

Published: October 23, 2019

ZPR: Opportunities and solutions for environmentally friendly mobility in Latvia must be found



MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

Zemgale Planning Region (ZPR), organized by the INTERREG *Europe* project "electromobility as an important support for sustainable mobility and traffic management policy instruments" or "e-MOPOLI" project regional meeting, meeting with professionals from various disciplines, discussed the alternative energy, eco-friendly mobility and challenges in Latvia.

The meeting was opened by **Andžela Pētersone**, Deputy Director of the Sustainable Energy Policy Department of the Ministry of Economics, which presented the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021–2030. its objectives, lines of action, as well as the main challenges and problems in the transport sector. She pointed out that the main problems were: an old fleet dominated by diesel vehicles, insignificant consumption of alternative energy sources and electricity in transport, as well as a particularly high use of private vehicles. Actions have been developed to promote green mobility in response to these challenges. Firstly, the use of alternative energies to oil products should be promoted by improving CNG and LNG refueling and recharging infrastructure, promoting the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and electric cars, and imposing obligations to replace or retrofit fossil fuel vehicles. Secondly, increase the use of alternative energy sources in vehicles by promoting the installation of biogas treatment plants and improving the infrastructure for the use of biomethane. Thirdly, the use of private vehicles must be reduced and transport traffic must be optimized by improving the use of public transport, promoting the development of bicycle traffic, creating conditions for the development of multifunctional logistics centers and promoting the creation of multimodal public transport points.

Also e-mobility specialist **Arnis Bergs** emphasized a number of issues in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. tasks for the year. For example, appropriate legislation should be developed to stipulate that by 2030, at least 50% of the energy used in urban public transport in development centers of national importance must come from renewable energy sources (eg electricity, biomethane, hydrogen). Support measures should also be established to provide financial support to local governments to increase the number of low-emission and zero-emission vehicles in public procurement within the framework of EU funds or other sources of funding after 2021, including co-financing (supporting) the purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles and financial support. purchase of emission buses, equipping existing buses for more environmentally friendly operation.

In turn, ZPR sustainable mobility planning specialist **Gints Birzietis** The participants were presented with the results of the ZPR regional meeting workshop, looking at the problems and solutions of sustainable mobility development. The most significant challenges in the vehicle section are low mileage, the high price of electric cars and insufficient support mechanisms for their purchase. The solutions recommend national or European support for the purchase of electric vehicles, subsidies and other support mechanisms, such as tax rebates. In the section of infrastructure, the most significant challenges are the poor quality of roads, insufficient alternative gas stations, lack of funding for road rehabilitation and development. Possible solutions - tax redistribution, innovations for transport flow organization, state program for alternative fuel refueling and recharging options.

MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

Agris Kamenders, an expert of the Riga Planning Region (RPR), also pointed out that the possibilities of sustainable transport and infrastructure development in the municipal administration sector are a topical issue. Although there are few statistics on the transport sector - there are no data on traffic intensity on certain road sections, fuel consumption and mileage, RPR has set goals - to promote the use of environmentally friendly transport in the municipal sector. To do this, several tasks need to be performed - analysis of transport usage habits, identification and analysis of examples of good practice, promotion of cooperation between municipalities, identification and implementation of pilot projects, establishment of charging points in densely populated areas.

At the end of the regional meeting, **Inga Kreicmane**, Director of the Zemgale Regional Energy Agency, presented the EU Horizon 2020 program project "KeepWarm" or "Improvement of District Heating Systems in Central and Eastern Europe", free heating system modeling software for municipalities and also the development and implementation of the PentaHelix project - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), involving various stakeholders and decision-makers.

The INTERREG *Europe* project "Electromobility as an important support for sustainable mobility and traffic management policy instruments" or "e-MOPOLI" implemented by ZPR is implemented in cooperation with partners from Belgium, Greece, Italy, Norway, Romania, Slovenia and Finland. During its implementation from June 2018 to November 2022, it is planned to promote e-mobility in the regions by developing both transport infrastructure and strengthening the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, thus reducing CO2 emissions. The total funding of the project is 1,792,053 euros (ERDF co-financing - 1,355,118 euros), but the ZPR budget is 136,610 euros (ERDF co-financing - 116,118.50 euros).

This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Zemgale Planning Region and can in no way be taken to reflect the official position of the European Union.

www.interregeurope.eu / www.europa.eu

*Prepared by **Ilze Lujāne**,
Zemgale Planning Region
public relations specialist*

Posted by Gunta Klismeta
Position: Editor
Phone: 67508521
E-pasts: gunta@lps.lv

Virtual Assistant for inquiries and questions related to Covid-19