

Summary Conclusions

Smart Cities Delegates Meeting in Vienna, 21st of May 2012

Participants (sorted by countries): Brigitte Bach, Claudia Dankl, Stefan Gara, Catrin Haider, Robert Hinterberger, Andreas Indinger, Sabine Jung, Jessen Page, Reinhard Schütz, Hans-Günther Schwarz, Mario Steyer, Helmut Strasser (AT), Gabrielle Masy (BE), Robert Horbaty (CH), Blanka Marsalkova (CZ), Reinhard Jank (DE), Patrick Driscoll (DK), Antonio Marijuan (ES), Sampsa Nissinen (FI), Anne Chereyon Perchet (F), Eline Skard (NO), Emina Pasic (SE), Boštjan Blažič (SI), Jan Magyar (SV); Georg Houben (European Commission)

Apologies: Paola Clerici (IT), Eva Prohaszkova (CZ)

Not present this time: Anastasio Papandreou (CY), Madis Laaniste (EE), Marcello Capra (IT), Dainies Dravnieks (LV), Jos Verlinden (NL), Katarzyna Sobótka (PL), Paolo Ferrao (PT), Ilknur Yilmaz (TK), Steve Martin (UK)

Meeting Venue: Vienna, Tech Base

1. Welcome and recent developments in Smart Cities (Hans-Günther Schwarz, BMVIT)

Out of valuable discussions, a common Smart Cities Vision as well as profound knowledge on its policy background has emerged in the course of the Smart Cities Member States Initiative (MSI). Through the engagement of the national delegates and experts, the role of the Smart Cities MSI has taken shape. As most important activities, the following points were mentioned:

- Stock taking (of programmes, projects and research institutions)
- Create a common basis for future development (identify best practice for RD&I framework, make use of the results of the EERA JP Smart Cities, agree on standards, ...)
- Jointly drive the process towards Smart Cities, together with EC (establishing standards and finance mechanisms; preparing roll out in partnership among cities; delivering input for European policy)

HG Schwarz also presented a draft proposal of topics for a joint MS+AS call, which were accepted in principle by the attendees and therefore put up for discussion within the break-out sessions. Additionally, a report on the following events was given: (1) FP7/ Work Programme 2013: a Smart Cities related ERA-NET was proposed at the last Programme Committee Meeting but did not receive enough support to push this additional topic at such a late stage; (2) The European Commission published an "Orientation Paper" prepared in connection with the FP7 2013 Work Programme in the area of ENERGY with special emphasis on a cross-cutting approach in support of the new European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities; (3) SET Plan Conference Berlin (March 19th, 2012) and a subsequent meeting in Brussels (March 30th, 2012): Director Marie Donnelly agreed to the principle of a direct dialogue between the Smart Cities MSI and the EC.

2. Smart Cities concept (Jessen Page, AIT)

Jessen Page presented: (1) a commonly accepted concept of a Smart City, (2) the scope of a Smart City (Buildings, networks, supply technologies and urban energy planning) as well as (3) the methods, which form the basis of the concept (integration of processes, concepts and technologies, Information and communication technologies). The development and standardisation of decision support tools and integrated energy strategies were identified as essential next steps towards an implementation of Smart Cities. Last, the EERA (European Energy Research Alliance), with its joint programme on Smart Cities, was presented as a suitable future cooperation partner for the Smart Cities MSI, as all of the energy related RTOs participating in the EERA are funded by national money anyway.

3. The Smart Cities and Communities Initiative (Georg Houben, European Commission)

The presentation gave an overview of what happened so far in the course of the Smart Cities & Communities Initiative of the European Commission but also presented future activities like a call for proposals in the WP 2013 of the FP7, which will focus on large-scale demo projects in terms of supply-technologies. The EC's Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform was explained as being a matrix organisation with an open internet forum (for everyone) and five working groups (with access to some of the WGs being by invitation only). Last, an outlook on future activities of the EC was provided, with special emphasis on a joint Communication by the DsG on Energy, Transport, ICT and REGIO on the theme of Smart Cities, which will be published in July 2012. The attendees used the opportunity of an open discussion with an EC representative. One point made in the discussion was that the dates for the Stakeholder Platform's events are frequently changing. Thereupon, G. Houben explained the state-of-play concerning the next events: (1) Working groups meet on the 5th of June; (2) A Smart Cities Conference will take place on 10th of July but will most likely be held as an internal EC event.

4. Current status of programme and project screening activity (Catrin Haider, BMVIT)

Catrin Haider presented the first results of the ongoing screening of Smart Cities projects which presently includes 49 projects in 24 cities from 12 of the participating countries. The total budget of those projects amounts to € 618 Million. The screening showed that: (1) National funds are the most common source for financing Smart Cities projects; (2) Existing building and infrastructure stock are the main target areas of the submitted projects; (3) There's a lack of innovation within governance processes as well as (4) insufficient industry involvement. C. Haider also gave an update of the screening of programmes which, up till now, comprises 36 funding programmes from 13 different countries with a total budget of 3.15 Billion €. The outcomes of the screening processes will be summarized in a summary report. Key-messages drawn from the screening will serve as a foundation for the future activities of the Smart Cities MSI.

5. Introduction to break-out sessions (Hans-Günther Schwarz, BMVIT)

The introduction provided the base for the break-out sessions, in which delegates and experts discussed on the topics proposed for joint calls in 2013:

- Scientific tools and methods (development of an integrated simulation/modelling platform)
- Governance and planning processes (standardisation of city transformation processes)
- Monitoring and KPIs (Integrated urban monitoring concepts)

6. Break-out sessions

The attendees basically supported the suggested topics for a possible joint call, as their thematic orientation is seen as being complementary to the EC's calls in FP7. Nevertheless, the experts and delegates suspected that in many countries it won't be easy to secure the financial support needed. Detailed comments and suggestions for improvement regarding the topics are documented in the minutes of the break-out sessions (see the next pages).

7. Summary and next steps (Hans-Günther Schwarz, BMVIT)

The delegates and experts agreed that the process of the Smart Cities Member States Initiative shall be continued. Some members of the MSI will be present at the first meeting of the working groups of the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform on 5th of June and will therefore be able to represent the position of the MSI. A detailed draft proposal for the joint call topics will be circulated before summer. The next meeting is foreseen for autumn 2013. Until then, the delegates are asked to clarify their national position regarding participation in the joint call. Concerning this matter, it was also considered helpful to include national funding agencies in a future meeting.

End of Meeting: 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: scheduled for autumn 2012