Smart Mobility: Vilnius' Public Water Transport Vision and the Experiences of European Cities

Krikščiūnas Eugenijus

Klaipeda University, Dept. of Public Administration and Political Sciences, Klaipeda, Lithuania

Abstract: The main objective of this paper is to analyze and compare public water transport solutions in different European cities (Vilnius, Copenhagen, Kraków, Antwerp), with a specific focus on the case of Vilnius, where the launch of this public transport mode is planned in the near future – the article aims to assess the ambition and competitiveness of the Lithuanian capital's goals, as well as the lessons that can be learned from the experiences of other cities. The methodology of the paper consists of multiple case studies, directed content analysis, and comparative analysis. The main criteria for the analysis are Vilnius' declared goals and characteristics of the new public transport mode. The study found that public water transport proved to be successful in the two European cities under analysis, Copenhagen and Antwerp, while in Kraków, it did not become popular among residents. Vilnius' public water transport plans can be considered relatively ambitious and competitive due to the comparatively low planned ticket prices, the choice of electric boats, the goal of a common public transport ticketing system, and the planned connections to municipally managed parking lots.