

EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK

16-22 SEPTEMBER 2020



10 lessons learnt during the lockdown
FOR BETTER URBAN MOBILITY:

1

Public space is precious; it is more important than ever that cities are run for people, not for cars (parked or driving in multiple-lane traffic). Policy changes are possible in a relatively short time.

2

We've given value to essential workers, who were invisible until now; public transport workers, and others who help us move, are among them. Since public transport capacity has been limited, it is important to give priority to people who need it the most. But we also need to restore confidence in public transport, which is crucial for sustainable and safe urban mobility.



3

The invisible became visible: air and noise pollution rates from daily transport fell to unprecedented levels. Europeans enjoyed cleaner air and less noisy urban spaces for a while and indicated a wish for this to continue. What can we do to maintain this to some extent?

4



Our world was going too fast, but there's no need to rush; let's slow down by establishing default 30km/h speed limits or indeed less in urban areas.

5

Respiratory health and active lifestyle are now more important than ever; initial research suggests that pollution and obesity significantly increase health risks from COVID-19. Therefore, we need to find permanently better ways to help people walk and cycle safely in our cities. Everyone should make an effort to stay fit and practise sports, so not surprisingly gym accessories sold out in many shops; however, the best gym is as simple as walking and cycling.



6

Working from home has become normal and possible for many people, and reduces the need for congesting and polluting commuter traffic. At the same time, some employees need to access their workplace. So employers and mobility experts and planners must work together to find solutions that help us move towards a safe recovery.

7

Children going to school by car with their parents represent a major contribution to congestion. And by making it feel riskier for other children to walk or cycle, their parents take them by car too - a vicious cycle instead of the (bi)cycle! Remote or e-learning can help reduce these trips, but we need more sustainable options for taking our children to school.



8

Digital tools are key for an efficient use of transport systems, but they must work for all. For many years mobility experts have been discussing MaaS (Mobility as a Service) to promote a multimodal lifestyle. Apps providing information on less crowded options in real time can help, or transport planners giving walking options instead of multiple buses. Digital literacy and accessibility are also needed to make the most of these tools.

9

Buying online has been one of the solutions during lockdown, but what about delivery? Remember the potential of cargo bikes to bring zero-emission logistics closer!



10

Certain groups of people are more vulnerable than others; let's build cities with barrier-free transport systems, because a city accessible for a person in a wheelchair is a city accessible for everyone.

