Prague utilises foreign experiences from Interreg EUROPE projects

In 2016, Prague City Hall began to successfully implement international projects financed from the programme Interreg Europe with a clear vision of preparing its capacities for the period after 2020, when the city's options for drawing funds from Czech structural funds will be even further limited.

Projects financed from the Interreg Europe programme number among the programmes that support cooperation among regions in order to build up the city's capacities and exchange experiences in the fields of innovation, SME support, low-carbon economy and protection of natural and cultural heritage.



"*Prague is currently implementing two projects in the field of innovation (STEPHANIE and*

*INNOTRANS) and two on the topic of low-carbon economy (FINERPOL and InnovaSUMP). The projects should create action plans with specific projects that could be implemented in the given region,"* said Prague Councillor for Education and European Funds Irena Ropková.

International projects are an opportunity to bring the know-how of renowned EU science and research institutions to Prague, or that of cities that have good experience with addressing issues such as sustainable transport.

"*Prague is creating a sustainable mobility plan which, once it has been approved, will become the primary conceptual transport document for the City of Prague with implications for the Central Bohemian Region as well. The plan's ambition is to set up the transport system so that the environment does not continue to deteriorate (noise, air pollution) and yet people do not lose their freedom of movement. A fundamental document such as this must be placed in the international context and inadequate transport systems must be innovated upon with the support of important European partners,"* said Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Transport, Sport and Leisure Petr Dolínek.

Examples of applications of individual projects in practice:

INNOTRANS

Coventry University is developing an information system along with the city that is meant to demonstrate how IoT automobiles (called "connected cars" – cars connected to the internet) communicate with the surrounding infrastructure, in particular on key roads leading into the centre of Coventry. Communication between cars and with the infrastructure can help improve analysis of driver behaviour and to adapt traffic modelling. Prague will have the opportunity to see the results of the testing and attempt to bring this system to the Czech capital.

STEPHANIE

The Nello Carrara Institute of Applied Physics in Italy has perfected a technique for acquiring satellite data on the deformation of the Earth's surface. Based on this data it is possible to determine more specifically what type of natural disaster could threaten the given region in light of this deformation and to what extent. In this regard, Prague will be able to utilise information about how various Italian regions that have already applied the research output adopted certain changes to their flood-prevention strategies.

InnovaSUMP

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in recent years has implemented a number of measures to support sustainable mobility in the city. These measures include, for example, in the field of cycling adapting streets to cyclists and placing bike stands by parking lots, including bike sharing options; in the field of electromobility, discounted parking in the city, the option of using dedicated lanes and free charging stations. As Prague did just recently, Vilnius addressed its parking system and adding fees. Prague will be able to make use of the experiences of Vilnius in implementing measures to support sustainable mobility in drafting specific measures for Prague.

FINERPOL

Through the OP Prague Growth Pole, the City of Prague has long been addressing the use of financial instruments by which subsidies as we know them currently are to be replaced by 2023. In the English city of Plymouth, an initiative Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) was created in June 2013. It was founded at the instigation of the city, which saw in community energy a potential solution for reducing CO2 emissions and fossil fuel consumption. The city provided the initial loans and subsidies, got the founding members together and created a

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business plan for forming a community-based energy group. Funding is also provided for from the state budget. In 2014, PEC offered the public shares worth over GBP 600 000. Private enterprises also work with the centre (e.g. on a solar field project).

Summary of facts about the projects

Duration:

3 years for creating action plans + 2 years for implementation

The FINERPOL project was the first to start, being approved in the first call for submissions, and its action plan should be ready by March 2018. The other projects were approved in the second call and action plans will be drawn up by the end of 2019. Implementation will follow.

Total subsidy for Prague: EUR 569 403, i.e. CZK 15.4 m

Total financial investment of City of Prague: EUR 109 221, i.e. CZK 3 m

Other interesting project partners of Prague:

Photonics Bretagne

Andalusian Foundation for Aerospace Development

University of Liège – Liège Space Centre (Belgium)

Baden-Württemberg Climate Protection and Energy Agency

City of Plymouth (UK)

City of Ravenna (Italy)

City of Devon (UK)

Facts about individual projects

STEPHANIE

The aim of the STEPHANIE project is to share experiences and innovative ideas that can help make use of all the advantages stemming from space technology based on photonics. The project will ensure that investments in research and innovation are directed towards the opportunities that photonics offer, and that these lead to the creation of measures and services that aim to address societal challenges, particularly in terms of health, safety and the environment.

Project leader:

Nello Carrara Institute of Applied Physics – National Research Council of Italy (Sesto Fiorentino, Italy)

Topic and date of Prague workshop (in Czech):

Use of Space Technology with Photonics to Address Societal Challenges, workshop already took place 7–8 June 2017

Soonest working group meeting

Czech institutions involved:

City of Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Czech Technical University, Aviation Research Centre, Czech Chamber of Commerce, Czech ICT Alliance, Prague Startup Centre

Contact person:

Tereza Kuzmová – communications manager, terka.kuzmova@volny.cz

INNOTRANS

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In a time of constant changes caused by new technologies, it is necessary to be innovative if you want to stay competitive. The INNOTRANS project, which brings together the topics of innovation and transport, is meant to help Prague better target the content of subsidy programmes on improving transport products and services.

Project leader:

Coventry University Enterprises Ltd (Coventry, UK)

Topic and date of Prague workshop (in Czech):

Low-Carbon Transport in Prague, spring 2018

Soonest working group meeting: 20 June 2017

Czech institutions involved:

Czech Technical University, City of Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Prague Startup Centre, Technology Centre of the CAS

Contact person:

Jana Červeňáková – communications manager, jana.cervenakova@praha.eu

InnovaSUMP

InnovaSUMP is focused on innovation in plans for sustainable urban mobility. Low-carbon transport solutions are being sought in the field of changing traffic behaviour, pricing and financing, tourism planning and sustainable energy.

Project leader: City of Nicosia (Cyprus)

Topic and date of Prague workshop (in Czech):

Traffic Behaviour, workshop already took place 7–8 June 2017

Soonest working group meeting:

Workshop on the topic of tourism, Ravenna (Italy), November 2017

Czech institutions involved:

City of Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Technical Administration of Roads, Regional Operator of Prague Integrated Public Transport, Charles University Environment Centre

Contact person:

Roman Havel – project manager, roman.havel@praha.eu

FINERPOL

In the EU, 40% of overall energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions come from buildings, of which more than 35% are older than 50 years. The goal of the FINERPOL project is to increase the energy savings of buildings long-term and sustainably while also promoting financial instruments as prospective means of funding. The project will also result in an interactive map with examples of good practice from all of Europe.

Project leader:

Extramadura Energy Agency (Badajoz, Spain)

Topic and date of Prague workshop:

Attractiveness and Use of Financial Instruments in the Czech Republic, workshop already took place 21–23 September 2016

Soonest working group meeting:

Czech Republic– September 2017 Prague City Hall in cooperation with University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings, CTU

internationally: Tartu, Estonia, October/November (fixed date has not yet been set), organised by Centre of Excellence and Innovation for the Automotive Industry – (Matosinhos, Portugal)

Czech institutions involved:

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University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings, Czech Technical University

Contact person:

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