

ICLEI in Europe News



January 2018

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. ICLEI Regional Director Wolfgang Teubner reflects on the challenges and successes of 2017

Dear Members, Partners, Colleagues and Friends,

I hope you all had a great start into 2018, and wish you health, happiness, and success for the year to come.

The turn of the year is a time when we tend to look back at the year that has passed and forward to the year ahead of us, often with hope and expectation, as well as good intentions. When looking back at last year's message I realised that overall not much has changed in our world, at least not in a positive way. I think it is fair to state that most of the challenges have remained the same, or even grown in size. On the other hand, we have witnessed many great initiatives and achievements by our cities and urban regions, which contribute to keeping these challenges under control, and make our urban areas better places to live.

Following the positive developments of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement in 2015, and the shocks from Brexit and the US election in 2016, the past year seemed to be a year of re-orientation and adjusting to the new circumstances in global and European politics, exploring how to address the challenges on the global level without losing the momentum that had been created in 2015. The US president's announcement to withdraw from the Paris Agreement was certainly not helpful in this respect, even though no further country was prepared to follow that line.



To read the full article, click [here](#).
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2. ICLEI Member News

Nijmegen takes on title of European Green Capital



ICLEI Member Nijmegen (The Netherlands) officially took on the title of European Green Capital 2018 at a handover ceremony on 20 January. Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, passed the title of European Green Capital from current holder Essen (Germany) to the Dutch city. "It is with great honour that I pass the title of European Green Capital to Nijmegen, the first Dutch city to win the award. Nijmegen has shown what true collaboration can achieve," said Commissioner Vella.

For more information, click [here](#).
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Bristol expands access to sustainable heat and energy

ICLEI Member Bristol (United Kingdom) has begun to expand existing heat networks, allowing more businesses and homes in the city to access low carbon, sustainable heat and energy. The existing network has already provided over 700 residents in social housing blocks with low carbon and affordable heat for their homes. Installation, which involves a large underground network of pipes, will coincide with planned road improvements in an attempt to minimise disruption.

For more information, click [here](#).
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Zagreb welcomes city's first underground waste separation containers



Underground waste separation containers have been installed in ICLEI Member Zagreb (Croatia), enabling the hygienic separation of plastic, paper, glass, and textile waste. The first waste container, which has a capacity of 1,100 litres and costs around €19,000, is located on Kranjčevićeva Street in the old city centre. Since its installation a further two containers have been introduced in other central locations.

For more information, click [here](#).
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3. European cities could avoid up to 10,000 premature deaths by expanding cycling networks

A study published in the journal 'Preventive Medicine' has found that expanding designated cycling networks in cities could provide considerable health and economic benefits. The analysis of data from 167 European cities, carried out as part of the EU-funded Physical Activity through Sustainable Transport Approaches (PASTA) project, estimates that if all the assessed cities achieved a 24.7 percent bicycle mode share, over 10,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually.

To read the full article, click [here](#).
Image Copyright: Sourced from the PASTA Project



4. ICLEI congratulates Maimunah Sharif as the next Executive Director of UN-Habitat



Maimunah Sharif, Mayor of Penang Island (Malaysia), and an active member of the ICLEI Global Executive Committee, has been appointed as the next Executive Director of UN-Habitat, the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. This is the first time an active ICLEI leader has been appointed to such a function.

For more information, click [here](#).
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5. Bidding opens for the third VeloCittà Conference

The bidding process for the third VeloCittà Conference for Cities and Bike Share is now open. The conference provides cities with good cycling practices whilst exploring the topic of bike sharing in the wider context of sustainable mobility and spatial planning. Cities interested in hosting the event are invited to review the Bidding Package and submit their application before 26 January 2018. Selection of the host city will take place on 28 February 2018.

For more information, click [here](#).
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6. New report examines take-up of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans in Europe

In some parts of Europe, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) have yet to gain popularity. Knowledge exists within the SUMP community as to why this is the case, but until recently there had been no systematic, in-depth empirical assessment that collected comprehensive data on the issue. A new report from CIVITAS SUMP-Up fills this gap. Based on a needs assessment that collected responses from mobility experts and over 300 cities, it examines SUMP take-up

across the continent.



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

Thermos European Inspire Event: Affordable Smart Heating – Dream or Reality?

This one day event, taking place on 25 January from 14.30-17.30, seeks to inspire those who want to make integrated heating and cooling systems a major part of their Smart Cities and Communities concept. The event will take place at the Permanent Representation of Romania, Rue Montoyer 12, Brussels (Belgium).

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

EU Covenant of Mayors investment forum and ceremony

The [EU Covenant of Mayors](#) will hold an investment forum on financing climate adaptation, clean urban transport and energy efficiency in Brussels (Belgium) on 21 February. This will be followed by the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony on 22 February, a political event which has been running since 2008.

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

Breakfast at Sustainability's: Boosting local progress in city resilience development

The [Smart Mature Resilience \(SMR\)](#) project, which aims to enhance cities' capacity to resist, absorb and recover from the hazardous effects of climate change, will hold a Stakeholder Workshop in Brussels (Belgium) on 7 March from 09.30-14.00 as part of the activities of its Tier 3 programme. The event will be held in the context of ICLEI's popular Breakfast at Sustainability's series. At the event, cities will receive training on the SMR city resilience [decision support tools](#).

8. Event Calendar

[Thermos European Inspire Event: Affordable Smart Heating – Dream or Reality?](#)
25 January 2018 – Brussels (Belgium)

[Heat Roadmap Poland](#)
25 January 2018 – Warsaw (Poland)

[Solutions for strategic adaptation planning in European cities. RESIN Project](#)
1 February 2018 – Manchester (United Kingdom)

[UrbanWINS Webinar: More sustainable and circular urban metabolisms with Participatory Mechanisms](#)
2 February 2018 – 11:00-12:30 CET

[Strategic planning tools for urban resilience: City-to-city exchange on local resilience planning, World Urban Forum](#)
9 February – Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

[Covenant of Mayors Investment Forum and Ceremony](#)
21-22 February 2018 – Brussels (Belgium)

[Breakfast at Sustainability's: Boosting local progress in city resilience development \(SMR Stakeholder Workshop\)](#)
7 March 2018 – Brussels (Belgium)

[The 15th Procura+ Seminar](#)
21-22 March 2017 – Oslo (Norway)

[Open European Day at Bonn Resilient Cities](#)
25 April 2018 – Bonn (Germany)

[10th EcoProcura Conference - Sustainable and Innovation Procurement](#)
3-5 October 2018 – Nijmegen (Netherlands)

[Local Renewables Conference 2018: Urban transformation to a Circular Economy](#)
24-26 October 2018 – Freiburg (Germany) and Basel (Switzerland)

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: +49-761/98 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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