

**COLLABORATION WITH EIT URBAN MOBILITY AS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO BRING CITY LOGISTICS TO THE
CURRICULUM**

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The challenges and solutions in city logistics, with a focus on sustainable development, are addressed through educational initiatives and international collaboration within the EIT Urban Mobility project. Successful practices have been implemented through programs such as summer schools and training courses, enhancing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Logistics plays a crucial role in the economic activity of cities, significantly influencing their functioning and growth. The ongoing process of urbanisation increases the number of consumers and the demand in the freight transport market. Simultaneously, cities around the world are grappling with challenges such as excessive traffic, significant emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases, noise, and vibrations caused by transportation. This creates a critical challenge: ensuring timely and cost-effective delivery across the city while reducing environmental impact and using transport infrastructure efficiently. As a result, city logistics has emerged as a key area of research, rapidly evolving to develop freight transport management strategies that align with sustainable development principles. Addressing logistical challenges and minimising the negative impacts of freight transport requires a comprehensive approach that includes measures related to regulation, infrastructure, and economic development, with a strong emphasis on innovation [1].

Despite the increasing relevance of city logistics challenges, Ukraine lacks experience in successfully addressing them. One critical issue is the need for skilled personnel to design, implement, and assess the effectiveness of city logistics initiatives, as well as to formulate appropriate development strategies. Given that most successful urban logistics solutions have been implemented in developed countries, collaboration with international partners is essential for capacity building in this field.

The expansion of technology, the availability of distance education, and the willingness of international partners to support Ukrainian universities during the ongoing war provide significant opportunities for integrating

practical case studies into the educational process. Distance learning resources and joint initiatives with international partners can be incorporated into all phases of education, from planning to implementation, enriching the curriculum with real-world urban logistics solutions [2].

A key aspect of such cooperation is the development of additional educational courses and non-formal education programs. One example of these initiatives is the summer school “City Logistics: Present and Future”, organised by the O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv (O.M. Beketov NUUEKh) with the support of the Łukasiewicz Research Network – Poznan Institute of Technology and the Poznan School of Logistics. This initiative was part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Urban Mobility project in 2023 [3, 4]. The summer school aimed to equip students with both theoretical and practical skills, enabling them to make informed decisions using modern approaches and innovative technologies to enhance city logistics efficiency. Students from ten universities across Kharkiv, Kyiv, Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Kremenchuk, Lviv, and Lutsk participated in the program. Additionally, a training course titled “Sustainable city: challenges for the transport sector” was conducted, attracting around 100 students from Ukrainian universities.

The successful organisation of the summer school on city logistics led to its reenrolment in 2024. The training was conducted by lecturers from the Transport Systems and Logistics Department, along with invited speakers from prestigious institutions, including the University of Melbourne (Australia), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria), the Tor Vergata University of Rome (Italy), Łukasiewicz Research Network – Poznan Institute of Technology (Poland), the University of Antwerp (Belgium), Carnet (Spain), SparkPark (Norway), and several Ukrainian organisations such as Novapost, ProMobility, and Runhorse.

The training addressed various critical topics, including the development of sustainable city logistics, the delivery of online purchases in cities, logistics-as-a-service for integrating consumers into urban freight transportation, the creation of smart unloading bays, and the use of big data to optimise city logistics. Particular attention was given to the negative impacts of freight transport in urban areas. Participants analysed urban logistics challenges and explored solutions aligned with sustainable city development principles, while also developing and evaluating city logistics initiatives. The summer school’s curriculum included both individual and team assignments, which not only helped participants develop professional competencies but also fostered their soft skills. As a final project,

participants prepared competition assignments, presenting their urban logistics initiatives for Ukrainian cities.

Conclusions

City logistics, as both a research field and an innovative practice, is marked by dynamic development and requires a comprehensive approach, along with unconventional measures, to adapt to the evolving challenges of urban freight traffic. The training of highly qualified specialists must encompass the study of existing initiatives, transport policies, and emerging logistics concepts that are rapidly advancing. This not only ensures a deep understanding of theoretical principles but also equips future professionals with the practical tools necessary to address real-world challenges in urban logistics. The ability to integrate distance learning and innovative case studies into the curriculum ensures that students have access to cutting-edge knowledge, fostering the development of skilled professionals who are prepared to lead the transformation of urban logistics systems.

The collaboration with EIT Urban Mobility has demonstrated significant practical outcomes in studying and disseminating successful, innovative practices in city logistics. This is particularly valuable in the context of the reconstruction and future development of Ukrainian cities, where sustainable, efficient, and environmentally friendly logistics solutions are critical for rebuilding urban infrastructure. The summer schools, training courses, and international partnerships have provided a solid foundation for capacity building in Ukraine, bringing knowledge from global experts to Ukrainian students and professionals and contribute to the long-term development of urban mobility that align with sustainable growth.

References

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