



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Webinar and Workshop on Violence against Women and Girls **Safety in Public Transports**

*How to improve safety and security
for women and girls in public transport
in the Mediterranean region*

16 December 2024 — 10:00 – 13:00 Barcelona Time



Background & Objectives

Transport safety and security are inherently gender-sensitive issues. Women's transport behaviour across all modes is significantly shaped by safety concerns, which are more pronounced than those of men. For women, safety is the foremost condition for using public transport. Studies reveal that the majority of women worldwide feel unsafe on public transport, with many reporting incidents of verbal or physical harassment when using it or moving in public spaces. Consequently, women frequently opt for private vehicles, where possible, over walking, cycling, or public transport, prioritizing safety above other considerations.

To address these challenges, a cultural shift is required to design transport systems that fully consider women's needs. Immediate actions are essential to ensure safety and security in public spaces. This includes targeted infrastructure and operational upgrades, public awareness campaigns, comprehensive employee training, improved reporting systems, and a zero-tolerance approach to harassment. While substantial changes may demand time and resources, small, practical measures—such as improved lighting—can significantly enhance perceptions of safety and security.

Robust, gender-disaggregated data is crucial for accurately assessing the situation and creating evidence-based policies. Technological innovations and new business models also offer promising avenues for improving safety for women, whether as users or workers in the transport sector. Examples include using information and communication

technologies (ICT) to report harassment, generate actionable data, and enhance access to safety-related services and information.

Sharing best practices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in the public transport sector, including cities and regional authorities, is equally vital. Platforms for dialogue can help accelerate the implementation of effective solutions.

In this context, the UfM Webinar and Workshop will convene prestigious speakers from leading international organizations such as the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD, the International Union of Railways (UIC), and POLIS, the European network of cities and regions for transport innovation, to raise awareness about challenges and potential solutions for safer public transport for women, in particular in the countries of the Mediterranean region.

By integrating global insights with local perspectives, these events seek to share proven strategies, foster cross-sector collaboration, and drive the development of comprehensive safety measures. The ultimate goal is to create a safer public transport environment for all, ensuring equitable and secure mobility for women across the region.

Agenda

Webinar

Date: **16 December 2024**
Time: **10:00 – 11:00 CET**

10:00 - 10:05

Welcome

Short introduction to the event and to speakers

Moderator: Agne VAITEKENAITE, Manager for Partnership Development, ERTICO-ITS Europe

10:05 - 10:10

Opening Remarks

Setting the scene

Dhouha NAJJAR, Acting Deputy Secretary General for Transport and Urban Development, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (5 min)

10:10 - 10:55

International and local perspectives on effective solutions and best practices towards a safer public transport for all

Mohamed MEZGHANI, Secretary General, International Association of Public Transport (UITP) (12 min)

Karen VANCLUYSEN, Secretary General, POLIS Network (12 min)

Marie-Hélène BONNEAU, Director of Security Department, International Union of railways (UIC) (10 min)

Magdalena OLCZAK-RANCITELLI, Senior Manager Institutional Relations and Summit & Focal Point on Gender, International Transport Forum, OECD (10 min)

10:55 - 11:00

Closing Remarks

Summary of key points and way forward

Francesc CARBONELL, Head of Sector for Transport, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (5 min)

Agenda

Workshop

Date: **16 December 2024**
Time: **11:00 – 13:00 CET**

11:00 - 11:10

Welcome

Introduction to the workshop - format and objectives:

Trainer: Dr Johanna TZANIDAKI, Chief Innovation Officer, AYA Consulting

11:10 - 11:15

Opening Remarks

Scene setting

Francesc CARBONELL, Head of Sector for Transport, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

11:15 - 11:30

Keynote 1: Gender challenges in transport - Academic research

Marina HESHAM, Assistant Lecturer of Economics at Cairo University, and PhD Researcher at Cairo University and University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

11:30 - 12:15

Best Practices

Discussion with participants (2 selected participants will be asked to prepare 1 Best Practice each to put forward to the group)

12:15 - 12:30

Keynote 2

Mobility of Care: Metrics/possible KPIs - From a Practitioner
Eva GRIGORIADOU, Architect, URBANA

12:30 - 12:40

Break

12:40 - 12:55

Keynote 3

Best Practice - The City perspective

Tilly CHANG, Executive Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority

12:55 - 13:00

Closing Remarks

Summary of key takeaways

Trainer: Dr Johanna TZANIDAKI, Chief Innovation Officer, AYA Consulting



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