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DEVELOPING CITY SCENARIOS FOR URBAN MOBILITY TRANSITION: THE SPROUT PROJECT

AUTHORS: Imre Keseru, Aristo Halatsis, M. Teresa de la Cruz

Main part

The rapidly changing urban mobility environment – characterized by emerging business models, new technologies, and disruptive innovations – represents a considerable challenge for urban mobility policy making. Previously tested urban mobility policy responses turned out not to be adequate to address the transition underway and to address today’s societal challenges and issues related to citizens’ everyday lives.

It is in this complex scenario that the SPROUT project¹ (Sustainable Policy RespOnse to Urban Mobility Transition) comes into action. Its main objective is to put cities at the center of the urban mobility transition. By building on the solutions to urban mobility challenges developed by five pilot cities (Valencia, Padua, Kalisz, Budapest, Tel Aviv), the work of the project is focused on producing new and practice-based knowledge and tools. Such knowledge and tools will contribute to an evidence-based and innovative policy response to disruptive innovations in mobility.

The presentation offers a first glimpse into the scenarios being developed for 5 cities taking into account their transition in urban mobility affected by new technologies (automatization, digitalization) but also other factors such as behavioral change, environmental consciousness, shared mobility and economic pressure. The project has developed a set of scenarios for each city that depicts how their mobility systems will develop without any policy intervention and highlights the needs for new policies to harness transition.

What is new?

The scenarios offer a comprehensive view on how cities might develop if nothing is done to harness transition looking beyond the traditional transport related factors and taking into account political, environmental, social, technological and legal drivers and trends.

What is transferable to other cities and regions?

The method presented for the scenario building can be replicated in other cities in order to draw up plausible and possible future scenarios for the urban mobility system. The identified scenarios will have common elements that are applicable for multiple cities across Europe with transitioning mobility systems.

What are outcomes and conclusions?

The scenarios presented will guide cities to investigate how urban mobility transition can and should be harnessed to avoid negative consequences.

Who are the main target groups?

Policy makers, municipalities.

And what now? - what will change? - what is the relevance for the future?

The future is uncertain. Scenario planning is a method that can consider multiple plausible future pathways including unforeseen events such as a worldwide pandemic. In reflection to the current crisis the city-specific scenarios will reflect on unexpected events related to health emergencies, climate change or economic crises. The impact of new mobility solutions and the required policy response will have to be viewed in this context.

The scenarios constitute the first step towards documenting the extent of inadequacy of existing urban policies to address the emerging real-life policy challenges faced in five cities. They will serve as evidence of what will happen in the future if urban policy making does not take into account the changes under way and will identify the current policy capacity gaps in introducing and sustaining the required urban policy changes. Based on the scenarios and the project's new mobility services pilot results, policy responses to harness the future mobility (passenger & freight) will be developed, tested and mainstreamed in each SPROUT city.

Link to the project

sprout-civitas.eu/