

D9.13: Report on attendance at events held by other SCC-01 co-ordinators 5

+CityxChange | Work Package 9, Task 9.2

Final delivery date: 30-04-2021



Deliverable version	v.02
Dissemination level	Public
Authors	Annemie Wyckmans, Dirk Ahlers, Nickolai Birkeland (NTNU)
Contributors	Rosie Webb, Terence Connolly, Pat Stephens (LCCC); Silja Rønningsen, Bjørn Ove Berthelsen (TK); Tudor Drambarean (MAI); Miloš Prokýšek, Jiří Tencar (MP); Luis Carlos Delgado Ortiz, Andy Bäcker (SB); Eftima Petkova (SMO); Siim Meeliste, Valdeko Lukken (VORU); Giulia Carbonari (R2M)

Article 29.5 Disclaimer

This deliverable contains information that reflects only the authors' views and the European Commission/INEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 824260.

Document Information

Project Acronym	+CityxChange
Project Title	Positive City ExChange
Project Coordinator	Annemie Wyckmans, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Project Duration	1 November 2018 - 31 October 2023
Deliverable Number	D9.13: Report on attendance at events held by other SCC-01 co-ordinators 5
Dissemination Level	PU-Public
License	CC-BY4.0 Creative Commons Attribution, except where otherwise noted. https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Status	Completed
Due Date	30-04-2021
Work Package	WP9 – Inter-Project Collaboration and Clustering
Lead Beneficiary	NTNU
Contributing Beneficiaries	LCCC, TK, MAI, MP, SB, SMO, VORU, R2M

Revision History

Date	Version	Author	Substantive changes made
26-04-2021	v.01	Annemie Wyckmans (NTNU)	Update of main recurring activities
05-05-2021	v.02	Annemie Wyckmans, Dirk Ahlers, Nikolai Birkeland (NTNU)	Activities and descriptions added, finalisation

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Acronyms	3
List of Abbreviations	3
1 Executive Summary	4
2 Interaction with other SCC01 Projects, SCALE and the Smart Cities Marketplace	5
2.1 Scope	5
2.2 Cross-SCC01 Cooperation: SCALE Secretariat, Board of Coordinators and Task Groups	5
2.2.1 The Board of Coordinators and the SCALE Secretariat	5
2.2.2 Task Group Replication	6
2.2.3 Task Group Dissemination	7
2.2.4 Task Group Monitoring	7
2.3 SCIS Solution Booklets	7
2.4 The Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks	8
2.5 SCIS Final Conference (4-5 November 2020, online)	9
2.6 MAKING-CITY Webinar on Citizen Involvement (19 January 2021, online)	10
2.7 DCU TRANSFORM Series: Smart Cities and Communities (10 February 2020, online)	10
2.8 Working session on financial instruments for Spanish cities, with ATELIER (17 February 2021, online)	10
2.9 REPLICATE Final Event (26 March 2021, online / Donostia/San Sebastián)	11
2.10 Smart Cities Marketplace Matchmaking: Kick-start your idea with our experts! (27 April 2020, online)	11
2.11 Crossroads Europe: Virtual strategies for citizen participation (14 April 2021, online)	12
3 Contribution to SET-Plan Action 3.2	13
3.1 Scope	13
3.2 PED Booklet	13
3.3 HEU Driving Urban Transitions Partnership	14
4 Interaction with EERA AISBL and EERA JP Smart Cities	15
4.1 Scope	15
4.2 Energy-SHIFTS	15
5 Conclusions	17

List of Abbreviations

BOC	Board of Coordinators
DG ENER	Directorate-General for Energy
EC	European Commission
EERA JPSC	European Energy Research Alliance, Joint Programme on Smart Cities
EIP SCC	European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities
ERRIN	European Regions Research and Innovation Network
FAC	Future Analytics Consulting, Ireland
INEA	Innovation and Networks Executive Agency
ISOCARP	International Society of City and Regional Planners
JPI UE	Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe
LCCC	Limerick City and County Council
MAI	Municipality of Alba Iulia
MOOC	Massive Online Open Course
MP	Mesto Pisek
NTNU	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
PEB/D/N	Positive Energy Blocks / Districts / Neighbourhoods
R&I	Research and Innovation
R2M	Research to Market
SB	Sestao Berri 2010 Sociedad Anonima
SCC01	Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities call
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SCIS	Smart Cities Information System
SET	Strategic Energy Plan
SMO	Obshtina Smolyan (Smolyan Municipality)
TK	Trondheim Kommune
TRD3.0	Universitetskommune Trondheim 3.0 (University-City Agreement Trondheim)
VORU	Võru Linnavalitsus (Võru Municipality)
WP	Work Package

1 Executive Summary

+CityxChange actively pursues synergies with other relevant EU platforms and projects, facilitating collaboration and exchanging good practices.

This series of reports describes the participation and lessons learned by +CityxChange partners in events organised by other SCC01 projects, the Board of Coordinators and SCALE Secretariat, SET-Plan Action 3.2, the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM), EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities, and other European networks during the fifth six-month period of the project M25-M30.

This report is Deliverable 9.13 of the +CityxChange Task 9.2 on Extra-Project Cooperation through other SCC01 projects and EU platforms, in Work Package 9 "Inter-Project Collaboration and Clustering". Some general content is repeated from the previous D9.10, especially on longer running collaborations and background information. This report complements Deliverable D9.12 "Report on Intra-Project Collaboration Including Study Visits and Peer to Peer Workshops 5".



2 Interaction with other SCC01 Projects, SCALE and the Smart Cities Marketplace

2.1 Scope

In the +CityxChange project, we cooperate with other H2020 SCC01 projects, the SCALE secretariat and the Smart Cities Marketplace to anchor our experiences in a broader setting, to get feedback by peers, and to share learnings that might help ourselves and others achieve goals faster and better – and to learn from stories of failure. Some common parts of this section are repeated from D9.10.

2.2 Cross-SCC01 Cooperation: SCALE Secretariat, Board of Coordinators and Task Groups

+CityxChange participates in the online meetings of the Board of Coordinators (NTNU), and the Task Groups on Replication (R2M, co-chair), Communication & Dissemination (ISOCARP), Business Models and Finance (OV) and Monitoring (FAC). These groups meet regularly in online meetings.

2.2.1 The Board of Coordinators and the SCALE Secretariat

The Board of Coordinators (BoC) of the SCC01 projects meets on a monthly basis, supported by the SCALE Secretariat. Typical topics of discussion are the development of the BoC Dashboard that supports cooperation and sharing of knowledge among the SCC01 projects; strategic priorities based on interviews by SCALE with all SCC01 Coordinators; cooperative efforts to bridge the implementation gap, in particular regulated to financial challenges; the SCALE Call for Experts; sharing of experiences and joint responses; and updates from the Task Groups (for the latter, see next Sections 2.2.2 - 2.2.4).

Risk registration and mitigation due to COVID-19 continue to be major discussion points; being able to compare risk management practices across SCC01 projects, and to develop potential joint approaches in communication with the European Commission, is highly useful for +CityxChange.

In Spring 2021, SCALE and selected SCC01 projects discussed whether there would be a need for a new Task Group on Positive Energy Districts. It was discussed, however, that this was currently not the case - it would be better to align with the already existing PED-related organisations, such as the Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Positive Energy Blocks¹, the

1

<https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu/action-clusters-and-initiatives/action-clusters/sustainable-districts-and-built-environment-0>

COST Action PED-EU-NET², the IEA EBC Annex 83 on PEDs³, the SET-Plan Action 3.2⁴ Stakeholder Group, and the PED pillar in the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership⁵. For more details regarding alignment between these organisations, see Section 4.1.

In April 2021, SCALE submitted a short position paper on bridging the financial gap to the Board of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, based on the experiences of the SCC01 projects. This paper is a shortened version of the paper that was originally developed in 2020, as reported in D9.10. Other experiences of the SCC01 projects, amongst others related to challenges in connectedness, competence and capital⁶, will be summarised in a future document.

The ATELIER⁷ project is starting to develop a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Positive Energy Districts and has invited other SCC01 projects to join them. +CityxChange has responded positively to this request. +CityxChange has furthermore been invited to join REFLECT, the think tank of SCC01 sister project MAKING-CITY. In addition, we are looking to engage in concrete cooperation with the POCITYF project on the challenge of sustainable retrofits in historic cities or buildings – a challenge that is shared by most of our Lighthouse and Follower Cities in +CityxChange.

2.2.2 Task Group Replication

The Replication Task Group (TG) aims to accelerate scaling up and replication of SCC01 projects, solutions and processes. In order to achieve this, the TG facilitates knowledge sharing on replication activities among the SCC01 projects, including commonly used roadmaps, toolkits and assessment techniques. In addition, the TG promotes cooperation among SCC01 projects to jointly overcome challenges and barriers, and to promote drivers for replication. TG Replication participates in alignment meetings with EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities, the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the Smart Cities Marketplace, COST Action PED-EU-NET and IEA EBC Annex 83, as described in Section 4.1. In particular, the work of TG Replication is enriched by close cooperation with the COST Action PED-EU-NET⁸ (Positive Energy Districts European Network), connecting research to the replication of SCC01 lighthouse demonstrators.

In January 2021, R2M presented research results on the replication approaches of SCC01 projects 2014-2020, identifying organisational, legal and economic challenges as well as barriers within communication and engagement. This work built on the SCIS/SCM Policy Paper⁹ of why replication might (not) be happening in the SCC01 projects.

² <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19126/#tabs>

³ <https://annex83.iea-ebc.org/>

⁴ <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ped/>

⁵ <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/news/dut-webinar-18-june/>

⁶ European Commission (2020) A Robust Innovation Ecosystem for the Future of Europe - Conference Report. Available online at <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c7552948-f6fc-11ea-991b-01aa75ed71a1>

⁷ <https://smartcity-atelier.eu/>

⁸ <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19126/#tabs|Name:overview>

⁹ Vandevyvere (2018) Why may replication not be happening. Available online: <https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu/insights/publications/why-may-replication-not-be-happening-recommendations-eu-ri-and-regulatory>

In addition, TG Replication derived important learnings of the SCC01 projects and related them to three main European innovation challenges¹⁰ connectedness between local stakeholders and with international experts, competence of stakeholders to implement and scale innovations, and ensuring capital in all phases of development and implementation.

2.2.3 Task Group Dissemination

ISOCARP participates in the TG Dissemination on behalf of +CityxChange. This provides added value to +CityxChange in the form of coordination and joint approach for events, the sharing of invitations to webinars and similar events, coverage in newsletters of other SCC01 projects, resharing posts on social media, answering questions for new projects, and joining forces to improve overall impact presentation. Recently, the integration of SCALE into the task group's responsibility has been discussed.

2.2.4 Task Group Monitoring

+CityxChange participates in the newly formed Task Group on Monitoring, in close cooperation with SCM. The Task Group facilitates the cross-project collaboration of responsables for monitoring and evaluation in each SCC01 project, aiming to improve and share:

- Common understanding on the scope and meaning of monitoring and evaluation, scope, evaluation boundaries, and monitoring protocols for quantitative as well as qualitative project outcomes;
- Mapping of Key Performance Indicators used across projects, aiming to harmonise them for better cross-project comparison and learning, and to identify gaps for new KPIs to be developed (e.g., related to Positive Energy Districts, qualitative outcomes, environmental, financial and societal KPIs);
- Facilitate reporting to SCIS, including discussion of appropriate data boundaries and scoping for SCIS reporting, as well as methodological differences, to find a common reporting approach for comparable results.

The work of TG Monitoring is enriched by cooperation with IEA EBC Annex 83¹¹ on Positive Energy Districts, connecting research to the monitoring practices of SCC01 lighthouse demonstrators.

2.3 SCIS Solution Booklets

After a positive experience in contributing to the SCIS Solution Booklet on Citizen Engagement (see D9.8), +CityxChange contributed to a second Solution Booklet, this time

¹⁰ European Commission (2020) A robust innovation ecosystem for the future of Europe. Available online: <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/A-robust-innovation-ecosystem-for-the-future-of-Europe.pdf>

¹¹ <https://annex83.iea-ebc.org/>

on Positive Energy Districts¹² (see D9.10). This booklet was created in cooperation between SCIS and SCC01 projects +CityxChange, ATELIER, Sparcs, and MAKING-CITY, and was published in December 2020.

2.4 The Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks

On 21 October 2020, we launched the new Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks¹³ within the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM) in the Action Cluster on Integrated Planning, Policy and Regulation. The Initiative aims to support the development of positive energy districts and climate-neutral cities through better regulatory frameworks. It is led by NTNU, TK and POW as a cooperation between private and public sector and academia.

Since the launch, we have gathered feedback from European stakeholders in order to identify the following key priorities:

- Cross-vector sector coupling: regulatory coordination in energy/mobility ecosystem, interaction between different domains;
- From serial pilots/sandboxes/experimental zones to standardisation & scaled adoption;
- Regulatory frameworks as incentives, de-risking required changes for the energy transition; what is currently not possible but should be, and how can we overcome those barriers?

The first steps will be to:

- Map existing initiatives: who is doing work in these areas, what has already been tried, what worked, what didn't and why;
- Identify which windows of opportunity we have in 2021-2022 to influence ongoing regulations / standardisation, for example related to new policy objectives¹⁴ developing in the European Commission.

In order to develop this cross-cutting initiative further, we are aiming to cooperate with the following networks:

- The SCC01 Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse projects and the SCALE secretariat
- Other Action Clusters & Initiatives in the Smart Cities Marketplace
- The BRIDGE Initiative
- The Horizon Europe Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- The Driving Urban Transitions Partnership

¹² <https://cityxchange.eu/scis-positive-energy-districts-solution-booklet/>

¹³ Myrstad, Livik & Wyckmans (2020) A new Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks within the Integrated Planning, Policy and Regulation Action Cluster. Available online: <https://cityxchange.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Smart-Cities-Marketplace-Initiative-Regulation-Framework-Finished.pdf>

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/2021_commission_work_programme_new_policy_objectives_factsheet_en.pdf

- The Clean Energy Transition Partnership
- Living-in.eu
- CIVITAS
- Other relevant networks and platforms as we identify these

NTNU, TK and POW have presented this initiative multiple times, in several local, national and European fora, amongst others during the SCIS Final Conference on 2-3 November 2020 (see Section 2.5).

In addition, we have participated in regular meetings and discussions of the Action Cluster and Smart Cities Marketplace, including policy updates and other relevant developments from the side of the European Commission, cooperation with the other Initiatives, and activities for the Smart Cities Marketplace Forum; discussed new opportunities to drive the energy transition, in particular related to the role of regional authorities and synergies among funding schemes; had the opportunity to contribute to a position paper regarding the Renovation Wave towards DG Regio; and helped develop and implement an SCM Matchmaking Event on 27 April 2021 (for the latter, see Section 2.10).

We are currently also investigating whether and how to connect this work to the New European Bauhaus¹⁵ initiative, to enrich the development of positive energy districts and climate-neutral cities with artistic, cultural, creative, social science and humanities approaches.

In addition, we will contribute towards the development of a special PED Edition of the Smart City Guidance Package¹⁶, in cooperation with the Smart Cities Marketplace, SET-Plan Action 3.2 and others.

2.5 SCIS Final Conference (4-5 November 2020, online)

+CityxChange participated in the SCIS final conference¹⁷ and its handover into the Smart City Marketplace. The attendance brought an overview of the past activities and on the structure of the transition, together with insights from SCIS members, the SCM team, action clusters, EC representatives, and early Lighthouse projects. The focus session on replication in particular, fit well with +CityxChange needs.

During the Conference, Action Cluster Coordinator Judith Borsboom and Regulatory Initiative Lead Annemie Wyckmans were interviewed regarding updates happening in the Smart Cities Marketplace Action Clusters, with particular attention for the new Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks for Positive Energy Districts and Climate-Neutral Cities that was launched in October 2020, as part of the Integrated Planning, Policy and Regulations Action Cluster. In addition, we held a session with the Integrated Planning, Policy and Regulations

¹⁵ https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en

¹⁶ Borsboom et al. (2019) The Smart City Guidance Package. Available online: <https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/2019/smart-city-guidance-package>

¹⁷ <https://www.aanmelder.nl/119837/wiki/564335/livestream-sessions>

Action Cluster in which interested stakeholders could join, ask questions and discuss potential cooperation.

Sestao participated in the matchmaking event and engaged in several meetings with different investors regarding their PV plans.

2.6 MAKING-CITY Webinar on Citizen Involvement (19 January 2021, online)

MAKING-CITY project has planned a series of webinars and think-tank roundtables on Citizen Engagement Strategies in Lighthouse Cities with the participation of the other SCC01 projects. Javier Burón (Colaborativa) was invited to present the +CityxChange Citizen Participation Playbook in a session on Citizen Engagement Strategies in Lighthouse Cities together with Gabi Kaiser (Steinbeis & Smart Cities Marketplace) from SCC01 MySmartLife and Socrates Schouten (Waag) from SCC1 Atelier. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session in which the different citizen engagement strategies of each project were discussed as well as general topics on citizen engagement using digital tools.

2.7 DCU TRANSFORM Series: Smart Cities and Communities (10 February 2020, online)

The Dublin City University (DCU) Business School holds a series of events in their TRANSFORM Series with industry and academia. +CityxChange was invited to the event on *Smart Cities and Communities*¹⁸, to talk on: *Transition processes and digital transformation in Smart Sustainable Cities*. Two organisations, NTNU and CIRCE (Fundacion Circe, Centro de Investigación de Recursos y Consumos Energéticos) were invited to discuss how they are working towards achieving SDG 11.

This was an opportunity for +CityxChange and NTNU to collaborate stronger with the Irish ecosystem around smart cities. Furthermore, CIRCE is a horizontal partner in the POCITYF SCC1 project. This allowed us to exchange ideas around the increasing ambitions towards PEDs and how the two projects aim to achieve them.

2.8 Working session on financial instruments for Spanish cities, with ATELIER (17 February 2021, online)

On 17 February 2021, representatives of the Lighthouse City of Bilbao, which are participating in the Atelier lighthouse project, and of +CityxChange's Follower City Sestao, had a working session around exchanging experiences related to the advancements of their respective projects. Particular focus was given towards mutually sharing the already materialized or potential sources for gaining finance for their projects.

The session was organised by the Deusto Business School.

¹⁸ <https://business.dcu.ie/event/sustainable-cities-communities/>

Organising or participating in targeted dialogues with other SCC01 projects, cities and solution providers is highly useful for us, and we are looking to engage in additional dialogues on other topics as well, e.g. PED heritage districts, use of PV in PEDs, and development of Energy Communities to support the development of PEDs.

2.9 REPLICATE Final Event (26 March 2021, online / Donostia/San Sebastián)

On 26 March 2021, the REPLICATE project organised its final event¹⁹, sharing major insights in their experiences and learnings throughout the project, including energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and ICT & infrastructures. The programme included, amongst others, project results and impacts generated in the lighthouse cities; models and lessons for scale up and replication of smart solutions; city to city learning.

A particularly relevant session was on lighthouse project best practices; lessons learnt, recommendations, and future of Smart Cities, joint with 5 other early lighthouse projects Sharing Cities, SmartEnCity, Smarter Together, MySMARTLife, and Ruggedised. EC policy officers shared insights on smart cities and the SCC1 programme. REPLICATE further presented their impacts and results in the form of final results, exploitation, and impacts.²⁰

2.10 Smart Cities Marketplace Matchmaking: Kick-start your idea with our experts! (27 April 2020, online)

As Initiative Lead, +CityxChange contributed to the organisation of the first Smart Cities Marketplace matchmaking event of 2021²¹, on 27 April 2021. During this event, we invited interested cities, solution providers and others to present their experiences on selected topics, develop new ideas together using a joint business model canvas, and get them financed. As a basis for these discussions, we developed fact sheets for each topic.

The session to which we contributed, was called “Co-creation with local stakeholders using digital twins for integrated planning”. We further participated in the session “Technology for positive energy districts” of the Action Cluster Sustainable Districts and Built Environment together with Action Cluster on Business Models. It presented and discussed the new SCM Factsheet on PEDs²² which is based on the previous SCIS PED Solution Booklet, where +CityxChange contributed.

At the end of the event, each session pitched its idea and received feedback by business developers and financing experts. Our digital twin session was selected as the most mature project of the first Smart Cities Marketplace Matchmaking in 2021. The project was offered an additional 2-hour incubator session by the matchmaking experts of the Marketplace.

¹⁹

<https://replicate-project.eu/replicate-lighthouse-project-organises-the-final-conference-on-the-26th-march/>

²⁰ <https://replicate-project.eu/final-results/>

²¹ <https://smart-cities-marketplace-matchmaking.b2match.io/>

²² <https://indd.adobe.com/view/8a05f19c-2346-4c6c-a6a6-b61cb1969877>

In the course of May 2021, the recorded pitches, excerpts from the workshops and other material will be made available on the website of the Smart Cities Marketplace.

2.11 Crossroads Europe: Virtual strategies for citizen participation (14 April 2021, online)

Crossroads Europe aims at fostering cross-cutting dialogue about the EU, the challenges facing it and its future through a series of offline events dedicated to main forms of organised civil society and policy makers. Javier Burón (Colaborativa) was invited to present +CityxChange Citizen Participation Playbook together with Andrés Pereira de Lucena Decidim's coordinator. The session was followed by a dialogue of the two participants about digital citizen participation under the context of participatory democracy in the European Union.



3 Contribution to SET-Plan Action 3.2

3.1 Scope

SET-Plan Action 3.2 Smart Cities and Communities aims to create 100 Positive Energy Districts by 2025. +CityxChange contributes to this Action by sharing knowledge regarding definitions, boundary conditions and Key Performance Indicators, as well as experiences from the participating Lighthouse and Follower Cities on planning and implementing Positive Energy Blocks and Districts. SET-Plan Action 3.2 is coordinated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), and managed by Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (JPI UE).

+CityxChange contributes to SET-Plan Action 3.2 both directly as an SCC01 lighthouse project, and through European networks such as EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities and the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities. In addition, NTNU (Annemie Wyckmans) is R&I Chair of the Stakeholder Group to SET-Plan Action 3.2, which enables her to participate in the SET-Plan Action 3.2 Steering Committee as an observer. This position enables us to align R&I efforts across European platforms; the SET-Plan Action 3.2 Stakeholder Group includes, amongst others, representatives from SCC01 projects, the EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities, the Urban Europe Research Alliance, the European Construction Technology Platform, and ERRIN. Some parts of this section are repeated from D9.10.

3.2 PED Booklet

The PED Booklet "Europe towards Positive Energy Districts"²³ is created by JPI Urban Europe for SET-Plan Action 3.2. It provides an interesting overview of projects with PED ambitions, which, combined with the Stakeholder Group, provides a useful arena for discussion and comparison with peers. It also provides a broader group of examples including locally and nationally funded projects, beyond the H2020 SCC01 projects.

For the time being we have contributed with three +CityxChange cases (Limerick, Trondheim and Vöru). More +CityxChange cases will be added after the Follower Cities complete their feasibility studies.

The booklet is currently being transformed into a PED Inventory that will support assessment and replication. A first analysis of the booklet data has already been published as a scientific article²⁴. These activities are supported by a series of webinars specifically targeting city administrations, utilities and real estate developers²⁵.

²³ https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/app/uploads/2020/06/PED-Booklet-Update-Feb-2020_2.pdf

²⁴ Bossi et al. (2020) Towards 100 Positive Energy Districts in Europe: Preliminary Data Analysis of 61 European Cases. Available online: <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/13/22/6083>

²⁵ <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/news/ped-programme-webinar-series-process-design-for-ped-implementation-cooperation-city-administrations-real-estate-developers-utilities/>

3.3 HEU Driving Urban Transitions Partnership

JPI Urban Europe has taken the lead to develop the Horizon Europe Driving Urban Transition Partnership (DUTP), with Positive Energy Districts as one of three main pillars, and building on the experiences of the SET-Plan Action 3.2. Among important activities in 2021 is the development of a PED Roadmap, with input from European stakeholders and experts.



4 Interaction with EERA AISBL and EERA JP Smart Cities

4.1 Scope

EERA JP Smart Cities is an official stakeholder in the SET-Plan Action 3.2, and EERA JPSC partners are involved in all SCC01 projects. The Project Coordinators of the 2018- and 2019-funded SCC01 projects are all EERA JPSC partners, and NTNU leads the EERA JPSC.

EERA JPSC is developing a strategic research agenda for Positive Energy Blocks, Districts and Cities, to support SET-Plan Action 3.2 as well as the upcoming Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the Urban Partnership in Horizon Europe. As a concerted effort between European universities and RTOs, the strategic research agenda will provide a scientifically valid and practically viable methodology (bridging science and practice), a systemic dimension (merging technical, spatial, regulatory, innovation, economic, social and other perspectives), and a mixture of participatory, practice-based, transformative, experimental and technical research, to support the real-time and future challenges European cities experience in their ambitions to develop, scale up and replicate Positive Energy Blocks, Districts and Cities.

In Autumn 2020, EERA JP Smart Cities initiated alignment meetings between the Smart Cities Marketplace, the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership and SET-Plan Action 3.2, the COST Action PED-EU-NET, IEA EBC Annex 83, and the SCC01 TG Replication, to discuss how to cooperate and complement each other on Positive Energy Districts and Climate-Neutral Cities. All of these programmes work with these topics, but with different types of stakeholders and instruments. The alignment will include, amongst others, a map of the complementary functions, instruments and stakeholders of the different organisations, as well as concrete cooperation activities.

In April 2021 we also engaged in discussions with the new IEA Technology Collaboration Programme on Decarbonisation of Cities and Communities. The programme will include new Annexes on positive energy districts as well as decarbonisation at city scale, and is therefore highly relevant for +CityxChange.

Towards the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2021, we are pitching a policy session “Beyond Technology: The Clean Energy Transition for climate-neutral, smart, and beautiful cities and communities” led by EERA aisbl.

4.2 Energy-SHIFTS

Based on +CityxChange experiences, in particular related to CommunityxChange demonstration activities in the Lighthouse and Follower Cities, NTNU participated in the Energy-SHIFTS²⁶ Working Group on Smart Consumption. This project aimed to guide the

²⁶ <https://energy-shifts.eu/>

European Commission on the role and potential contribution of Social Science and Humanities in smart consumption as a European priority area for the SET-Plan. The project was finalised in January 2021, with four Horizon Scanning²⁷ reports including 100 prioritised Social Science and Humanities research questions.

NTNU participated in a Masterclass on how to prepare for Horizon Europe by embedding SSH in energy technology project proposals, on 1 December 2020. The programme featured interventions from European Commission Head of Units, INEA and H2020 project proposals evaluators.

²⁷ <https://energy-shifts.eu/research-questions-horizon-europe/>



5 Conclusions

During months 25-30 of the +CityxChange, we have continued to reinforce our interactions with other SCC01 projects, the Smart Cities Marketplace, SET-Plan Action 3.2 and EERA JP Smart Cities. As +CityxChange is in the middle of its implementation phase, the opportunity to connect with other lighthouse demonstrators and to exchange experiences on processes, technologies, regulatory challenges and other learnings, is invaluable. With all events taking place online, it is also much easier for us to participate in multiple events, and for more of our partners to do so.

