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Encouraging citizen participation to co-create the autonomous public transportation system of the future

Autonomous public transportation will redefine urban and regional mobility in the upcoming 15 years. Open Geneva, as a consortium member of the Horizon Europe ULTIMO, has the responsibility to ensure that citizens play a key role in the designing processes of socially acceptable future mobility services.

The Open Geneva association is a partner of the Horizon Europe ULTIMO project, funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Confederation, in collaboration with the University of Geneva, TPG, and 22 other Swiss and European organizations. The aim of the ULTIMO project is to deploy autonomous on-demand bus services in three European cities - Geneva (Switzerland), Kronach (Germany) and Oslo (Norway). The ULTIMO project is based on the promising results of the AVENUE project, which was led by the University of Geneva between 2018 and 2022 and conducted at eight test sites in Europe, including the Hôpital de Belle-Idée, attached to the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), and Meyrin. ULTIMO's goal is to set up an autonomous shuttle service by 2025, offering a door-to-door public transport service, which is on demand and accessible 24 hours a day.

The mission for Open Geneva in this European project is to increase citizen participation through co-creation, as far as test social acceptance of this future autonomous mobility service. This will engage public transport users and citizens of partner cities, into the innovation process by underlying the development of autonomous shuttles so that they can truly meet user needs. To do this, Open Geneva provides a revolutionary citizen participation methodology that goes beyond simple interviews and focus groups. Structured co-creation moments, solution prototyping workshops, broader citizen consultations will be set up to eventually create a guide to good practices on how to better engage citizens in technological projects with a strong social impact.

Open Geneva: Open Geneva is a non-profit association based in Geneva. Its mission is to promote and encourage open innovation by bringing together a large community of innovators, helping out with the implementation of their ideas, and communicating on the development of various projects. The first ULTIMO event takes place as part of the Open Innovation Festival, on **March 24, 2023** in the 3DD consultation space of the State of Geneva. This first workshop will be organized in the format of a future workshop, inviting locals to imagine the public transport of the future in Geneva by giving them a space for discussions about their needs and fears in terms of mobility.

ULTIMO: The European ULTIMO consortium brings together twenty-three partners from eight European countries. Among them, eight Swiss partners such as the University of Geneva (UNIGE), Geneva public transports (tpg), the State of Geneva, the start-up MobileThinking Sarl, the companies ArgYou SA, ZF-CV SA, along with two associations, which are Open Geneva and SAAM. The project is led by Deutsche Bahn AG and has a budget of 55 million euros over four years - 24 million from the European Commission and 16 million from the Swiss Confederation. A total of 45 mini buses will be put into service in the 3 pilot cities.

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