

## ICLEI in Europe News



September 2017

**ICLEI**  
Local  
Governments  
for Sustainability

[www.iclei-europe.org](http://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](http://www.iclei-europe.org).

Don't hesitate to send your news and information to [information.services@iclei.org](mailto:information.services@iclei.org).

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### 1. An interview with Iñaki Arriola, Minister for the Environment, Territorial Planning and Housing of the Basque Country

A year ago, the Basque Country hosted the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns. What has the legacy of that conference been in the Basque Country?

The choice to hold the event in the Basque Country was an important recognition of the work of the Basque authorities in recent years. It highlighted the benefits of our inter-institutional coordination model, showcasing its capacity to integrate different tiers of governance: municipal, provincial, and regional. We were enthusiastic about holding the conference, and saw it as an affirmation of the way in which our institutions cooperated with different segments of society. It was also an excellent opportunity for Basque municipalities to showcase their achievements, and to learn more about new sustainability projects and ideas.



To read the full article, click [here](#).  
Image copyright: [Iñaki Arriola \(Ireka, Basque Country Spain\)](#)

### 2. ICLEI Member News

#### Warsaw Recycling Days see residents swap rubbish for plants



During the Warsaw Recycling Days, residents of all districts in the Polish capital were able to swap rubbish - such as electronic waste, plastic, metal, paper, glass, and batteries - for shrub, flower, and herb seedlings. The Warsaw Recycling Days is an annual event that promotes recycling as a way to achieve the balanced management of limited resources.

For more information, click [here](#).  
Image copyright: [Warsaw City \(Flickr\)](#)

#### Bristol annual event returns to explore the health and sustainability of the city

This October will see the return of Bristol's (United Kingdom) annual [Healthy City Week](#). Taking place from 7 - 14, the week-long event will run a series of discussions, lectures and workshops exploring the health and sustainability of the city. The event aims to create and deepen conversations around some of the major health and sustainability challenges the city faces.

For more information, click [here](#).  
Image copyright: [Bristol city \(Flickr\)](#)



#### Cyclists encouraged to help make Brussels more bike friendly



A new project in Brussels (Belgium) is giving citizens a chance to influence cycling infrastructure within the Belgian capital: and all with the push of a button. "[PING if you care](#)", which started in May, enables bike riders to mark unsafe traffic situations, or unsatisfactory cycling infrastructure that they encounter. This is done by pressing the PING button, a wireless Bluetooth-enabled device that can be attached to bikes or clothing. The button then sends the data to an app via Bluetooth.

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

### 3. EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK 2017 breaks participation record

The 2017 EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK campaign has set a new record for participation, with 2,478 cities from 50 countries officially taking part. Throughout the week, which is held from 16 - 22 September each year, towns and cities are encouraged to present sustainable mobility alternatives to local residents, allowing them to experience the benefits of car-free travel.

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



#### 4. Survey launched on health effects of blue spaces in urban areas



In recent years, the correlation between urban green spaces and positive health has been well established. The EU-funded BlueHealth project is examining the health effects of living near blue spaces, such as canals, lakes, and rivers. As part of the project, a criteria will be produced for a decision support tool on planning and integrating blue spaces in cities. The tool will be aimed at local actors.

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

#### 5. 2017 Procura+ Awards finalists announced

Six finalists for the [2017 Procura+ Awards](#) have been announced, representing outstanding sustainable and innovation procurements carried out in Europe. All six are competing across three award categories: 'Sustainable Procurement of the Year', 'Innovation Procurement of the Year', and 'Tender Procedure of the Year'.

For more information, click [here](#).  
Image copyright: Procura+ Award Trophy by "Bill Watts"



#### 6. Transformative Action Awards shortlist announced



Four finalists for the [Transformative Actions Awards](#) have been announced. The award, funded by the Basque Country and the City of Aalborg (Denmark), rewards current or concluded Transformative Actions that address the three pathways of the Basque Declaration: Socio-cultural transformation, socio-economic transformation, and technological transformation.

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

#### 7. Event News

##### Unlocking financing for local climate action

This practical conference, set to take place in Leuven (Belgium) on 11 October, will focus on access to finance for local energy and climate action, with a particular emphasis on smaller-sized European cities and towns. Experts from the European Commission, the Global Covenant of Mayors, and the European Investment Bank will help to shape the discussion, with input from local government representatives who have engaged in successful financing practices. Registration for the event is available [online](#).

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

##### Speeding up market-uptake of buildings renovation in Europe

In Europe, buildings are responsible for 40 percent of energy consumption and 36 percent of CO2 emissions. This event, taking place in Brussels (Belgium) on 12 October, will discuss the challenges shared by local governments in Europe in improving the energy efficiency of their building stock. A great line-up of experts will share and explore innovative technical and financial solutions and policies to boost the market uptake of renovation.

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

##### Circular and Innovation Procurement to be highlighted at Estonian EU Presidency events

In the second half of 2017, the [Estonian Presidency of the EU](#) will see two major European procurement conferences in Tallinn (Estonia). The Conference on Innovation Procurement will take place from 17-18 October, while the Circular Procurement Congress will be held from 18-19 October. Since the first Circular Procurement Congress in April 2016 the topic of the transition to a Circular Economy has enjoyed increased focus at the EU level, resulting in a growing number of projects and initiatives involving local governments and the mainstreaming of the Circular Procurement concept.

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

##### Brussels conference to explore setting standards for the smart city

Many cities are unfamiliar with the benefits of adopting voluntary standards and are unsure of how to get involved in the standardisation system. This conference, on 19 October in Brussels (Belgium), will bring cities and standardisers together to discuss the value of standardisation and to debate priorities and needs for cities in their journey to become smarter and more sustainable.

## 8. Event Calendar

[Smart Cities Information System \(SCIS\) final conference](#)  
2-3 October 2017 – Budapest (Hungary)

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

[Speeding up market-uptake of buildings renovation in Europe](#)  
12 October 2017 – Brussels (Belgium)

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

[Webinar on Urban Sustainability Management](#)  
17 October 2017, 18:00 (CEST) - Online

[Conference on innovation procurement](#)  
17-18 October - Tallinn (Estonia)

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

[Cities set standards to be smarter and more sustainable](#)  
19 October 2017 – Brussels (Belgium)

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

[Cities and Regions Pavilion at COP23](#)  
6 - 17 November 2017 – Bonn (Germany)

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](mailto: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](mailto:information.services@iclei.org), Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany, Tel: +49-761/36 89 2-0, [www.iclei-europe.org](http://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](mailto:membership.services@iclei.org)

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