MOST, the National Center for Sustainable Mobility: From Governance to Urban Mobility Automation

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The speech outlines the main results of the activities carried out within Spoke 9 “Urban Mobility” of the National Center for Sustainable Mobility – MOST, which brought together seven universities and ten leading companies operating in the mobility sector in a joint research and experimentation programme.

Urban mobility is a complex system in which mobility demand and multimodal transport supply dynamically interact with each other and with the urban environment. Congestion, road accidents, consumption of space and energy, emissions, and inequalities in accessibility call for moving beyond sectoral approaches and addressing mobility as an integrated system. This complexity is reflected in the broad scope of Spoke 9 activities, which range from governance and urban system modelling to behavioural change and active and shared mobility, and from intelligent multimodal corridors to safety, electrification, and the integration of connected and automated vehicles.

The growing availability of data and advances in information and communication technologies, simulation and artificial intelligence are creating new opportunities to observe, predict and manage mobility. Technology, however, is an enabling tool: to achieve effective transformation, it must be integrated with system knowledge, modelling, planning and control.

The speech therefore traces the experience of Spoke 9 from governance to automation: from the PNRR’s capacity to bring together scientific and industrial expertise to the development and testing of models, digital platforms and solutions for the intelligent and automated management of urban mobility. Beyond the PNRR, the challenge is to consolidate the expertise, partnerships and experimental platforms developed within the project, transforming an extraordinary research and investment programme into a lasting capacity for innovation.

The main legacy of the PNRR is the establishment of MOST as a permanent foundation, designed to continue its activities beyond the end of the PNRR and to become a recognized and authoritative partner for public institutions and private-sector organizations. Its long-term operation is supported by the fundraising activities of the researchers recruited during the project, together with substantial self-funding from partners committed to continued investment in research and development.