



# POLITICAL STATEMENT FOR 2016

## POLITICAL COMMITTEE

### CIVINET SLOVENIA-CROATIA NETWORK



The Political Committee is pleased to note that the CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia network is the most active and largest of the ten European CIVINET networks. In three years of existence, the network that has currently 75 members, has undertaken a number of activities and included in the membership a large number of cities and other partners.

Political Committee emphasizes the inclusion of a growing number of cities and partners in the membership of the network from Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia. It is the result of commitment to network expansion in the region of Southeast Europe, as well as raised awareness of the importance of sustainable mobility development in this part of Europe, due to the growth of personal motorized traffic and the consequently poor quality of air in cities, which also effects climate change. We believe that the transfer of knowledge and experience acquired in the field of sustainable mobility and environmental protection within the framework of the CIVITAS initiative, is an important impetus for the introduction of new mobility habits of people, which will contribute to a healthier and better urban environment.

The fundamental commitment of the Network for the deepening of cooperation between the Slovenian and Croatian towns, eventually grew into a realization that such problems affect the whole region. This led to connections with cities and other stakeholders in the field of sustainable mobility in urban areas of neighboring countries in the region. In order to enhance conditions for sustainable development that contributes to the prosperity and a better future for our cities, states and regions, Political Committee welcomes the initiative to rename the network to **CIVINET Slovenia - Croatia - Southeastern Europe**. We believe that we will thereby contribute to better dissemination of knowledge about the challenges and more consistent solutions for all more pronounced and in fact, common problems.

Political Committee fully supports the directives, guidelines and initiatives of the European Commission for a better mobility of people in urban areas, steps aimed at mitigating and slowing climate change, and in particular supports all measures related to improving air quality in cities. Political Committee believes that CIVINET networks in practice act as a very effective tool for implementing the initiative of the European Commission in all the countries and the region, thus expects providing necessary funding for the continued operation of existing and new CIVINET networks in the next budgetary period.

The Political Committee also welcomes global efforts related to sustainable development and the prevention of climate change - global sustainable development goals of the UN, adopted in New York in September 2015, and an agreement on climate change adopted in Paris at a conference COP 21, in December 2015. In three global sustainable development goals the traffic is mentioned: its impact on health and quality of life; the need for high-quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and need to address the challenges in the cities, from traffic congestion problems to infrastructure. Exactly those issues are successfully addressed also by CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia network.

Nova Gorica, 10 February 2016