European Commission

ADACities

Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities

Flagship initiative under
the European Apply AI Strategy

ADACities helps European cities move from fragmented pilots to large scale deployment of AI enabled, Level 4 autonomous driving in urban transport while strengthening the competitiveness and technological sovereignty of Europe's automotive and mobility sectors.

WHY ADACities?

- Many pilots, little scale, uneven deployment conditions across cities.
- Weak demand aggregation, uncertain business case, dependence on non-EU tech stacks.
- ADACities coordinates cities, industry and regulators to create EU-focused deployment pathways.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Cities and urban authorities scaling autonomous mobility in line with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.

Public transport authorities and operators integrating autonomous services into their networks.

Mobility service providers e.g. shared, on demand, first/last mile.

Vehicle manufacturers and suppliers (OEMs, tiers) and autonomous driving stack providers.

Researchers and start-ups working on AI, safety, data, infrastructure and business models.

WHAT ADACities WANTS TO ACHIEVE

For EU industry

Make autonomous driving in cities a scalable, profitable business case.

Aggregate demand across cities to improve market and investment predictability.

For EU cities

Improve public transport safety, accessibility and performance.

Extend coverage and frequency with autonomous feeder, on demand and shared services.

CORE USE CASES

ADACities focuses on three families of AI enabled Level 4 autonomous services building on one vehicle platform per participating OEM:

Ride hailing robo taxis and car sharing in urban and peri urban areas.

Autonomous shuttles for public transport including feeders and on demand services.

Advanced Level 4 point to point navigation in complex urban environments.

In line with EU decarbonisation goals, the initiative targets **electric autonomous vehicles**, mainly passenger cars and small shuttles.

TWO PARTICIPATION TRACKS

ADACities Pioneers

City led partnerships with strong deployment and scale up potential, demonstrating operational, technical, regulatory and business models in real conditions.

ADACities Network

Broader community focused on capacity building, knowledge exchange and readiness for future deployment.

HOW IT WORKS

Governance and ecosystem

ADACities connects three stakeholder communities in a light set up:

- **Industry and operators:** EU OEMs, suppliers, autonomous mobility providers and public transport operators coordinated via the European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance (ECAVA).
- **Cities and public authorities:** Metropolitan areas, public transport authorities and regional bodies, working via city networks and alliances.
- **Regulators and policymakers:** Member States, EU institutions and cross border testbed structures, ensuring regulatory alignment and learning.

A **neutral**, **trusted framework for data sharing and federated AI learning** will enable secure pooling of vehicle, infrastructure and operational data, respecting cybersecurity and data protection rules.

Value for stakeholders

For EU industry

- ADACities is EU-centric with EU car manufacturers and tech at the core.
- Aggregated demand and harmonised requirements across cities.
- Better visibility of deployment volumes and timelines.
- Access to real world deployment environments and shared data/AI ecosystems.
- Pathways from research pilots to scalable, commercially viable services.

For cities and public transport authorities

- Shared learning and exchange with other frontrunner and follower cities.
- Support to integrate autonomous services into public transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.
- More efficient, joint approaches to specification, procurement and financing.
- Ability to influence EU, national and regional frameworks for autonomous mobility.

ADACities BUILDS ON AND COMPLEMENTS

- ECAVA providing industrial guidance and alignment with work on software defined vehicles, automotive hardware and autonomous deployment.
- Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility (CCAM) partnership moving from research to large scale pilots.
- Projects under DIGITAL supporting the European Mobility Data Space and the set-up of the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium for Mobility & Logistics enabling a shared data, training and governance infrastructure for mobility.
- Cross border testbed for automated vehicles translating testbed governance and regulatory learning into concrete urban deployment projects.
- AI Act, Digital Omnibus on AI and related regulatory tools using sandboxes and real-world testing provisions to support safe deployment.
- European Compute infrastructures from cloud to AI Factories.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CEoI)

The first step towards building the ADACities community

- A **nonbinding** call to identify interested, city led autonomous driving partnerships, and to understand their maturity and investment needs.
- It does **not** provide EU funding, nor prejudge future calls or selection.

NEXT STEPS

Based on CEoI responses, the Commission will refine ADACities and prepare concrete support measures.

Initial Horizon Europe call

Planned in Q4 2026 for one project involving several city led Pioneer consortia in multiple Member States.

Acceleration phase

ADACities aims to facilitate access to a mix of EU, national, regional and private financing, building synergies with programmes, cohesion funds, investment instruments and the planned Important Project of Common European Interest on AI.

WHY ENGAGE NOW?

By participating in ADACities, stakeholders can:

- help shape the rules, architectures and business models of autonomous mobility in Europe;
- secure early access to shared data, AI and deployment frameworks;
- strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness and digital sovereignty in autonomous driving.

Publications Office of the European Union

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2026

PDF ISBN 978-92-68-41010-3 doi: 10.2759/1311395 KK-01-26-107-EN-N
Print ISBN 978-92-68-41011-0 doi:10.2759/6446268 KK-01-26-107-EN-C