



SmartEnCity Network Bulletin

EDITION JULY 2018 - Stakeholder Engagement

Dear Readers,

It is time for our second SmartEnCity Network bulletin! This month we focus on stakeholder engagement as we believe that this is the key to achieving **Smart Zero Carbon Cities** across Europe.

We are drawing out various experiences, solutions and news from our SmartEnCity network and our experts. This month, we have interviewed a citizen engagement expert from one of our Lighthouse Cities: Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain who had a lot to tell about the citizen engagement strategy for the retrofitting package of the city. In addition, our expert David Drysdale from Aalborg University, Denmark continues with his article series on *“How is SmartEnCity contributing to zero carbon cities across Europe”* but this time with the focus of stakeholder engagement. You can also learn about the EU programme that focuses on citizen engagement in the EU policy-making processes.

Enjoy reading!

Kristina Bozhkova
SmartEnCity Network Coordinator
ProjectZero



Status of the citizen engagement strategy for Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain



Eukene Barrenetxea Larranaga is the Head of H-Enea which is a Living Lab that belongs to the Basque Cluster Association of the Home Appliance Industry. H-Enea Living Lab helps with the acceleration of businesses and organisations to the market, in the residential sector related to energy, homecare, home cooking and circular economy. Eukene talked

about the work H-Enea has been doing in the SmartEnCity project, in which the main objective was to frame the citizen strategy approach. In addition, H-Enea Living Lab was involved in co-creating a citizen engagement strategy for the retrofitting package of the Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz together with the municipality and other organisations.

The retrofitting package: In Vitoria-Gasteiz, the retrofitting package is about improving insulation of buildings in the Coronación Neighbourhood. This neighbourhood was chosen as a demo area for this intervention as it was identified as the most vulnerable neighbourhood in the city in terms of social issues, stability, habitability, accessibility and energy efficiency, despite being located in the heart of the city. This district reflects the major challenges in terms of retrofitting and implementation of smart city concepts: very high density and low to medium income. [Continue reading.](#)

The SmartEnCity Network

The SmartEnCity Network has continued to expand. As of July 2018 a total of 34 cities across Europe have become members of the Network.

There has been a recent growth of city members in Italy in the last month which results with a total of 7 Italian cities – [Lecce](#), [Benevento](#), [Aversa](#), [Tivoli](#), [Cagliari](#), [Padua](#) and even [Rome](#). They are all ready to learn from our network's experiences and use our [SmartEnCity outcomes](#). Furthermore, they will present their city initiatives in the area of energy as well as the challenges they have encountered and the solutions they have chosen for their cities and all of that will be published on our [network platform](#).

The Italian SmartEnCity cluster is planning to follow the steps of the already formed [Danish SmartEnCity energy cities cluster](#) by working more closely together in order to be able to maximise their zero carbon city results.

[Learn more about all city members on our SmartEnCity Network Platform.](#)

How is SmartEnCity contributing to zero carbon cities in Europe?



David Drysdale is a PhD fellow at Aalborg University, Copenhagen. As part of the SmartEnCity project, he is conducting a research on zero carbon energy planning in cities particularly focused on combining local city planning with the energy system transition. He is also supporting the SmartEnCity Network development process. This short article, written by David, is Part 2 of a series of articles describing the SmartEnCity approach to zero carbon city development.

Part 2. Stakeholder engagement in the Integrated Energy Planning phases

Achieving a zero-carbon city is not only about replacing old technologies with new technologies - it is a radical transition. For instance, it not only involves the transition of the technical system but it involves new stakeholders, business models, resource types, planning procedures and more. Numerous stakeholders are involved from different sectors of society in this ongoing transition and they all need to be engaged. Stakeholders not only include local and national authorities, specialists and energy companies and operators. They include local producers, energy consumers, transportation companies, technical officers, international institutions, manufacturers of end-use appliances, financial institutions and environmentalist groups. [Continue reading.](#)

Kickoff Roadmap 2025 in Sonderborg



On Friday, 22 June 2018, the process for creating the ProjectZero Roadmap2025 for Sonderborg was launched. It happened with a big kick-off workshop attended by 76 local stakeholders. The participants represented different societal sectors and more than 100 individuals of which the majority are local have been scheduled to be involved in the Roadmap2025 co-creation. [Read more.](#)

SmartEnCity webinar



This webinar discusses citizen engagement in both a generic and practical way, introducing why and how citizen engagement is a cornerstone for cities that aim to create transition towards a low carbon economy as smart zero carbon cities. [Read more and watch the](#)

[webinar.](#)

SmartEnCity information day in Tartu



Yet another information evening took place on May 21, 2018 for residents of the housing associations participating in the SmartEnCity project. Interested residents were invited to the cosy and calm backyard of the Tiigi 8 building, located in the demo area of Tartu. This was the fifth in the series of demo area resident information days and nearly one hundred people participated in the event. [Read more.](#)

Giving a voice to the citizens, Vitoria-Gasteiz



The second video of Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz is focusing on citizens of demo district Coronación. People describe their relationship with the neighbourhood and explain why they have decided to becoming part of the project here. [See full video.](#)

The EU corner – “Europe for citizens programme 2014-2020”

The European Commission has acknowledged that the EU citizens need to be involved to a greater extent in the European Union as a whole as: *“The European Union is made of its citizens and for its citizens!”* Thus, a more democratic participation of citizens at an EU level could be promoted.

The Europe for citizens programme was developed with the aim of supporting three specific measures:

- **Town twinning** – which supports the idea of bringing together citizens from twin towns and facilitating a place where they can have discussions on concrete issues
- **Networks of towns** – which has the idea of increasing cooperation between cities by working on common agenda
- **Civil society projects** – which aims at promoting activities where citizens are directly involved with the policy making process of EU policies

Who can apply? – Cities, municipalities, NGO’s, networks of cities, educational organisations, local/regional authorities, etc. are eligible to apply for this programme.

Read more about the Europe for citizens programme on the [European Commission](#)’s website.



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- Use the SmartEnCity Network platform to learn more about our network members, events and news [here.](#)
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