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1st SmartEnCity Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are happy to present to you the SmartEnCity project and its vision of bringing medium-sized cities across Europe towards Smart Zero CO2 Cities. The activities of SmartEnCity are taking place in the three Lighthouse demonstrator cities Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Tartu (Estonia) and Sonderborg (Denmark), replicated in the two Follower cities of Lecce (Italy) and Asenovgrad (Bulgaria). We will also encourage a SmartEnCity Network of further cities interested in replicating the approach elsewhere in Europe.

This newsletter informs you about the approach that SmartEnCity is taking and introduces you to the three Lighthouse cities as well as the latest developments. You can also learn more about past and upcoming events with the involvement of the SmartEnCity project and how to stay informed on the project.

Enjoy reading!

Francisco Rodríguez Pérez-Curiel and Silvia Urria Uriarte
Project Coordinators of SmartEnCity, TECNALIA Research & Innovation

Project news



SmartEnCity starts – Partners gather for Kick-off Meeting

In February 2016, the SmartEnCity project started. During the next 5-and-a-half years, the project consortium will join efforts to make Smart Zero Carbon Cities a reality in Europe – starting with Vitoria-Gasteiz, Tartu and Sonderborg. The 35 project partners from 6 countries, coordinated by TECNALIA Research & Innovation, met from 1. - 3. February 2016 in Vitoria-Gasteiz for the Kick-off meeting and to initiate the first working steps.



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Presenting the SmartEnCity approach

Cities play a key role in fighting climate change. Energy demand and CO2 emissions are particularly high in urban areas. At the same time, urban density allows more alternatives for energy-efficient housing, eco-friendly transport and service provision. SmartEnCity aims to develop a systemic approach for transforming European cities into sustainable, smart and resource-efficient urban environments in Europe. We aim to develop strategies that can be replicated throughout Europe in order to **reduce energy demand** and **maximise renewable energy supply**.

Activities include retrofitting in buildings, integrated infrastructures such as district cooling and heating or smart street lighting, developing sustainable mobility and the intelligent use of Information and Communication Technologies. The SmartEnCity concept will be defined, planned and implemented in the **three Lighthouse demonstrators** Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Tartu (Estonia) and Sonderborg (Denmark). The process will be replicated in the **two Follower cities** of Lecce (Italy), and Asenovgrad (Bulgaria). We will encourage a **SmartEnCity Network** of further cities interested replicating the approach elsewhere in Europe..

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Get to know the SmartEnCity Lighthouse Cities

Vitoria-Gasteiz – Getting the green capital even greener



Vitoria-Gasteiz is the capital of the Spanish Basque Country, and with 240,000 inhabitants a Europe-leading municipality investing in green economy. The city has a clear strategy to become greener and smarter – with the citizens at the core.

[Read more...](#)

Tartu – From Hrustsovkas to Smartkovskas



Also known as the City of Good Thoughts, the Estonian city Tartu already has a good track record as a smart city: it has for example developed its e-services and paperless administration practices for decades. With SmartEnCity, Tartu wants to set an example for entire Eastern Europe.

[Read more...](#)

Sonderborg – The future zero carbon city



The 76,000 citizens of the Danish municipality Sonderborg have committed themselves to make it zero carbon by 2029. The city wants to prove that climate neutrality is achievable when cities take decisive action and ensure citizens and companies



participate in finding new solutions.

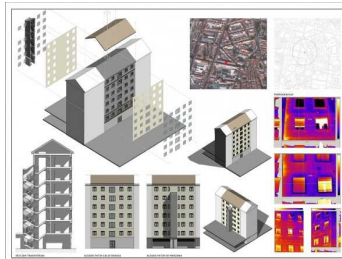
[Read more...](#)

SmartEnCity communication channels online – Stay in touch!

After the first six project months, the main SmartEnCity communication channels are now online and working.

- Visit us on the SmartEnCity website: www.smartencity.eu
- Stay informed on project news via our [Twitter account](#)
- Engage in discussions in our SmartEnCity [LinkedIn group](#)
- Register for the SmartEnCity newsletter on our [website](#)

Progress in the Lighthouse cities



Vitoria-Gasteiz – 6 months of diverse activities for getting the project into action

During the first six months of the SmartEnCity Lighthouse project in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the activities focused mainly on the preparation of the project implementation. Within the Coronación neighbourhood where the project will be carried out many activities have taken place, focussing strongly on the active engagement of the citizens of the area. Plans for the improvement of the public spaces have been developed and the district heating and building retrofitting activities have been further prepared. Also, the possible fields for operation of electric vehicles has been explored.

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Tartu – Opening of the first district cooling plant in the Baltics

On 27th May 2016 project partner Fortum opened the Baltics' first district cooling plant in Tartu. Partially financed by the SmartEnCity project, the plant is also equipped with solar panels and a heat pump. District cooling reduces the energy costs on cooling by approximately 90% and related CO2 emissions will drop by 70%. The novel solutions that the cooling plant facilitates will be used in the nearby apartment buildings that will be renovated as part of the SmartEnCity project.

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Sonderborg – Ramping up the implementation on-site

During the project's first six months, the Sonderborg Lighthouse city has gotten off to a good start. Citizen engagement and participation activities started in the spring and were very well received, involving three housing associations, meetings with residents' steering groups and with the residents themselves. The building retrofits have already started at one of the locations with several more following in autumn 2016. Activities in the field of smart mobility will start in the autumn. The plans for a large scale heat pump in the district heating system are being developed.

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Past events

Smart Denmark Vision Workshop, 07.-08.03.2016 in Copenhagen (Denmark)

SmartEnCity was presented to 35 key Danish stakeholders from the public and private sector.

SmartEnCity Network Launch, 01.06.2016 in Tartu (Estonia)

In order to allow a maximum of European cities to learn from the experiences made within the project, a SmartEnCity Network of further cities will be set up. This network was officially launched in early June 2016 in Tartu, where the Lighthouse cities met interested cities from the Baltic Sea region and discussed Zero Carbon transition interest across borders and the mutual interest in the SmartEnCity Network.

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Upcoming Events

Building Sustainability SGBC16 with WorldGBC Congress Sweden

18. - 19.10.2016, Stockholm, Sweden

Smart City Expo World Congress

15. - 17.11.2016, Barcelona, Spain

News from our Sister Projects

SmartEnCity is one of currently [seven European Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse projects](#), receiving funding within the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Find the projects at a joint stand at Smart City Expo World Congress 2016

The Smart City Expo World Congress, the international summit to discuss about the link between urban reality and technological revolution, will take place in Barcelona (Spain) from 15. - 17.11 2016. The seven Smart Cities projects, together with the EIP-SCC Market Place, will have a joint stand at the congress. Representatives will be there to answer questions on the projects, provide you with news on the lighthouse cities and inform on smart cities and communities.

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About SmartEnCity / Project ID / Contact

SmartEnCity, a project funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, aims to develop a systemic approach for transforming European cities into sustainable, smart and resource-efficient urban environments. We aim to develop strategies that can be replicated throughout Europe in order to reduce energy demand and maximise renewable energy supply in urban environments. Activities include retrofitting in buildings, integration of infrastructures, developing sustainable mobility options, as well as the intelligent deployment and use of Information and Communication Technologies. The SmartEnCity concept will be defined, planned and implemented in three Lighthouse demonstrators Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Tartu (Estonia) and Sonderborg (Denmark). The process will be replicated in the two Follower cities of Lecce (Italy), and Asenovgrad (Bulgaria). We will encourage a SmartEnCity Network of further cities interested replicating the approach elsewhere in Europe. Under the coordination of TECNALIA Research & Innovation, 35 partners from 6 countries work together to make Smart Zero Carbon Cities a reality in Europe.

PROJECT ID

Duration: 66 months (February 2016 – July 2021)

Partners: 35 partners from 6 countries (Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Spain), coordinated by TECNALIA Research & Innovation
Call identifier: H2020-SCC-2015
Topic: SCC-01-2015 Smart Cities and Communities solutions integrating energy, transport, ICT sectors through lighthouse (large scale demonstration – first of the kind) projects

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The **SmartEnCity newsletter** is published every six months, informing about the project and its news.**Register** for the newsletter on our project website: www.smartencity.eu

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