

PRESS RELEASE

INTRODUCING NEW APPLICATION CO-APS: WORKING TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT



BRUSSELS, 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

The coronavirus pandemic has changed the way we move, interact and plan: passengers must have as much choice as possible when jumping aboard their local public transport network.

UITP is pleased to announce our participation in **a new EU project**, supported by **EIT Urban Mobility**, to develop **a mobile application** to help **reduce the spread of COVID-19** by managing density in public transport and public spaces: **introducing CO-APS**.

As the world continues to consider **the implications of COVID-19**, UITP is committed to making **the positive case for public transport** and highlighting how **this essential service** is needed more than ever.

Scientific evidence so far seems to indicate that there have been **very few contagions on public transport systems**, proving to be a safer place than many others – and it is important the we can continue our **efforts to provide the safest possible environment** for passengers.

CO-APS contributes towards this effort and will bring together **eight partners**, delivering more **options and choices**.

By providing a choice on which service suits them best from the palm of their hand, allowing **the power to lie with the passenger.**

“CO-APS is a good example of what we want to achieve with the COVID-19 CALL: to address urban mobility challenges posed by the pandemic such as ensuring safety in the use of public transport.”

Daniel Serra
Innovation Hub South Director
EIT Urban Mobility

Contagious risk is a mixture of distance, duration of exposure, wearing of masks and speaking. With CO-APS, **developed for passengers, by passengers**, the application creates **a full and real-time picture** of the situation.

CO-APS gathers data – from ticket validation, cameras, occupancy sensors and more – **to determine crowd levels within a specific station, vehicle or area.**

Through **in-app challenges and games** CO-APS gathers information, and allows for discounts, tickets and other services to be made available to users through their participation in these challenges.

“We must take the opportunity to continue ensuring that our sector provides the best possible environment for passengers during COVID-19 and beyond. Public transport must be at the heart of cities when we build back better to a future post-pandemic. The CO-APS initiative contributes greatly to this effort.”

Umberto Guido
Senior Director of Knowledge and Innovation
UITP

CO-APS will be tested in four pilot cities within Europe:

Istanbul, Sofia, Barcelona and Karditsa.

More news on these exciting pilot tests will come soon...Stay tuned!

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FOR EDITORS



(UITP) **The International Association of Public Transport** works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1800 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Since January 2019, **EIT Urban Mobility** has been working to encourage positive changes in the way people move around cities in order to make them more liveable places. Visit eiturbanmobility.eu