unchain

D8.4 – Cooperation with stakeholders, CIVITAS and similar project and initiatives v1

Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

CIVITAS 2030
Sustainable and smart mobility for all

Legal disclaimer

This document is issued within the frame and for the purpose of the UNCHAIN project. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101103812. The UK participant in Horizon Europe Project UNCHAIN, is supported by UKRI grant number 10078841 Lancaster University.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Copyright statement

The work described in this document has been conducted within the UNCHAIN project. This document reflects only the UNCHAIN Consortium view and the European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

This document and its content are the property of the UNCHAIN Consortium. All rights relevant to this document are determined by the applicable laws. Access to this document does not grant any right or license on the document or its contents. This document or its contents are not to be used or treated in any manner inconsistent with the rights or interests of the UNCHAIN Consortium or the Partners detriment and are not to be disclosed externally without prior written consent from the UNCHAIN Partners.

Each UNCHAIN Partner may use this document in conformity with the UNCHAIN Consortium Grant Agreement provisions.

Deliverable details

Deliverable No.	8.4
Deliverable Type	R – Document, report
Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Work Package No.	8
Work Package Title	Communication, replication, and upscaling
Task No.	8.2 & 8.4
Task Title	Cooperation with Stakeholder Engagement Group + Cooperation with CIVITAS and similar initiatives
Author(s)	Elisa Gomez, Melina Zarouka
Status (F:final; D:draft; RD:revised draft)	RD
File name	D8.4 - Cooperation with stakeholders, CIVITAS and similar project and initiatives v1
Version	V0.1
Task start date and duration	01/05/2023 – 31/10/2026
Due Date	M24 (April 2025)
Delivery Date	30/04/2025

Review History of Deliverable

Version No.	Date	Revision Details
V1.1	08/04/2025	First Draft
V1.2	28/04/2025	Reviewed draft

Reviewers of Deliverable

Reviewers name	Company	Date
Esmee Hof	Stad Mechelen	14/04/2025
Konstantinos Zografos	University of Lancaster	15/04/2025
Julie Martinet	MVKU Berlin	17/04/2025
Elena Garcia Jimenez	ETRA	17/04/2025
Monica Castañeda Paola Rodriguez	EIT Mobility	22/04/2025

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 6
1. Introduction 6
2. Gender, ethics and data related issues 7
2.1. Gender related issues 7
2.2. Ethics related issues 8
2.3. Data related issues 9
3. Stakeholder Engagement Group 9
3.1. Main aims of the group 10
3.2. Members of the group 10
3.3. Activities of the group 11
3.3.1. Kick-off meeting 11
3.4. Transferability activities 12
3.4.1. First Transferability Workshop 12
3.4.2. Second Transferability Workshop 13
3.4.3. Future Activities 13
4. Cooperation with CIVITAS initiative 15
4.1. Cooperation amongst Coordinators 15
4.2. Cooperation amongst Evaluation Managers 16
4.3. Cooperation amongst Dissemination Managers 16
4.4. Participation in events 16
4.5. CIVITAS Deployment Programme 18
5. Cooperation with other projects and initiatives 19
5.1. Cooperation with ALICE 19
5.2. POLIS Network Urban Freight Cluster 21
5.3. Cooperation with DISCO 22
5.3.1. Knowledge Power House 23
5.4. Cooperation with SUM 23
5.5. Technical collaborations 23
6. Conclusion 24

List of Tables

Table 1 – SEG Future Activities 14

List of Figures

Figure 1- UNCHAIN at CIVITAS Forum in Parma 18
Figure 2 - UNCHAIN study visit to Riga 19
Figure 3 - EMT Madrid Presentation at TRA 21

Acronyms

ALICE	(Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe)
SEG	Stakeholder Engagement Group

Executive Summary

The UNCHAIN project aims to foster the large-scale uptake of sustainable, zero-emission logistics solutions across Europe. As urban areas face increasing pressure to deliver goods efficiently while meeting climate and quality of life goals, there is a growing need for practical, transferable innovations that can be tailored to a variety of local contexts.

To meet this challenge, the UNCHAIN project established the Stakeholder Engagement Group (SEG), a network that brings together cities, logistics operators, researchers as mobility stakeholders. The SEG mainly plays a role in anchoring project activities in real-world needs and ensuring the transferability of outcomes beyond the project's participating cities.

In parallel, the project's collaboration with CIVITAS made high-impact synergies possible with other EU-funded initiatives. UNCHAIN has contributed actively to CIVITAS activities, including clusters, events, and the CIVITAS Deployment Programme, amplifying its visibility, impact, and cross-project learning. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNCHAIN and CIVITAS further strengthened the strategic alignment on evaluation, dissemination, capacity-building, and exploitation.

This report outlines the progress of stakeholder and collaboration activities during the first half of the project, detailing the structure, objectives, and achievements of the SEG, key CIVITAS-linked efforts, and how these partnerships are creating the possibility for long-term urban logistics transformation.

1. Introduction

The UNCHAIN project is a forward-looking European initiative that aims to unlock the potential of innovative, sustainable, and scalable urban logistics solutions. By supporting a seamless integration of new services into local urban planning and logistics systems, UNCHAIN contributes directly to the EU's climate and mobility goals.

To ensure its outcomes are relevant, replicable, and widely adopted, UNCHAIN places strong emphasis on collaborative knowledge exchange. These priorities are reflected in two strategic mechanisms:

- The SEG, which connects UNCHAIN to a wider community of cities, logistics operators, and experts across Europe. The SEG acts as a bridge between research and practice, offering valuable insights, feedback, and pathways for replication. It plays an essential role in validating the project's outputs, informing policy development, and shaping a roadmap for broader adoption.
- Collaboration under the CIVITAS umbrella, which ensures that UNCHAIN remains aligned with wider European efforts to advance sustainable urban mobility. This collaboration not only facilitates joint capacity-building, communication, and exploitation activities, but also embeds UNCHAIN within a network of active, like-minded projects, enabling peer learning, joint dissemination and evaluation of the projects.

Together, these efforts help scale the project's impact beyond the Living Labs and follower cities, ensuring that the knowledge and solutions developed through UNCHAIN serve as a foundation for cleaner, smarter urban logistics across Europe.

This report captures the activities undertaken within the SEG and CIVITAS frameworks in the first half of the project, with a focus on knowledge exchange, stakeholder participation, and forward-looking replication planning.

2. Gender, ethics and data related issues

2.1. Gender related issues

In relation to specific SEG and other UNCHAIN events organised, the consortium has paid and will pay special attention to gender equality amongst the speakers as well as the attendees. All UNCHAIN partners have paid and will pay special attention to this and make sure that all participants are addressed based on their preference and treated as such. If any participant of such event experiences any gender-based discrimination on such events, they can contact Melina Zarouka (mzarouka@polisnetwork.eu), Zsofia Jakoi (zjakoi@polisnetwork.eu), Elisa Gomez (egomez@polisnetwork.eu) and Alexia Collignon (acollignon@polisnetwork.eu) of POLIS Network to address these issues. The participants have been and will be informed about this on their invitation letter to the given event.

Another important factor the UNCHAIN project considers important in regard to gender issues are pronouns. The UNCHAIN project is following the Editorial Guide of POLIS Network.

Pronouns, also sometimes known as PGPs (Preferred Gender Pronouns), are linguistic tools used to refer to individuals. They can be categorised as "gendered" (e.g. he/him/his; she/her/hers) or "gender-neutral" (e.g. they/them/theirs; ze/hir/hir; ze/zir/zirs; xe/xem/xyrs; ve/ver/vis; ae/aer/aers; per/per/pers; and others).

Using someone's correct pronouns is a fundamental way to show respect. Using wrong pronouns can lead to feelings of disrespect, invalidation, dismissal, alienation, or dysphoria, and while misgendering can happen by accident, it is important to take accountability for one's mistake, apologise, and immediately use the right pronouns.

While pronouns can sometimes indicate a person's gender identity, it is crucial not to make assumptions about someone's gender identity based on external expressions like clothing, hairstyle, or mannerisms. Recognising that not having to worry about pronoun usage based on perceived gender is a privilege, it becomes evident that deliberately misgendering someone or ignoring their pronouns is not only offensive and disrespectful, but also a form of oppression.

Creating an inclusive space where people can share their pronouns is important, but it is equally important to understand that not everyone may feel comfortable sharing their pronouns and their choice should be respected: in this case, please refrain from using pronouns and refer to them by name.

2.2. Ethics related issues

WP8 pays special attention to the ethical issues. The collaboration with other initiatives and the stakeholders presented in all versions of the document does not damage individual rights and promotes transparency through publicly available documents on the UNCHAIN website.

All activities conducted related to the SEG and other collaboration under this WP are produced through informed consent. These activities are:

- The contact information is stored on the WP lead POLIS internal server and is not shared with any third parties.
- Any communication with the SEG members always must run through POLIS.
- Workshop invitation letters which comply with ethics requirements.
- Any information about the people attending any event organised by UNCHAIN is not and will not be shared with third parties.
- Any photos or videos during any given event organised by UNCHAIN has been and can only be taken after the signed consent of the participants.
- Any photos or videos taken during any given event organised by UNCHAIN has been and can only be shared after the signed consent of the participants.

No data should be processed without undergoing some ethical considerations first. These considerations help to enforce privacy regulations and beyond to ensure no rights are violated and all data has been obtained in a consensual manner.

The specific ethical standards and guidelines set by D1.2 that has been used within all activities carried out in WP8 are the following:

- The purpose and procedure of the research has been introduced in an understandable way.
- It has been emphasised that it is the potential participants' choice whether to participate or not in the study.
- All participants have been informed of their right to privacy and the extent to which participation in this research may impact on their lives – and the mechanisms the researchers have put in place to protect participant privacy through processes of anonymization and data storage and security.
- Participants have been informed about duration and effort to participate in any research.
- In any survey/interview people have been and will be informed what kinds of questions we plan to ask and UNCHAIN has made it clear that people can choose not to answer questions.

- Participants have been made aware of their 'withdrawal rights': that they can withdraw from the research at any time and that, if they wish, any personal data, recordings or images can be destroyed.
- Contact information to the project´s stakeholders have been provided.
- Risks and benefits have been explained.
- If applicable, arrangements for insurance coverage for participation has been and will be described.

2.3. Data related issues

This WP is aware of the importance to keep privacy and protect the personal data, as written under D1.2 – Data Management Plan of the UNCHAIN Project, the following standards have been established in relation to personal data:

- Has not been and will not be handled out to third parties outside UNCHAIN.
- Has not been and will not be exploited or commercialized.
- Has not been and will be kept for no longer than necessary.
- Has not been and will not be accessible for use or diffusion outside the project framework.
- Has not been and will be subject to retrieval in case it is requested.
- Has not been and will be destroyed as the relevant scientific purpose is fulfilled.

Engagement with end users and stakeholders is mostly taking place in WP2, WP6 and WP7. Information managed by the project consortium during such activities has been and will be of a private or confidential nature.

Starting from these considerations, some procedures must be adopted to ensure that the privacy of the involved end-users is safeguarded. Access to sensitive information is being carefully controlled with restriction policies (where appropriate), and anonymization techniques are being applied to protect data confidentiality. The specific SEG activities are always organised by POLIS. This ensures that the SEG members' data is protected and is not shared with third parties. The specific contact details of each member are only accessible for WP lead, POLIS.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Group

As part of its ambition to scale up the impact and uptake of innovative urban logistics solutions, the UNCHAIN project has established a Stakeholder Engagement Group (SEG). The SEG is a trusted and expanding community of Peer Cities, logistics stakeholders, and urban logistics experts from across Europe. The group acts as a knowledge-sharing platform, complementing the work of the project consortium. It will support the co-creation, testing,

validation, and future transferability of UNCHAIN's results beyond the Living Labs. For the first half of the project, the stakeholders and Peer City representatives were involved in different workshops for them to get as much knowledge of the project as possible.

The SEG will participate actively in project discussions and activities, contributing to a collaborative, pan-European environment that connects practice with research and facilitates the exchange of experience among Living Labs and follower cities.

3.1. Main aims of the group

The SEG has been designed to ensure that the research and innovation outcomes of UNCHAIN are transferable, applicable, and impactful across diverse urban and logistical contexts. Its core objectives are to:

- Support the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices between project partners, cities, logistics stakeholders, and external experts;
- Boost replication potential of tested services and solutions by providing critical feedback and feasibility assessments;
- Enable capacity building and peer-learning activities to improve the operational capabilities of public authorities and private operators;
- Validate results and contribute to policy development, business model definition, and the creation of a transferability and adoption roadmap;
- Maximise stakeholder involvement and outreach through POLIS Working Groups and the POLIS-ALICE dialogue platform.

The SEG will also contribute to specific project tasks (e.g. T7.4, T8.2, and T8.3), ensuring that the UNCHAIN tools and services are shaped by, and for, the real needs of stakeholders across Europe.

Members of the SEG will benefit from diverse engagement opportunities, including capacity-building workshops, bilateral exchanges, interactive surveys and interviews, feasibility studies, and targeted online and in-person events. They will be regularly informed about the project's progress and invited to participate in two group meetings per year.

3.2. Members of the group

The SEG is composed of a dynamic mix of urban authorities, logistics operators, and mobility stakeholders representing both advanced and less advanced cities in terms of sustainable urban mobility planning. These members bring a broad spectrum of expertise and operational perspectives, ensuring that the project outputs respond to the challenges of a wide range of European urban areas.

Confirmed Peer City members of the SEG cohort include:

- Reggio Emilia (Italy)
- Brest Métropole (France)
- Alba Iulia Municipality (Romania)
- Greater Manchester (United Kingdom)
- Antwerp (Belgium)

Confirmed expert members of the SEG cohort include (organisations without names):

- University of Antwerp
- MLC
- ZLC
- Budapest Kozlekedesi Kozpont (BKK)
- MOBY Bikes
- ALICE

In addition to these early adopters, the SEG will continue to grow throughout the project duration. A formal call for additional public authorities and logistics stakeholders to join the group was launched in the first half of the project. Interested stakeholders may engage at different levels, from receiving project updates to active participation in piloting, reviewing, and validating project outputs.
Through this broad and inclusive structure, the SEG ensures that UNCHAIN's results are not only scientifically robust but also grounded in the realities of urban logistics operations. Its members play a vital role in shaping the project's legacy, feeding into policy recommendations and contributing to the collective effort to transition toward zero-emission city logistics across Europe.

3.3. Activities of the group

3.3.1. Kick-off meeting

On the 5th of June 2024, the official SEG kick-off meeting took place online. The meeting was designed to bring together experts in logistics and urban mobility, along with representatives from many of the UNCHAIN Peer Cities to discuss innovative solutions and share best practices in the realm of urban logistics.

The UNCHAIN consortium partners also attended the meeting and together we established the way ahead for the future collaboration.

3.4. Transferability activities

3.4.1. First Transferability Workshop

EITUM in collaboration with POLIS conducted the first Transferability Workshop for the UNCHAIN Living Labs (Berlin, Florence, Madrid), Follower Cities (Riga, Funchal, Prague) and one Peer City (Alba Iulia) on 30 November 2023. The meeting was a semi-structured discussion with a Miro Board activity.

This UNCHAIN transferability workshop was designed to engage Follower and Peer cities in the transferability activities of the project. For follower cities, the objective is to identify and validate the services follower cities will demonstrate and for peer cities to identify the services they are interested in.

The discussion was structured as the following:

- Define your role/engagement in the project. – global goals and objectives linked to UNCHAIN
- Main motivation to be part of the project.
- Describe main aspects of your context.
- Which living lab is closer to your context?
- Which services would you like to use in your context or are of interest for future use?
- Expectations for UNCHAIN Transferability activities:
- Which UNCHAIN transferability activities are you interested in participating?

For the follower cities the discussion was structured as the following:

Thinking about your two use case scenarios lets focus in refining the services we want to implement by thinking in the why, where and what.

- Goal to achieve implementing the service (why do we want to implement the service)
- Where to implement the service/justification (where do we want to implement the service)
- What do we need to implement the service? e.g. data,
- What are we expecting the service to deliver (technical aspects)

For the peer cities the discussion was structured as the following:

- Which UNCHAIN service are you interested in following?
- What barriers would you face to implement the service?

3.4.2. Second Transferability Workshop

The Second Transferability Workshop has been organised by EIT-UMF in collaboration with POLIS. This meeting took place on 31 October 2024. This workshop was expanded to include the SEG members as well. Three Peer Cities (Reggio Emilia, Antwerp, Alba Iulia), five experts (BKK, Moby Bikes, ZLC, MLC, E-35) attended the meeting. This workshop was uniquely designed for the SEG members to understand the services developed in the project. To do this, WP leaders also attended and presented the related services to the participants.

The main objective of the workshop was to engage Peer Cities and stakeholders/experts in the identification of UNCHAIN services they would like to follow for future transfer of results.

Following the presentations, a semi-structured discussion took place with the following questions:

- Feasibility: How applicable are these solutions in their city? Include experts' perspective.
- Adaptability: What modifications or improvements would be needed to fit their local context?
- Potential challenges: What barriers might arise (e.g., regulatory, financial, infrastructure) and how can they be overcome?

3.4.3. Future Activities

There is a number of activities planned in collaboration with EITUM. Stakeholders will be invited to attend online webinars and transferability workshops as the services progress and get developed. In May 2026, the SEG will be invited to join the whole consortium in an in-person replication training.

	2023	2024	2025								2026									
Type of Activity	Nov	Oct	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Large Scale Demo timeline	**Kick Off**		**Preparation**					**Demonstration Phase**												
Technical Webinars		✓			✓		✓													
Peer to Peer exchange										✓										
Replication Workshop														✓						
In person replication training															✓					

Table 1 – SEG Future Activities

4. Cooperation with CIVITAS initiative

CIVITAS is an umbrella identity bringing together the activities undertaken by cities, projects, partners and stakeholders, collectively referred to as the "CIVITAS Community". Under this umbrella falls the coordinator ETRA, ULANC as evaluation manager and POLIS as the dissemination manager all actively participating in it.

ETRA, the coordinator of the project, has signed for UNCHAIN the Memorandum of Understanding with CIVITAS. The latter aims to create a common understanding of opportunities and expectations to strive for efficient collaboration between the parties and to define the scope of the cooperation between CIVITAS and UNCHAIN. These include:

- Coordination duties: the parties intend to collaborate to support one another's successful coordination and implementation of their own projects to the best effect.
- Capacity-building activities: jointly, the parties intend to collaborate to improve their and their stakeholders' skills and knowledge to effectively enact their own commitments, ambitions, processes and activities.
- Communication activities: Jointly, the parties intend to collaborate to maximise the profile of their activities, optimizing ways to highlight their relevance and raising awareness in the stakeholder community.
- Exploitation activities: the parties intend to collaborate to maximise the impacts of their collective results and recommendations, increasing their implementation and application by the stakeholder community

4.1. Cooperation amongst Coordinators

ETRA, as coordinator of UNCHAIN had specific meetings with the coordinators of other H2020 and HE projects, mainly in the field of the logistics. In all the CIVITAS Forum, ETRA attend the coordinators meeting, where interesting discussions were held and commonalities with other project were found. Indeed, it was important understanding the problems other logistics projects faced and how they were overcome.

During the CIVITAS Forum in October 2024 in Parma, a specific session was shared among the coordinators of UNCHAIN, SENATOR, DECARBOMILE, GREEN-LOG and URBAINE.

Special attention should be given to the collaboration with DISCO, UNCHAIN sister project. It was in the Urban Mobility Days in October 2023, the first contact and discussion with the coordinator of DISCO. Also attend to some technical webinars such as the one organized on the KPIs.

ETRA also meet the coordinator of MetaCCAZE in a dedicated meeting about the dynamic curbside management. Although a tool to deal with this item is included in some projects, special discussions were held among MetaCCAZE coordinator and ETRA also with the Munich

City Council and Madrid City Council to better understand the way both projects are piloting the service.

4.2. Cooperation amongst Evaluation Managers

UNCHAIN has been/is actively involved, within the framework of CVITAS, in the evaluation managers cooperation of freight transport and logistics projects. UNCHAIN, through its participation in the evaluation managers meetings has provided input related to: i) the identification and definition of freight logistics indicators, ii) the need to provide a clear description of the context of the evaluation of the pilots including the scale and the geographical scope of the pilot demonstration sites, iii) the structure, content, and usability of the proposed evaluation tool, and iv) the use of multi-criteria assessment methodologies. The outcomes of the evaluation managers meetings have provided useful input for the development of the UNCHAIN project evaluation methodology and plan, regarding the alignment of the UNCHAIN evaluation approach with the rest of the freight logistics projects, and the issues associated with the availability of data related to the measurement of the indicators used to assess the UNCHAIN pilot demonstration sites.

4.3. Cooperation amongst Dissemination Managers

As a WP8 lead and official Dissemination Manager of the UNCHAIN project, POLIS is actively participating under the CIVITAS umbrella. The project is situated within the CIVITAS Freight and Logistics Cluster alongside projects such as DISCO, GREEN-LOG, Senator, Urbane and many more.

Between all project Dissemination Managers, there is a strong collaborative support that is taking place on the “Basecamp” platform that was set up by the CIVITAS secretariate. The main aim of the platform to support each other’s dissemination and communication efforts, moreover, to discover possible synergies and collaboration opportunities.

4.4. Participation in events

UNCHAIN has been active in the CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics cluster since the launch of the CIVITAS Projects Exchange Programme in Autumn 2023 as well as in the CIVITAS Dissemination Managers and Evaluation managers groups.

In the framework of this collaboration, representatives from UNCHAIN have been attending the following events:

- **CIVITAS Dissemination Managers Meeting** online (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 14:00 – 15:00)
- The **Urban Mobility Days 2023**
  The Urban Mobility Days took place in Seville in October 2023. The Urban Mobility Days forum was the place to connect, share and discuss the path forward for a sustainable, innovative, and equitable future for Europe's urban mobility. The conference combined two leading events: the CIVITAS Forum where UNCHAIN got presented and met with other CIVITAS projects and exchanged ideas and progress on Disseminations and Evaluation strategies and the former European Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs). UNCHAIN shared a stand with sister project DISCO and exchanged knowledge, attended workshops with the rest of CIVITAS Forum projects.
- **CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics cluster coordinators meeting** in Seville at the Urban Mobility Days (Tuesday, 3 October 2023, 14:00 – 17:30)
- **CIVITAS Dissemination Managers Meeting** in Seville at the Urban Mobility Days (Tuesday, 3 October 2023 9:30-11:30)
- **CIVITAS Evaluation Managers Meeting** in Seville at the Urban Mobility Days (Tuesday, 3 October 2023 9:30-11:30)
- **CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics spring cluster meeting** online (Friday, 22 March 2024, 10:00-12:30)
- **CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics summer cluster meeting** online on Logistics data spaces and how to better define value propositions to incentivise data sharing amongst stakeholders. (Friday 21 July 2024)
- UNCHAIN also actively participated in **the** CIVITAS Forum in Parma in September 2024, participating in a number of CIVITAS organised activities for project coordinators and evaluation managers. UNCHAIN was also featured at the 'Leveraging Data Integration for Seamless Mobility and Logistics' session and the UNCHAIN City of Florence also participated in a Cities mission panel discussion.
- **CIVITAS Project Coordinators Meeting** in Parma at the CIVITAS Forum (Monday, 30 September 2024 14:00-16:00)
- **CIVITAS Dissemination Managers Meeting** in Parma at the CIVITAS Forum (Monday, 30 September 2024 16:00-18:00)
- **CIVITAS Evaluation Managers Meeting** in Parma at the CIVITAS Forum (Monday, 30 September 2024 13:00-15:00)



Figure 1- UNCHAIN at CIVITAS Forum in Parma

- **CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics spring cluster meeting** online (Tuesday 25 March 2025, 15:00-17:00)

4.5. CIVITAS Deployment Programme

The CIVITAS Replication and Deployment programme will engage 36 cities in total over its duration (for both cycles). The programme will be implemented in two cycles, each of which will engage eighteen cities: 12 Champion cities and 6 Challenge cities. The first cycle currently runs between October 2023 and August 2025, when the first set of deployment plans will be published.

Under the "Sustainable Urban Logistics" topic, one of the UNCHAIN Follower Cities (Funchal) has been selected, while under the "Placemaking and Participatory Processes" topic, three of the UNCHAIN cities have been selected (Riga, Prague, Madrid).

The CIVITAS programme has already conducted two study visits, one in Riga and one in Funchal. These visits also appeared both on the CIVITAS and UNCHAIN websites for dissemination purposes and to showcase the hard work the UNCHAIN cities are putting into sustainable mobility and logistics solutions.



Figure 2 - UNCHAIN study visit to Riga

5. Cooperation with other projects and initiatives

5.1. Cooperation with ALICE

UNCHAIN has been involved in the Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe – ALICE initiative.

- **ALICE** Logistics Innovation Summit 2024 **(6-7 November 2024, Brussels)**: UNCHAIN was present alongside sister project DISCO at a stand for both days. The summit celebrated the 10th Anniversary of ALICE and its clusters, focusing on the twin transitions of green and digital transformation.



News items available here:
[Our project at the ALICE Innovation Summit | Unchain]
[ALICE Logistics Innovation Summit Newsletter - Issue 2]

- **Transport Research Arena Conference (April 2024, Dublin, Ireland):** UNCHAIN featured at the bi-annual TRA (Transport Research Arena) conference hosted by ALICE Innovation Village and [EIT Madrid presented UNCHAIN] in a special technical session. Partners and academic institutions from all around the world participated at the conference which lasted for 3 days and UNCHAIN stand got visited by hundreds of people attending the event.



Figure 3 - EMT Madrid Presentation at TRA 2024

- **UNCHAIN-ALICE webinar series:** POLIS - ALICE Webinar, November 2024. UNCHAIN, together with DISCO, participated in the POLIS-ALICE webinar on E-commerce - Sustainable deliveries and consumer engagement. Berlin presented its local approaches regarding deliveries and activities in UNCHAIN.

- **POLIS-ALICE webinar, April 2025.** UNCHAIN participated in the POLIS-ALICE webinar, together with DISCO, on the *'Use of urban space for city logistics.* Florence presented the UNCHAIN services in their Living Lab.

5.2. POLIS Network Urban Freight Cluster

Within the POLIS Cluster on Urban Freight, cities and regions discuss the challenges they face, share good practices and improve collaboration with industry, prioritise topics and accelerate deployment of innovative solutions in the field of urban freight. UNCHAIN has been an active collaborator on this cluster and featured in a few of the working group's activities.
UNCHAIN's services in Madrid will be featured in the upcoming webinar organised by POLIS and OMF (Open Mobility Foundation) in late May 2025.

5.3. Cooperation with DISCO

UNCHAIN and DISCO are both Horizon Europe projects introduced under the same call, and their collaboration has been showcased through joint participation in various events.

For example, UNCHAIN and DISCO collaborated as sister projects at the **Urban Mobility Days** in Seville (October 2023), where they shared a stand.

Additionally, UNCHAIN worked with DISCO at the **PDays event** in Florence (May 2024), where UPS presented the UNCHAIN services to industry professionals in urban logistics. This event provided a platform for e-commerce stakeholders to discuss their challenges and future opportunities for optimising urban last-mile delivery.

The collaboration continued at the ALICE Innovation Summit, where both projects shared a stand and engaged in discussions. Furthermore, they teamed up at the CIVITAS Forum 2024 in Parma, participating in the session titled "Leveraging Data Integration for Seamless Mobility and Logistics" on 2 October. UNCHAIN was represented by its project partner, EMT Madrid.

Finally, DISCO and UNCHAIN appeared together at the **POLIS Conference in Karlsruhe** (November 2024). Notably, UNCHAIN was featured in the session 'Getting Started with Construction Logistics in a Medium-Sized City.'

In addition to their event participation, UNCHAIN and DISCO's collaboration was also highlighted in the **POLIS-ALICE webinar series**.

In November 2024, UNCHAIN participated in a **webinar on sustainable deliveries and consumer engagement**, presenting local approaches and activities within the project. Another webinar is scheduled for 9 April, focusing on the use of urban space for city logistics.



5.3.1. Knowledge Power House

One of the twelve services developed in UNCHAIN is a Knowledge Powerhouse. It capitalises on expertise from the consortium and its networks R&I findings of the Living Labs and sets up the mechanisms to facilitate capacity building, interactive knowledge sharing, and good practices exchange among project partners, SEG members, and external experts.
To facilitate the use, the services is going to be included in the UNCHAIN webpage. By doing so, the service will remain public and could be accessible to anyone interested in urban logistics. DISCO and UNCHAIN collaborate each other in the knowledge exchange powerhouse

5.4. Cooperation with SUM

Collaboration with the SUM project has also been initiated in 2024. Although the two projects are quite different, some synergies have been found when it comes to stakeholder engagement and co-creation activities. The goal was to avoid typical topics to have a more original and innovative discussion. Therefore, a webinar has been organised between the two parties and was initially planned for November 2024. It has been postponed to 2025, and activities have started again, with a potential new date in spring/early summer 2025.
From UNCHAIN, the Mechelen and Madrid Living Labs have agreed to discuss their use case, under the coordinator's ETRA moderation.

5.5. Technical collaborations

Since the start of the project in May 2023, there has been a number of occasions to foster collaborations with other projects discussing specific technical elements of the projects.

On 23 October 2024, the UNCHAIN coordinator, ETRA, in collaboration with the Madrid City Council, met with representatives from the metaCCAZE project, which includes Munich as a participating city. This productive meeting, attended by Annika Paul and Santiago Álvarez-Ossorio from Landeshauptstadt München, focused on sharing expertise and insights regarding Dynamic Curbside Management, a key aspect of UNCHAIN's KER8 initiative.

News item available here:

UNCHAIN meets with metaCCAZE | Unchain

- SCALE UP – Technical collaboration (ETRA consortium partner in both). Since ETRA is the coordinator of UNCHAIN but also the technical coordinator of SCALE-UP, smooth collaboration between them was made. Special attention should be put on the measure lead by the Port of Antwerp-Bruges related to a route planner focused on the logistics vehicles in the inner area of the port.

6. Conclusion

Since its launch in May 2023, the UNCHAIN project has been building and fostering valuable collaborations with various stakeholders, significantly enhancing its dissemination efforts. The Stakeholder Engagement Group (SEG) has been established as a platform for knowledge sharing, complementing the work of the project consortium. It plays a crucial role in supporting the co-creation, testing, validation, and future transferability of UNCHAIN's results beyond the Living Labs. Transferability activities have begun with workshops involving follower and peer cities, which not only broaden engagement but also anticipate emerging challenges.

By signing the CIVITAS Memorandum of Understanding, UNCHAIN became an active partner in CIVITAS activities, participating in numerous events alongside sister projects like DISCO. Its involvement in CIVITAS is highlighted by its participation in the CIVITAS Urban Freight and Logistics cluster meetings, providing a platform to explore potential synergies and collaboration opportunities. Additionally, UNCHAIN has been strengthening ties with other projects such as SUM and DISCO, enabling more impactful dissemination and collaborative participation in events. The ALICE initiative offers a valuable opportunity to engage in joint initiatives and further enhance collaboration.

Collectively, these initiatives contribute to amplifying the project's impact beyond the Living Labs, ensuring that the knowledge and solutions created through UNCHAIN lay the groundwork for more sustainable and efficient urban logistics throughout Europe.

For the next phase of the project, UNCHAIN is focused on deepening the connections established with other projects, while also strengthening its engagement with key platforms and events, including those organized by CIVITAS and ALICE. Additionally, UNCHAIN will actively explore new collaboration opportunities and further enhance the involvement of the SEG.

unchain

Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

CIVITAS 2030
Sustainable and smart mobility for all