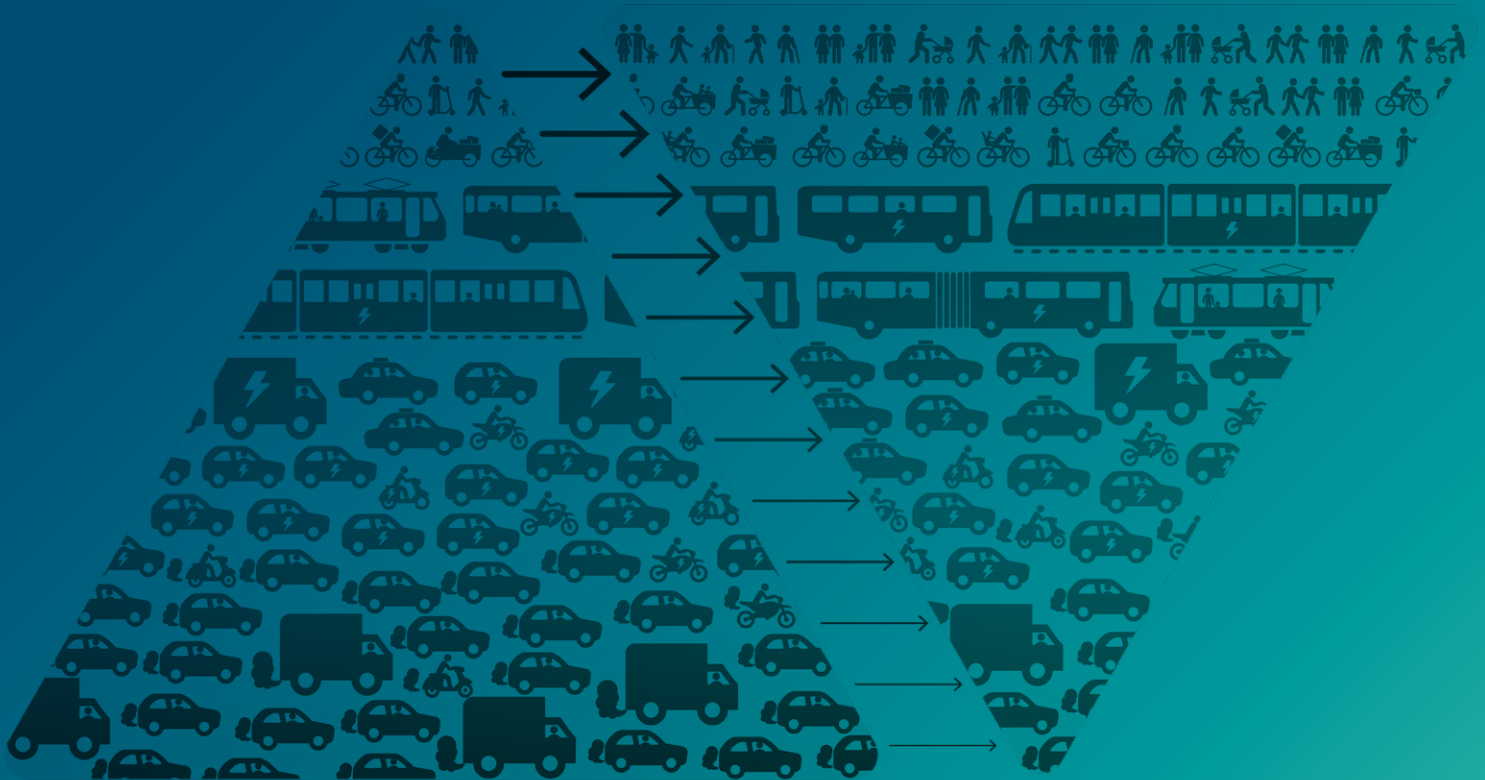


# THE PEP

Building forward better by  
transforming to new, clean,  
safe, healthy and inclusive  
mobility and transport

[thepep.unece.org](https://thepep.unece.org)



# THE PEP

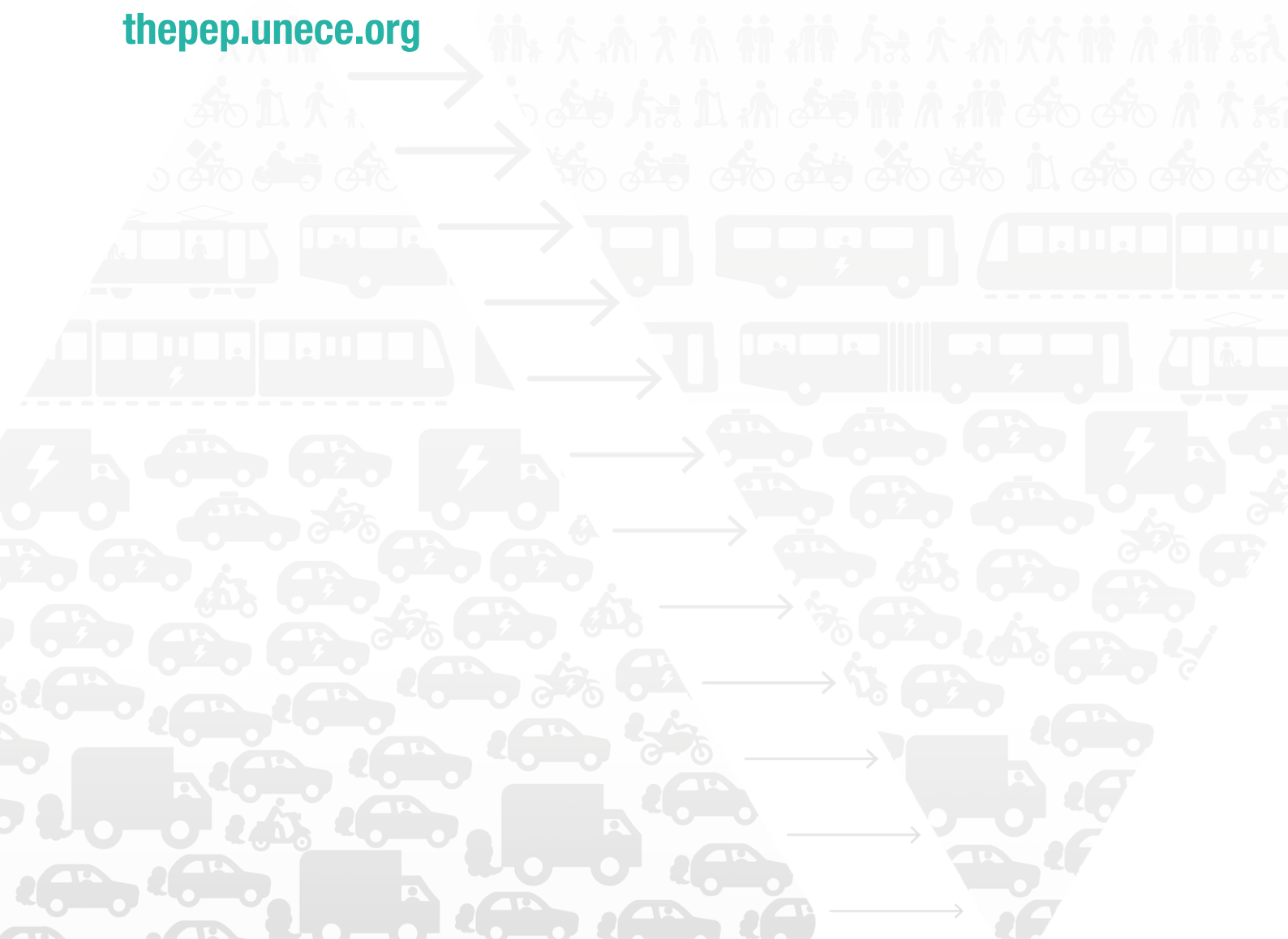
Transport, Health  
and Environment  
Pan-European Programme



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# Transport, Health and Environment

## Pan-European Programme

### THE PEP

Transport is one of the major sectors of the economy of the pan-European region, and travel and mobility are essential parts of modern life – providing access to services, goods and activities. At the same time, transport can cause a significant burden on the health, well-being and even national economies in the region, through: emissions of air pollutants, greenhouse gases and noise; traffic congestion; injuries; physical, social and biodiversity fragmentation; socioeconomic disparities; land-take; and reduced opportunities for physical activity.

Transport, health and the environment are crucially interconnected. **THE PEP – the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme** – makes the links.

**THE PEP is the first and only international programme designed to integrate environmental and health aspects into transport, mobility and urban planning policies.**

Since THE PEP was created in 2002, positive changes have been happening across the region to ensure healthier, greener and more sustainable transport and mobility; however, challenges still remain:

- Every year, more than 500 000 people die prematurely in the WHO European Region due to air pollution. Transport emissions account for a significant share of this.
- Transport is responsible for about a quarter of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- More than 110 000 people are killed on the roads every year in the UNECE and WHO

European region. On average, this means that one person dies every five minutes. Road traffic injuries are the number one cause of death globally among young people aged 5–29 years.

- At least 20% of the population of the UNECE and WHO European region live in areas with road traffic noise levels considered harmful to health. In urban areas in most countries, this figure exceeds 50%.
- Physical inactivity is estimated to cause about 1 million deaths each year in the WHO European Region alone, and obesity a further million.

That is why THE PEP is working to support countries in finding the best balance between the needs for transport and mobility, the health and well-being of people, and the quality of the environment.

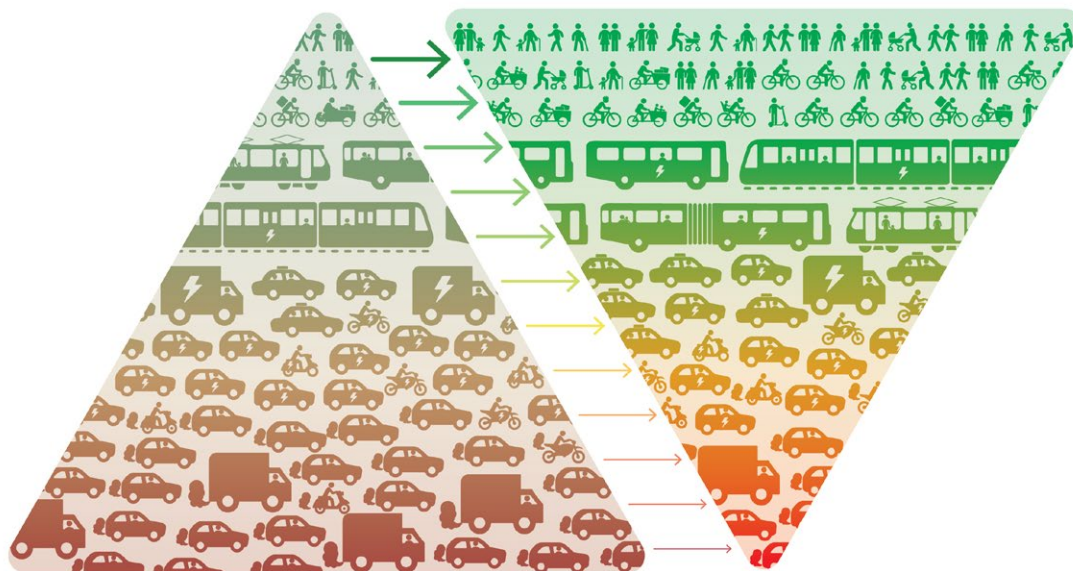
### Our goals

THE PEP works to achieve healthy, green and sustainable transport and mobility in the pan-European region so:

- the living environments of our urban, peri-urban and rural areas are healthier, safer, better connected and more accessible;
- social equity, inclusive mobility and the highest level of health and well-being are ensured for all;
- gender aspects are better integrated into transport, health and environment policies;
- the goals of major international agreements – the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – are achieved.

# The transformation THE PEP promotes

## Prioritizing healthy, green and sustainable mobility



## Our work

THE PEP addresses current challenges by:

- working together across sectors and promoting a deeper understanding of the relationship between transport, health and environment;
- providing an intergovernmental cross-sectoral policy platform to the Member States of the UNECE and WHO European region, and stimulating the involvement of the health and environment sectors in a transport and urban planning process;
- providing scientific evidence on the benefits of healthy and sustainable transport;
- developing strategic and practical tools to implement green, healthy and inclusive mobility;
- supporting the strengthening of capacities for integrated and intersectoral policy action on transport, health, environment and urban planning.

## Our stakeholders

In a region that is home to 17% of the world population, the 56 Member States of the UNECE and WHO European region are cooperating and working within THE PEP, in synergy with intergovernmental organizations, as well as with national and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders.

THE PEP serves and works with Member States through:

- ministries and national authorities dealing with transport, health, environment and spatial planning;
- cities and local authorities;
- transport and urban planners, and traffic engineers;
- public health professionals;
- environmental experts;
- stakeholders from business and industry working towards green, clean, safe mobility;
- academia;
- nongovernmental organizations;
- the general public – with a focus on vulnerable groups, the elderly, children and youth.



## How THE PEP works

THE PEP is a tripartite pan-European policy framework, which brings together the transport, health and environment sectors on an equal footing. It is jointly serviced by UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The highest decision-making body of THE PEP is the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, which convenes on a ministerial level every 5–6 years. Previous high-level meetings took place in Geneva (2001 and 2002), Amsterdam (2009), Paris (2014) and Vienna (2021).

In the period between high-level meetings, THE PEP Steering Committee and its Bureau support the implementation of THE PEP activities, facilitated by a tripartite “Chairotrojka” of the past, current and forthcoming chairpersons of THE PEP.

All Member States are invited to actively contribute to and support THE PEP implementation mechanisms, such as THE PEP Partnerships, Relay Race and Academy to make THE PEP work programme happen. To this end, national focal points representing the health, environment and transport sectors are nominated by Member States.

## The scope of THE PEP

THE PEP covers a wide range of policy areas and activities – from political relations and policy formulation to programming and implementation of cooperation programmes.



## Synergies between THE PEP and the 2030 Agenda

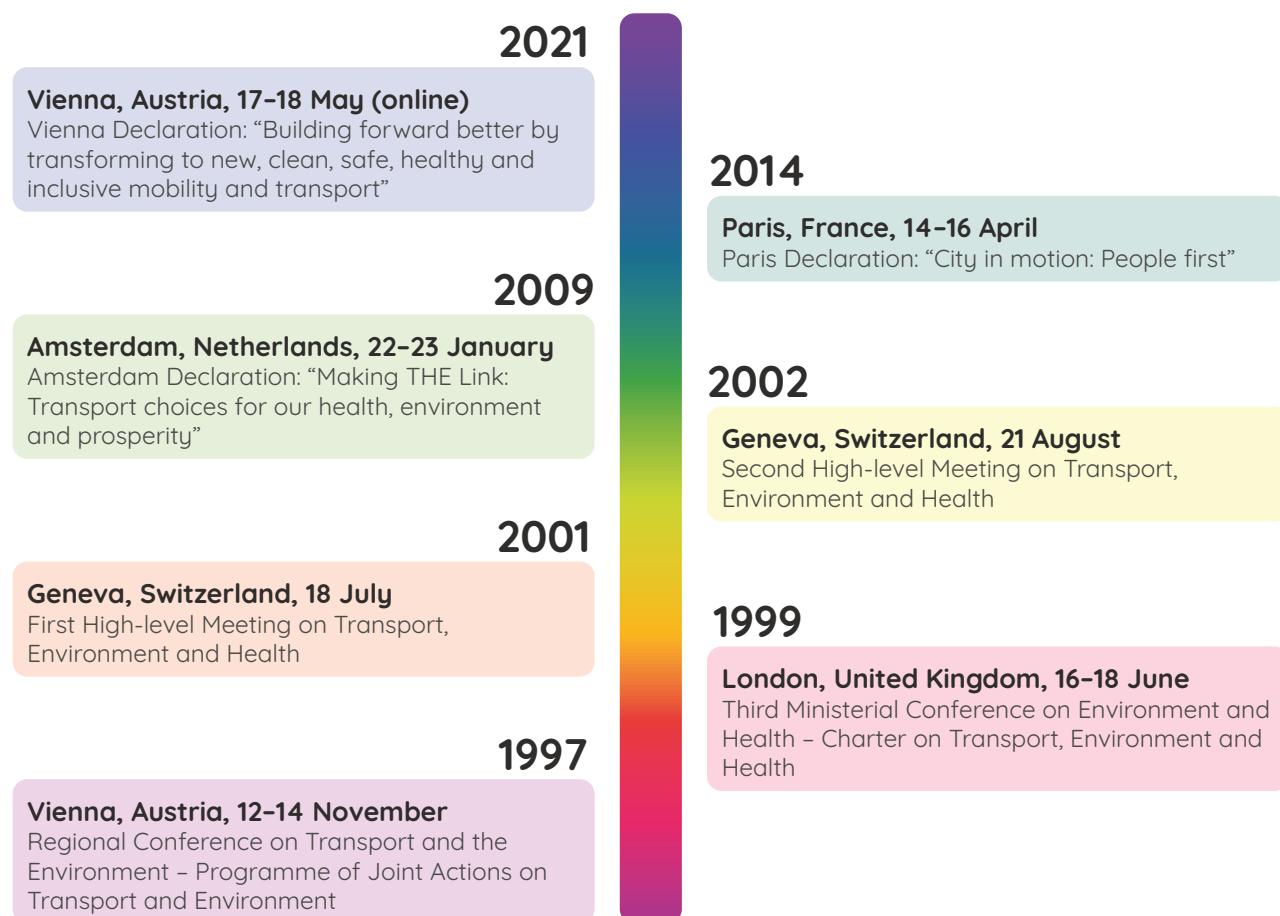
Working together under THE PEP Framework, Member States have been advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on several fronts and across numerous goals and targets – including those related to health, energy efficiency, the protection of climate and the environment, the quality of urban life and equity.



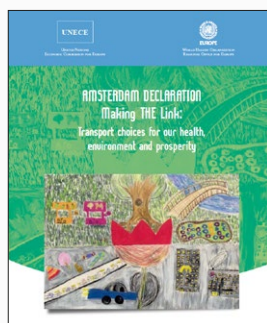


## Our commitments through the years: THE PEP high-level meetings

The first Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment took place in 1997. In 1999, at the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in London, it was decided to establish the Charter on Transport, Environment and Health. THE PEP brought together these two processes.

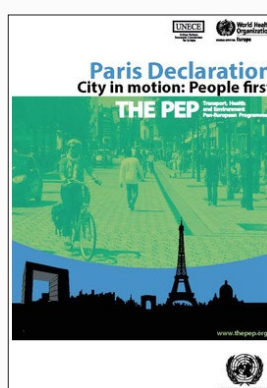


## Third High-level Meeting, Amsterdam 2009



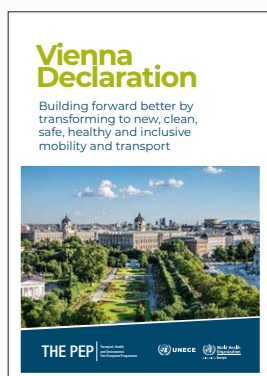
Governments adopted the Amsterdam Declaration: “Making THE Link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity”, giving renewed political impetus to THE PEP, and agreed four priority goals to be reached by 2014 and concrete mechanisms to achieve them.

## Fourth High-level Meeting, Paris 2014



The Paris Declaration: “City in motion: People first” builds upon the priority goals of the Amsterdam Declaration and broadens strategic direction by adding a new Goal 5: “to integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies”.

## Fifth High-level Meeting, Vienna (online) 2021



*“Building forward better by transforming to new, clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport”*

The Fifth High-level Meeting hosted an unprecedentedly high number of participants and high-level representatives. It brought together 46 ministers and state secretaries, and more than 850 participants from 42 Member States. The Meeting

provided ministers and delegations of Member States, policy-makers and stakeholders with an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate political leadership, share strategies and decide on policy actions.

Member States adopted the Vienna Declaration: “Building forward better by transforming to new, clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport”, which includes key political decisions and a strong focus on promoting active mobility, in particular cycling, across the region. Ahead of the High-level Ministerial Meeting, 24 virtual side-events on important transport, health and environment topics were organized as webinars, together with a virtual exhibition.

For more information please visit:  
[www.thepepvienna2021.org](http://www.thepepvienna2021.org)



Adoption and signing ceremony of THE PEP Vienna Declaration 2021, chaired by the Austrian Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Leonore Gewessler (left); THE PEP Chair, Robert Thaler (centre); and Austrian Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Wolfgang Mückstein (right). Photo: ©Roekl e.U.

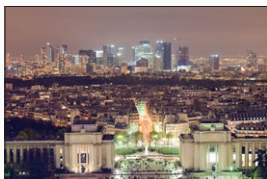
As a historic milestone and core part of the Vienna Declaration, the first ever Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion was adopted, as were recommendations on green and healthy sustainable transport, conclusions on sustainable urban mobility and spatial planning, recommendations for eco-driving, and a comprehensive work programme for THE PEP.

Member States also established new THE PEP Partnerships:

- **THE PEP Partnership on child- and youth-friendly mobility** – incorporating the perspective of future generations into the work of THE PEP;
- **THE PEP Partnership on sustainable tourism mobility** – with a view to sharing good practices and developing respective guidelines and tools;
- **THE PEP Partnership on active mobility** – to facilitate the implementation of the Pan-European Masterplan for Cycling Promotion, to integrate walking into a new Pan-European Masterplan on Active Mobility, to develop a Trans-European Cycling Network (TEC), and to establish a pan-European competence centre on active mobility.

## 20th anniversary of THE PEP

© Arnaud Bouissou / Terra



<https://thepep.unece.org/events/20th-anniversary-pep>

To mark the 20th anniversary of THE PEP, the French government organized and hosted an event within the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Participants took stock of major achievements, reviewed the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and shared concrete solutions for making transport and mobility systems healthier, greener and more sustainable.

## An ambitious plan for cycling promotion

THE PEP promotes the positioning of cycling, walking and public transport more prominently on the political agenda of all Member States.



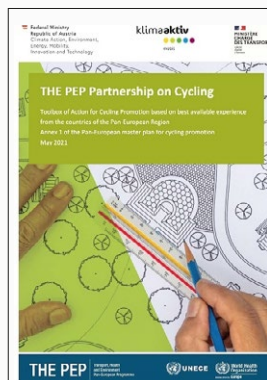
### Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion

<https://thepep.unece.org/node/825>

With the adoption of the first-ever Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, countries have given a further boost to the transformation towards clean, safe, healthy and inclusive transport and mobility, across the pan-European region.

The Master Plan calls for:

- acknowledging cycling as an equal mode of transport;
- significantly increasing cycling in every country to contribute to doubling cycling in the region by 2030;
- reallocating space for cycling and walking;
- extending and improving the infrastructure for cycling and walking in every country;
- significantly increasing cyclist and pedestrian safety to reduce fatalities;
- developing national cycling policies, supported by cycling plans, strategies and programmes;
- integrating cycling into health policies, and land use, urban, regional and transport infrastructure planning.



The “Toolbox” offers a collection of good practices on the implementation of the recommendations identified in the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion.

### Toolbox of Action for Cycling Promotion based on best available experience from the countries of the Pan-European Region

<https://thepep.unece.org/node/826>



# Benefits of walking and cycling

## Environment



## Health



## Mobility



# THE PEP in action

## Most recent THE PEP publications (2020–2022)



How healthy, safe and environmentally friendly is our transport today?

The publication answers this question and provides a solid basis for Member States to support efforts to accelerate the transformation towards sustainable transport and mobility.

**Road transport facts and figures**

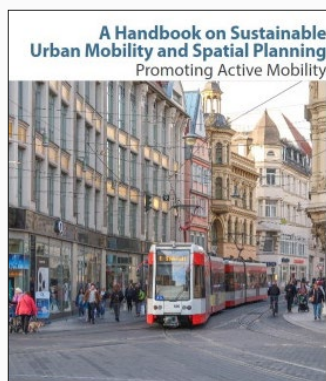
<https://thepep.unece.org/node/824>



Based on the “main lessons” learned from the COVID-19 crisis, the recommendations are meant to support countries in making the transition to green and healthy sustainable transport.

**Recommendations for Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport – “Building Forward Better”**

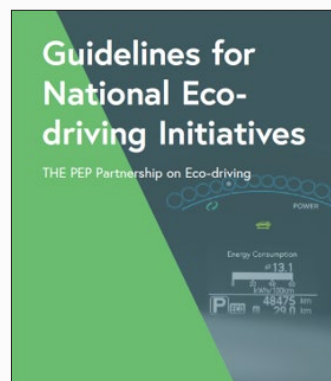
<https://thepep.unece.org/node/823>



This is a practical guide featuring good practices and case studies on integrating transport, environment, health and quality of life objectives into urban and spatial planning policies.

**Handbook on Sustainable Urban Mobility and Spatial Planning**

<https://thepep.unece.org/node/815>



These guidelines provide implementation steps for establishing and mainstreaming eco-driving as the smart and efficient driving style for all drivers, all vehicles and all traffic conditions.

**Guidelines for National Eco-driving Initiatives**

<https://thepep.unece.org/node/847>

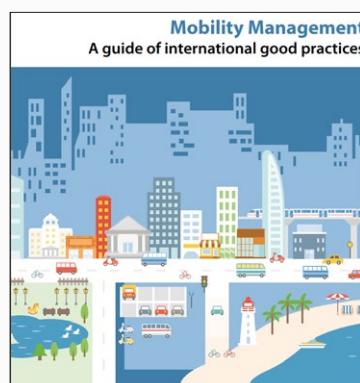




This publication demonstrates the high potential of employment opportunities in the pan-European region when investing more in sustainable transport.

#### **Jobs in green and healthy transport**

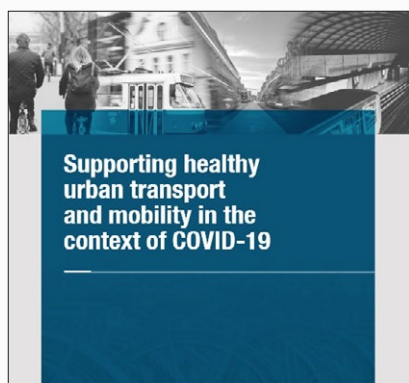
<https://thepep.unece.org/node/808>



The guide provides practical policy considerations enriched by a total of 22 good practices from 17 countries that set out the positive and significant impacts of mobility management programmes.

#### **Mobility management – A guide of international good practices**

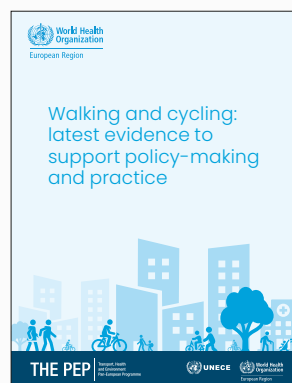
<https://thepep.unece.org/node/805>



This publication provides guidance on transport and mobility during the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **Supporting healthy urban transport and mobility in the context of COVID-19**

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/336264>



This publication presents a comprehensive case for why and how to promote walking and cycling, based on the latest evidence from scientific research and planning practice.

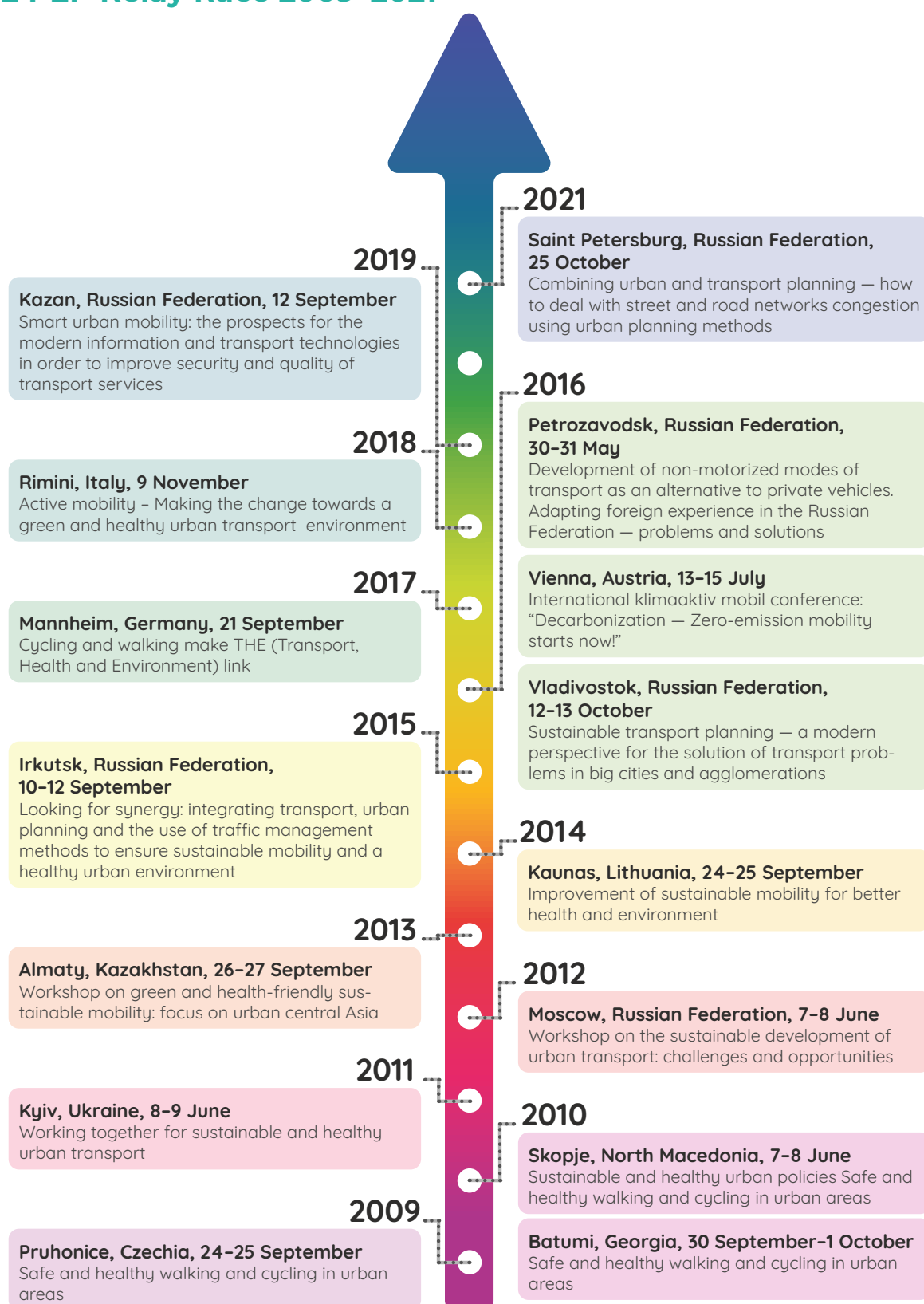
#### **Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice**

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/354589>

## THE PEP activities

**THE PEP Relay Race** is a series of capacity-building workshops, also known as a “staffette” intended to “pass the baton” of good practices and lessons learned from city to city and country to country.

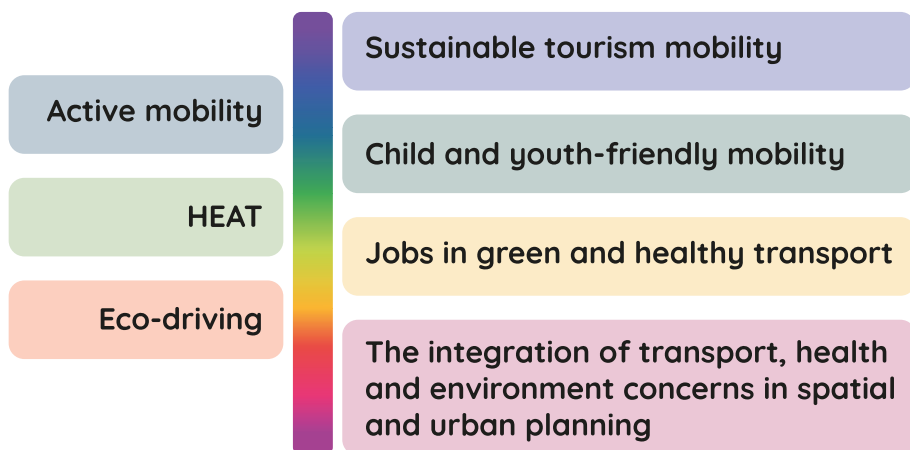
### THE PEP Relay Race 2009–2021



## THE PEP Partnerships

**THE PEP Partnerships** bring together partners from Member States and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations who have shared interests in collaborating on specific issues, to develop common strategies and plans, visible results and concrete projects. THE PEP Partnerships also provide the opportunity for sharing good practice, building capacity and providing mutual support in implementing THE PEP at a national and pan-European level. If your country, ministry, city or organization is interested in further information on THE PEP Partnerships please contact THE PEP Secretariat: [thepep@un.org](mailto:thepep@un.org)

## PARTNERSHIPS ON



## THE PEP Academy

**THE PEP Academy** links science, policy and practice and provides a platform for key stakeholders, including policy-makers, civil servants, practitioners and academics to strengthen capacities for integrating transport, health and environment and spatial planning.

THE PEP Academy, as a platform for sharing and creating knowledge and expertise, facilitates the implementation of THE PEP and makes an important contribution to the accomplishment of various regional and global commitments. The range of activities undertaken by THE PEP Academy, includes close collaboration with THE PEP Partnerships.



THE PEP Academy

## THE PEP tools

THE PEP has produced a range of user-friendly tools, guides and briefs that provide an overview of the most relevant health and environmental challenges for transport in the pan-European region, and present solution mechanisms and opportunities for action on assessing and responding to these challenges.

### Health economic assessment tool (HEAT) for cycling and walking

HEAT is a web-based, user-friendly tool for estimating the economic value of the impact of regular walking or cycling on mortality.

HEAT answers the questions:

*If X people walk/cycle an amount of Y on most days, what is the economic value of the health benefits that occur as a result of the reduction in mortality due to their physical activity?*

*How much do air pollution or crashes affect these results? What are the carbon effects?*

Health economic assessment tool (HEAT) for cycling and walking

<https://www.heatwalkingcycling.org/#homepage>



### National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs)

NTHEAPs, by working across sectors, provide a comprehensive and intersectoral way of planning and implementing transport, health and environmental action at the national level.



**A step-by-step manual for policy-makers and planners** helps Member States to set out: the main goals, objectives, prioritized actions, coordination mechanisms, roles and responsibilities; timelines and budgets; and guidance on implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the development of sustainable and healthy transport in a country. The manual is available in English, French and Russian.

Developing national action plans on transport, health and environment. A step-by-step manual for policy-makers and planners <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/327881>

# Way forward

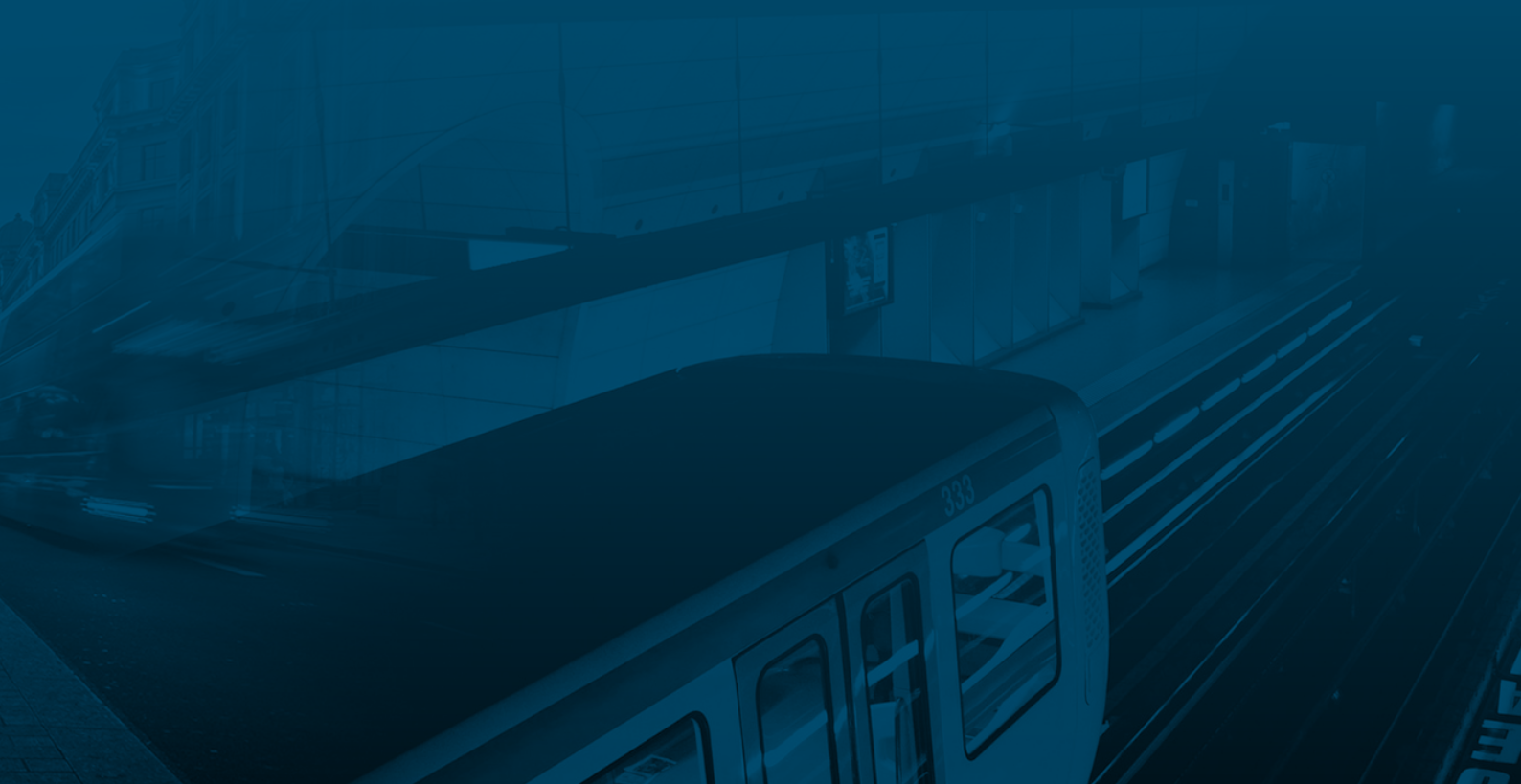
The Vienna Declaration details the priorities and focus of future work for THE PEP on the journey to the Sixth High-level Meeting in Moscow in 2025. Member States will further strengthen the commitment to work together to fulfil the new vision of THE PEP: “clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport for happiness and prosperity for all”.

Among other activities THE PEP will work on:

- a comprehensive pan-European strategy on transport, health and environment for transforming mobility towards zero emissions, ensuring health-promoting active mobility, and building safe and efficient transport (also including legal options) in the decade to come;
- increasing cycling and walking in every country, ensuring cyclist and pedestrian safety, and including active mobility in health policies, as proposed in the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion;
- intensifying cooperation to implement THE PEP and promote joint action among Member States and international organizations within THE PEP Partnerships, THE PEP Relay Race and THE PEP Academy;
- addressing inequalities related to transport and urban sprawl, driving forward inclusive and equitable transport systems across the pan-European region;
- a communication strategy to raise awareness of opportunities for and benefits of sustainable and healthy transport and to disseminate the results of THE PEP.

For more information ([thepep.unece.org](https://thepep.unece.org))

Contact information ([thepep@un.org](mailto:thepep@un.org))





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# THE PEP

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