Social Sustainability and Transport

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Background

**EIBURS programme** (European Investment Bank University Research Sponsorship Programme)

**Measuring Social Sustainability: Best Practice From Urban Renewal in the EU**: Three year research project examining ‘best practices’ to measure and monitor socially sustainable urban regeneration (e.g. assessment methods, metrics etc.)
### Social Sustainability Key Themes and Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs, including Housing</td>
<td>Demographic change (ageing and international migration)</td>
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<td>Education and skills</td>
<td>Empowerment, Participation and Access</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
<td>Identity, Sense of Place and Culture</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
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<td>Human rights</td>
<td>Social mixing and cohesion</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Social Capital</td>
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<td>Social justice</td>
<td>Well being, Happiness and Quality of life</td>
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</tbody>
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Multi-dimensional impacts of transport on social domains

Transport

- Empowerment, Participation and Access
- Identity, Sense of Place and Culture
- Health and Safety
- Social mixing and cohesion
- Social Capital
- Well being, Happiness and Quality of life
- Education and skills
- Employment
La Mina, Barcelona, Spain

• 20 tower blocks built in 1960s to re-house a Roma community
• 100% social housing neighbourhood
• Very close community
• High level of crime
• Stigmatisation (bad image)
• 2000 consortium to regenerate the area
• Increase permeability
• Construction of a rambla
• First Tram to city centre
• Multiple social impacts
  ✓ Improved transit and “opened up” the place
  ✓ Reduced stigmatisation
  ✓ Reduced spatial (and therefore social) segregation
  ✓ New higher income residents to the neighbourhood
  ✓ Reduced crime
Lessons

• Transport projects have multiple social impacts
• Potential social impacts should be taken into account at planning stages
• Impacts should be assessed from a sustainability perspective
  - integration
  - principles-driven rather than target oriented
  - environmental and economic trade offs
  - acknowledgment of uncertainty and complexity