



Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency (NiCE)

NiCE – Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency was an FP7 co-funded project which supports signatory cities in the achievement of their goals as outlined by the Green Digital Charter.

Background

With cities becoming the home to nearly 5 billion people by 2020, the future of national and regional economies will depend on the ability of cities to tackle the cause and effect of global climate change, supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT). By signing the Green Digital Charter cities politically commit to exchange and cooperate with other cities and step-by-step implement their green digital strategy. While ICT has been an integral part of many city processes for a long time already, recognition of and support for its transformative function is a key objective of the Green Digital Charter. Apparently, besides the challenge of "Greening ICT" the specific value of ICT lies in the services it provides to achieve green goals: "ICT for Green". The charter and thus the NiCE project addresses both.

Project Objectives

Signing the Green Digital Charter means committing to a wide range of activities with the challenge of reducing 30% of the city's CO₂ emissions within 10 years at the top. Overall objective of the NiCE project was to support the implementation of the Charter.

NiCE aimed at supporting signatory cities in three key areas:

1. **Tools for cities:** Developing frameworks for action to aid cities at all stages during their efforts to green digital action. Establishing self-assessment, monitoring and reporting tools for cities to be able to measure their progress including the ICT carbon footprint and link their work to other initiatives.
2. **City support and action:** Offering support to cities through a series of targeted exchange and learning activities.
3. **Outreach and engagement:** Organising a series of networking and visibility events to increase the number of Charter signatories and showcase cooperation opportunities with relevant stakeholders.

Another important objective of the project was to increase the number of Green Digital Charter signatory cities, facilitate exchange with similar initiatives in China, and engage with key stakeholders to be involved as implementation partners.

IÖR as project partner was particularly involved with the first key area and in addition coordinating the exchange with the reference cities group: Bologna (Italy), Eindhoven (The Netherlands), Linköping (Sweden), Manchester (United Kingdom), Warszawa (Poland), and Yantai (China). IÖR also developed the self-assessment section of the online toolkit and conducted a concluding survey among signatory cities.

Results

For a summary of the project results, see the "NiCE final report":

The Project results in detail (deliverables) are accessible via the Green Digital Charter homepage:
<http://www.greendigitalcharter.eu/resources/deliverables>

The Results encompass

- an **action framework**, which enables the shaping of targeted action towards an achievement of the Charter Commitments
- **reporting tools**, which allow cities to assess, monitor and report on their progress, and integrating this into the Covenant of Mayor's reporting process
- **action tools** that offer practical assistance to cities for implementing their Charter commitments
- technical networking, training and knowledge **exchange events** on the Green Digital Charter which brought together city actors with other experts;
- a **plan for continued promotion** and exploitation of NiCE outcomes and the Green Digital Charter beyond the duration of the project
- a **network with Chinese cities** and their partners through collaboration with the city of Yantai
- an interactive **Green Digital Charter web portal** through which all stakeholders can easily access and exchange information related to the Charter
- A **survey of signatory cities** on progress and challenges of charter implementation

Partners

NiCE is led by **EUROCITIES** in a consortium with **Clicks and Links Ltd**, the **City of Manchester** and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development.

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