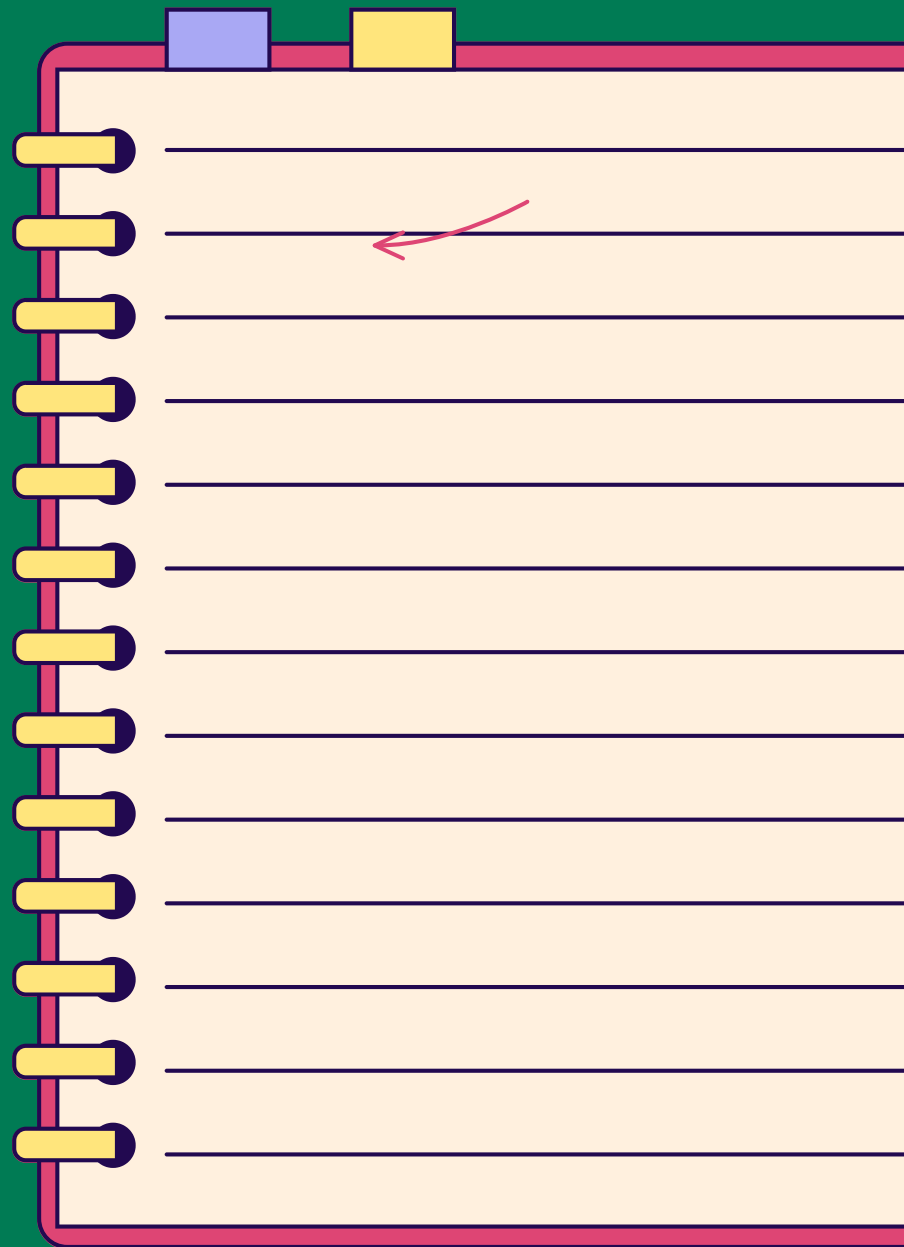


MODULE 14 - ONLINE CIVIC LIFE

CHAPTER 3

GETTING AROUND WITH DIGITAL TOOLS



INTRODUCTION

Today, digital tools make travel easier. Thanks to apps and websites, you can plan a trip, buy a ticket, and find alternative transportation solutions such as bikes, scooters, or long-distance buses. This chapter explains how to use these tools simply and effectively.

1 PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

HOW TO DO IT?

Before leaving, it is important to know which route to take and which means of transport to use. In the past, you had to consult paper timetables or ask for directions. Today, applications and websites allow you to find the best route quickly and avoid unpleasant surprises (delays, line changes, etc.). You can plan your journey in advance on your computer, or use an application on your smartphone while traveling.



MODULE ALERT

Learn how to download an app safely by following Module 1

USEFUL APPS AND SITES (THAT YOU CAN USE THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND INTERNATIONALLY)

- Google Maps allows you to see routes by **public transport, on foot, by car or by bike**. It indicates timetables and waiting times.
- Citymapper is ideal for large cities, as it offers optimized routes also for journeys by **public transport, on foot, by car or by bike**.
- If you are using **the car**, Waze is an application that helps find the best route in real time by taking into account traffic conditions, accidents and other events to avoid traffic jams.



Click here to watch a video tutorial on how to use Google Maps!



2 BUY YOUR TICKET ONLINE

BUY YOUR TICKET ACCORDING TO THE TRANSPORT AND THE COUNTRY

Once you have chosen your route, you need to buy a ticket or subscription. Many cities now offer mobile applications to avoid queues at ticket offices or automatic terminals. Buying your ticket directly online saves time and allows you to store your ticket directly on your phone.

How to buy a ticket online?

- Go to the carrier's official website or use its mobile application
- Enter trip details (departure location, destination, date)
- Select time and ticket type
- Make payment online (credit card, PayPal, etc.)
- Receive an electronic ticket to present during the trip. Be careful to charge your smartphone well so that you have enough battery during your trip to be able to show your ticket during the check.



MODULE ALERT

Learn how to shop online by following our Module 10 "Shopping Online"

BELGIAN TRANSPORT PLATFORMS

- SNCB for the train
- STIB/MIVB for public transport in the Brussels Capital Region
- The TEC for the Walloon region
- De Lijn for the Flemish region

Each platform has its own website and application, allowing you to buy a ticket online, find out transport timetables in real time, and be notified in the event of a delay or other unforeseen event.

FRENCH TRANSPORT PLATFORMS

- SNCF for the train
- Ouigo is an online sales platform for low-cost SNCF train tickets.
- RATP for public transport in Paris and Ile-de-France
- TCL for public transport in Lyon

Each platform has its own website and application, allowing you to buy a ticket online, find out transport timetables in real time, and be notified in the event of a delay or other unforeseen event.

PORTUGUESE TRANSPORT PLATFORMS

- CP (Portuguese Trains) for the train
- Carris for Buses and Trams in Lisbon
- STCP for buses and trams in Porto
- Expressos Network for long distance buses

Each platform has its own website and application, allowing you to buy a ticket online, find out transport timetables in real time, and be notified in the event of a delay or other unforeseen event.



3 MOVE DIFFERENTLY

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES THROUGH DIGITAL TOOLS

Today, there are many alternatives to public transport to get around more easily. In addition to self-service vehicles such as bicycles and scooters, it is also possible to opt for carpooling, on-demand transport applications, long-distance buses to travel between several countries, and flight comparators to find transport solutions adapted to your needs. These options allow you to travel more efficiently and sometimes at a lower cost.

SELF-SERVICE BICYCLES, SCOOTERS AND CARS

In many cities, it is possible to rent a bike, scooter or car on demand. These services are convenient for short trips or when you do not have a personal vehicle. To use these vehicles, simply download a mobile application, locate an available vehicle, and use it to get around.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS:

- France: Vélib' (bicycles), Dott, Bolt (scooters), Free2Move (cars).
- Belgium: Villo! (bikes), Poppy, Cambio (cars), Dott, Bolt (scooters)
- Portugal: Bolt (scooters)

CARPOOLING

Carpooling allows you to travel by sharing a vehicle with other people. It is a more economical and ecological option, because you share the transport costs and reduce the carbon footprint by using a single vehicle for several people.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS:

- Blablacar



Click here to watch a video tutorial explaining how to use Blablacar!



ON-DEMAND TRANSPORTATION APPLICATIONS

On-demand transportation apps like Uber and Bolt allow you to book a private vehicle for your trips around the city or between different destinations. These services offer you a convenient and quick solution to get around without having to own a car.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS:

- Uber, Bolt

LONG DISTANCE (INTER-COUNTRY) BUSES

Long-distance buses are another option for traveling across multiple countries, often at a lower cost than trains or planes. Many bus companies offer international routes between major European cities. The routes are generally cheaper and offer a great alternative for people looking to save money.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS:

- Flixbus, Eurolines, BlablaBus

FLIGHT COMPARATORS

If you need to fly for a longer trip, there are price comparison sites to help you find the best price for your flight. These sites compare prices from different airlines and allow you to choose the most affordable flight based on your dates and destination.

EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS

- [Skyscanner](#)
- [Google Flights](#)
- [Kayak](#)

HOW TO USE A FLIGHT COMPARATOR?

1. Enter your departure airport and destination.
2. Choose your travel dates (you can also see the cheapest periods).
3. Compare prices offered by different airlines.
4. Book directly on the airline's website or via the comparator.

These tools make it easy for you to find affordable flights and travel across Europe or the world!