

# Moving towards a sustainable transport system in Arad



<b>Country</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<b>Year</b>	2005-Ongoing
<b>Narrative description</b>	<p>Arad is known as the city of trams and bicycles in Romania. Its tram network is only surpassed by the capital Bucharest, while it holds the longest urban network of cycle lanes in the country (135 km) and has the highest national rate of bicycle use (8,2%). Since 2005, the municipality has developed a series of public interventions to further improve the sustainability of its urban transport system.</p> <p>Between 2005-2014, Arad revamped a large part of its tram infrastructure (23 km) with a grant from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), modernizing notably its tram depot, implementing an e-ticketing system and procuring six new energy efficient trams with improved access for citizens with reduced mobility.</p> <p>In addition to these widespread investments in its tram network, the Romanian municipality also invested in its bus infrastructure by procuring electric buses and other buses using ecological sources (e.g. local biogas) and extended its cycle network with EU INTERREG funding to the Hungarian town of Gyula it is bordering.</p> <p>Arad's actions in improving the sustainability of its tram infrastructure has resulted in estimated annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 10,603 tons.</p>
<b>Responsible authority</b>	Municipality of Arad
<b>Relevant legal basis</b>	Arad Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan 2010-2020
<b>Policy Type</b>	Public intervention

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<b>Governance Level/ Target audience</b>	<b>Local / citizens</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Extend the cycle network to the cross-border region</p> <p>Revamp the tram infrastructure to make it more accessible and user-friendly</p> <p>Greening the bus transport system through procurement of ecological vehicles</p>
<b>Summary of reasons for success</b>	<p>The complementary European funding sources (e.g. EBRD, EU INTERREG programme) were critical in enabling Arad to fund the revamp and extension of its tram and cycle infrastructure in particular. The benefits of the tram projects (e.g. e-ticketing system, more accessible trams, improved service) have triggered higher interest from citizens in using trams within the urban transport system.</p> <p>Moreover, Arad granted subsidies to prevent a rise in ticket prices after the tram modernization, which alongside the improved service, is an additional factor in attracting a larger number of citizens to the tram network.</p>
<b>Replication potential</b>	<p>The replication potential of Arad’s public interventions in the sustainability of its urban transport system is high, and benefits from a sound Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (as it is in place in the Romanian municipality).</p> <p>In the urban context, measures boosting use of cycling, trams and buses are no-regret measures that result in sustained and significant emission reductions and energy efficiency improvements. While they require high investments at first, ultimately they pay off quickly.</p>
<b>Relevant website</b>	<p>Arad Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan 2010-2020: <a href="https://www.polisnetwork.eu/uploads/Modules/PublicDocuments/raport_strategic_si_paed_in_municipiul_arad.pdf">https://www.polisnetwork.eu/uploads/Modules/PublicDocuments/raport_strategic_si_paed_in_municipiul_arad.pdf</a></p> <p>Arad Sustainable Urban Transport System Grant from EBRD: <a href="https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/arad-urban-transport-project.html">https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/arad-urban-transport-project.html</a></p>

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