



SmartEnCity Network Bulletin №18 February 2020

Dear Readers,

This edition of the Bulletin provides an overview of the first national based Italian SmartEnCity Network meeting based on large base of ambitious cities across Italy - ready to start cooperation and boost their Zero Carbon Transition.

A warm welcome to our newest city member – Gabrovo, Bulgaria – find more information about the city's energy initiatives and goals in its city profile on the SmartEnCity Network Platform.

More news from two of our Lighthouse Cities – Vitoria-Gasteiz and Tartu are highlighted, along with a new financial support and services to cities' sustainable energy projects. European City Facility (EUCF), a new EU-funded program will provide financial support and services to cities and municipalities – or their groupings – across the EU. Find more about this City-funding opportunity below.

Enjoy reading!

Kristina Bozhkova
SmartEnCity Network Coordinator
ProjectZero



Launch of the Italian SmartEnCity Network cooperation

The first SECN-IT meeting took place the 10th of December 2019 in Bolzano, in the framework of “Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions Conference” - SSPCR 2019, organized by EURAC. The Italian SmartEnCity Network is led by the SmartEnCity (SEC) project partner – RINA.



The SmartEnCity project and the aims of the Italian Network were presented by RINA. Each representative

described the context in which they work (considering that there were both energy managers and representatives of municipal offices) and the status of their municipalities in terms of activities to become a Smart City.

Some points which have been discussed during the meeting are:

- Participation in European/Italian/Regional co-funded projects and activities already on-going
- Need to involve citizens in the process of becoming a smart cities and also other stakeholders, using Associations or Initiatives specifically dedicated to Smart City topics
- Promote Public Private Partnerships and ways to do this in the Italian legislative context
- Main areas of interest for technical interventions: municipal buildings retrofitting, urban mobility (Urban Plan for Sustainable Mobility), public lighting

RINA presented the Integrated Energy Planning method step by step (steps 1 - 6) which has been developed in the course of the SEC Project and the Follower City Lecce provided some indications on how a Follower City is applying the methodology. At the moment the

city of Lecce, after the Foresight Workshop and the collected contributions, is drawing up the Integrated Energy Plan which will then be supported by the Roadmaps, to be submitted for approval by the City Council by the end of 2020. [Read full article.](#)

The SmartEnCity Network

Welcome Gabrovo!

Gabrovo municipality is situated in the North Central Region of Bulgaria along Yantra River, at the foot of the Balkan Mountains, at the geographic centre of Bulgaria.

Gabrovo is one of the famous industrial centres in Bulgaria. More than 3,600 companies are operating in the area. One of the most prestigious Technical Universities in Bulgaria is located in the city.

Gabrovo is a pioneer in energy efficiency projects and intelligent energy in Bulgaria with experience dating back to 1992. The municipal network for energy efficiency EcoEnergy was established in Gabrovo in February 1997, based on the initiative of 23 mayors.

Gabrovo is a Signatory of Covenant of Mayors since 2013 and has been implementing and monitoring a SEAP.

„Green” thinking is gaining ground as a modern approach in every community and an adequate way for adaptation to climate change. Gabrovo’s long-term vision is “Gabrovo Municipality – Green, Innovative and Effective”. The overall target of Gabrovo is to increase the comfort and satisfaction of its citizens.

[Read the full city profile of Gabrovo.](#)



[Learn more about all city members by visiting the SmartEnCity Network Platform.](#)

Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz: Coronación demo district is moving on



On 13 January, the deadline of the public tender on District Heating finished and it has been approved by the Municipality. This means that before spring, Vitoria-Gasteiz will initiate the district heating network deployment works in the streets of Coronación demo district. Also, the retrofiting activities are progressing, and some brand-new façades have emerged in the district. At the same time, the works on next buildings have started. Step by step, 10 buildings are undergoing retrofiting right now. Busy times in Coronación streets! [Read full article.](#)

Lighthouse City Tartu: technology is turning old buildings into Smart Homes



SmartEnCity project in Lighthouse City Tartu is not only about converting old Soviet era apartment buildings into modern energy efficient dwellings – “from hrustsovka to smartovka!” – but also making them smart in every sense of the word: each retrofitted apartment in the Tartu pilot area has been or will be equipped with a smart home system and various sensors which allow controlling the internal climate of the apartment as well as monitoring energy consumption. So far, more than half of the apartments are now equipped with smart home sensors and devices explaining the challenges that Tartu is facing with smart home systems in residential areas. [Read the full article.](#)

The EU corner - Representation of the SmartEnCity Network at the European City Facility (EUCF)

Many cities are facing the gap between planning and realization of projects due to a lack of sustainable energy investments. The [European City Facility](#) addresses two fundamental barriers for sustainable energy investments:

- **Financial and legal capacity of local authorities** to transform their long-term energy and climate strategies (e.g. SEAPs, SECAPs etc.) into appropriate investment concepts.
- **Lack of aggregation of fragmented small projects** (for example in the building sector) and thus lack of attractiveness for the financial sector.

The **European City Facility** is set up under the **Horizon 2020** Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union, the EUCF provides tailor-made, rapid and simplified **financial support** (in the form of **EUR 60,000** lump sums).

At the event, [ProjectZero](#) explained how cities a part of the [SmartEnCity Network](#) and the national sub-network in Denmark called the [Energibyerne](#), are already working together and supporting each other to transform plans into actions. ProjectZero encourages the Commission to motivate cities to apply for the EUCF together making the projects more resilient. [Read full article.](#)

[More information about EUCF.](#)

[Join](#) the SmartEnCity Network and start your learning experiences now!

Stay in touch:

- Use the SmartEnCity Network platform to learn more about our network members, events and news **here**.
- Learn more about the SmartEnCity project on our **website**.
- Use **Twitter** to stay informed about project news

SmartEnCity Network bulletin contact:

Kristina Bozhkova
SmartEnCity Network Coordinator
MSc Sustainable Energy Planning and Management
E-mail: kb@projectzero.dk
Phone: +45 3840 5425
Editor: Peter Rathje, ProjectZero



If you wish to stop receiving the SmartEnCity Network Bulletin you can unsubscribe by sending an email to: kb@projectzero.dk