



Manifesto on the Multilevel Governance of the Urban Sky

by the UAM Initiative Cities Community – UIC²

Amsterdam, 01 December 2020

The UAM Initiative Cities Community (UIC²) of the EU's Smart Cities Marketplace - formerly known as EIP-SCC Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Initiative- is thankful to the European Commission for supporting it through its smart cities marketplace platform since October 2017.

The members of the UIC² recognise the importance for harmonised and universal U-Space regulation at EU level. We acknowledge the need for approval of urban flight operations at national level, in alignment with U-Space regulation. Moreover, we recognise the need for national and regional competent civil aviation authorities to lead the legal implementation and approval of urban flight operations in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The members of the UIC² also recognise and request that **the role of the cities and regions as one of the competent authorities in the governance of the urban airspace, is explicitly acknowledged and referenced** in the prospective U-Space legislative clauses of Member States. This is an imperative in the context of multilevel governance of U-Space and responsive decentralised policy implementation.

In specific, the UIC² members request that:

1. Cities/Regions have a deciding role for allowing the operation of UAM services of public interest (e.g. future public transport, postal-deliveries, emergency services) in alignment with the needs and preferences of their citizens.
2. Cities/Regions have a deciding role in establishing to what extent UAM/U-Space operations can be conducted in their territories.
3. Cities/Regions have a deciding role where UAM/U-Space flight operations are permitted within their territories (e.g. geo-fencing, day- / night-time restrictions, noise and visual abatements).
4. Cities/Regions have a deciding role where take-off and landing sites are to be built.
5. Prosecution of infringements of the public use of the urban airspace over a city/regions remains a local task.

The members of the UIC² trust that the above requests will be treated with consideration and attention in: a) the forthcoming European U-Space Regulatory Framework by acknowledging the imperative for multilevel governance of U-Space; and b) the legislative processes of U-Space Regulation by Member States.

EU Urban Air Mobility

A Community and the Voice of 42 cities / regions

FrontRunners [12 demonstrator projects (17 cities / regions, incl. 2 Cross-border)

Followers [25 cities / regions)

More than 500 diverse stakeholders mobilised across Europe to work on bringing urban mobility to the 3rd dimension!

EIP-SCC
European Initiative for Smart Cities
Urban Air Mobility

UIC²
UAM Initiative Cities Community

Background

The UAM Initiative of the Smart Cities Marketplace has enabled cities and regions to become UAM role models and to discuss their opinions and concerns directly with European and State Member authorities and policy making bodies, including DG-Move, EASA, Eurocontrol and SESAR JU. For example, the German UIC² members are building a partnership, since 2019, that is supported by the BMVI (Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure) to focus on open exchange and collaboration as well as standard-setting for more future UAM cities and regions.

The efforts and engagement of UIC² alongside with the European Commission's support have resulted in fruitful interactions and concrete actions towards sustainable and integrated urban mobility, some of which are highlighted below:

- The invitation to UIC² to become member of U-Space Network of Demonstrators in October 2018. This has helped us to be in contact and discuss with ANSPs (Air Navigation Service Providers), industry actors and national authorities regularly;
- The invitation to UIC² Task Forces (representatives, including Mayors/ Vice-Mayors) to meet with the former Commissioner of Transport (Violeta Bulc, DG-Move) in May 2019. This has allowed us to share the progress of the community's work as well as the specific challenges faced by the local authorities in sustainably nurturing and safely advancing the UAM ecosystem.
- The invitation to UIC² to participate in U-Space regulation drafting workshops at EASA headquarters in May 2019. This allowed UIC² to further emphasise the importance of the role of cities and regions in the governance of urban airspace.

- The preparation of an EIB (European Investment Bank) Advisory Hub assignment for UAM since 2019, and its launch in February 2020 to both support UIC² members towards the development of their business models and carry out an early market assessment of the UAM sector.
- The development of two UAM-dedicated calls for funding in the context of sustainable urban mobility under the H2020 framework (2019-2020); namely, the UAM Research and Innovation Action (RIA, MG-3.6) and the UAM Coordination and Support Action (CSA, LG-1.12) calls. These enabled some UIC² members and their industrial and academic partners to participate in consortia and be awarded respected funding for their projects starting in Q1 2021.
- The invitation and assignment to the UIC², in December 2019, of the task to develop the *Practitioners Briefing* on UAM in the context of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan process (SUMP-UAM). The ongoing city/region-led work sheds light, based first-hand experience from the UIC², into the challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and initial recommendations to effectively integrate UAM aspects in the SUMP processes of cities and regions across Europe.

UIC² highly acknowledges and appreciates the European Commission's support and dedication towards this community that has led to its recognition as the leading city/region-driven community on UAM.



Cities and regions already supporting
as of Tuesday 1st December 2020



More cities and regions to join until 12th February 2021