

An interregional cooperation project for improving low-carbon economy policies.

INTENSIFY innovatively addresses a key challenge for European cities and regions in how to energise citizens and communities to achieve more carbon reduction. The project's objective is to reduce carbon emissions from all sectors by empowering local communities.

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WELCOME

to the **Interreg Europe Intensify Project's** Third newsletter. This newsletter highlights some of the best practices from the study visits that project partners participated in between June and November 2019. The regions visited were **Milton Keynes (United Kingdom), Cork (Ireland), Almada (Portugal), Zadar (Croatia) and Treviso (Italy)**. The best practices highlighted were those associated with increasing awareness of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through community engagement. The engagement takes many forms including targeting communities, motivating communities, incentivising communities through the use of financial instruments and using digital social platforms to communicate with communities.

In this issue strategies and actions in Milton Keynes to promote the use of electric vehicles is examined; insights gained by two of the participants in the Almada study visit are disclosed; the strategies utilised by Zadar to target citizens and visitors to use e-scooters to travel around the city are scrutinized; the variety of community engagement projects and organisations in Cork City which seek to increase awareness of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are illustrated; and finally the development of the Energy Performance Integrated Contract by Provincia di Treviso to ensure additional savings are passed on the property owners is described.



ECAT



Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has many innovative transport initiatives and is a "Go Ultra Low" City.

The study visit to Milton Keynes took place on the 2nd and 3rd of September 2019. It was attended by project partners and stakeholder from Cork City Council, Provincia Treviso and Energieavantgarde e.V (Saxony Anhalt Region, Germany). The primary purpose of the visit was to highlight efforts taking place in Milton Keynes to engage with communities to reduce the green house gas emissions from the transport sector.

The City of Milton Keynes is now 52 years old. It was planned to be a green city in the 1960's and continues to build onto the green heritage.

Study visit to Milton Keynes

STUDY VISIT TO MILTON KEYNES

Engaging with citizens to reduce transport emissions

By John Walsh and Cormac O'Sullivan | Cork City Council

Milton Keynes aims to:

- Have 23% of all new vehicles sold to be electric or plug-in vehicles by 2022
- Increase the electric vehicle charge point infrastructure
- Promote innovative zero emission solutions
- Be a zero carbon city by 2030 and
- Be carbon negative by 2050

To achieve these carbon targets, it needs to address emissions from transport. The first session was held at Milton Keynes Council. There are several electric vehicle (EV) chargers outside the Civic offices.



The first session was a presentation from Brian Matthews, Head of Transport Innovation.



Brian brought a guest along, a Starship robot that delivers groceries in a pilot scheme in Milton Keynes (MK).



After lunch the delegation walked to the Electric Vehicle Experience Centre in the main shopping centre in central MK. The Centre has a range of EV's available for test drives and offers independent advice on choosing the right EV.

More information at <https://evexperiencecentre.co.uk/>



Next we went on a tour of MK. First stop the largest ev rapid charging hub in Britain at the Coachway, near Junction 14 of the M1. Here there are a range of eight 50kW rapid chargers.

More information at <https://evexperiencecentre.co.uk/charging-hub-officially-inaugurated-in-milton-keynes/>

Next stop was to visit the Starship Technologies robot nest. The robots deliver shopping from the supermarket and hot food from the local take-aways to nearby residents.

Video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/AbQN-a2d1s0>



We then went to visit and discuss benefits and drawbacks of EV chargers in residential areas.

Next was a visit to an electric bus wireless charging point in Bletchley, MK. MK has eight electric buses replacing seven diesel buses. They are charged overnight and en route by coils embedded in road plates and the floor of the buses.



Then on to Bletchley Park where visitors can charge their cars in the car park.

On the 2nd day we travelled by bus to the Cenex low carbon vehicle event in nearby Millbrook. More information can be seen here <https://www.cenex-lcv.co.uk/>

Everyone had the chance to drive an EV or dual fuel car round the Hill route testing track and the high speed circuit at Millbrook.





There were examples of electric bikes, buses and trucks.



Some opportunities need to be taken and you don't often get the chance to drive a fuel cell car.



The Cenex exhibition included a classic MG sports car converted to run on electric batteries.

The study visit provided everyone with a full picture of what is going on in MK and a broader picture of what is available in the UK.

An interesting James Bond theme ran through the study visit, the room booked for the presentation was 007 and the Hill Track at Millbrook was used in the Bond film 'Casino Royale'.

Feedback

“

Thank you so much for organising this study visit. You were excellent hosts! I found it really interesting and it was definitely one of the most worthwhile study tours I can remember.

Thanks all for very informative and enjoyable visit.

”

Project partners impressed by study visit to Almada



The study visit to Almada was attended by participants from Treviso, Zadar and Trnava. Here the two Trnava participants (Gabriel Bajuzik and Alexandra Alfoldiova) share some of the insights they gained from the visit. The study visit took place between the 25th and the 27th September 2019.

Gabriel Bajuzik works with the Investment Department of Trnava Region and is a member of the Trnava local stakeholder's group



From my point of view this study visit was very inspiring due to the fact that we are preparing the implementation of Energy Performance Contract project for our communities in the Trnava region. We have 96 communities in the field of education, social and cultural facilities, similar to Almada. For us it's a big advantage that we can visit existing projects that have been successful and on the other hand we can avoid any mistakes in the preparation of our projects.

A number of good practices have replicability in the Trnava Region: Coopernico – a Cooperative developing renewable energy projects through community engagement. We visited one of Coopernico's success stories - Zarco School in Algés.

These cooperative renewable projects, focus on LED lighting and Photovoltaic cells can significantly help to improve the quality of the school, reduce operating costs as well as reducing CO2 emissions. Another similar site visit was the Social Housing Energy Retrofit project completed by the city of Almada. The implementation of this project required considerable engagement with the community to ensure that the project was a success.

What I would like to highlight – as well as say thank you to Pedro Gomes/Joao Cleto - is that their projects have not only economic but also social benefits like in the case of Almada's Health Bus and ReFood.

Thank you for your inspiration.



Alexandra Alfoldiova, is a PhD student FMK UCM Trnava, member of Trnava local stakeholder's group

Report from the Almada visit (25.-27. September 2019)

During our study stay in Almada we had the opportunity to visit places that are socially responsible and eco-friendly.

We were introduced to social housing, which was compared to traditional social housing improved by thermal insulation, multi-chamber wooden windows and energy-saving LED lighting throughout the residential building. We had the opportunity to visit housing with one of its tenants who showed us the energy consumption meters in his apartment and talked about his satisfaction with the project.

We used an innovative bus called the Health Bus, which connects all major medical facilities, hospitals and schools. It is easily recognizable, and the route is marked with a red line on the road. Passengers need only stand on the sidewalk at the red line and wave their hands to stop the bus, as it has no fixed stops outside the destination.

We visited the nearby city of Cascais, where we had a presentation on the city project focused on energy saving by replacing regular light bulbs with LED light bulbs in public lighting. They presented the results and differences of savings after the implementation of this project. We had the opportunity to see the non-profit

organization ReFood, <https://www.re-food.org/> en which focuses on collecting surplus ready meals from restaurants across Almada and then processing and distributing them among the dozens of needy families.

This non-profit organization has dozens of workers who are involved in this activity in their free time and can help socially disadvantaged families and homeless people.

The study visit ended with a visit to a local elementary school, which with the help of Coopérnico cooperative received funding for the application of solar panels on the roof and the subsequent production of its own energy, which was explained to us by the founder of this project.



ZADAR – Mobility through the use of E-scooter

Brian Cassidy, Cork City Council



The city of Zadar hosted the project partners from Cork City in October 2019. Of particular interest to the Cork Partners was the recent roll out of the DASH E-Scooter system in the city (<https://www.dash.city/>).

The community engagement that resulted in the roll out demonstrates how successful good-quality community engagement can be. The City of Zadar sought to reduce the carbon footprint derived from transport in the city. The city was choked with traffic particularly during the summer months. Action needed to be taken to improve the situation. The city targeted the movement of people within the city – both tourists and people who lived in the cities. It was essential that they changed their mode of transport and moved to a mode with a lower carbon footprint. They were motivated to do so by the simplicity of the alternative mode of transport proffered by the city of Zadar – E-scooters. The use of a digital platform to record user activities and a reasonable price point incentivised potential users to interact with the system and use the E-scooters. The city of Zadar awarded the contract to supply the scooters and install a network of docking stations to the company DASH who specialise in the activity.

Dash installed four docking stations with a total of 60 charging points and supplied 55 scooters. The service was launched in the summer of 2019. The launch has been very successful and the company plans to increase the number of docking stations to 10 with 106 charging points and 100 scooters in 2020. Initial results show that the system is actively used by both tourists and local citizens. The results for the first four months have been impressive and show that each scooter is used on average six times per day with an average minimum usage time of 24 minutes.



The application of the Zadar E-scooters model to other cities in Europe is very pertinent. As a good practice the city of Zadar has shown leadership and intelligence in selecting this alternative low carbon mode of transport.

Cork City Serves up a host of good practices to study visitors

By Ana Maria Tahija and Stefani Mikulic Perkovic, city of Zadar.

Cork City Council hosted the study visit meetings in Nano Nagle Place a former girls school established by the Presentation Sisters that is now a museum and events centre. The attendees included representatives from the city of Trnava, the city of Zadar, Cork City Council and the Cork City Council regional stakeholder group. The good practices made known to us varied from recent developments to more established practices. The two day event commenced with an introduction by Cork's Lord Mayor Councillor John Sheehan. This was followed by an introduction to Ireland's recently enacted **Climate Action Plan** and Cork City Councils **draft climate adaptation strategy**. Many organisations in Cork are involved in community engagement activities that raise awareness of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Highlighted to participants were the activities of University College Cork's **green campus project** which targets and seeks to motivate



students to reduce their carbon footprint and waste, the **Northside Community Enterprise (NCE) Energy-Hub** which seeks to motivate people in communities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging them to invest in Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofitting of their houses by seeking low cost finance. **The Cork Environmental Forum** has been in existence since 1995 and its key objectives include raising awareness about environmental issues, facilitating action and behavioural change and to bring an environmental perspective to local and national policy decisions. These objectives are much in line with the objectives of the Intensify project. University College Cork's **Imagining 2050** project seeks to engage with communities to envision and co-produce pathways towards a low carbon climate resilient Ireland in the future. The Southern Regional Assemblies Interreg Europe **Empower Project** seeks to influence behaviour and policies to reduce carbon emissions by monitoring, measuring and highlighting the benefits of Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofitting. The **Conseed project** sought to understand what impact energy efficiency data had on people making purchasing decisions.

The way in which Ireland's **sustainable energy community (SEC)** and **better energy community (BEC)** programmes incentivised communities to undertake energy efficiency improvement works on the building stock was highlighted by the local mentor XDC Consulting Ltd. Making students more aware of the cost of energy and how they can reduce it in their accommodation was the focus of the **SAVES2 (Students Achieving Valuable energy Savings 2)** project. Finally **Energy Corks** focus on business and enterprise showed that "big businesses" are also very interested in reducing their carbon footprint and combining it with other financial and environmental benefits.

On the second day of the study visit we got to see examples of successful community engagement in action e.g. the Apartment Deep Energy Retrofit programme, the Better Energy Communities Scheme for social and private housing, the lifetime laboratory visitor centre which demonstrates to the public how to reduce waste and protect the environment, and Cork bike sharing scheme.





Provincia di Treviso

community engagement through incentives

By Ivan Plazina City of Zadar

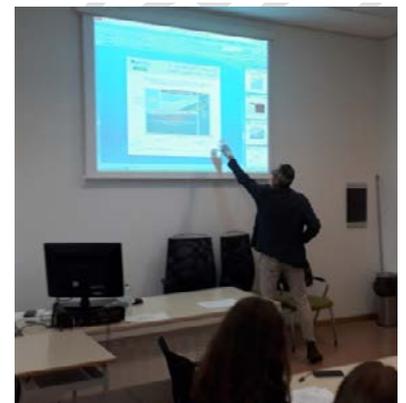
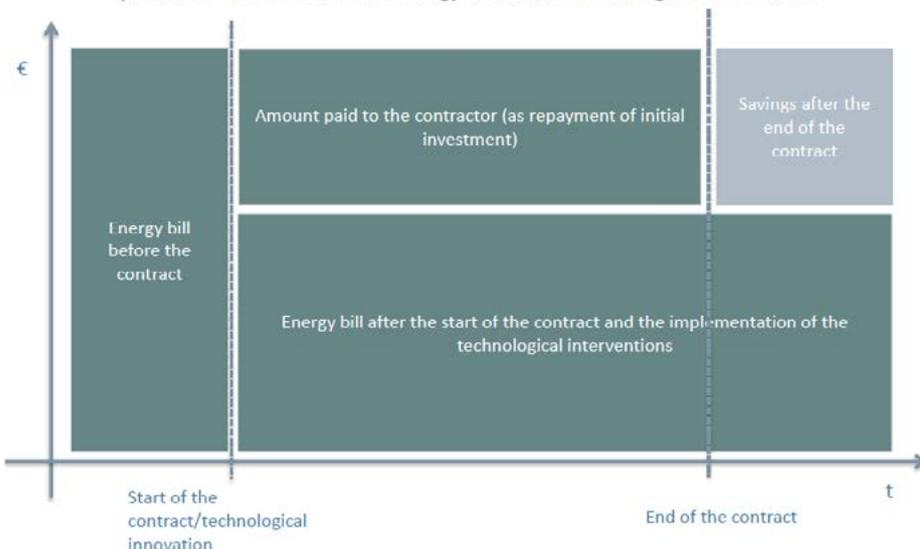
Providing incentives is an important motivator when it comes to persuading communities to act and invest in low carbon technologies. The buildings and estate management department of Provincia Treviso has considerable experience in developing energy performance contracts (EPC's). EPC's enable the energy supplier and the energy user to enjoy the savings that accrue when buildings have their energy efficiency improved. Traditional EPC's focus only on the savings from the energy efficiency improvement works with little or no benefit accruing to the energy user from behavioural changes. To allow for this scenario Provincia di Treviso in conjunction with the Interreg central Europe TOGETHER project have developed the Energy Performance Integrated Contract (EPIC). More details on the TOGETHER project can be found at the project website: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/TOGETHER.html>.

The EPIC project collates the energy savings not just from the energy efficiency improvements to the building but also as a result of behaviour changes. The savings from behaviour changes can be utilised to shorten the payback period on energy efficiency improvement loans, make further energy efficiency improvements or paid as a dividend to energy user and/or the energy supplier.

By separating out the energy savings due to behavioural changes the community who use the building become more aware of the impact they have on building operating costs and their carbon footprint. It also demonstrates that by engaging and increasing awareness of the need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as a community they have a greater impact on the outcome of their endeavours.



Energy Efficiency measures adopted for energy reduction in public buildings at the province of Treviso : the Energy Performance Integrated Contract





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