Press release

URBANITE successfully validates its tools and knowledge around the adoption of disruptive technologies for a data-based policy making in urban mobility domain

On June 14th, the Final Event of the European H2020 project URBANITE, coordinated by TECNALIA Research & Innovation, took place. The main outcomes of the project were described and showcased: the tools, the different use cases and the main recommendations. The event was an opportunity to show the different functionalities available around data, from its gathering, preparation and exploitation, and to provide insights on the benefits advanced analytics, prediction, simulation, recommendation and dashboarding methods, can give to policy-makers, public technicians and civil servants. The URBANITE project has also worked towards the overcoming of information silos and driving decision-makers to use and share more data for the benefit of improved decision making based on knowledge.

The project deals with the following aims:

Make the most out of data
Prepare the data and make it usable with the URBANITE data curation components: data quality checks, transform unstructured information into high quality data sets, address privacy issues with anonymization and pseudonymization, guarantee data interoperability.

Make the data management process more efficient
Handle the entire process: fetch data from various heterogenous sources, transform, fuse and map it and store it in dedicated databases ready for its use.

Learn from short- intermediate- and long-term trends to improve urban mobility e.g. learn from the trends of peak hours in which a street is blocked or from the use of a certain transportation system (bikes, public transport, etc.). Data analysis results will be visualized to show traffic density, traffic flows, points of interest etc.

Anticipate behaviours and delimit unforeseen consequences
Simulate the effect of different traffic situations (through the use of artificial intelligence algorithms), e.g., simulate the effect of opening a pedestrian street at certain times, create new infrastructures o public transport services.

Identify potentially problematic or otherwise important events. These events would have a high price if discovered in the real life. Identify events with cutting edge detection methods and validate mobility policies in a virtual environment with simulation techniques.

Create public policies and services "with" people and not just "for" them. Put people at the centre of urban mobility policy making, making sure policies are based on shared values and principles and address effective needs of the citizens and relevant stakeholders.

Foster cross-departmental collaboration by creating an urban ecosystem Optimize urban management by involving public administrations, private transport companies and citizens.

Boost and guide an efficient and successful digital transformation. Get guidance on the adoption and implementation of big data, artificial intelligence and algorithms in urban mobility decision making.

The project obtained the following key results:

- Social Policy Labs (SoPoLab). A digital co-creation environment and a set of approaches to help co-design and co-create policy guidelines with all involved actors.
- Data Management Platform, a platform supporting the entire data processing chain from collection, processing to using the data.
- Decision-Support System, powerful analytics tools that combine multiple data sources with advanced algorithms, simulation, recommendation, and advanced visual analytics.
- Recommendations and Pathways, pathways to provide public administrations guidance on the adoption of disruptive technologies and data in their policy-making processes.

The platform has been locally customized to the specific needs and context, objectives and specific requirements of the pilot ecosystems (including Municipality and the different mobility stakeholders):

- A bikeable city (Amsterdam), improving the level of comfort by managing bike "flows" in the city and preventing bike traffic jams and risky (safety-related) situations also with the support of participatory methods involving citizens.
- Integrating mobility data into traffic planning (Helsinki), aiming to make sure that traffic data becomes part of the everyday life of traffic and urban planners, experts and officials.
- Citizen-centric spaces (Bilbao), carrying out an analysis of the potential effects that the suppression of private vehicle traffic through specific areas, and in parallel, resolving existing challenges such as niches, insufficient volume and quality of data, trust in the methods of exploitation data and interoperability.
- Building a multimodal city (Messina), build mobility services able to fulfill the need of citizens, dwellers, commuters and visitors, allowing them to move around and through the city seamlessly. Optimize mobility and integrate multimodal transport services for the city.

As a result of the Final Event, the consortium discussed with decision makers and technicians in Urban Mobility the real possibility of a paradigm shift (based on data and a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods) in urban mobility planning and the opportunities that lie around Open-Source Data Lakes and Data Spaces for Smart Cities.

URBANITE partners are Alma Digit, Comune di Messina, Engineering Ingegneria Informatica, Forum Virium Helsinki, Fraunhofer Fokus, Jozef Stefan Institute, Stitching WAAG Society, Gemeente AMSTERDAM, Ayuntamiento de Bilbao, Cluster de Movilidad y Logística de Euskadi and TECNALIA, that coordinates the project.

More information:

URBANITE project website: https://urbanite-project.eu/
Source repository: https://git.code.tecnalia.com/urbanite
Final Event Presentation:
https://www.slideshare.net/URBANITEProject/presentacion-final-evento-bruselas-v4pdf

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