

## Declaration of Montpellier

### Towards a Sustainable Mobility in the Mediterranean

Sustainable mobility is crucial to societal and economic activities in the Mediterranean. It enables social and economic interactions within society, and facilitates commercial, touristic or leisure activities, while connecting territories, cities, regions and their communities. Doing nothing about sustainable mobility will certainly be more expensive ecologically, economically and socially than taking action.

#### We, the member cities of MedCités, **acknowledge**:

- The **2030 Agenda and in particular Target 11.2**, which aims to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety and with special attention to vulnerable groups.
- The **Union for the Mediterranean Strategic Development Action Plan 2040**, which puts the focus on achieving integrated, inclusive and affordable public transport, as well as safe non-motorized transport.
- The **Euro-Mediterranean regional and local assembly Action Plan 2020 – 2022**, which refers to transport as one of the key sectors in which regional and local authorities actively work to achieve economic development.
- The **mission of the MedCités Association**, stated in Article 3 of its Statutes, to strengthen urban sustainable development as a way to improve living conditions in the Mediterranean region and to contribute to climate change mitigation.
- The **MedECC and IPCC reports**, according to which the Mediterranean region will suffer the effects of the climate crisis more than any other region apart from the Arctic and that our region is increasing its temperature 20% above the average.
- The **European Green Deal** that calls for ambitious measures, also in the transport sector, for the European continent to become the first climate-neutral area by 2050.
- The **objectives of the Urban Transports Community**, led by MedCités, to promote territorial cooperation on sustainable mobility in the MED region and mainstream innovative policies on soft and shared mobility, e-mobility, sustainable mobility planning, sustainable mobility in touristic areas, and the use of big data, through mentorship, knowledge exchange and advocacy.

#### We, the member cities of MedCités, **declare** that:

- **Sustainable and low carbon mobility is strategic in the fight against climate change** because of its positive impact on carbon emission reduction, noise pollution, air quality and public health in our cities.
- Taking action against climate change is crucial, especially in the **Mediterranean, a region that is extremely vulnerable** to the impacts of the raise of temperatures, increasing pollution and loss of biodiversity.
- **Active and zero-emission modes of transport**, like walking and cycling, contribute to **social cohesion** and more **livable public spaces** and therefore must be considered.

- **Cities and local authorities play a key role** in the promotion of alternatives modes of transport in urban areas, where the transportation of people and goods generates one fourth of the total emissions of CO2 and is the main cause of air pollution in cities.
- **Peer learning and knowledge exchange** involving city representatives and council staff members is fundamental in the improvement of local capacities and political commitment for sustainable mobility policies. Sharing experiences and good practices within MedCities and among its member cities constitutes an essential instrument for collective action to improve the lives of their inhabitants.

We, the member cities of MedCities, hereby **agree on** fostering sustainable mobility measures by:

- Encouraging the **use of low-carbon and non-pollutant transport** modes through incentive measures, awareness raising action in favor of active modes of transport, and strong political commitment.
- Enhancing the **transformation of grey spaces occupied by cars into green spaces** used by people, as a tool for the democratisation of cities and their public spaces.
- Promoting a **sustainable, soundly planned and socially inclusive mobility** that puts the movement of people, environment and goods, rather than vehicles, at the center of the political agenda.
- Ensuring **strong and continuous cooperation** with key stakeholders in the identification of needs and decision-making, and support the participation and involvement of citizens to ensure relevant and inclusive policy measures.
- Working on **safety, accessibility and affordability** as building principles of any urban transports' policy to encourage social cohesion and economic development.
- Fostering the **collection of data** regarding the use of different modes of transport and CO2 impact to foster evidence-based city planning and an adequate mobility offer.

We, the member municipalities of MedCities, **call on:**

- A **stronger acknowledgement of the role of local governments** in the fight against climate change and their contribution to the promotion of less-polluting alternative modes of transport in urban areas, as well as a culture of active and healthy mobility. This should go along with ambitious financial support mechanisms targeted to cities by the European Union and Mediterranean-driven major donors.
- The **promotion of technical and financial instruments to support local governments** in the adoption and deployment of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans as a key tool to embrace the vision for a cleaner, healthier and sustainable mobility in Mediterranean cities.
- The consolidation of **knowledge exchange spaces and platforms**, such as the MedUrbanTools platform, promoted by MedCities, in the improvement of city's technical capacities and understanding of innovative sectors in the field of sustainable mobility.

We invite elected representatives of cities from Europe, the Mediterranean region and beyond to join us in promoting liveable cities and towns through sustainable mobility plans and solutions.