

Summary of the Utrecht interregional learning event:

Procurement and Tendering of Electric Buses

16 September 2021

Opening and introduction

Chairman **Marc Maartens**, consultant in mobility, Netherlands, guides us through the event.

A warm welcome by **Jasper Hoogeland**, Concern manager Mobiliteit province of Utrecht and the introduction of a video about ebusses in the Utrecht region.

Procurement – vision from the transport companies

Marjoke de Boer, lecturer at HU University of Applied Sciences gave an introduction and sketch of the context of the different value chains per region. Amongst the regions there is a division in public and private companies that perform the public transport. We can see the differences between Utrecht and Hamburg and how this effects the way the ebuses are tendered: by public tendering procurement or by awarding the tender. Because the value chains differ, not all good practices can be copied for a full 100%, but we share the same ambition for sustainable public transport.

We heard the visions from the transport companies from Livorno, Páks and Utrecht:

Emiliano Cipriani, Manager at public transport company CTT Nord in Livorno, Italy

Emiliano told us about the battery problems they have experienced; his company has dicussed with the ebus manufactories the amount of time there is a warranty on the batteries, it puts a lot of risk by the operator. He hopes to get help by this issue from the Italian ministry and maybe the European Union can help with supplying more warranties on the ebusses and the batteries of the ebusses.

Balázs Kiss, external expert for Paks Transport Ltd., Hungary

Balázs told us that public transport is part of the sustainable mobility plan, the number of passengers is decreasing. He hopes the number will increase, because good affordability is achieved for the passengers because of the ebuses running on nuclear power in Paks. He also told us, the same as in Livorno, that the bus drivers are very happy with their ebuses, because the ebuses are very silent and smooth to drive.

Quinten Passchier, Market Development Director at Qbuzz in Utrecht, Netherlands

Quinten told us that they have many systems, many e buses from different manufacturers and also many sorts of charging systems. They have a multi-vendor strategy so they can learn a lot about what are the best business cases to introduce zero emission in public transport. He was very honest with us about the problems they have had, like the delayed delivery of the e buses, installation delays, vehicle problems. They also had a few diesel buses at hand to replace the e buses when they were not capable to drive. An important thing for him is at this moment to have a mix of many systems to learn a lot about what is working for the public transport and what is not working.

Financing and costs ebusses

Pieter Tanja, Management consultant in Sustainable Mobility at Tanja Topconsult, Netherlands

Pieter worked for the province of Utrecht and is also known as Mr. TCO (total cost of ownership) in the Netherlands. He told us about the three-step approach. At first search for the components, then perform market research to get information about the total cost of ownership, and also you have to deal with the financial arrangement. He mentioned the three-party agreement between the authority, the operator of the public transport and the financial institutions. In his experience, when you are open to each other you have less costs because of the data you have shared. He has made a good working TCO model, but it is in the Dutch language. In the meeting the chairman noted that it would be wise to look for possibilities to translate the TCO model in the English language. This way each region and operator, can use the TCO model.

Gerard Hellburg, Program Manager Clean & Sustainable by Transport region of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Gerard told us that the whole public transport must be CO₂ neutral in 2030 in the region of Amsterdam. And even all the mobility in the region should be CO₂ neutral in 2050. There are three means for this: clean energy, clean vehicles and even clean infrastructure. We discussed the financing for these ambitions. Gerard explained also how the Transport region offers financial products to the operators so they can finance the purchase of the e buses.

Follow up

Chairman of the day Marc Maartens informed us about the follow up of this event; each thematic working group has organized a learning event and this was the fourth learning event, from Thematic working group Procurement and Tendering. It closes a period in which the working groups have discussed and described good practices and in which they have written thematic articles. Within the Interreg project eBussed a new phase starts now. Each region will focus on writing an action plan, these action plans will help by the introduction and upscaling of ebuses in public transport. In the near future an inventory will be made amongst the good practices the regions want to know more about, sperate sessions will be organized to exchange knowledge.

Thank you for joining us in this Utrecht learning event! A special thank for team Utrecht who organized the learning event; staff members from province of Utrecht and HU University of applied sciences. We hope you have learned some lessons and we hope to meet you in real life again in the future.