

# CASE STUDY

Dublin (IR) – Seoul (KR)

IURC – Asia & Australasia



**JULY 19- 2023**

**Thematic Network(s): Ecological Transition & Green Deal, Urban & Regional Renewal and Social Cohesion**

**Thematic Cluster(s): Mobility & Transport**

**Cross-cutting challenge(s): Energy Transition & Climate Change, Digital Transition-Smart City**

**Topic keywords: Urban Mobility, Clean Energy, Sustainable Mobility, Active Travel**

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# Dublin (IR) – Seoul (KR)

## IURC – CASE STUDY

*Dublin City Council is working with Seoul Metropolitan Government to build data analytics capacity in both cities to improve sustainable mobility including public transportation (PT), walking and cycling, and to support their respective targets for active travel.*

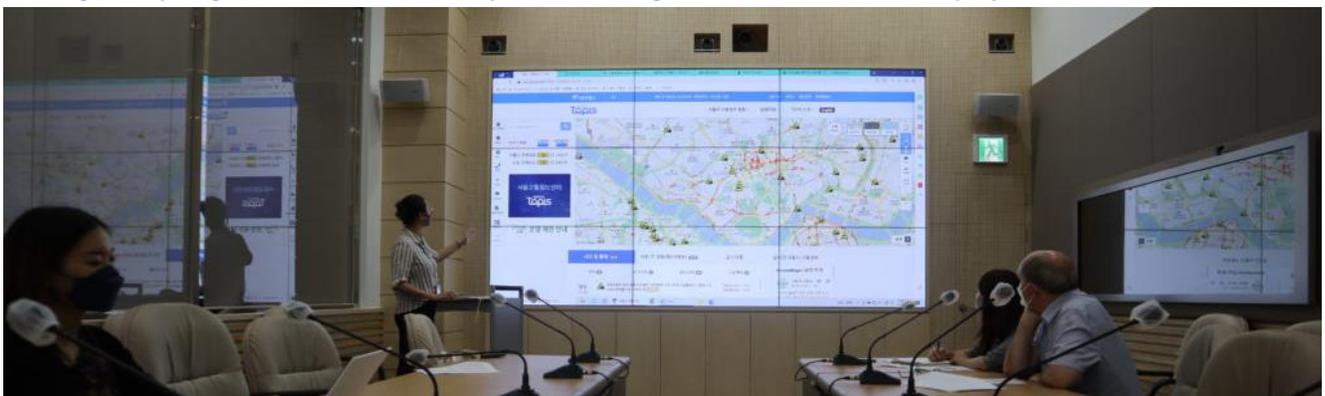
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seoul Metropolitan Government has a well-developed Transport Operations and Information System (TOPIS) that Dublin City Council intends to understand in greater detail with the view to improving traffic management in Dublin city. To create a mutual learning experience for both cities, this joint action will address *traffic data management* to improve active travel and public transportation services. These are two of the main areas to achieve a sustainable **Urban Mobility** through **Digital Transition** (see also *An Urban Agenda for the EU*).

Gathering transportation data and managing datasets are key for urban planning. The partnership will include the use of open data provided by the citizens. By utilizing these datasets, the respective cities can not only develop more accurate public transportation services but also promote active travel modes. Mobility experts from Seoul and Dublin City Councils agreed to gather this data during walking and cycling events taking place between May and September 2023. They will pair-up with relevant scientific and academic institutions in their cities.

The Dublin-Seoul mobility data partnership may have benefits beyond the respective cities, as it may contribute to improving academic research (Lee and Sener, 2020; Ermagun, et al, 2018), particularly on understanding how people move through the city. This scientific basis should help public authorities to promote active travel modes, considering other factors like better citizens' health and well-being through **better air quality** and **greener cities**.

This partnership will also explore how some datasets not yet integrated into either cities' traffic data management systems - for example air quality - may be used to understand the impacts of interventions aimed at improving walking and cycling. Exploring and combining datasets will allow both cities to understand what makes an enjoyable walking and cycling route, which should improve the design of future infrastructure projects.



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# MAIN CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

Dublin City is quickly expanding active travel infrastructure, with a specific target of achieving 310 km of cycle track by 2042 (at present, the city has 10 km of cycle track). The City Council also has ambitious plans to green the city. Together these plans are critical to improving quality of life while addressing the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

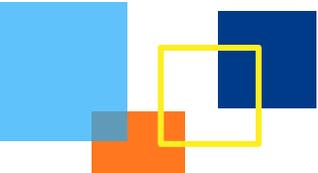
Data is essential to understanding if the interventions the city is implementing are having their anticipated impacts. Without data it will be difficult to understand if residents of the city are choosing to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel to their destination. Further, the city will not know if the interventions are improving the city's air and water quality, and reducing noise pollution. Data will enable the city to identify consequences, positive and negative of possible choices.

Seoul Metropolitan Government's Transport Operations and Information System (TOPIS) is a representative best practice in public transportation data visualization. As Dublin is in the process of developing its traffic data management center, the application of learnings from TOPIS to Dublin's traffic asset management system will help the city to manage and analyze traffic information better and develop better transportation policies. Furthermore, the this will help the city to monitor changes in travel patterns as the city builds its active travel network.



**“Dublin's emphasis on sustainability, not only in transportation policy but also in the city government as a whole, is impressive” (Lee Chang-seok, Director of the Transportation Policy Division in the Seoul Metropolitan Government)**

The pilot project on *urban mobility data* has been awarded by European Union with the IURC competitive fund. Seoul Metropolitan Government and Dublin City Council have already conducted a technical exchange webinar between TOPIS and the Dublin Transportation Department in March 2023. Furthermore, in May 2023, Seoul and Dublin jointly participated in the IURC webinar on tactical urbanism sharing their best practices on urban renewal and active travel mode projects. Both cities plan to visit each other's mobility events later this year to learn more about citizens' mobility behaviour, gather relevant data and apply efficient systems into Dublin's new transportation data center.



# RESULTS AND IMPACT

By the end of the IURC project it is expected to complete study visits in both cities and conduct multiple workshops in sharing traffic data management system with key stakeholders in both cities. From the city of Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, and University College Dublin will contribute as academic partners and Smart Dublin, National Transport Authority, and Road Safety Authority will participate. From Seoul Metropolitan Government, Transportation Policy Division, Futuristic Advanced Transportation Division, Pedestrian and Cycling Division, TOPIS and Seoul Urban Solution Agency will partake as key partner. Overall, the IURC project is expected to lead to:

- Robust data sets, that meet GDPR in EU, and relevant data protection laws in South Korea, while providing valuable information on mobility in the city to achieve mobility as a service.
- By September 2023 have identified a data-driven solution for both cities to deploy that improves the movement of public transportation users including pedestrians and cyclists through the city
- Sharing of knowledge through shared events, as part of UCAP, namely hosting of walking and cycling events.
- Engagement of private sector, academia and public in developing solutions for improving movement through our cities.

## KEY FIGURES

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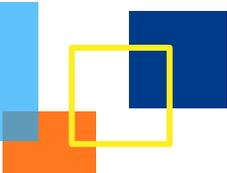
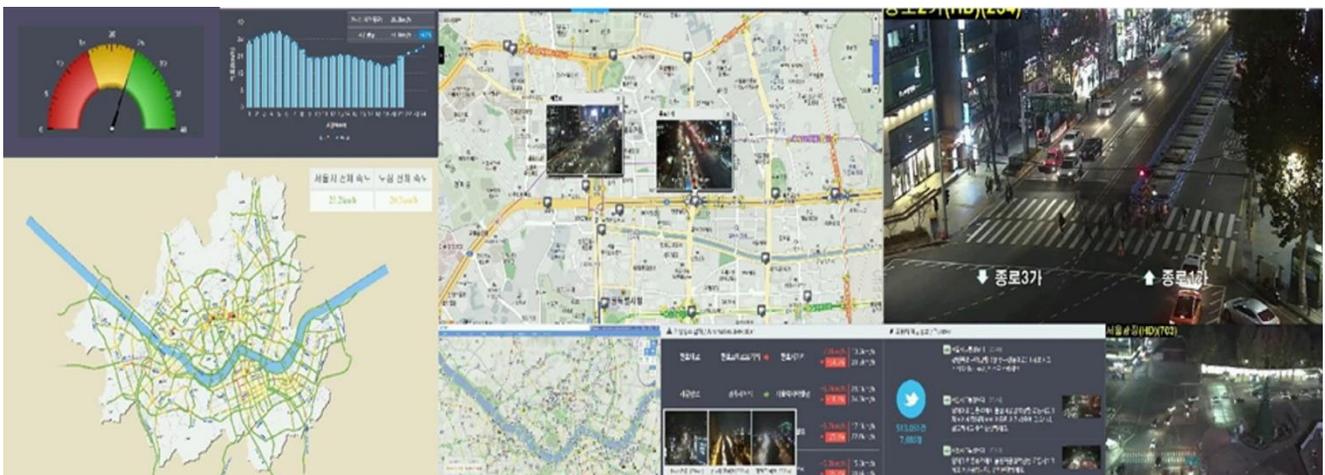
Dublin and Seoul signed a Friendship Agreement for a four-year term

**10**

Dublin and Seoul had 10 bilateral and multilateral meetings on cooperation actions

**20**

It took over 20 years for Seoul to build TOPIS, and this know-how will be shared with Dublin

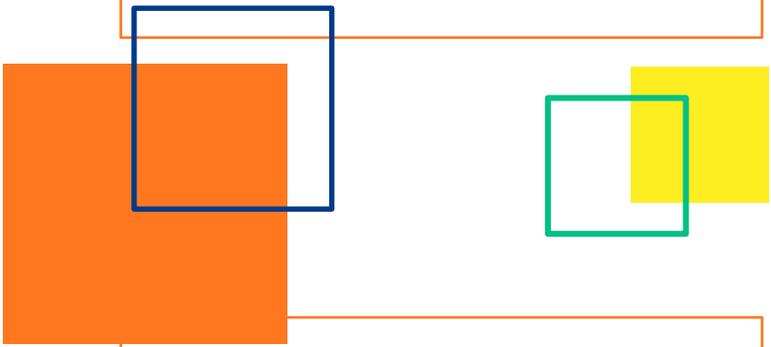


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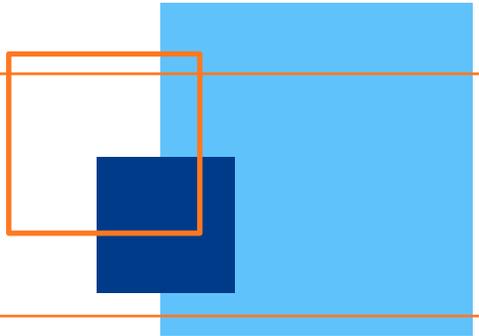
# LESSONS LEARNED



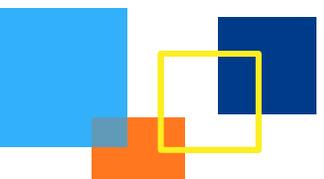
Urban greening to make walking and cycling more enjoyable and improve air quality is focus of both EU and non-EU city which both cities can collaborate on.



Active commitment from all stakeholders is necessary to implement a successful joint project for promoting active travel modes and improving public transportation data management.



As improving the life quality of citizen is the main priority of local authorities, both cities made huge effort on engaging citizens to their urban planning and development.



To ensure the long partnership and sustainable project implementation, continuous funding method must be sought.

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# THE IURC PROGRAMME

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in IURC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IURC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

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## Links to related outputs:

<https://topis.seoul.go.kr/eng/english.jsp>

<https://www.iurc.eu/event/placemaking-and-tactical-urbanism-in-public-spaces-session-2/>

<https://www.iurc.eu/2022/09/09/seoul-and-dublin-step-further-to-more-concrete-partnership-with-a-study-visit/>

<https://www.iurc.eu/2023/02/14/seoul-and-dublin-partnership-advanced-through-reciprocal-visit-in-ireland/>