



NEWSLETTER February 2018

Cold weather – hot work

The SCIS team has been using these past cold days to get some work done! On 26 January, we presented SCIS at INEA's Follower City Replication workshop in Brussels. On 5 February, we met with representatives from the EC and EIP-SCC to discuss joint events to collaboratively spread the smart city approach. As part of the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony on 22 February, at our SCIS side event 'Smart cities: Let's make it happen!', we then talked about how cities can use our platform to communicate their achievements and to take advantage of multiplier effects for enhanced replication opportunities. What's up next? Find out at our continuously updated [events section](#) on our website!

Roadmaps and Crystal Balls at City-zen



How can we guarantee that our cities will be future fit? The answer is that we can't. Even trying to determine something as basic to daily life as the price of fuel beyond 2030, in the words of H  l  ne Poinboeuf, Grenoble's Energy Transition Director, "is like looking into a crystal ball".

The cities of Amsterdam and Grenoble, however, will not content themselves with palmistry. Through City-zen, each city is mapping that future, from 'you are here' to 'X marks the spot' and drawing a route between them. During a session at [City-zen Days](#), both cities opened a window into how they are planning for the future.

Using the City-zen approach of gaining a firm understanding of the current situation and creating consensus among all interested parties as to the desired outcomes, these cities have created a guiding vision – for Amsterdam, the [roadmap](#), for Grenoble, the [master plan](#) – laying out the steps to a sustainable future.

Read the full story [here!](#)

Covenant of Mayors Ceremony – SCIS side event

On 22 February, the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony took place in Brussels, bringing together local politicians and all relevant stakeholders creating sustainable cities. The event was an occasion to showcase how local governments develop integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, transport or lighting, make greater use of renewable energy, and brace themselves for climate hazards.



On the same day, SCIS organised a side-session focusing on sharing successful smart cities experience and the active role politicians and local leaders can take in enabling their development. The meeting gathered local political representatives and European smart cities initiatives and projects sharing their experiences and challenges. More information about this session will come in the coming days.

Find a live-stream of the event [here!](#)

Follower Cities Replication Workshop: Cities Get Smart with Funding

On 26 January 2018, representatives of 40 cities sat around the table at the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) in Brussels with industry representatives and experts to ensure that the €263.84 million invested by the Commission through the Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities programme generates returns.

The funding provided by the H2020 program is generating savings by stimulating common solutions to shared challenges, allowing cities to collaborate on design, and even engage in cross-border joint

procurement. When cities create scale through demand aggregation they have the power to shape and influence the market.

40 cities making a joint purchase of 1000 electric busses have a lot more power to dictate prices and standards than each city individually seeking to purchase 25 units. Reducing 40 transactions to a single one also means spending only a fraction of the man-hours that would otherwise be needed.

[Read more](#)

Bricks? BRICKER!

BRICKER stands for yet another very smart project that aims at designing and delivering a scalable, replicable, high energy efficient and cost effective system to refurbish non-residential public buildings. It is co-funded by the EU and based in the energy efficient buildings (EeB) domain.

Having started in 2013, BRICKER is already at the end of its lifetime. No need to be sad though since this means that various lessons learned and best practices are now ready to be discovered! 60 experts from 6 countries spent the last 4 years on developing a retrofitting solution package for existing public-owned non-residential buildings in Liège (Belgium) and Aydin (Turkey), ranging from administrative offices to college buildings and even a hospital, which served as demonstration sites.

Want to learn more about this project? Check out their [project website](#).

Feeling spontaneous? Meet the people behind at their [final conference in Wels, Austria](#) this Friday!

Interested in a first-hand experience of their results? Join them at the [inauguration ceremony](#) of the renovated BRICKER demo site in Liège, Belgium on Tuesday 6 March 2018.

News

Congratulations to CITYFiED

Congratulations to the project [CITYFiED](#) for receiving a Smart 50 Award in the category "Energy Awards". Smart 50 Awards, in partnership with Smart Cities Connect, Smart Cities Connect Foundation, and US Ignite, annually recognizes global smart cities projects. They thus honour the most innovative and influential smart projects each year.

The Awards Gala will take place on 26 March, 2018 from 6-9 pm at The Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri!

[Learn more about the Smart 50 Awards](#)

Smart Finance for Smart Buildings: Investing in Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Great news! The Board of the European Investment Bank (EIB) approved the creation of a brand new financial instrument, the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative. With the support of EU grants, it tries to attract private investors to spend their money on energy efficiency projects in residential buildings. Besides the obvious environmental aspects, this initiative could "support up to 220,000 jobs, and help establish a renovation market for small businesses worth up to €120 billion." Moreover, up to 3.2 million families living in Europe could be saved from energy poverty.

Read more [here](#). Also, find more information on energy-efficient buildings [here](#) and on financing energy efficiency projects [here](#).

Upcoming Events

 EU Smart Cities Information System	24 April 2018	online
WEBINAR On 24 April, SCIS will host a webinar dedicated to multipliers on the use of the SCIS database/website. Save the date and stay with us for more information!		
 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK An initiative of the European Commission	5 - 7 June 2018	Brussels, Belgium
SAVE THE DATE The Policy Conference of the EU sustainable Energy Week is the most important European conference dedicated to sustainable energy policy issues. During the week, sessions organised by the European Commission and energy stakeholders will debate new policy developments, best practices and sustainable energy ideas, while offering networking opportunities to forge alliances. The winners of several awards will be announced at the beginning of the week. More on eusew.eu/ #EUSEW2018		

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Social media activities

SCIS has the ambition to bring everyone together in the field of smart cities and communities and energy-efficient buildings. Therefore, SCIS is going to be active in social media channels. Follow us on Twitter or Facebook and we will keep you updated!

The SCIS newsletter is published once a month, informing about the platform, the project community and its news. You are welcome to send in any topics you are interested in or have questions about!

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