

SERN Consortium Sets its Ambitions for the Intelligent Cities Challenge (2023-25)



The SERN Consortium, involving the Municipalities of Cervia, Trollhättan and Vänersborg, is proud to share its ambitions for the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) – an initiative spearheaded by the European Commission (DG GROW and EISMEA) – as it enters the implementation phase of the programme.

The ambitions statements come after months of critical reflection and strategic planning which culminated at the ICC Strategy City Lab in November 2023. The participating cities had the opportunity to gather for the first time in-person with 200+ members of the ICC community to discuss, evaluate and give feedback before finalising their strategies.

Dana Eleftheriadou, Head Cities and Proximity Team, DG GROW at the European Commission, says *“The participating Intelligent Cities Challenge cities now have a concrete foundation and a clear path to success with their ambitions set for the next two years. Their impactful strategies were carefully refined at the Strategy City Lab where cities benefited from tailored feedback from both experts and peers. We are particularly happy to see that 182 Local Green Deals are already underway through the ICC programme and congratulate all cities for their work so far.”*

SERN Consortium’s ambitions are centred on two strategic objectives:

- **To increase the production of energy in the municipality from sustainable and renewable sources.**

Transnationally, we are set to spark awareness about sustainable energy among SMEs, cultivating new collaborations for local sustainable energy production. π Locally, in Cervia, the expected

results are the raising of public awareness, the formation of an energy community, and the amplification of renewable energy production, especially solar. In Vänersborg and Trollhättan the empowerment of SMEs to generate more sustainable energy locally.

- **To increase energy savings in the municipal territory by improving energy efficiency among private actors, in particular companies.**

Transnationally, we are set to boost awareness about energy efficiency among SMEs, cultivating stronger collaborations for joint energy initiatives. Locally, in Cervia, the expected results are the proposal of investment projects for public and private sector energy savings. In Vänersborg and Trollhättan: the assistance of SMEs in their green transition, sharing knowledge on energy reduction through smart solutions, and implementation of a more flexible electrical system to reduce power peaks and enhance energy efficiency.

For the latest developments and more information, visit www.sern.eu/initiatives/icc-2023/

