

CoMobility

Municipality Workshop #3

"Urban climate!" - How do external factors such as noise or air pollution affect our quality of life?

Note

The third edition of the 'Municipality Workshop organized by the CoMobility project team took place on March 17, 2023.

The workshop was again organized in an online format using the Zoom communication platform. There were 57 participants, mostly from the local government sector, from all over Poland.

After two editions focusing on urban mobility, the third edition focused on the environment and public health. As part of the workshop, Natalia Olszewska, M.D., introduced participants to the impact of noise and other external factors on quality of life, while the CoMobility team, drawing on experience gained in the course of the project, presented the results of measurements of air quality in Warsaw, which are an introduction to the issue of environmental modeling, on the one hand, and representatives of the 'On site' Foundation, on the other, presented practical, low-cost, simple-to-implement interventions to improve the quality of the local environment.

Agenda:

1. 9:30-9:45 – Welcome and update and summary of CoMobility project activities (*Anna Nicińska PhD*).
2. 9:50-10:35 – Lecture: The impact of noise and external factors on the quality of urban life and the health of its inhabitants (*Natalia Olszewska M.D.*).
3. 10:40-11:10 – Workshop: Air quality measurement results from the CoMobility project - Possibility of using environmental data (introduction to environmental modelling), (*Amirhossein Hassani PhD*)
4. 11:20-13:00 – Low-budget simple-to-implement interventions to improve the quality of the local environment - experiences from the CoMobility project interventions in schools (*Magda Kubecka, Marta Trakul-Masłowska oraz Wiktoria Mockallo*).
5. 13:00-13:15 – Summary of the workshop part (*Anna Nicińska PhD*).
6. 13:15-13:45 – Networking and Q&A.

The workshop started with a speech by Anna Nicińska, PhD, project coordinator, who briefly introduced all event participants to the current status of activities and their degree of implementation in the CoMobility project and reminded them of the previous editions of the 'Municipality Workshop' and its themes.

The first part of the event took the form of a lecture, with Natalia Olszewska, M.D., giving a talk entitled 'The Impact of Noise on the Quality of Life in the City and the Health of its Inhabitants. Selected issues'. In her talk, Ms. Olszewska, drawing on her medical experience, focused on several aspects affecting the quality of life in the city. The first of these concerned the correlation between architectural planning and health. It turns out that there are many elements related to architecture that significantly affect the wellbeing of residents, and we can include, for example, lighting, color and geometry of buildings, acoustics, smell, finishing materials used, or temperature. Their unfavorable condition affects humans in physiological, behavioral, and cognitive ways. The second aspect discussed by Ms. Olszewska was neuroarchitecture, which focuses on the study of the activity of different areas of the brain in the urban environment. It is a young branch of science, but with today's problem of over-stimulation and over-stimulation of people in cities, it will become increasingly important if we want to design urban space in a friendly way. The final aspect discussed by Ms. Olszewska was noise. In a scientific manner, based on European studies, the speaker presented the scale of the problem associated with too much noise and its effects on human health. In conclusion, various ways and solutions to combat excessive noise were presented.

The second part of the event featured Amirhossein Hassaini, PhD, from the NILU Institute for Climate and Environmental Research, which is a partner in the CoMobility project. In his speech, Mr. Hassaini introduced the participants to the ways in which PM 10 and PM 2.5 particles are measured and how sensors that measure air quality function. This was followed by a presentation of the results of particle and noise measurements carried out as part of the CoMobility project in the vicinity of schools located on Michała Kajki, Trocka, and Kruczkowskiego Street on a monthly and weekly basis. These data will serve as input to the environmental modeling process that the project team is currently working on.

The final part of the event concluded with a workshop entitled 'Low-budget, easy-to-implement interventions to improve the quality of the local environment: Experiences from the CoMobility project's interventions in schools', conducted by representatives of the 'On site' Foundation. This workshop presented the activities of the CoMobility team to implement small, low-budget interventions within the surroundings of the project schools, aimed at increasing the safety of pupils or improving the local environment. The 'school-based' interventions are one of the most important elements of the CoMobility project; they are the transformation of the ideas developed within the Urban Labs in a co-creation process together with students, teachers, and parents into real prototype actions. Panellists took the participants step by step through the interventions already implemented, explaining where the idea for such an action came from, how it works, what problems arose during the implementation phase, and what advantages

they bring. In their conception, the interventions that have been successfully implemented in Warsaw schools are simple, low-budget, and resource-neutral, and can therefore be successfully implemented by practically every local authority in Poland. In addition to the standard workshop, members of the 'On site' Foundation invited the participants of the event to a wider discussion within separate rooms on the ZOOM platform.

At the end, project leader Anna Nicińska, PhD, gave a brief summary and invited all participants to the next 4th edition of the 'Municipality Workshop'. The event will take place in Krakow and is scheduled for September 2023. After the official part of the meeting, participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences and ask questions. We also invited Professor Iwona Stachlewska to talk about the European research infrastructure available in Poland, including the specialized, high-cost equipment at the disposal of the University of Warsaw for the precise measurement and analysis of air quality.

Participants were also asked to complete a short questionnaire, which allows the CoMobility team to validate key issues related to, for example, event themes, guest selection, technical issues, etc. The results were very interesting because:

- As many as 91.7% of respondents participated in the 'Municipality Workshop' for the first time. This is an interesting trend, given that participants in the second edition generally also took part in the first.
- The same number of respondents (91.7%) had a positive perception of the workshop program proposed by the team.
- 83.3% of respondents said that they found the prepared workshops valuable from a practical point of view.
- 91.7% of respondents also rated the theoretical aspects of the workshop positively.
- 75% of respondents specified that the knowledge provided at the event would be useful to them in their daily work.
- 100% of respondents also stated that the content presented by the speakers was understandable and clear.
- 91.7% of respondents expressed interest in the next edition of the workshop.
- Among the greatest values of the workshop, participants pointed to: the diverse topics and the involvement of speakers; the opportunity to exchange knowledge; to learn about experiences from other local authorities; and to address 'modern topics' such as neuroarchitecture.
- Among the weaknesses of the workshop, participants indicated low participant activity, technical problems, and the impossibility of participating in two rooms in ZOOM at the same time during a single workshop.

- Respondents also presented their ideas for future editions of the workshop, and these relate to the issues of school streets, MaaS, smart cities, climate change adaptation, air quality, urban greening, educational activities on environmental and climate action, and urban pedestrianization.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the third edition of the local government workshop. We invite you to watch coverage of the event on our Youtube channel ([link](#)) and to participate in future editions of the workshop.

CoMobility Team