

Summary:

Planning for Sustainable Urban Logistics in Europe – a Review

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Authors: Karin Fossheim og Jardar Andersen

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Considering EUs emphasis on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan (SULP) and increased attention on urban freight planning this research aim to identify current European SULP's and freight related SUMP's with the purpose of reviewing and extract lessons for future freight planning practices in Europe.

This study applies a systematic literature review approach to identify relevant literature, articles, plans and public documentation based on the predefined inclusion criteria: mobility, freight, urban, plan. One benefit of using this method is that it reduces researcher knowledge bias since the concepts and findings are extracted based on a specific research question.

The results indicate that use of urban freight plans, in Europe, is limited but increasing. Today the SULP's are organised as freight strategies, action plans or part of an overall city mobility plan. They follow a structure of identifying the current situation and defining the strategic context, vision, targets and objectives using selected policy measures. Which policy measures that are included in the plans depends on the geographical scope, however, traffic management measures occurred most frequently.

In conclusion, the SULP's should provide a long-term vision on practices for local urban freight activities. Findings suggest that the methodological structure of the existing SUTP, SUMP and SULP methodologies are to some degree used in existing European urban freight plans. Additionally, further structural standardising could provide increased common understanding of the SULP concept. Another important finding for transferring freight plans to new locations is to include urban freight in other planning procedures or sustainable development strategies. The identified UK plans suggest that legally binding local, regional and national guidelines influence the public attention paid to freight plans, however, few of the identified freight plans are evaluated, crucial when identifying the effect. Finally, stakeholder consultation is essential for increasing the legitimacy and further developments of urban freight plans.