

INTERREG Alpine Space

“e-mobility SMART grid for passengers and last mile freight transports in the Alpine Space – e-SMART”

Newsletter article:

Having a closer look at electric mobility in Local Public Transport and Logistics

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The Interreg project e-SMART aims at fostering e-mobility in the Alpine Space in the sectors of Local Public Transport (LPT) and Last Mile Logistics (LML). The electrification of both sectors can positively contribute to the decarbonisation of mobility and is therefore a crucial step in reaching the European Union’s climate targets. Municipalities play a huge role in promoting e-mobility in their territories; however it remains challenging for many due to several reasons.

e-SMART tackles these challenges by uniting a unique consortium of public and private actors from Italy, Austria, Germany, France and Slovenia. In summer 2020, with the aim of better understanding the state of the art of sustainable mobility and related factors in the project regions, a survey was developed.

Through this questionnaire, the e-SMART project partners sought to collect data to understand and analyse the infrastructure, vehicles, technology, e-mobility solutions, services and business models applied to Local Public Transport and Last Mile Logistics in the Alpine regions involved in the project. The survey was directed at both the private and public sector. Several Climate Alliance members participated in the survey and contributed with significant knowledge and expertise, but also highlighting challenges and missing links.

In total, more than 200 stakeholders were involved, providing the e-SMART partnership with solid and reliable data. The results obtained draw an interesting picture for municipalities: Many municipal interviewees expressed knowledge in the field of private e-mobility and electric local public transport in

their cities, however there is less expertise in the field of electric Last Mile Logistics. This means, that business models are available and implemented for sharing of e-cars, scooters and e-busses in several municipalities, but a larger charging infrastructure for transport vehicles is not yet on the agenda of many interviewees. Summing up, several cities have already implemented solutions for electric Local Public Transport, mostly consisting of tramways and bus routes with electric busses. This seems to be the main application of electric vehicles, apart from private cars or shared mobility. In those cases, the charging of vehicles mostly takes place in depots or terminals, specifically designed for busses and trams. There are very few to no single charging points for these large vehicles installed, according to the survey results.

For smaller and medium-sized municipalities, it has become clear that cooperation with neighbouring municipalities or the regional level is crucial for the promotion of electric LPT that guarantees interconnectivity. In addition, there are several projects in place with third parties that can be considered best practices: Cooperation exists between the municipalities and actors like hospitals where charging points for several transport options are installed, and integration with the LPT system is in place. Furthermore, several funding sources such as the European LEADER programme and national financing schemes were identified. It was noted, that funding programmes oftentimes address charging infrastructure, electric vehicles and cargo bikes separately, which can lead to an administrative burden on municipalities.

Around half of the interviewed municipalities stated that the diffusion of electric mobility was high on their cities' agenda. Some are combining the activities with other political goals, such as the protection of biodiversity at mobility hubs or the support of local sustainable agriculture. All have stated that digitalization was a huge part of the promotion of e-mobility, with a large potential of integrating smart solutions and measuring.

With the information obtained from public and private actors, the e-SMART project is able to provide more suitable outputs, such as the roadmap for political decision-makers that is currently being developed. As municipalities are often at different stages of e-mobility diffusion, the goal of e-SMART is also to bring those actors together and to learn from each other. Main elements of exchange are therefore regular meeting at regional, but also at transnational level. If you are interested in those meetings or in learning more about **e-SMART**, please contact **Marie Kleeschulte**.