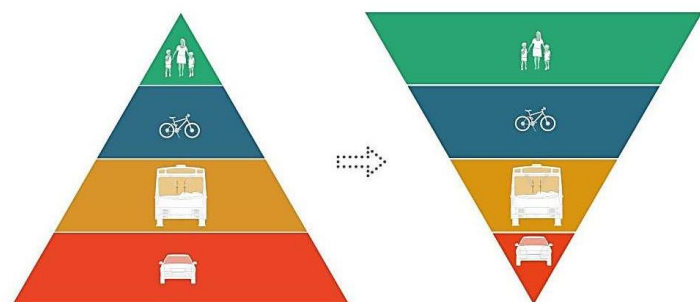


# Closing of the city centre and shared space in Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Particular goals:

- ✓ Increase the share of walking, cycling and public transport
- ✓ Decrease the share of personal motorized transport

Other goals are also fewer traffic accidents, better ambient air quality, less noise etc.

In 2007 Municipality of Ljubljana started with a renovation of the city centre in a way that it started closing first the main square and roads leading to it, and then expanding pedestrian space to more than 10 ha of car-free area today. It provided electric vans for free to anyone needing a ride through the city centre and permissions for delivery between 6-10 am.



In 2017 the city renovated the main traffic route Slovenska Street into an area friendlier towards pedestrians, cyclists and city bus users. It is designed in line with the principles of shared traffic space (meaning there are no traffic lights and different modes of mobility are sharing the space equally) with a line of trees running along its side and new street furniture. After the introduction of the changed traffic regime on Slovenska Street the black carbon concentrations decreased by as much as 70%, while the concentrations on surrounding streets have not risen. As a consequence, the level of noise from private vehicles decreased by about 6 dB.

## Financial sources:

- ITI mechanism, which is partially financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Republic of Slovenia (RS); the share of the City of Ljubljana for the set-up of cycling and pedestrian surfaces is 20% of eligible investment costs, and the rest of the eligible costs are co-financed in the ratio of 80% from European Union funds (ERDF) and 20% from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia
- CIVITAS, Interreg and other European projects

## Applicability in the wider Danube region:

With an ambitious political leadership change in the traffic regime is possible (in Ljubljana, changes were initiated by the deputy mayor with efforts devoted to participatory approaches), but there is initial resistance that has to be overcome until people notice the benefits of better accessibility



The rise in tourism was substantial and the city centre now has a lot of open space venues for public events; Ljubljana received the European Green Capital Award in 2016 and was awarded the 'EU Mission Label' of the EU's Mission for '100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030' in 2024; Ljubljana was also nominated for the 2021 Eurocities Awards in the "planning public spaces" category for the renovation of Slovenska cesta and received several other nominations and awards