



SmartEnCity Network Bulletin №22 October 2020

Dear Readers,

This month's Network Bulletin addresses the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the development of the national SmartEnCity Networks in Estonia and Spain. Furthermore, you can learn more about the integrated energy planning process of our Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz and how they made a virtual study of the city, which shows how well the city is adapting to the world outbreak in this moment.

Last but not least, our 4th and last Lesson from the SmartEnCity Academy is available online along with all previous lessons.

Enjoy reading!

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The SmartEnCity Network – national Networks update

Estonian SmartEnCity Network activity update

The last meeting of the Estonian Smart Cities Club took place on 12 March 2020 with participants from the cities of Tartu, Elva, Rakvere and Valga. Due to the escalating pandemic situation, many city representatives decided not to participate. The meeting was also attended by members of the local SmartEnCity project team – the Institute of Baltic Studies, Tartu Regional Energy Agency, the University of Tartu and Smart City Lab.

The meeting focused on available smart city tools and opportunities with a special focus on the tools developed in the SmartEnCity project: Cities4ZERO methodology and SmartEnCity Academy. The hosting city, Elva, also introduced their latest project Act Now and the developments in urban planning that have been made. After the meeting, the participants went on a tour of the newly renovated Elva central square and Kesk street.

As the following months were spent working remotely, it was proposed to have a video call with the Smart Cities Club in June to catch up on the latest progress and how work is progressing despite the crisis. Unfortunately, the interest in such a meeting was low especially due to the beginning of vacation times and the fact that cities had been dealing with the pandemic crisis management and the event was cancelled, however, interest remained to meet up in the autumn.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is likely that the work within the Estonian SmartEnCity Network will continue virtually. [Read full article here.](#)

Vitoria-Gasteiz / Spanish SmartEnCity Network update

Strategic Planning in Vitoria-Gasteiz; picking up the tent just before the storm!

Vitoria-Gasteiz municipality officially started its Energy Transition strategic process with a city diagnosis in 2019, leading to the 2020 crucial year in terms of Strategic Planning. The year started with the preparation and celebration of city visioning workshops in February, where the coordination team of the Energy Transition Plan was able to fulfil the first co-development part of the Plan before sitting in the back office to start drafting the actual Plan; and just before the COVID-19 outbreak came into our lives! This perfect timing with the participation process enabled the coordination team to keep progress from the new telematic reality, developing the Energy Transition Plan according to the timeline.

Spanish SmartEnCity Network; this is a different story...

Aligned with the Energy Transition Plan of Vitoria-Gasteiz, the national Spanish SmartEnCity Network was planning a spring full of activities, leveraging the Strategic Planning process in Vitoria-Gasteiz to exchange knowledge with other cities, inviting them to join the city's Energy Transition crusade. A co-learning process among regional cities was designed, where Vitoria-Gasteiz's energy transition diagnosis and planning process was meant to be presented to the cities, and where Lighthouse and Follower cities from the region were summoned to present their plans in this matter. It was designed as the kick-off of a regional initiative, a Sherpa-group intending to lead the Spanish climb towards carbon neutrality.

Suddenly, the COVID-19 outbreak emerged strongly in the world and the country, frustrating all of the city plans as well as society's freedom of movement, in addition to taking the lives of more than 30.000 people nationwide. A huge stumbling block in everybody's lives, and in the Spanish SmartEnCity Network first steps. [Read full article here.](#)

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



Foresight workshops in Lighthouse City Vitoria Gasteiz



Foresight Workshop in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Credit: EIP-SCC

Starting from the results generated within SmartEnCity project, Vitoria-Gasteiz is now developing a foresight exercise as a part of the Municipality's Integrated

Energy Transition Action Plan 2030 (PATEI 2030 in Spanish), as a mid-way checkpoint towards the City's carbon neutrality strategy to be achieved in 2050.

After the first Diagnosis already carried out, this foresight exercise is the second step in the process of generating the PATEI 2030, consisting of two foresight workshops to develop the various visions of the future Vitoria-Gasteiz, engaging the key stakeholders of the city. All input generated in these scenarios will support the development of the final PATEI 2030, intending to make present-day decisions that steer the city towards the fulfilment of the desired scenario in 2030. [Read full article here.](#)

Virtual study tour to Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz

SmartEnCity Lighthouse City Vitoria-Gasteiz has welcomed representatives of the H2020 projects SMARTENCITY, OPENGELA and AGREE and invited them to a virtual study tour which you can follow on YouTube. [Find out more here.](#)

The EU corner – SmartEnCity Academy, Lesson 4

A recording of the final training lesson of the Academy is now available online:

- [Watch recording](#)
- [Access presentation](#)

The lesson focused on the “Envision and Planning” part of the Cities4ZERO methodology and was backed up with experiences from the integrated energy planning process in the SmartEnCity Lighthouse Cities Tartu and Vitoria-Gasteiz and the approach taken from our Follower City Lecce.

The external speaker, Judith Borsboom from Locality Europe & EIP-SCC, talked about the importance of integrated planning and implementation for smart climate-neutral cities.

You can watch all other lessons' recordings here:

- [Lesson 1](#)
- [Lesson 2](#)
- [Lesson 3](#)

Find more information on the topics, speakers and find presentations [here.](#)



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