

# ACUTE - Accessibility and Connectivity Knowledge Hub for Urban Transformation in Europe

## WP1 – ENUAC Cross Research Community

### D1.3 ENUAC academics events

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Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies   LBTU	LATVIA
University of Latvia   LU	LATVIA
Research Institutes of Sweden   RISE	SWEDEN
University of Westminster   UoW	UNITED KINGDOM
Malmö University   MAU	SWEDEN
Grazer Energieagentur GmbH, Graz Energy Agency   GEA	AUSTRIA
VTI/Sweden’s national centre for research and education on public transport   K2	SWEDEN
Power Circle   PC	SWEDEN
University of Innsbruck   UIBK	AUSTRIA

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## 1. Summary of ACUTE academics events

Since the project began at the end of 2022, several academic online or hybrid events have been organised involving ENUAC projects, from which we highlight four of them in this deliverable.

Table 1: Key information about the academic online events.

Place of seminars' organization	Month/year	Main outcomes
Bucharest	May 2023	Presentation of ACUTE survey analysis
Malmö	November 2023	Exchanges around projects COCOMO and EASIER
Paris	February 2024	Exchanges with ENUAC projects around outcomes of textual analyses
Online Roundtable Seminar	June 2024	Experience Exchange between ACUTE and ENUAC projects

## 2. Bucharest

Work Package 1 of the ACUTE project, led by University of Westminster and Université Gustave Eiffel, aims to support the funded ENUAC projects and enable cross-project cooperation through knowledge sharing, the mapping of key projects with a focus on accessibility and connectivity in Europe, and the consolidation of a community of researchers & practitioners.

Towards these goals, a survey led by Enrica Papa and Sabina Cioboata at the University of Westminster was launched in January 2023 and shared amongst partners involved in the ENUAC projects, with the primary aim of cross analysing the projects and identifying and mapping links and overlaps. The survey has gathered over 70 responses, and preliminary results were presented at the ENUAC Mid-Term Meeting in Bucharest, in May 2023. The respondents belonged to all 15 projects originally targeted (ASAP, Catapult, Dymon, Easier, EXTRA, Geosence, ITEM, Justice, Myfairshare, Smarthubs, SortedMobility, TAP, TuneOurBlock and WalkUrban), and range from scientific team partner's members to project coordinators, contributors, and principal investigators. Preliminary results were presented across two different dimensions: an exercise mapping the existing project network, and a brief cross-analysis of links and overlaps between different reported project outputs, with a specific focus on project impacts and applications in real-life settings.

The network mapping exercise draws from links reported by survey respondents, from the submitted ENUAC projects proposal, and from the Year 1 annual progress reports. In this sense, the network mapping goes beyond the 15 core ENUAC projects and visualises links to other relevant accessibility and connectivity projects at a variety of scales ranging from local projects to national projects, European projects, relevant policy frameworks, and overarching hubs/networks (Figure 1). During later stages of the project a deeper investigation of the nature of links identified so far was carried out with the aim of expanding the network and strengthening the links, particularly across the 15 ENUAC funded projects.

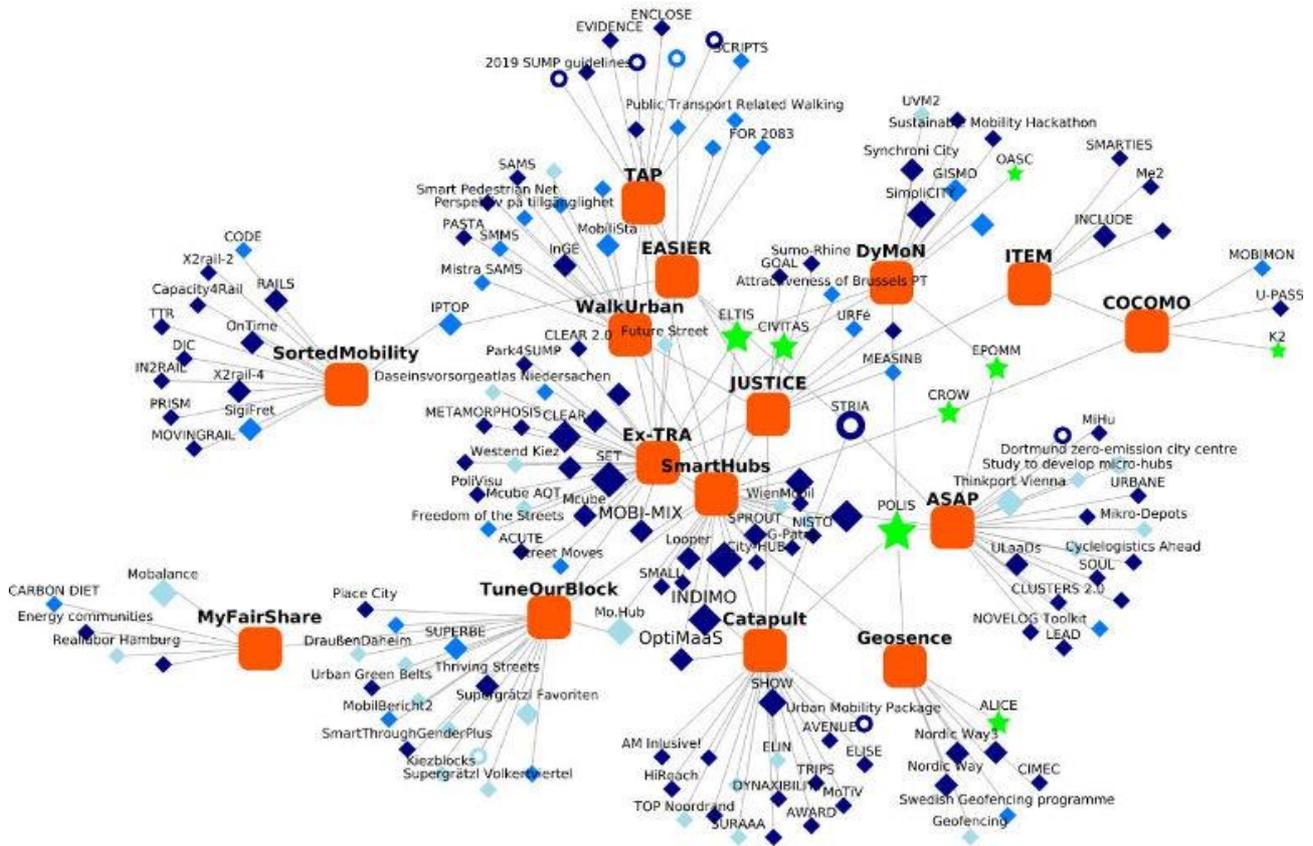


Figure 1: ENUAC projects network mapping

In parallel, results from the survey revealed a diversity of overlapping project outputs, specifically reflecting on strategies to increase societal impacts and test out real-life applications. Using a transition management framework which analyses outputs across strategic, tactical, operational and reflexive dimensions, examples of such applications fall under the categories briefly summarised below:

**1. Strategic: organising multi-actor networks**

All ENUAC projects reported a strategic agenda of bridging gaps between academia, policy, practice and communities, materialising in the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships from the public and private sectors.

**2. Tactical: developing sustainability visions and joint strategies**

Central to the projects was also the development of collective sustainability visions and joint strategies. This was facilitated through implementing processes of knowledge, co-creation and stakeholder dialogue during multi-actor workshops and scenario building exercises with communities and practitioners.

**3. Operational: executing projects and experiments**

Aiming to catalyse urban transformation and innovation, the projects also facilitated spaces for experimentation and testing out of various solutions, tools, and methods. In this sense, several projects set up living labs in cities across Europe, in collaboration with local municipalities and communities, and implemented prototypes that were subsequently examined through action research.

**4. Reflexive: evaluating, monitoring and learning**

Finally, the projects have been involved in a reiterative process of evaluation, monitoring and dissemination, with the aim of facilitating learning and providing recommendations and tools for decision-makers and

communities. In this sense, the projects have been developing policy recommendations, practical design and planning guidelines, as well as tools such as innovative methodologies and software.

What is more, the survey introduced a quantitative self-assessment section, designed to collect views on the potential of the projects to be triggers of socio-technical transitions across different dimensions including radical, challenge-driven, feasible, strategic, and communicative transformation. A similar section prompted respondents to estimate how they would rate their projects in terms of behavioural, institutional, material, and organizational dimensions of change. The project self-assessment exercise informed future research steps, which aimed to investigate in more detail different score discrepancies, and to gain a better understanding of why respondents evaluated their projects in a certain way. A detailed report on this can be found in D1.4 - Final showcase of regional, national, European and international projects, ideas, initiatives on the topic of accessibility and connectivity.

Survey findings also provide details into future agendas for maximising impact, which include, across all projects, the following: planned dissemination activities (further workshops, conferences, podcasts, press releases), stakeholder involvement activities (further co-creation workshops and strengthening practitioner networks), the continued development of open-source guidelines and tools and plans to influence policy through awareness-raising and policy recommendation documents. Such planned activities were also reflected on in more detail during a participant workshop carried out with ENUAC project representatives during the meeting in Bucharest. Finally, the survey has been critical in collecting preliminary insights into the research and practical support that projects would still need in order to increase their policy and practice impact.

This includes but is not limited to a need for additional resources for data collection, innovation, setting up of living labs and testing out applications; further knowledge exchange mechanisms including dissemination channels, networking, effective communication, and more centralised platforms for cross-project exchanges; and enhanced cooperation channels, particularly with actors beyond academia. This set of preliminary results was critical in informing ACUTE's Work Package 1 strategic agenda throughout the project, with a particular focus on the research plans that later included interviews and focus groups.

### 3. Malmö

During the Malmö ACUTE consortium meeting, we took the opportunity of the visit in Sweden to dig deeper into exchanges with ENUAC projects with Swedish leadership or participation. We conducted deep exchanges with the projects COCOMO and EASIER. Main lessons have been introduced in ACUTE analysis of the need for the functions of the knowledge hub to be created.

### 4. Paris

During the Paris ENUAC event, the ACUTE team organised a hybrid session with the ENUAC projects. The interaction was based on exchanges around ACUTE findings using textual analytics developed by the Latvian partners.

The most important outcome of this interaction was the very valuable reflexive exercise of the project leaders regarding on the identity and positioning of their own projects.

In addition, we can state the very positive outcome of facilitating the engagement of all participants in very dynamic and fruitful exchanges. ACUTE's feedback on the projects emphasised the appropriateness of the proposals for the call, but also the uniqueness and originality of each project.

## 4. Roundtable Seminar with ENUAC projects

In June 2024 the ACUTE project organised a round table seminar for all 15 ENUAC projects. 12 of the 15 projects were able to participate. The event was meant to inform and update the ENUAC project on the work that had been done partly based on the information provided by them in the survey and interviews. The event was also intended as a networking possibility for the projects and to share their thoughts about funding opportunities and call topics that might be of interest to JPI and DUT.

The event began with a brief presentation from each of the attending projects, providing participants with an opportunity to share experiences and address any open questions. Projects with similar objectives and topics shared information about developed tools and deliverables of mutual interest.

Following this cross-project exchange, ACUTE partners presented their findings, which in turn, sparking a discussion that focused particularly on their challenges of involving cities as partners and their struggles to involve non-academic stakeholders effectively. Participants were also asked about their opinion of the usefulness of a Knowledge Hub and how such a hub should be organised.

Overall the discussion highlighted the complexities of collaboration between cities, municipalities, researchers, and funding agencies in implementing impactful urban transformation projects. Participants emphasized challenges like navigating governance structures, varying resources among municipalities, funding constraints, and difficulties aligning research with practical decision-making.

Personal relationships and intermediaries, such as consultants or Knowledge Hubs, were identified as crucial in bridging gaps between academia and practice, translating research into actionable outcomes, and ensuring sustained engagement beyond project lifespans.

Key recommendations included integrating stakeholder engagement and dissemination into project funding, fostering better coordination from project inception, and establishing robust platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration, such as repositories and interaction forums.

Overall, there was consensus on the need for structured frameworks and resources to overcome fragmentation and enhance the practical impact of urban research initiatives.