

D9.15: Report on attendance at events held by other SCC-01 co-ordinators 6

+CityxChange | Work Package 9, Task 9.2

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List of Acronyms

BOC	Board of Coordinators
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
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, City of Romania
MOOC	Massive Online Open Course
MP	Mesto Pisek, City of Czeck Republic
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
SCALE	European Smart and Lighthouse Cities Amplified
SCC01	Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities call
SCIS	Smart Cities Information System
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SET	Strategic Energy Plan
SMO	Obshtina Smolyan, City of Bulgaria
TK	Trondheim Kommune
TRD3.0	Universitetskommune Trondheim 3.0 (University-City Agreement Trondheim)
VORU	Võru Linnavalitsus, City of Estonia
WP	Work Package

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 SCC projects, the Board of Coordinators and SCALE Secretariat, the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM), SET-Plan Action 3.2 and the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities, and other European networks during the sixth six-month period of the project M31-M36.

This report is Deliverable 9.15 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 D9.13, especially on longer running collaborations and background information. This report complements Deliverable D9.14 "Report on Intra-Project Collaboration Including Study Visits and Peer to Peer Workshops 6".

1 Interaction with other SCC Projects, SCALE and the Smart Cities Marketplace

1.1 Scope

In the +CityxChange project, we cooperate with other H2020 SCC 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 D9.13.

1.2 The SCC Board of Coordinators, Task Groups and the SCALE Secretariat

1.2.1 Scope

+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), Monitoring (FAC) and City Coordinators Group (Lighthouse and Fellow Cities). These groups meet regularly in online meetings.

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 Mission Papers based on cooperative efforts to bridge the implementation gap, in particular related to financial, regulatory and governance challenges; the SCALE Call for Experts; cooperation towards the EC Cities Mission and the NetZeroCities platform; risk registration and mitigation due to COVID-19; and updates from the Task Groups.

1.2.2 Mission Papers

In 2021, the BoC and SCALE in cooperation with the Smart Cities Marketplace, delivered two Mission Papers (MP) to the EC Cities Mission. Each MP summarises important experiences across the SCC projects on a particular challenge, to inform and advise the Cities Mission in their roll-out of 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030. MP1 summarised challenges and advice related to funding and financing of the transition towards climate-neutral cities, while MP2 suggested five essential conditions to achieve Climate Neutral Cities:

- Make room for holistic, flexible, 5-year calls in Horizon Europe and the Mission Board

- Climate City Contracts that support the mandates of local and regional authorities
- Green finance for urban decarbonisation ecosystems
- Capture and codify the work of demonstrators to build confidence in investors, support common solutions, and underpin massive scale-up
- Support cohesion with dedicated mechanisms

MP1 was submitted and discussed with the EC Cities Mission in Spring 2021, while MP2 was submitted and discussed in October-November 2021. MP2 is currently being fine-tuned based on concrete feedback from the EC Cities Mission prior to being published.

+CxC actively contributed to both MPs. NTNU coordinated the writing group of MP2.

We find the process of defining joint challenges across SCC projects, extracting on-the-ground experiences from each project, and summarising them in 2-page position papers, highly rewarding. Having to agree on a brief text among the projects gives additional commitment to the discussions compared to simply presenting experiences to each other. We are therefore pleased that more MPs will be written in 2022, and have dedicated resources to our active contribution.

For the time being, MP3 is planned to deal with the systemic changes in governance required for SCC Lighthouse and Fellow Cities to reach their targets.

1.2.3 New European Bauhaus

In Summer 2021, the BoC, SCALE and Smart Cities Marketplace were asked to suggest expert speakers to the upcoming “LIFE in the New European Bauhaus” Event¹ to be organised by the LIFE programme 15-17 November 2021. NTNU actively participated in the core group across these three organisations, to gather relevant speakers among the SCC Lighthouse and Fellow Cities and document the NEB activities already ongoing in the SCC projects. This exercise showed us that there is a lot of interest in NEB in our initiatives.

In June 2021, UL submitted +CxC CommunityxChange reports² to the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in response to the Co-Design Phase.

In Autumn 2021, the SCC projects, SCALE and Smart Cities Marketplace decided to continue this core cross-cutting group to draft the added value of NEB for our three organisations, and to identify potential joint activities we can undertake towards NEB activities organised by the European Commission. In addition, we created a shortlist of experts among the SCC projects, SCALE and Smart Cities Marketplace for upcoming NEB activities by the EC.

¹ <https://bauhaus-life-event.b2match.io/agenda>

² <https://cityxchange.eu/new-european-bauhaus-and-communityxchange/>



1.2.4 SmarterTogether final & SCALE event (1-2 July 2021, hybrid)

In this two-day event, the final conference of the SCC project SmarterTogether was combined with a high-level political session on “Desirable futures and climate neutrality: how to reach what's next?” organised by SCALE, as well as peer-to-peer workshops, BoC and Task Group activities. Four local studios in Lyon, San Sebastián, London and Sønderborg broadcasted events to a local and online audience. Amongst others, the four SCC projects that are finalising their activities in 2021 (Smarter Together, Replicate, SmartEnCity and Sharing Cities), presented a joint paper summarising their learnings and experiences, the impact achieved by the projects, and examples of how their solutions have been - or will be - scaled across Europe.

SCALE organised a high-level political session with interventions by European SCC Lighthouse Cities, investment funds, NGOs, and the European Commission. Workshops were held to promote peer-to-peer learning between Lighthouse and Fellow Cities, and to boost the implementation of replication plans. These were combined with discussions on the support of local investments, as well as a call for experts on diverse SCC topics and challenges. The recently established City Coordinators Group organised their first events to extract main needs and priorities from the cities and to ensure that cities of finalised projects would still be actively engaged.

This event formed an important stepping stone towards closer dialogue with the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, reinforced by the delivery of (up to date) 2 Mission Papers.

1.2.5 SCC Project collaboration on energy citizenship and PEDs

A group of project members from ATELIER, ENERGE, MakingCity, mySmartLife, Pocityf, and +CityxChange had formed around a workshop at Sustainable Places 2020 (see D9.10). The collaboration is continuing with regular meetings, development of a joint article, and a joint workshop at Sustainable Places 2021 (see below on other events).

1.2.6 Task Group Replication

As summarised in previous deliverables in this series, the Replication Task Group (TG) aims to accelerate scaling up and replication of SCC projects, solutions and processes. In order to achieve this, the TG facilitates knowledge sharing on replication activities among the SCC projects, including commonly used roadmaps, toolkits and assessment techniques. In addition, the TG promotes cooperation among SCC 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 3.1.



In M31-36, particular topics of interest have been the EC Cities Mission and the NetZeroCities platform, the masterclasses on financing replication and implementation organised by the Smart Cities Marketplace, as well as the SCALE call for experts and the new cross-cutting City Coordinators Group.

1.2.7 Task Group Communication

ISOCARP participates in the TG Communication on behalf of +CityxChange. This provides added value to +CityxChange in the form of coordination and joint approach with the SCALE secretariat and the other SCC projects 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.

1.2.8 Task Group Monitoring

+CityxChange participates in the Task Group on Monitoring. The Task Group facilitates the cross-project collaboration of responsables for monitoring and evaluation in each SCC 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; developing social evaluation methods; addressing common practical M&E issues and common methodological evaluation issues;
- 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 83³ on Positive Energy Districts, connecting research to the monitoring practices of SCC01 lighthouse demonstrators. It was also discussing the more technical details of PED indicators and what the projects could already contribute out of their work.

TG Monitoring amongst others is writing an article on impact evaluation, including Key Performance Indicators and comparing project approaches. +CxC has launched a new initiative to better understand Covid-19 impacts on the projects from the BoC side and linking this into this TG's work.

³ <https://annex83.iea-ebc.org/>



1.2.9 City Coordinators Group

The newly established City Coordinators Group (CCG) connects the City Coordinators of Lighthouse and Fellow Cities across SCC projects, to exchange experiences and develop new cooperations. The CCG will cooperate closely with TG Replication, and will be responsible for 2 main objectives: sharing replication experience of Fellow Cities, and dissemination of replication approaches and experiences.

During Summer 2021, the CCG performed interviews with a few selected SCC cities in order to identify their priorities and expectations towards the CCG. The initial responses were:

- knowledge sharing
- networking and partnership buildings
- more standardization and common guidelines
- assessment of needs and funding for replication.

From +CxC, the city of Alba Iulia, NTNU as Coordinator, and R2M as replication lead, participated in the kick-off meeting.

EnergyCities, the leader of the CCG, has actively participated in the development of Mission Paper 2 and will host a meeting to gain the cities' inputs on MP3 in January 2022.

1.3 Cooperation with the Smart Cities Marketplace

1.3.1 Scope

NTNU (WP9) and R2M (WP8) cooperate with the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM) to identify opportunities for +CityxChange partners to cooperate on topical Action Clusters and Initiatives, masterclasses, matchmaking, cities-meet-investors meetings and similar activities organised by SCM.

+CityxChange participates in the regular Action Cluster meetings and Partnership Forum (previously known as General Assembly), with active roles described in the Sections below.

1.3.2 The Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks

NTNU, TK and POW lead the Smart Cities Marketplace Initiative on Regulatory Frameworks⁴, which was launched on 21 October 2020 within 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.

In 2021, we performed a literature/platform review and combined this with on-the-ground experiences of Lighthouse City Trondheim in D5.9 "Playbook of regulatory

⁴

<https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu/action-clusters-and-initiatives/action-clusters/integrated-planning-policy-and-regulations-0>

recommendations for enabling new energy systems⁵. Based on this work, we wrote a position paper to the Norwegian government emphasising specific conditions that would need to be changed in Norwegian energy regulations in order to be able to support Positive Energy Districts and Climate-Neutral Cities. The letter received the support of multiple sector organisations within energy and the built environment, chambers of commerce, and municipalities and counties. Its translation in English is attached as an Appendix in D5.9.

The next step will be to ask cities and solution providers within the other SCC projects and members of the Smart Cities Marketplace, whether they have organised similar activities, or whether they have organised different types of events for the same purpose. With this request, we aim to map the on-the-ground experiences of SCM members and SCC projects in terms of regulatory frameworks:

- Which concrete challenges do they encounter?
- Which processes and partnerships do they create to mitigate these and achieve positive results?

DG ENER has suggested including additional European platforms such as BRIDGE and living-in.eu in this mapping.

The plan is to spend the first months of 2022 mapping concrete experiences among SCCs and SCM, and then to create position paper(s) to have these challenges addressed – all to be completed by August 2022.

1.3.3 Cooperation on New European Bauhaus

The Action Cluster on Integrated Planning, Policy and Regulations has organised multiple cross-cutting online sessions amongst its members and with other Action Clusters, to discuss the added value of cooperating towards the New European Bauhaus. It may be particularly valuable to combine the city-investor matchmaking activities of the Smart Cities Marketplace with cities' activities to make their clean energy transitions beautiful, inclusive and sustainable.

It was decided that this ambition would be further developed in cooperation with the SCC projects and SCALE, see Section 2.2.3.

1.3.4 Matchmaking on Digital Twins

The matchmaking session on digital twins, organised in April 2021 by the Smart Cities Marketplace, was followed up in Autumn with mentoring sessions for the participating cities and companies in terms of investment planning, as well as discussions on potential cooperation to compare the different types and applications of digital twins. This included participants from amongst others the cities of Ålesund (Norway), Rotterdam (The Netherlands) and Florence (Italy).

5

<https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d5-9-playbook-of-regulatory-recommendations-for-enabling-new-energy-systems/>



1.4 Other meetings and events

1.4.1 100 Climate Neutral Cities in Europe by 2030 (14-22 June 2021, online)

NTNU presented in the session “Roundtable European Smart City Lighthouse projects: lessons learned for companies and cities”, organised by Locality. The session explored a variety of experiences of setting up and executing the integrated and highly ambitious Horizon2020 smart city lighthouse projects by public-private collaboration. Representatives of Munich (Smarter Together), Amsterdam (Atelier), Rotterdam (Ruggedised) and Groningen (Making City), also shared their lessons learned and advice.

1.4.2 Sustainable Places 2021 conference (28 September - 1 October 2021, online)

Sustainable Places is an annual conference co-organised by R2M, which is a partner in +CityxChange and other SCC1 projects. In continuation of a workshop last year, the projects ATELIER, ENERGE, MakingCity, mySmartLife, Pocityf, and +CityxChange organised a joint workshop on “Energy Citizenship in New Energy Concepts: The Importance of Citizen Engagement”.⁶ Agenda details and a video of the session are available on the website.

NTNU and University of Limerick co-presented “CommunityxChange as a toolkit for empowered energy citizenship” as the +CityxChange contribution to the workshop, on September 29, 2021. At the event, the +CityxChange project approach was first presented and its multi-level impacts outlined. Then the six interconnected CommunityxChange concepts were framed as a toolkit and the potential for their integrated operation described. This was based on the completed WP3 deliverables and current experiences in implementation in the Lighthouse Cities. Citizen roles in the energy transition were outlined making reference to citizen empowerment as co-innovators – explorers, ideators, designers and diffusers - in the creation and replication of PEBs and PEDs. Implementation of Open Calls for Citizen Solutions (D3.2) and the Positive Energy Champion Network (D3.5) were presented along with some preliminary results.

In response to a question raised on the theoretical model for behaviour change adopted in the Positive Energy Champion framework, it was described how community-based social marketing and the trans-theoretical model of behaviour change had informed the approach. These had been placed within the +CityxChange project’s overarching framework of Open Innovation 2.0 and the Quadruple Helix paradigm. Another question addressed whether citizen roles as co-innovators had been adopted by participants in implementation. UL indicated that the campaign in Limerick saw citizens migrating across

⁶ <https://www.sustainableplaces.eu/energy-citizenship-in-new-energy-concepts/>



various co-innovator roles and themes when developing and implementing their individual step-by-step plans for change.

In parallel, the named projects are having regular sessions throughout the year on the topic of citizen engagement and energy citizenship. That work includes a developing joint publication on energy citizenship and PEDs. The initial thoughts were used for the workshop, which also led to a publication in the conference proceedings⁷.

Next steps will be an extended version of the workshop contributions and a larger article on the topic expected in 2022.

1.4.3 Sønderborg Climate Neutrality Conference (28-29 September 2021, online)

The Sønderborg Climate Neutrality Conference 2021 consisted of joint plenary sessions and two parallel tracks with focus on either technological solutions (track A) or societal aspects (track B), especially related to city engagement in climate change mitigation. The Municipality of Vöru, participated in a track B panel called “City Networks driving the Energy and Climate transition”. After this panel they highlighted the importance of knowing the municipalities’ specific challenges and tying the +CxX activities to those, instead of pursuing pathways that got interesting results elsewhere but will not solve their challenges.

1.4.4 I Foro Urbano de España (5-7 October 2021, Sevilla)

Sestao Berri represented the +CityXChange project in the “Positive Energy Districts - What does it mean and where are we going?” session in the I Foro Urbano de España on October 5th. The event was organized by the Spanish Green Building Council (GBCE) and vinculated to the MAKING-CITY project. The cities of Pamplona and Zaragoza also shared their PED experiences.

⁷ Energy Citizenship in New Energy Concepts. Mark van Wees, Beatriz Pineda Revilla, Helena Fitzgerald, Dirk Ahlers, Natalia Romero, Beril Alpagut, Joke Kort, Cyril Tjahja, Gabi Kaiser, Viktoria Blessing, Lia Patricio, Sander Smit. Environmental Sciences Proceedings. 11(1):27. MDPI. Proceedings of The 9th Annual Edition of Sustainable Places (SP 2021). Workshop report, held by SCC1 projects at Sustainable Places 2021. <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-4931/11/1/27>



2 Cooperation with EERA, SET-Plan Action 3.2 and the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership

2.1 Cooperation with SET-Plan Action 3.2

As reported in previous deliverables in this series, 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 SCC 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 D9.13.

NTNU was invited to present the EERA JP Smart Cities to the SCC BoC/SCALE on 28 May 2021, and to discuss more structured cooperation between the SCC innovation projects and the universities and RTOs of EERA JPSC. There is a similar dialogue between EERA JPSC and the SCC TG Replication. One of the most promising opportunities for cooperation is the development of an integrated PED framework for Europe.

2.2 Towards a European PED Integrated Framework

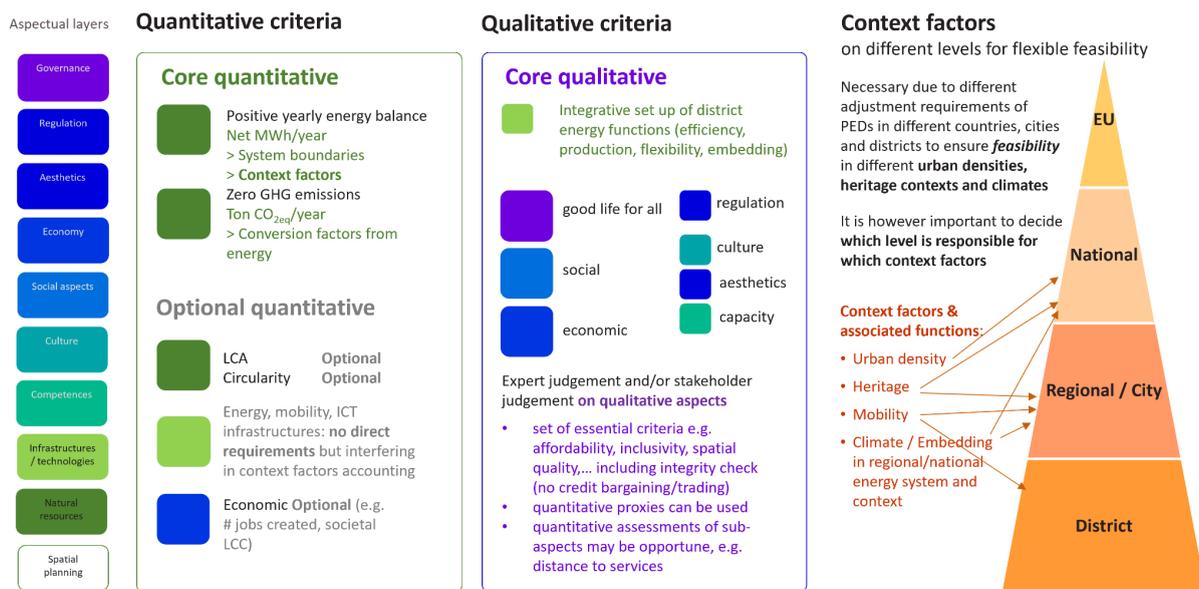
2.2.1 Alignment Activities

As mentioned in previous deliverables, we are actively contributing to the alignment work on PEDs. 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, the SCC01 TG Replication and SCALE, to discuss how to cooperate and complement each other on Positive Energy Districts. All of these programmes work with these topics, but with different types of stakeholders and instruments. The alignment will include, amongst others, a joint integrated framework for PEDs, a joint database, and a joint toolbox.



Through this alignment work, we aim to create an integrated PED definition and framework that will be comparable transnationally, with measurable KPIs that can support the European mission of achieving 100 PEDs by 2025 (SET-Plan Action 3.2), and support the PED calls to be launched by the PED programme and the PED pillar of the soon-to-be-launched Driving Urban Transitions Partnerships. We aim for the process to be inclusive and transparent, making sure of good representation of nationalities and disciplines, with a balance between a scientific and political approach.

PED Framework Definition Development



PED Framework Development Working proposal by Han Vandevyvere, Simon Schneider, Dirk Ahlers, Shima Goudarzi, Annemie Wyckmans - 07.07.2021, including contributions by Vicky Albert-Seifried, Gerhard Stryi-Hipp and the virtual board. Further updated 03.09.2021 by Han Vandevyvere

The integrated PED framework was discussed during a series of workshops⁸: a research workshop on 17 September 2021, a public workshop “Positive Energy Districts that are inclusive, beautiful, resilient and sustainable: towards a European framework” on 20 September 2021 during the Nordic Edge Expo, and a research workshop on 22 September 2021 during the Nordic Edge / UiS Research Symposium on Smart Cities. All workshops were hosted by NTNU in cooperation with EERA JPSC and SET-Plan Action 3.2. In addition we presented on +CxC’s PED developments during a parallel session of the scientific programme of the Smart City Research Symposium “Positive Energy Districts as vehicle towards smart and sustainable cities”, with a project presentation on "Challenges in Replication and Scaling of PEDs: Technical and Organisational Partnerships".⁹

⁸ <https://www.eera-sc.eu/news-and-resources/3079:european-ped-integration-framework.html>

⁹ Slides:

<https://www.slideshare.net/dhere/challenges-in-replication-and-scaling-of-peds-technical-and-organizational-partnerships-nordicedge2021>

One of the main outcomes of the research workshops, was the urge to ensure that R&I reaches impact - in order to do so, researchers to a larger degree need to work on activities that create impact, such as writing position papers, meeting with civic society and professional stakeholders, and in general move beyond the traditional academic realms of publishing scientific articles. During the public workshop, the need to make a framework adaptable to local and national conditions, yet comparable across contexts, was prominent. So was the request to develop a framework in which all districts can participate; not all districts can or should become positive energy, due to their historic, geographic, socio-economic or political context; in some cases they can better contribute in a different manner towards the city becoming climate-neutral.

The results of these workshops were used to further develop the working paper for presentation to the Steering Group of the SET-Plan Action 3.2.

In addition, +CxC contributed to work by the COST Action PED-EU-NET and the Smart Cities Marketplace on non-technical factors and tools within smart city lighthouse projects and other PED-related projects committed to implementing PEDs. Trondheim Kommune, University of Limerick, Limerick Municipality, Sestao Municipality, Colaborativa and NTNU participated in in-depth interviews aimed at providing a better understanding of how non-technical tools (tools not used to calculate, evaluate and design changes to the energy system and buildings, but for strategy development, citizen engagement, governance, financial aspects etc.) are used in +CityxChange. This research is expected to give input to a scientific paper literature review about non-technical tools and guidance for PED implementation that can help to address the barriers and seize incentives, to a report on practice and experiences, to minutes of online gap analysis together with Task Group Replication, and recommendations in solution booklet oriented to practitioners.

2.3 Other cooperation activities with SET-Plan Action 3.2

2.3.1 PED Programme Implementation Working Group (online, 25 May 2021)

This was a meeting for the SET Plan Action 3.2 Programme Management, National Delegates, and the Stakeholder Group.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of a Europe-wide, transnationally comparable PED definition, based on the PED Programme Framework Definition. During the meeting, the PED Integrated Framework (draft) was presented and discussed, and the next steps identified. This discussion gave input to the presentation to be held during the PED Programme Steering Committee Meeting on 8 June 2021.

NTNU presented the draft PED Integrated framework and gathered feedback from the participating businesses, cities and research organisations to further fine-tune it.

2.3.2 PED Programme Steering Committee meeting (online, 8 June 2021)

NTNU participated in the meeting as observer (R&I Chair of the Stakeholder Group). We presented the draft PED Integrated framework and gathered feedback from the participating funding agencies to further fine-tune it.



3 Interaction with EERA AISBL and EERA JP Smart Cities

3.1 Scope

As reported in previous deliverables of this series, 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. Most Project Coordinators of the SCC projects from 2018 and onwards 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.

3.1.1 Interaction with SCALE

In May 2021, EERA JP Smart Cities was invited to the monthly BoC/SCALE meeting to present its recent alignment work towards an integrated definition and framework for Positive Energy Districts and to discuss cooperation with the SCC projects - from research to practice and back. In this context, EERA JPSC will be an amplifier and a multiplier for research-based initiatives on Positive Energy Districts and Climate-Neutral Cities, and as starting ground for identifying gaps in the landscape and creating new initiatives, such as the COST Action PED-EU-NET, the IEA EBC Annex 83, the SCC Lighthouse projects and others.

EERA JPSC will work together with initiatives such as the Smart Cities Marketplace (including its Action Clusters and Initiatives), the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the HEU Cities Mission, SCALE and others to ensure that evidence-based knowledge informs practice and policy development. In addition to an integrated PED definition and framework, these initiatives will work together on PED mapping, technical and governance tools, and a project database. In June 2021, the alignment work on PEDs was presented to the SET-Plan Action 3.2 Steering Group.



3.1.2 The Clean Energy Transition and the New European Bauhaus

In June 2021, EERA started to discuss how to use the New European Bauhaus initiative to boost the clean energy transition, amongst others by:

- Translating research and policy into action, and actively embracing citizen-driven initiatives.
- Cooperating directly with citizens, communities and other stakeholders to co-create positive, actionable solutions for their daily lives. E.g., showing concrete experiences of how installing PV on the roof of someone's home can increase their indoor comfort, and how it reduces their energy bills.
- Addressing energy poverty, making the clean energy transition accessible and irresistible to everyone
- Setting up cross-sectoral cooperation structures with utility owners, investors, real estate developers etc, and invite art, cultural and creative sectors, social science and humanities in to "challenge" established experts on clean energy transition
- Using more storytelling in communication regarding the clean energy transition, to make it more tangible

The mutual interaction between the Clean Energy Transition and the New European Bauhaus was further explored in a policy session¹⁰ on "Beyond Technology: The Clean Energy Transition for climate-neutral, smart, and beautiful cities and communities" during the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2021, led by EERA aisbl. The policy session was held online on 14 October 2021. The speaker list included Adel El Gammal, the Secretary General of EERA; Georg Houben, Policy Officer Smart Cities & Communities - DG ENER – Team, Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition, European Commission; Lucienne Krosse, Thematic Lead for Smart Buildings and Cities - InnoEnergy; and Charlotte Spörndli, General Manager - Association European Energy Award AISBL. The session was moderated by NTNU.

¹⁰

<https://www.eera-set.eu/events/3033:beyond-technology-the-clean-energy-transition-for-climate-neutral-smart-and-beautiful-cities.html>



4 Conclusions

During months 31-36 of the +CityxChange, we have continued to reinforce our interactions with other SCC projects, the Smart Cities Marketplace, SET-Plan Action 3.2 and EERA JP Smart Cities. As +CityxChange is close to finalising its implementation phase (pending extensions due to COVID-19), the opportunity to connect with other lighthouse demonstrators and to exchange experiences on processes, technologies, regulatory challenges and other learnings, and to convey these towards decision makers at national and European level, is invaluable. We have therefore taken on several active and coordinating roles towards other projects and platforms, to help accelerate the development and dissemination of these cross-cutting insights.

