COLOURS project. ITL is a no profit body founded on 17th December 2003. Its purpose is to contribute to the development and promotion of logistics and transport systems in the Region Emilia-Romagna through research, consultancy and training.



Open ENLoCC (European Network of Logistics Competence Centers) is an open network of regional logistics competence centres in the field of logistics, run by public authorities or similar bodies. The main task of the network is the international exchange of experience and knowledge between its paticipants and the promotion of a higher level of cooperation with European institutions.



The Hellenic Institute of Transport (HIT) is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 as part of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH). HIT's mission is to provide state of the art research and to create innovation in the field of transport, on issues related to the planning, development and operation of land, maritime, air, and multimodal transport systems and services.



Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC) is an international center of excellence for research and education in logistics and Supply Chain Management affiliated to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Zaragoza. ZLC actively engages with industry and the public sector to develop and disseminate knowledge, enhancing economic growth and business competitiveness through innovation.



Created in 1999 by Lyon Metropolitan Authority and chaired by the Mayor of Lyon Mr Grégory Doucet, the **Local Public Company (SPL) Lyon Confluence** is the developer of a district in the south of Lyon's Peninsula: La Confluence. SPL manages the Lyon-Confluence urban project and its property development, conducts studies, manages public spaces, carries out eco-retrofitting operations and coordinates European innovation projects.









About MED COLOURS partners

MemEx is an engineering consultancy company, specialised in Public Transport, ITS systems, Urban and Port Logistics, Smart Cities, and Sustainable Mobility. It offers technical assistance for ITS systems and digital solutions for Local Administrations, Transport Companies, and more. MemEx excels in managing EU-funded research and innovation projects, partnering in smart and sustainable transport, and urban logistics.



The **Municipality of Livorno** is a territorial public body, which among its various competences deals with sustainable urban mobility. It adopted its SUMP in 2021, which underlains the main logistics problems. The Municipality, also, approved its UVAR (Urban vehicle access regulation) scheme to restrict vehicle access to urban areas. With a population of 157,024 inhabitants, Livorno is a wide city-port and the third-largest city in Tuscany.



The **University of Maribor** is the second largest public university in Slovenia and consists of 17 faculties, one of which is the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Architecture. The faculty provides education and undertakes international, national and regional scientific and R&D projects. The Transport Economics Centre (TEC), part of the project, has been involved in over 30 EU funded project in different programmes, focusing on transport and logistics-related initiatives.



The **Municipality of Koper** represents the local government for Koper and its hinterland. Its main tasks, derived from national legislation, encompass a wide array of services including social affairs, tourism, public transport, waste management, and environmental protection. This diverse range of responsibilities ensures the well-being and development of both the city and its surrounding areas.









About MED COLOURS partners

Lisbon City Council (CML, Câmara Municipal de Lisboa) is the municipality's executive body. Its mission is to define and implement policies that promote the development of the municipality of Lisbon in areas such as health, education, housing, the environment, spatial planning and urbanism, mobility, transport and communications, civil protection, sports and culture.



Lisboa E-Nova – Lisbon's energy and environment agency is a private non-profit leading the city's energy and decarbonisation transition in energy, urban mobility, circular systems (water, food, waste), and through communication and education. Lisboa E-Nova aim at making Lisbon one of Europe's 100 Smart and Climate Neutral Cities via climate action, citizen inclusion, and resilience.











Contacts

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