



SmartEnCity Network Bulletin №30 December 2021

Dear Readers,

In this edition of the Bulletin, you will be inspired from how municipalities at last week's National SmartEnCity Network in Denmark, *Energibyerne*, discussed and co-created important climate challenges.

Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz started an information campaign at the bus stops of the Smart Electric Buses – find out how the City Council is raising awareness regarding their new public transport system.

Follower City Lecce was a part of the 1st Urban Stakeholders Workshop organized by Sapienza University and had the opportunity to present how they have implemented the Cities4ZERO strategy into the development of their Integrated Energy Plan.

Read more about how Lighthouse City Tartu continues to engage its housing association leaders in the smart home systems journey.

The EU corner provides an overview about the Commission's proposal for a new EU framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions.

The entire SmartEnCity team wishes you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Enjoy reading!

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Smart Electric Bus information campaign kicks off at TUVISA bus stops in Vitoria-Gasteiz



From 1 October, trained staff who is familiar with all the details of Vitoria-Gasteiz's new transport system, will be visiting different bus stops to answer questions and explain the virtues of

the Smart Electric Bus (SEB) to public transport users. A greater effort will be made on line 2, which is the route on which the Intelligent Electric Bus will be implemented, although other bus stops will also be included. This initial information campaign began on 1 October and will be continued until the beginning of December. The team of monitors will go to the bus stops to explain the passengers all aspects of the new Smart Electric Bus. They will also hand out information leaflets. The initiative is part of the various dissemination actions promoted by the City Council to raise awareness on this new public transport system, which will come into operation in the upcoming months. [Read more.](#)

Follower City Lecce shared its best practices on the 1st Urban Stakeholders Workshop

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Sapienza University of Rome invited Smart Cities Stakeholders to Rome from 6 to 7 October 2021. In this framework, the workshop "Sharing best practices and facilitating the science-policy dialogue" took place, where Follower City Lecce presented its experiences within the SmartEnCity Project. Mr Giovanni Puce talked about the development of Lecce Municipality's Integrated Energy Plan and Roadmaps with the help of the Cities4ZERO Strategy, developed within SmartEnCity project. [Read more.](#)

Housing association leaders in Tartu met to discuss smart homes

On 26 October, the housing association representatives of the Tartu pilot area met for a hybrid event to discuss the smart home system. In the meeting, a little over half of the pilot area buildings were represented.

Energibyerne meeting in Horsens

After many online meetings in the past two years, the Danish SmartEnCity Network, [Energibyerne](#), met for a 24h meeting in Horsens municipality on the 7th-8th December 2021. Six out of the seven cities decided in the summer 2021 to apply together for funding via the [European City Facility \(EUCF\) program](#) and recently were awarded the lump sum of 60.000 Euro which will result in a pre-feasibility project looking into increasing the use of electric vehicles and implementation of related infrastructure. The project has already started.



Apart from discussing the EUCF project, the Energibyerne shared lessons learned from their own experiences and co-created new concepts for how to approach citizen engagement more efficient in future. Power-to-X is another very important topic discussed, based on the experience of Skive Municipality and its GreenLab experience and the consultancy expertise of PlanEnergi. [Read more.](#)



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



As the smart home system is nearing completion, the final works needed to be discussed with the housing associations. The main topics of the meeting concerned: the status of the smart home system and planned updates; visits to radio connected buildings to check the connections and change the batteries of the devices; the development of the videophone system – status, updates, timeline. [Read full article.](#)

EU Corner - *The Commission proposes new EU framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions*

On the 15th December 2021, the Commission has adopted a set of legislative proposals to decarbonise the EU gas market by facilitating the uptake of renewable and low carbon gases, including hydrogen, and to ensure energy security for all citizens in Europe. The Commission is also following up on the EU Methane Strategy and its international commitments with proposals to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector in Europe and in our global supply chain. The European Union needs to decarbonise the energy it consumes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and become climate-neutral by 2050, and these proposals will help to deliver that goal.

The Commission's proposals ([regulation](#) and [directive](#)) create the conditions for a **shift from fossil natural gas to renewable and low-carbon gases, in particular biomethane and hydrogen**, and strengthen the resilience of the gas system. One of the main aims is to **establish a market for hydrogen**, create the right environment for investment, and enable the development of dedicated infrastructure, including for trade with third countries.

The market rules will be applied in two phases, before and after 2030, and notably cover access to hydrogen infrastructures, separation of hydrogen production and transport activities, and tariff setting. A new governance structure in the form of the European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen (ENNOH) will be created to promote a dedicated hydrogen infrastructure, cross-border coordination and interconnector network construction, and elaborate on specific technical rules. [Find more information here.](#)



Source: [European Commission](#)

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