EFFICIENCE DECLARATION

Energy Efficiency for Public Transport Infrastructure in Central Europe

Context

The share of transport in the primary energy consumption in the EU has been growing steadily during the last three decades, fuelled by the increase of mobility demand, and currently accounts for approximately one third of the total.[1] The trend of the consequent CO_2 emissions is similar, with transport – the only major economic sector with a growth in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since 1990 – now accounting for one quarter of the EU's total GHG emissions.[2] This poses a challenge to meeting the EU's climate and energy targets.[3] While in the EU-15 the final energy consumption of transport has grown by 23 percent between 1990 and 2016, the increase in CEE was 89 percent, mostly because of the low 1990 basis.[4]

However, many of the region's cities have still extensive public transport systems, which can form the basis of low-carbon mobility services.[5] More than 63% of commuters in Central Europe are using public transport. Measures to increase the energy efficiency and share of renewables in public transport infrastructure can thus have a particularly high impact on reducing CO_2. With energy prices going up continuously, investing in smarter and more flexible energy systems including energy storage solutions can be a solution in significantly cutting the costs.

About EfficienCE

EfficienCE is a cooperation project funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE programme that aims at reducing the carbon footprint in the region. The goal of the project is to improve energy efficiency and to increase the use of renewable energy in public transport, as improvements in this sector can have a particularly high impact on reducing CO_2.

The EfficienCE project helps local authorities to reduce CO_2 emissions and integrate renewables in their public infrastructure. This is achieved by developing planning and financing strategies and action plans, implementing pilot actions, developing tools and trainings for authorities and public transport companies to plan and operate low-carbon infrastructure, and by transferring knowledge and best practices on energy-efficient measures across central European regions.

[1] Final energy consumption by sector and fuel. EEA, 2017 https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/final-energy-consumption-by-sector-9/assessment-1

[2] Progress of EU transport sector towards its environment and climate objectives. EEA, 2018 https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/transport/term/term-briefing-2018

[3] Progress of EU transport sector towards its environment and climate objectives. EEA, 2018 https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/transport/term/term-briefing-2018

[4] Calculation based on Simplified energy balances - annual data. Eurostat, 2018 http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=nrg_100a

[5] The energy transition in Central and Eastern Europe: The business case for higher ambition. The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group, 2019 https://www.corporateleadersgroup.com/reports-evidence-and-insights/energy-transition-in-central-and-eastern-europe

Twelve partners, including seven public transport authorities/companies from seven countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Italy) are working together for three years to exploit the untapped potentials in this sector and to contribute to the EU's 'White Paper' goals to cut transport emissions by 60 percent by 2050 and to halve the use of 'conventionally fuelled' cars in urban transport by 2030.[6]

The Declaration

EfficienCE's stakeholders, namely the members of *EfficienCE User Forum;* local, regional and national public authorities; sectoral agencies; public transport authorities and companies (Infrastructure and [public] service providers); interest groups including NGOs; higher education and research institutions; education/training centres and schools; large enterprises and SMEs; business support organisations; international organisations and EEIG under national law; city associations, consultancies, the media, and related projects, are hereby invited to sign the *EfficienCE Declaration*, thereby signalling a commitment to embrace its objectives by:

1. Introducing and advocating the improvement of energy efficiency and the increase of the use of renewable energy in public transport through developing and sharing strategies, tools and action plans to strengthen competences of transport authorities, public transport operators and other relevant stakeholders;
2. Participating in capacity building through joining and contributing to the transnational workshops / trainings for energy-efficient PT infrastructure planning and deployment, and/or making use of the guides, tools and handbooks developed within the project;
3. And thus contributing to EfficienCE's aim to reduce CO_2 emissions in the transport sector.

Signed at

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On

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By (Ms / Mr Forename / Surname / Official position / City or Organisation or Project)

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Signature

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[6] White Paper – Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system COM/2011/0144 final https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/2011_white_paper_en