

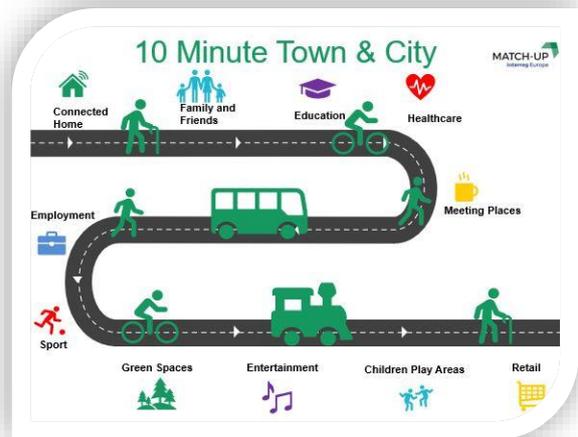
# MATCH-UP – Sustainable Transport Thematic Meeting

*The MATCH-UP project aims to improve low carbon interchanges at local level to improve public transport by learning from our Interregional partners.*

Today was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with all our project partners and their stakeholders at the [Interreg Europe MATCH-UP Project 6<sup>th</sup> Thematic Meeting](#) on Sustainable Transport and to hear about the amazing policy improvements in each of the partner regions as a direct result of their participation in the MATCH-UP Project.

Imagine living in a city or town where your community services and activities are within a 10-minute walk, cycle, or bus ride from your home?

That is the policy improvement from the [Southern Regional Assembly](#) in Ireland and they are currently working with the Department of Transport and many National Transport Authorities in Ireland to roll out this initiative to all Local Authorities.



The power of citizen and stakeholder engagement has led the [Municipality of Funchal](#) in the beautiful island of Madeira, Portugal to develop a Cycling Planning Tool and improve accessibility of cycling, walking and public transport for all citizens.

In September 2020, these amazing improvements were incorporated into their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.

High School children are to be provided with an integrated network for cycling in the [Municipality of Timișoara](#) in Romania to support children cycling to school.

They plan on incorporating this initiative into their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in 2022.

### Action plan overview

The Action Plan aims to impact:  
 ↓ Other regional development policy instrument

**Policy instrument addressed:**  
 Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for the Timisoara Growth Pole.

The action aims at changing the SUMP by revising the current priorities and work interventions concerning cycling mobility, in order to make the entire network more connected with the other means of transport and give priority to those cycling paths that connect high schools.

In order to encourage bicycle use for daily travel (home/high school and back), it is important to provide students with the necessary infrastructure, such as the installation of bike racks near high schools. These measures will be included in the revised, updated and ultimately changed policy instrument (SUMP).



People in rural parts of the [County of Northeim](#) in Germany can expect to see audits been undertaken to integrate on demand transport with the existing public transport offering in the near future.

The County of Northeim signed a new Local Transport Plan than incorporates this initiative in July 2020 and are hoping to commence work soon.

The Southern Regional Assembly were honoured to host such a positive and inspiring meeting today and are amazed at the difference that the Interreg MATCH-UP Project is having in each of our project partners regions.

***MATCH-UP, a four and a half-year, 5-partners project was approved for a grant of €0.9m by [the Interreg Europe Programme](#) and commenced in July 2018 at a meeting in Bologna. The partnership consists of 4 European regions - Southern & Eastern Ireland, County of Northeim, Germany, Municipality of Funchal, Portugal and Timisoara Municipality, Romania who are working together to share experience, solutions, and good practice to develop and deliver better public policy to reduce carbon emissions and support low carbon urban mobility in designated urban centres.***

MATCH-UP is part-funded by the Interreg Europe Programme through the European Regional Development Fund and led by the University of Bologna in Italy.

For more about the MATCH-UP project go to - [www.interregeurope.eu/match-up/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/match-up/)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION/INTERVIEW AND IMAGES, CONTACT:

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