

ICLEI in Europe News



August 2017

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

www.iclei-europe.org

Dear Members, Partners and Friends of ICLEI,

We are pleased to send you the latest news on ICLEI in Europe and our partners for urban sustainability!

You can also read these news articles and find more information on the topics at www.iclei-europe.org.

Don't hesitate to send your news and information to information.services@iclei.org.

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1. Power to the people: the rise of participatory budgeting in Europe

The ceaseless advances in digital technology are breathing new life into an old concept. Across Europe, a growing number of cities are adopting a form of citizen engagement that was first trialled in the 1980s in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Participatory budgeting encourages citizens to decide how a pre-defined portion of their local budget is spent. By doing so, it puts decision-making power in the hands of residents.

To read the full article, click [here](#).
Image copyright: Photo on [Dreamstime](#) by Benis Arapovic



2. ICLEI Member News

New station-less bike-share system to enhance sustainable mobility in Florence

Transportation in Florence (Italy) has gotten smarter and more inclusive with the announcement of an extensive bike-share programme, which will see the city make 8,000 bikes available from 2 August 2017. The programme does not require fixed bike stations or docks (in which users pick up and drop off bikes), instead an app identifies the nearest available bike through GPS and allows users to reserve them.



For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: (City of Florence)

Paris launches trial of autonomous shuttle bus service

As of the beginning of July, a new driverless, electric shuttle bus service has been running in Paris (France). The trials are taking place in La Défense, Europe's largest business district. Free of charge for all users, the service offers three different routes that serve the main areas of La Défense. Two of the routes will operate at ten minute intervals at peak times during the week, whilst the third will run every 20 minutes at the weekends.



For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).

A new parking garage aims to stop bicycle chaos in Utrecht



In the Netherlands, cyclists benefit from wide, protected bicycle paths and special traffic lights. However, finding parking space for thousands of bicycles can cause difficulty. At the train station in Utrecht (the Netherlands), an underground bicycle park will soon be created as an attempt to solve this problem.

For more information, click [here](#).
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3. EU cities invited to take-part in global pairing programme

Cities in European Union Member States who wish to exchange with a city facing similar challenges in another global region are encouraged to apply for the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation programme on sustainable urban development. The programme aims to foster links between EU cities (in particular those with more than 50,000 inhabitants) and those in Latin America and the Caribbean, India, Japan, North America, and Asia.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).



4. Committee of the Regions urges greater renewable energy ambition



The Committee of the Regions (CoR), the body representing local and regional governments at EU level, has adopted an opinion on the European Commission's legislative proposal "Renewable energy and the internal market in electricity", calling for Member States to set binding targets for the share of renewable sources in their energy mix that surpass the EU-mandated target of 27 percent by 2030.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).

5. FIESTA guide aims to save families money on their energy bill

A guide released by the EU-funded FIESTA project provides European families with helpful advice on lowering their energy bill and their carbon footprint. Aimed at the general public, the document looks at general areas of household energy consumption, from heating and cooling to cooking, outlining simple ways to save money. An [event will be held on 5 September 2017](#) in Brussels (Belgium) to discuss the outcomes and findings of the FIESTA project.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).



6. European Green Capital competitions open for entries



Local governments across Europe are invited to apply for the European Commission's European Green Capital Award 2020 for larger cities, and the European Green Leaf Awards 2019 for smaller cities. The closing date for applications is 18 October 2017. For the first time, the winner of the European Green Capital Award 2020 will receive €350,000 to support their environmental programmes, while the European Green Leaf Award 2019 winner will receive €75,000.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).

7. Call for cities to shape Urban Water Agenda strategy extended to 9 October

In response to concerns about water quality issues and delays in the implementation of EU water policy, the European Commission has turned its attention to cities and their potential for innovation and improvement in managing water more effectively. With the new Urban Water Agenda 2030 initiative, the Commission hopes to mobilise local governments – including their water utilities – to better share effective policies and practices between themselves, increasing ambition in realising sustainable water management.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Pixabay](#).



8. European Urban Transport Roadmaps 2030 to join CIVITAS Forum



European Urban Transport Roadmaps 2030 is partnering with the CIVITAS initiative at the 2017 CIVITAS Forum (27-29 September 2017) to showcase a policy tool that allows decision-makers to analyse the relative impact of different combinations of sustainable urban mobility measures. Commissioned by DG MOVE of the European Commission, the tool helps cities deliver on the goals of their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) by enabling them to forecast the impact of measures and understand whether they are the best solution to the challenges they face.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Bike Bus lanes \(Flickr\)](#) by "Oregon Department of Transportation".

9. 8th International Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns awarded

[The 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns](#), a 2016 event hosted by ICLEI, the Basque Government, and the Provincial Councils of the three regional Basque capital cities, was awarded third place in the "Most responsible event" category at the [EventoPLUS awards](#) in Madrid (Spain). The awards recognise the best events of the year held in Spain. The 8th International Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns gathered 800 people from across Europe in Bilbao to discuss ways to develop more sustainable societies.

For more information, click [here](#).
Image copyright: [Premios EventoPLUS](#)



10. Event News

Lowering energy use in family homes - the FIESTA approach (B@S 25)

The 25th edition of ICLEI's long-running Breakfast at Sustainability's series will be held on Tuesday 5 September, focusing on the work of the EU-funded [FIESTA project](#). ICLEI is hosting the event in association with project coordinator AREA Science Park Trieste. FIESTA helps families with children to save money and lower their carbon footprint by reducing the amount of energy they consume.

For more information, click [here](#).

Last opportunity to register for Urban Green Infrastructure conference

Concluding the GREEN SURGE project, the conference "Urban Green Infrastructure - Connecting People and Nature for Sustainable Cities" is taking place in ICLEI Member Malmö (Sweden) from 20 - 21 September 2017. The conference will share the insights from the GREEN SURGE project and the tools developed to support urban planners and managers. The two day conference will be a platform for researchers, decision-makers, planners, and practitioners to express ideas, experiences and expectations related to effective applications, emerging opportunities and future challenges of nature-based solutions for sustainable urban development.

For more information, click [here](#).

Unlocking financing for local climate action Conference

ICLEI and the province of Flemish Brabant will hold the conference "Unlocking financing for local climate action - Practical information for smaller municipalities" in Leuven (Belgium) on 11 October, providing smaller-sized European cities and towns with practical information on accessing finance for local energy and climate action.

For more information, click [here](#).

11. Event Calendar

[Lowering energy use in family homes - the FIESTA approach \(B@S 25\)](#)
5 September 2017 - Brussels (Belgium)

[EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK](#)
16 - 22 September 2017 - Global

[Cities and Climate Conference 2017](#)
19 - 21 September 2017 - Potsdam (Germany)

[International Cycling Conference 2017 \(PASTA Project final conference\)](#)
20 September 2017 - Mannheim (Germany)

[GREEN SURGE International Conference 2017](#)
20 - 21 September 2017 - Malmö (Sweden)

[CIVITAS FORUM Conference 2017](#)
27 - 29 September 2017 - Torres Vedras (Portugal)

[Unlocking financing for local climate action Conference](#)
11 October 2017 - Leuven (Belgium)

[Procura+ Awards Ceremony](#)
17 October 2017 - Tallinn (Estonia)

[Circular Procurement Congress](#)
19 October 2017 - Tallinn (Estonia)

[Amsterdam International Water Week](#)
30 October - 3 November 2017 - Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Feedback? Questions? Let us know! If you have any further questions, would like to give feedback on ICLEI's work in Europe or would like to be taken off this mailing list, contact us at information.services@iclei.org

The ICLEI in Europe newsletter is produced by the European Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Copies are available on request. Editor: Sean Carroll.

Comments and questions are welcome - please write to Sean Carroll at information.services@iclei.org. Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany, Tel: +49-761/36 89 2-0. www.iclei-europe.org.

ICLEI is a membership organisation of local governments and their associations. To date more than 1,000 municipalities and municipal associations of all sizes from around the world have made a unique commitment to sustainable development by joining ICLEI. They support the work of ICLEI through their membership fees as well as through their experience and creativity in the development and implementation of projects and campaigns to address the globe's biggest problems. Within the organisation they are part of a network of peers that can profit from each other's knowledge. For membership information please have a look at our website or contact: membership.services@iclei.org.

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