Initiative for the drafting of a Law on Integrated Transport

Proposal





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Introduction

Sustainable transport planning is essential for fostering economic growth, reducing environmental impact, and improving the quality of life for citizens. Recognizing the increasing challenges related to urban mobility, congestion, and pollution, it is crucial for WB6 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) to adopt a comprehensive approach to transport planning. This proposal is based on Slovenia's experience in developing and implementing a law on comprehensive transport planning, which ensures strategic coordination between transport and spatial planning, improves accessibility, and promotes sustainable mobility solutions. The proposed framework can serve as a foundation for WB6 countries to develop national legislation adapted to their specific needs.

Key Elements of the Comprehensive Transport Planning Law

Objectives and Principles

- Establish a legal and institutional framework for integrated transport planning that aligns with sustainable development goals, economic growth, and environmental protection.
- Ensure that all transport modes are considered equally, allowing for an optimized and efficient transport system that balances economic viability and environmental responsibility.
- Promote social inclusion by improving accessibility to transport services for all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those in rural areas
- Encourage active participation from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to create a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.

Comprehensive Transport Strategies

- Develop transport strategies at the national, regional, and local levels, ensuring consistency with spatial planning and other relevant policies.
- Identify short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategic priorities for different transport modes, including public transport, non-motorized transport, and environmentally friendly mobility solutions.
- Establish mechanisms for regularly assessing and updating transport strategies to accommodate emerging technologies, demographic changes, and climate commitments.
- Strengthen cross-border and regional cooperation to enhance connectivity and align transport policies with EU integration goals.

Sustainable Urban Mobility and Transport Solutions

- Encourage active mobility by investing in infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, including dedicated lanes, pedestrian zones, and safe crossings.
- Introduce low-emission zones and traffic-calming measures to mitigate pollution and improve urban air quality.
- Promote urban freight consolidation centres to reduce congestion caused by delivery vehicles and encourage sustainable logistics solutions such as electric delivery vehicles.

- Leverage digital innovations, such as intelligent transport systems (ITS) and mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) solutions, to enhance efficiency and convenience for commuters.
- Foster multi-modal transport options by integrating public transport networks with active mobility and shared mobility solutions.

Governance and Responsibilities

- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of national, regional, and local authorities in transport planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of transport policies and projects.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to leverage investments in sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
- Ensure that transport policies align with EU accession processes, meeting environmental and efficiency standards set by European frameworks.
- Establish independent regulatory bodies to oversee transport policy implementation, ensuring accountability and adherence to sustainable mobility goals.

Funding and Incentives

- Develop a multi-source financing strategy for transport planning, incorporating national budgets, EU funding, private sector investment, and innovative financing models.
- Provide co-financing from state funds for transport projects that contribute to sustainability goals, prioritizing investments in public transport and non-motorized mobility infrastructure.
- Offer tax incentives and subsidies for businesses and individuals that adopt low-emission vehicles, invest in electric vehicle infrastructure, or contribute to sustainable urban mobility.
- Implement policies that internalize external costs of transport, such as congestion charges, carbon pricing, and distance-based road tolls, ensuring fair distribution of costs among transport users.
- Encourage municipalities to develop local funding mechanisms, such as parking fees and urban mobility levies, to support sustainable transport projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish a national framework for monitoring transport system performance, integrating data collection, real-time monitoring, and public reporting.
- Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of transport policies, such as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, improved public transport efficiency, and increased active mobility share.
- Require periodic assessments of transport policies, ensuring that they remain responsive to changing mobility trends, economic needs, and environmental objectives.
- Create a central digital database for transport data, enabling data-driven decision-making and improved transparency in policy development.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among local governments, policymakers, and stakeholders to continuously improve transport planning practices.

Conclusion

The adoption of a Comprehensive Transport Planning Law will enable WB6 countries to tackle pressing mobility challenges while advancing regional integration and alignment with EU transport and environmental policies. By establishing a clear legal framework that prioritizes sustainability, accessibility, and efficiency, countries can develop resilient transport systems that support economic growth and improve the well-being of their citizens. This proposal serves as a guiding framework for

WB6 nations to craft tailored legislation that meets their specific needs, while benefiting from
Slovenia's expertise and best practices in sustainable transport planning.