



European post-carbon  
cities of tomorrow

# REPORT ON STUDY TOURS

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AB</b>	Advisory Board
<b>CA</b>	Consortium Agreement
<b>CC</b>	Consortium Committee
<b>DOW</b>	Description of Work
<b>GA</b>	Grant Agreement
<b>PCG</b>	Project Coordination Group
<b>PO</b>	Project Office
<b>WP</b>	Work Package



## I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within POCACITO, two study tours have been organized and conducted throughout the project, one in 2015 and one in 2016. The aim was to facilitate a reciprocal dialogue and exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, socio-economic success factors and limitations of implementing post-carbon solutions among city representatives. The study tours were part of the “Marketplace of Ideas” (Work Package 6), which exemplified the level of knowledge networking and policy exchange necessary for cities to overcome post-carbon city preparation challenges.

Within the study tours different topics have been addressed (e.g. policy support, specific sectors, specific technological questions concerning energy, water, etc.). The study tours enabled an exchange of ideas and experiences, reciprocal learning of the socioeconomic success factors and limitations when implementing post-carbon solutions. Inviting representatives and stakeholders of both EU cities and non-EU cities enhanced the exchange of ideas and experiences in different cities.

The present deliverable summarizes the agendas of both study tours, gives an overview on the cities and places visited and the respective focus of the visits and provides the presentations that were made available for the participants of both study tours in the Annex.

## II INTRODUCTION

WP6 within POCACITO promotes the key innovative urban solutions developed to EU cities and to non-EU cities, especially from emerging economies. The aim of this platform for know-how transfer is to facilitate a reciprocal dialogue and exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, socio-economic success factors and limitations of implementing post-carbon solutions among city representatives.

One task within this was the organisation of two study tours throughout the project, organised by Energy Cities with strong support by Joanneum Research. The study tours enabled an exchange of ideas and experiences, reciprocal learning of the socio-economic success factors and limitations when implementing low- and post-carbon solutions. The study tours addressed different topics (e.g. policy support, specific sectors, specific technological questions concerning energy, water, etc.) The tours brought together a group of 11 (1<sup>st</sup> Study Tour) resp. 19 (2<sup>nd</sup> Study Tour) representatives from both EU and non-EU cities.

Inviting representatives and stakeholders of both EU cities and non-EU cities enhanced the exchange of ideas and experiences in different cities. Travel costs for participants were reimbursed.

The first study tour took place in June 2015 in Croatia, Slovenia and Austria. The second study tour in October 2016 took place in France and Belgium. This second study tour was finished in Brussels, back to back with the final conference and its Live Marketplace so that study tour participants could also participate in the conference.

## III 1<sup>ST</sup> STUDY TOUR

The first study tour took place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015, back-to-back with the 3<sup>rd</sup> project meeting in Graz (17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015), thus enabling the participants to meet the project partners and some members of the project advisory board.

The choice of the places that were visited was made to offer a maximum of diversity of cities and topics. Thus, participants had the opportunity to visit European capitals like Zagreb and Vienna, medium-size cities like Maribor and Graz, and small cities and towns like Ivanič-Grad and Güssing, moreover, in three different national contexts.

The addressed topics covered participation and citizen involvement (Zagreb and Ivanič-Grad), urban planning and mobility, environment and air quality (Maribor), eco-districts, energy efficiency in buildings, energy transition and the use of local and renewable energy resources (Graz, Güssing and Vienna).

## III.I AGENDA OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> STUDY TOUR

SUNDAY, 14 JUNE | ZAGREB

TIME	ITEM	WHO
19 :00 – 19 :30	MEETING POINT  Hotel Central Branimirova 3, PP 97, 10000 Zagreb <a href="http://www.hotel-central.hr">http://www.hotel-central.hr</a>	Monica Ridgway, POCACITO project manager, Ecologic Institute Berlin  Blandine Pidoux, Information manager, Energy Cities
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner at Nishta restaurant  Masarykova ul. 11, 10000 Zagreb <a href="http://www.nishtarestaurant.com/zagreb/hr/">http://www.nishtarestaurant.com/zagreb/hr/</a>	

MONDAY, 15 JUNE | ZAGREB & IVANIC-GRAD

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

TIME	ITEM	WHO
9:30 – 11:30	MEETING AT UNDP CROATIA  Venue: Radnicka cesta 41/Floor 2 HR-10 000 Zagreb <a href="http://www.hr.undp.org/">http://www.hr.undp.org/</a>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● POCACITO case study cities meet for the first time!</li> <li>● Ice-breaking session</li> <li>● Quick presentation of the study tour agenda</li> <li>● UNDP activities with Zagreb as a POCACITO case study city</li> </ul>	Sandra Vlašić, Head of Office, UNDP Croatia  Zoran Kordic, Junior Expert Energy and Environment, UNDP Croatia
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch buffet	
13:08	Departure by train to Ivanic-Grad (arrival at 13:46)	

TIME	ITEM	WHO
14:00	<b>WALKING TOUR IN IVANIC-GRAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Train station (parking space)</li> <li>● Savska street (subsidies for family houses, bike line)</li> <li>● Poljana (low energy houses, kindergarten, urban gardens)</li> <li>● Naftalan hospital (geothermal energy)</li> <li>● Park (green point)</li> <li>● Moslavačka street (public buildings)</li> <li>● Coffee bar (<u>Engage poster exhibition</u>)</li> </ul>	Vlatka Berlan, Senior associate, City development, Ivanic-Grad
17:34	Departure by train to Zagreb (arrival at 18:11)	
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner at Ribice i tri točkice bistro Petra Preradovića 7/1 Zagreb <a href="http://www.ribiceitritockice.hr/">http://www.ribiceitritockice.hr/</a>	

## TUESDAY, 16 JUNE | ZAGREB

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

TIME	ITEM	WHO
9:00 – 13:00	<b>MEETING AT ZAGREB FORUM</b>  Venue: Ul. Ljudevita Gaja 29, 10000, Zagreb	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome by the City of Zagreb</li> <li>● Urban agriculture in Zagreb</li> </ul>	Sonja Socivica, City Strategy department, City of Zagreb  Branka Mrakužić, Agriculture and forest department, City of Zagreb

TIME	ITEM	WHO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Zagreb za mene » (Zagreb for me) &amp; the City acupuncture initiative</li> </ul>	Rene Lisac, Zagreb Society of Architects, teaching assistant at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:30 – 16:30	VISIT OF URBAN GARDENS AND « ZAGREB ZA MENE » INSTALLATIONS	
17:00	Departure by bus from Hotel Central to Maribor, Slovenia	
19:00	Arrival in Maribor and check in at Hotel Orel Volkmerjev prehod 7, SI - 2000 Maribor <a href="http://www.hotel-orel.si/en/">http://www.hotel-orel.si/en/</a>	
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner at Rozmarin restaurant Gosposka ulica, 2000 Maribor <a href="http://www.rozmarin.si/en">http://www.rozmarin.si/en</a>	

## WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE | MARIBOR

### MOBILITY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

TIME	ITEM	WHO
9:30 – 13:00	Venue: Razstavni salon Maribor (Exhibition place, ground floor), Grajska ulica 7, Maribor	Municipality of Maribor
9:30 - 9:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> </ul>	Dr. Metka Sitar, University of Maribor Faculty for Civil Engineering
9:45 - 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban development and the challenges of sustainable energy use</li> </ul>	Dr. Branka Trček, , University of Maribor Faculty for Civil Engineering
10:30 - 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and urban mobility</li> </ul>	Dr. Branka Trček, , University of Maribor Faculty for Civil Engineering
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee break	

TIME	ITEM	WHO
11:30 - 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Maribor</li> </ul>	Dr. Marjan Lep, University of Maribor, Faculty for Civil Engineering
12:15 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADVANCE project – revision of SUMP</li> </ul>	Dr. Vlasta Krmelj, Energy Agency of Pdravje
13:00	Lunch break	
16:35	Departure by train to Graz, Austria	
18:00	Arrival in Graz and check in at Hotel Daniel Europaplatz 1, 8020 Graz <a href="http://www.hoteldaniel.com/de/graz/">http://www.hoteldaniel.com/de/graz/</a>	
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner with POCACITO project partners and members of the Advisory board “Altsteirische Schmankerlstubn”, Sackstraße 10, 8010 Graz <a href="http://www.schmankerlstube.at/en_home.html">http://www.schmankerlstube.at/en_home.html</a>	

## THURSDAY, 18 JUNE | GRAZ - GÜSSING

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY TRANSITION, RENEWABLES AND LOCAL RESOURCES

TIME	ITEM	WHO
9:00 – 12:30	TOUR OF GRAZ WITH POCACITO PROJECT PARTNERS  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit and presentation of a new eco district project in Graz</li> <li>Knowledge exchange and networking</li> </ul>	Barbara Hammerl, Vice-Chairman, Managing Director, StadtLabor Graz
12:30	Departure by bus to Vienna via Güssing (lunch-box in the bus)	

TIME	ITEM	WHO
14:30 – 17:30	PRESENTATION OF THE GÜSSING MODEL FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT  Technical visit of the biomass power plant	Dr. Joachim Tajmel, European Center of Renewable Energy
17:30	Departure by bus to Vienna	
19:30	Arrival in Vienna and check-in at Hotel Regina: Rooseveltplatz 15, 1090 Vienna <a href="http://www.kremslehnerhotels.at/de/hotel-regina-wien/">http://www.kremslehnerhotels.at/de/hotel-regina-wien/</a>	
20:00 - 22:00	Dinner	

## FRIDAY, 19 JUNE | VIENNA

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS (NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION), CLIMATE PROTECTION

TIME	ITEM	WHO
9:00 – 10:30	Venue: Technische Universität Wien Forschungszentrum für Energie und Umwelt Getreidemarkt 9 1060 Vienna  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tour of World's first Plus-Energy-Office High-Rise Building (Plus-Energie-Bürohochhaus)</li> </ul>	Alexander David, Research Assistant, Vienna University of Technology - Research Centre Energy and Environment
11:00 – 12:30	Venue: Magistratsdirektion – Klimaschutzkoordination; Wipplingerstraße 24-26, 1010 Vienna  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of the Climate protection programme of the City of Vienna (KLiP II)</li> </ul>	Michael Sattler, Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna, Coordination of Climate Protection Measures

TIME	ITEM	WHO
12:30	Departure by metro to Aspern – Vienna’s Urban Lakeside Venue: Seestadtstraße 27, 1220 Wien	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break at “Salz und Pfeffer”	
14:00 – 16:00	● Visit of ASPERN IQ (positive energy new construction) and tour across the construction site	Wien 3420, Aspern Development AG
16:00	End of the tour	



**Figure 1: Study tour participants, project partners and members of the advisory board, meeting in Graz, Austria**

## III.II INFORMATION ON THE LOCATIONS/CITIES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> STUDY TOUR

### IVANIĆ-GRAD

Ivanić-Grad is a town situated 30 km south-east of Zagreb with a total population of 14,544. Despite its small size the municipality has been a regional pioneer in promoting sustainable energy and engaging citizens in energy-saving actions. By 2020 Ivanić-Grad expects to have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 21%, as a part of its Covenant of Mayors commitment. A large part of this reduction will come from the positive impact of awareness-raising campaigns with the citizens.

ENGAGE is a participative communication initiative implemented by European cities. This campaign commits all citizens and stakeholders to play their part in building a sustainable energy future. Creative posters display participants and their engagements. By engaging civil society, the Municipality of Ivanić-Grad involves citizens in reducing their energy consumption and increases its capacity to reach its energy and climate goals. More info: [http://www.energy-cities.eu/db/Ivanic-Grad\\_Engaging-citizens-for-energy-efficiency\\_COMO\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://www.energy-cities.eu/db/Ivanic-Grad_Engaging-citizens-for-energy-efficiency_COMO_2012_en.pdf)



Figure 2: Study tour participants visiting the first Croatian eco-kindergarden in Ivanić-Grad, Croatia

### ZAGREB ZA MENE (ZAGREB FOR ME)

Zagreb for me is an urban revitalization project of public spaces in the city of Zagreb through the implementation of 17 interventions and interventions in public spaces throughout the entire city. The project was launched by the Zagreb Society of Architects (DAZ) in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb, Department of Urban Planning and the City of Zagreb. One of the key segments of the project is the active participation of citizens, and their awareness-raising discovering urban sites in need of restoration and with the potential to become high-quality urban public spaces. More info: <http://www.cityacupuncture.org/>



**Figure 3: Study tour participants visiting urban gardening sites in Zagreb, Croatia**

### MARIBOR

Maribor is the second-largest city in Slovenia. The city's development has been determined by its strategic geographical position connecting Central, Southern and Western Europe. Maribor has been active in energy issues since 2002, particularly in the field of energy efficiency in public buildings. In 2006 the city established the public, not-for-profit Energy Agency of Podravje (EnergaP). The Energy Agency has played an important role in assisting the local authority and other players in the development of its sustainable urban mobility plan and the proposal of a pilot environmental zone. (Photo Credit: City of Maribor) More info on Maribor's SUMP can be found here: [http://mobilitytoolbox.mobilnostniforum.si/Sumps\\_html/SUMP%20Maribor.pdf](http://mobilitytoolbox.mobilnostniforum.si/Sumps_html/SUMP%20Maribor.pdf)



**Figure 4: Meeting in Maribor with Vlasta Kremlj, Executive Director of EnergaP – Podravje Regional Energy Agency**

## **GÜSSING**

The so-called “Güssing Model” is the strategy of de-centralised, local energy production with all available renewable resources in a region. This model was developed based on the necessity to stop depopulation, to increase economic growth and to be independent from fossil fuels and is the quintessence of what has been happening in Güssing since the early 1990s with significant involvement of the EEE. Since every region has certain resources in different measures, the model can serve as an example for many communities. More info on the “Güssing Model”: <http://eee-info.net/index.php/de/das-modell-guessing>



**Figure 5: Study Tour participants in Güssing, Austria**

### **THE 'PLUS-ENERGIE-BÜROHOCHHAUS'**

The 'Plus-Energie-Bürohochhaus' is an unprecedented form of research and construction project implemented by TU Wien in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. In two years, TU Wien's former Chemistry building has been completely renovated, resulting in a 'building of the future' and Austria's first 'Plus-Energie-Bürohochhaus' (energyplus office tower). The Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit) provided 600,000 euros of funding to cover the costs of research and of the technology. More info can be found here: [http://www.tuwien.ac.at/en/news/news\\_detail/article/9083/](http://www.tuwien.ac.at/en/news/news_detail/article/9083/)



**Figure 6: Understanding passive building design with Alexander David, Research Assistant, Vienna University of Technology**

#### **ASPERN VIENNA’S URBAN LAKESIDE**

Austria's largest construction site in several phases over the next 20 years, a city for the 21<sup>st</sup> century will take shape here in Vienna's 22<sup>nd</sup> municipal district on an area equivalent to 340 football pitches, accommodating high-quality living environment for some 20,000 people plus about the same number of workplaces. Citizens were involved in the development of the master plan and continue to take an active part in its implementation, e.g. by participating in so-called “City Labs”. The master plan served as a basis for a multi-stage, transparent branding process. Quality criteria for new urban development, sustainable mobility, a varied mix of utilization types and resource effectiveness are incorporated in the development design of Vienna’s Urban Lakeside in order to create a thriving city district geared to 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyle. More info: <http://www.aspern-seestadt.at/en/infocenter/organisation/>



**Figure 7: Guided tour of Aspern's construction site**

The presentations which were given throughout the tour at the different locations and as far they have been made available by the presenters can be found in the Annex, as well as the final agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> study tour.

### III.III PARTICIPANTS

The 11 participants of the first POCACITO study Tour came from 10 countries:

- Mr Andrea Stanghellini, Mobility Metropolitan Agency, Turin, Italy
- Mr Ulas Akin, Metropolitan Planning Office, Istanbul; Turkey
- Ms Marta Cuixart Tornos, Municipality of Barcelona - Department of Environment, Barcelona, Spain
- Mr Jaroslav Klusák, City of Litomerice, Energy manager Litomerice, Czech Republic
- Mr Francisco Gonçalves, Lisboa E-Nova – Lisbon Energy Agency Lisbon, Portugal
- Ms Mita Lapi, Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente, Milan, Italy
- Ms Tamara Trumbic, UNDP Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia
- Ms Kathleen Dematera-Contreras, Environment Researcher Clean Air Asia - Philippines
- Ms Monica Ridgway, POCACITO Project manager Ecologic Institute, Berlin, Germany
- Ms Ingrid Kaltenegger, Scientific project manager, JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Graz, Austria
- Ms Blandine Pidoux, Information manager Energy Cities, Besançon, France

## IV 2<sup>ND</sup> STUDY TOUR



**Figure 8: Study tour participants in Loos-en-Gohelle, France**

The second study tour was organized from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, back-to-back with the final conference of the project (held in Brussels on 21<sup>st</sup> of October). Exploring the North of France and Belgium, participants were given the opportunity to visit the European capital cities of Paris and Brussels, and the town of Loos-en Gohelle. The addressed topics covered climate adaptation and mitigation, innovative urban greening, energy efficient renovation, brownfield rehabilitation, cooperation with citizen and local stakeholders, and the eco-transition of an old coal-field region.

For the second study tour, 19 participants joined.

At the beginning of the study tour there was the invitation of Célia Blauel, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of energy and water to attend a conference in the City Hall entitled "Looking far ahead, taking action closely: how to build the 2050 vision of carbon neutral cities". This event, co-organised by the City of Paris and Energy Cities, gathered more than 300 people and presented the results of researchers Gilles Debizet and Stéphane La Branche from the PACTE Laboratory - University of Grenoble Alpes on "Four scenarios for an energy transition in cities by 2040" (more information: [http://energy-cities.eu/IMG/pdf/20161018\\_paris-energycities\\_4-scenarios-2050\\_debizetlabranche.pdf](http://energy-cities.eu/IMG/pdf/20161018_paris-energycities_4-scenarios-2050_debizetlabranche.pdf))

Two round-tables then were focusing on the cities of Vienna and Frankfurt, presenting the plan of Vienna: “Towards carbon neutral cities” and the Masterplan of Frankfurt: “100% renewable territories”.

## IV.I AGENDA OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> STUDY TOUR

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER | PARIS

TIME	ITEM	WHO
8.15	Departure from the hotel by metro	Celia Blauel, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of energy and water
9.00 – 12.00	Venue at the City Hall of Paris Conference “Looking far ahead, taking action closely: how to build the 2050 vision of carbon neutral cities” (See separate agenda)	Gilles Debizet and Stéphane La Branche, PACTE Laboratory-University of Grenoble Alpes
12.45 – 13.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Four scenarios for an energy transition in cities until 2040”</li> <li>- Round-table 1: Towards carbon neutral cities</li> <li>- Round-table 2: Towards 100% renewable territories</li> </ul>	
14.00 – 18.30	Networking lunch buffet at the City Hall  Visit of the Halle Pajol, pilot project of a railway brownfield rehabilitation in the heart of Paris  <a href="#">More info</a>  The Paris Greening Programme, part of the adaptation strategy of the Paris Climate Plan and visit of innovative greening projects in Paris	Department of green spaces and environment, Paris Urban Ecology Agency
	Departure by train to Lille  Dinner in Lille	



## WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER | LOOS-EN-GOHELLE

TIME	ITEM	WHO
MORNING	How an old mining town has become a champion of the ecological transition <a href="#">More info</a>	Municipality of Loos-en-Gohelle
	Meeting at the Town Hall and guided tour of the city	CERDD (Resource centre for sustainable development)
	Networking lunch	
AFTERNOON	Presentation and visits with the CD2E, expertise centre for eco-enterprises in the fields of water, energy, eco-constructions and waste recycling.	CD2E (Centre of excellence for the eco-transition in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region)
	Departure by train to Brussels	
	Dinner in Brussels	

## THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER | BRUSSELS

TIME	ITEM	WHO
MORNING	Meeting with Brussels Environment at the BEL, one of the biggest passive building in Europe	Brussels Region Capital Brussels Environment
	Integrated policies of the Brussels-Capital Region on climate, energy, air quality and circular economy <a href="#">More info on the Regional plan for air, climate and energy</a> <a href="#">More info on the Regional plan for circular economy</a>	
AFTERNOON	Networking lunch	
	Focus and visits on efficient refurbishment of buildings	

## IV.II INFORMATION ON THE LOCATIONS/CITIES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> STUDY TOUR

### PARIS

#### The Paris Greening Program

Since 2007, the Paris greening program ([http://www.energy-cities.eu/db/Paris\\_Programme-vegetalisation\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://www.energy-cities.eu/db/Paris_Programme-vegetalisation_2014_en.pdf)) has been one of the emphases of the adaptation strategy of the Paris Climate Plan (<http://parisactionclimat.paris.fr/en/>) which aims to prepare the city for climate changes and dwindling resources. The greening program extends to all different areas in the city with the objective to reduce urban heat island effects within Paris and its inner suburbs.

The visit led the group to an experimental rooftop garden, which was inaugurated on exactly that day and where fruits and vegetable are grown already and in the future, also bees will be bred and vine will be grown.



**Figure 9: Roof-top gardening in Paris, France**

#### HALLES PAJOL

Halle Pajol is a very ambitious project on the rehabilitation of an industrial site from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Besides the rehabilitation of an old hall, a hostel, a library, business premises and a public garden were constructed.

The process of consultation (2002 to 2013) involved the various "institutional" actors (elected officials, city departments, operators, architects, landscapers ...) and civil society (residents,

associations, including the, neighborhood councils ...) in the development of the urban project. With a low ecological footprint and good public transport links, the Pajol site meets the needs of local residents and passengers.

The Halle Pajol has the second largest solar photovoltaic power plant in France on its roof. It counts 1988 solar panels of a total of 3.500 m<sup>2</sup> for a production of 410.000 kWh/year. The Youth Hostel is a building with low energy consumption and almost positive energy. The 220 m<sup>2</sup> of solar thermal panels cover the sanitary hot water needs of the Youth Hostel. New technologies and technical innovations such as the power-pipe system, dual-flow VMC and the Canadian well also make significant energy savings (more information can be found at: <http://www.halle-pajol.fr>)



**Figure 10: Study tour participants visiting the Halle Pajol in Paris, France**

### **LOOS-EN-GOHELLE**

Loos-en-Gohelle is a pilot town for sustainable development that has managed a smooth transition from a former mining town to a town that meets the requirements of sustainable development, with tangible results in economic, social and environmental fields. This drive was triggered in particular with the involvement of residents and the emergence of new economic models. The construction of new and the refurbishment of old houses, implementing renewable energy with a solar power centre and church powered by the sun, an eco-friendly material centre, an eco-construction business cluster and a competitive cluster focussing on the circular economy were built-up during the last decades. Ambitions are to draw lessons from the past and take the best of the present to build a sustainable and desirable world for all (more information: <http://www.loos-en-gohelle.fr>).



**Figure 11: Meeting with Jean-François Caron, Mayor of Loos-en-Goelle, France**

**Cerdd** (centre resource du development durable) supports this transformation with different programs and actions (<http://www.cerdd.org>), like the LumiWatt Park, a unique solar experimentation centre.

**LumiWatt** develops regional skills through the organization of technical and practical training, it supports the growth of players in the sector (innovation and expertise), it tests and compares the different photovoltaic technologies installed and sensitizes the public (professional and private) (<http://www.cd2e.com/?q=nos-services/creation-innovation>).

## **BRUSSELS ENVIRONMENT**

With 16,700 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, the new administrative headquarters of Brussels Environment is also one of the largest office and activity buildings to meet the passive standard in Europe with a carbon balance for its construction of 273 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per m<sup>2</sup> (only just over half the emissions of a typical concrete building). Most of the materials used in our building are of local origin. They were manufactured in Belgium from local raw materials. Products that are not available in Belgium come from neighbouring countries. In addition, preference has been given to products carrying an eco-label, like the Blauer Engel, Natureplus or others.

The very special working environment promotes interactivity as well as eco-management practices such as electronic record management (paper is being phased out), telecommuting and optimised space use to avoid heating or cleaning empty offices. User comfort has been optimised thanks to



plentiful natural light, high-quality interior air and controlled acoustics. More information can be found at: <http://bel.brussels/en/content/eco-friendly-building>.

### **BE.EXEMPLARY SITE VISITS**

Two examples of the Be.Exemplary program were visited: the Spanish house (from the 16<sup>th</sup> century) and the renovation of a 1950ties social housing.

To renovate the Spanish House and to turn it into a modern work space that would meet all the requirements in terms of comfort and flexibility as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> century criteria of sustainability and ecology was a challenge. Both, the existing structure and the heritage significance were taken into account during the renovation. The use/re-use of natural and locally sourced materials was combined with optimised insulation and air-tightness performance, which allows for exceptional comfort and natural daylight. The main façade has been insulated from the inside to preserve the building's identity. The existing timberwork has also been kept, but new and efficient secondary glazing has been fitted.

The second project was developed around the Gare du Nord in Brussels and involves the passive renovation of a residential tower and an annex building to create 50 public housing units. A nursery for 36 children and a public park will also be constructed between the two buildings. This renovation and new construction project intends to demonstrate that it is possible to carry out sustainable and high quality renovation of public housing units. All the relevant buildings satisfy the passive standard requirements. The excellent insulation of the exterior walls reduces the heat demand of the apartments by a factor of 20. Also, other aspects of sustainable construction are covered: eco-friendly materials are used, large parts of the required energy is supplied by photovoltaic and thermal solar panels and much-needed green space is being created in this highly urbanised area.

More information on the Be.Exemplary can be found at: [http://www.energy-cities.eu/cities/cities\\_actions\\_detail.php?id=1379](http://www.energy-cities.eu/cities/cities_actions_detail.php?id=1379)



**Figure 12: Study tour participants ready for the technical visit of a building refurbishment site in Brussels, Belgium**

## IV.III PARTICIPANTS

The 19 participants came from 14 countries:

- Ms Martina Andersson, Project officer City of Malmö, Malmö, Sweden
- Ms Vanessa Bastida, Consultant at Barcelona More Sustainable Technical Secretariat Siresa – Barcelona City Council, Barcelona, Spain
- Ms Vlatka Berlan, Senior Associate for EU projects City of Ivanic-Grad, Ivanic-Grad, Croatia
- Prof. Anthony Bigio, Adjunct Professor George Washington University, Washington, US
- Ms Karin Dam Nordlund, Project Manager at the Integrated Urban Renewal Project Sydhavn, Technical and Environmental Administration, Copenhagen Municipality, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Mr Francisco Gonçalves, Project Manager Lisboa E-Nova – Lisbon Energy Agency, Lisbon, Portugal
- Mr Uwe Hempfling, Architect Agenda21-Rat der Hansestadt Rostock, Rostock, Germany
- Mr Luca Imberti, President Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica Lombardia, Milan, Italy
- Ms Ingrid Kaltenecker, Project manager Joanneum Research, Graz, Austria
- Mr Pantelis Karapiperis, European project manager City of Igoumenitsa, Igoumenitsa, Greece
- Mr Stavros Katsilis, General Secretary of the Municipality City of Igoumenitsa, Igoumenitsa, Greece
- Prof. Kristine Kern, Researcher Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS), Erkner, Germany
- Dr Vlasta Kremlj, Executive Director EnergaP – Podravje Energy Agency, Maribor, Slovenia
- Ms Blandine Pidoux, Information manager Energy Cities, Besançon, France
- Ms Ulrika Poppius, Project officer City of Malmö, Malmö, Sweden
- Mr Michael Sattler, Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna City of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
- Ms Tamara Trumbic, External Associate City of Ivanic-Grad, Zagreb, Croatia
- Mr Antonin Tym, Geothermy Project Manager City of Litomerice, Litomerice, Czech Republic
- Ms Chen Xiaoting, Project manager Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China



**Figure 13: Study Tour participants at LumiWatt Park**

More information and photos of both study tours can also be found on the POCACITO website and on flickr:

<http://pocacito.eu/blog/2016-11-15/takeaways-second-pocacito-study-tour>

<http://pocacito.eu/blog/2015-08-04/first-pocacito-study-tour-meets-great-success>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/energie-cites/albums/72157675580092036>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/energie-cites/albums/72157656432066245>

During the group's visit in Loos-en-Gohelle in October 2016, a TV reportage was filmed. This reportage will be broadcasted on France 2 end of 2016/beginning of 2017.

## V CONCLUSIONS

Cities play an increasingly important role in setting climate change and other sustainability agendas. Cities have already taken significant steps in building their profiles as sustainable innovators and “green centers” through extensive networks for policy and information sharing. Cities are more and more seeking for means of collaboration with other cities, for networking and idea sharing.

The organization of two study tours was another instrument of giving cities (represented by city officials, administrative people or people from originations like energy agencies, closely linked to the cities) the opportunity for exchange with and learning from other cities. The study tours not only provided a broad range of visits to cities in different parts of Europe but also the opportunity for participants to exchange with fellow tour participants and build up a network that lasts beyond the study tours.

Participants confirmed that it was definitely useful to get to know experiences and a better insight on how other cities are dealing with sustainability issues. The study tours also provided the opportunity to see examples on-site that have been known as a good model (e.g. Güssing, visited on the 1<sup>st</sup> study tour). With presentations on the one hand and on-site visits on the other hand, enriched with discussion among participants as well as with experts in the different cities, multiple levels of knowledge gathering and networking were used.

The study tours gave the opportunity to ask questions and discuss experiences, success and barriers with experts and get first-hand information on site. On both tours, the participants were very active in talking about their own experiences but also in their discussions with other experts and participants. The groups were quite diverse, including high ranked city officials, representatives of the planning, mobility and energy departments as well as project officers and consultants, all of them bringing in their very special view.

With visiting places and cities in Central Europe on the first tour and in Norther Europe on the second tour, a maximum range of geographical divergence could be covered, given the monetary and time limits within the project. Capitals were visited as well as medium and small cities and towns and the addressed topics covered participation and citizen involvement, urban planning and mobility, environment and air quality, eco-districts, energy efficiency in buildings, energy transition and the use of local and renewable energy resources as well as urban gardening.

Including participants from the Philippines (on the 1<sup>st</sup> study tour) and from China (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> study tour) brought in the non-European view which was also very much appreciated by the other participants.

The study tours helped to establish, according to the feedbacks, a long-lasting and valuable network of knowledge for all participants.

