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Smart Cities Days 2016 make the cities of tomorrow liveable

Climate- and Energy Fund presents the pioneer projects of its Smart-Cities-Initiative at the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference in Graz

The intensified climate goals agreed in Paris demand the quickest possible and most comprehensive reconstruction of our energy and mobility systems. Technological innovations alone however are not enough. The most important thing is to integrate these sensibly into the everyday lives of the public and to make them affordable for everyone. To this end the Climate- and Energy Fund set its Smart-Cities-Initiative into action, which has now already been running as a pioneer in the whole of Europe since 2010. Throughout Austria 32 urban regions have already dedicated themselves to these goals and 61 concrete projects have been started. About 30 million Euro in sponsorship has been invested. In today's press conference, within the framework of the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference Graz, the Climate- and Energy Fund is presenting three of these trendsetting city projects: Graz, Oberwart and Hallein demonstrate quite impressively in which diverse ways the transformation into the city of tomorrow is possible.

Sustainable living space for our future

How and where will we live and work in the future? Which new subjects and tasks will the cities have to deal with in the future and in what form? In order to optimise the quality of life for future generations, the way that technical advances are intelligently put into action in the everyday life of city inhabitants will carry a decisive roll. „*Our energy and mobility future will be decided in the cities. They are our innovation space in which the most diverse of living environments collide into each other and new technologies spread with breathtaking speed. The city must also be affordable, worth living in and environmentally friendly into the future*“, stressed Theresia **Vogel**, the managing director of the Climate- and Energy Fund. The goal of a smart city is therefore to make technological innovations tangible and perceptible and make the cooperative designing of the inhabitants' own living space possible. „*If we want to achieve the intensified climate goals of a maximum 1.5 degrees agreed in Paris, then we need to quickly set the reconstruction of our system into motion. The Climate- and Energy Fund has already been delivering feasible answers for years to the energy and mobility questions of the future. We are making the city of tomorrow tangible today.*“

Showcase project in Graz,...

A perfect example for the change to an energy efficient, resource saving and low emission producing city is the project „Smart City Graz“. „*Through the combination of urban technologies for using renewable energy sources with the sustainable mobility and social mixing, a future workable, intelligent city district has been created in the middle of Graz. This should not only have a pioneering characteristic but also primarily be transmittable to and useable in further city districts,*“ explained Bertram **Werle**, city building director of the city of Graz.

...Oberwart...

To this end Oberwart also set their sights and put the extensive networking of energy producers in the foreground with their Smart-City-Projekt „Loadshift Oberwart“. „*Renewable energies bring new challenges and chances with them, especially if this*

deals with the supply of constant energy for the user or also the energy delivery of decentralised producers into the energy grid. That is why we in Oberwart are developing a building and user comprehensive energy management system with our partners in industry and business." stressed project manager Andreas Schneemann.

...and Hallein

The young, aspiring project „Living goes to town“ in Hallein concentrates on social aspects and impressively shows how Smart Cities are increasing in popularity. „*As an example, in the Burgfried estate in Hallein we are following an integrative approach toward the redevelopment and modernisation of buildings and building groups in social or communal housing estates. Above all the opinions and the needs of the inhabitants in coordination with the technical necessities should prescribe the direction for the redevelopment of further existing buildings and redensification,*“ emphasised Architect Paul Schweizer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Smart-Cities-Initiative of the Climate- and Energy Fund:

30 Mio. Euro sponsorship budget – 27 cities, 5 regions – 61 projects

In 2010 the Climate- and Energy Fund started its Smart-Cities-Initiative as the first sponsor of its kind throughout the whole of Europe. In cooperation with the Austrian ministry for transport, innovation and technology (bmvit) the Climate- and Energy Fund has been running seven Smart-Cities-Calls from 2010 to 2015. The focus of the tenders lay in the development of visions and the subsequent support of concrete demonstrations and implementation projects. The seventh tender which started in the autumn of 2015 and is still running until the 15th of March 2016, also pushes social innovations into the foreground as a transversal issue. From 2010 until 2015, 30 million Euro in sponsorship has been approved for 27 Smart Cities and 5 Smart Regions. Since the beginning of the tenders in 2010 a total of 61 individual projects have been put into action in the whole of Austria.

The Smart Cities Days at the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference

Graz is the international hotspot on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2016 for the cities of the future: the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference is one of the worldwide largest events for sustainable city development. This year for the first time the Smart Cities Days is also taking place within the framework of the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference, organised by the Climate- and Energy Fund and the bmvit.

Following the motto „Explore – Exchange – Experiment“ on Wednesday this event format of the Smart-Cities-Initiative is offering the OPEN SPACE - Innovations for urban quality of life. At this event the scientific Smart City-Community is meeting together with the living practice of the city and urban development: The panel of guests of OPEN SPACE come from the areas of science, public administration, art and culture, business, civil society and politics.

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