PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

New energy: smart cities test new urban technologies

Cities represent three quarters of energy consumption and 80% of CO2 emissions worldwide, and with urbanisation expected to continue, a growing number of ‘Lighthouse’ cities across Europe have taken up the challenge of testing new ‘smart’ energy-saving solutions in large-scale test-beds under the impulse of European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

This year’s **European Energy Sustainable Week** brought together the nine smart city ‘Lighthouse’ projects in a special policy session entitled “Smarter is cleaner” to exchange on the environmental, financial and societal benefits of smart solutions.

Representatives from 13 cities involved in these smart city projects presented new energy products, discussed environmental policies and shared a catalogue of learning on how to grow a new market of smarter, more sustainable energy solutions and create a new generation of jobs. Introducing the “Smarter is cleaner” policy session, Jens Bartholmes, DG Energy Policy officer, reaffirmed the Commission’s support to the Lighthouse cities and satisfaction at the replication of the smart solutions plan in other cities who follow these projects.

Ruggedised is one of the nine Smart city projects and involves three Lighthouse cities: Rotterdam, Glasgow and Umeå. Representing the project, the city of Rotterdam highlighted the importance of making data generated by the project accessible to all through the development of a 3D city visualization model developed by their partner Future Insight.

Smart city projects are part of a growing trend, redefining our urban environment and how we manage our use of resources.

Working hand-in-hand with industrial partners, 27 lighthouse cities and 30 follower cities are paving the way for a new energy ecosystem collectively create low-carbon and resource-efficient economy.

All nine smart city projects on show at the European Sustainable Energy Week are funded through the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation funding programme.

More information can be found at: www.smartcities-infosystem.eu

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**ABOUT RUGGEDISED**:

RUGGEDISED is one of the nine smart city projects funded under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together three lighthouse cities: Rotterdam, Glasgow and Umeå and three follower cities: Brno, Gdansk and Parma to test, implement and accelerate the smart city model across Europe. Working in partnership with businesses and research centres these six cities will demonstrate how to combine ICT, e-mobility and energy solutions to design smart, resilient cities for all.

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

List of project involved: RemoUrban, Triangulum, GrowSmarter, Replicate, SmarterTogether, SharingCities, SmartEnCity, RUGGEDISED, mySMARTlife.

More information about the Horizon2020 funding programme can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020

A manifesto formally recognising cooperation between the Lighthouse City projects was signed in Nottingham (United Kingdom) on 29 March 2017: http://www.smartcities-infosystem.eu/newsroom/news/lighthouse-projects-join-forces-replicate-smart-city-solutions

Many of the projects have City Interest Groups where towns and cities from outside the projects are invited to follow the projects and participate in the capacity activities on offer.