

Press release
Embargo until 10 February 2015

Growing a smarter, more sustainable Europe

*[CITY], [COUNTRY], February 2015 – Mayors and delegates from a number of European cities and industry leaders gathered in Stockholm today (10 February 2015) to mark the launch of a new 25 million euro project, **GrowSmarter**, designed to shorten the path towards a more sustainable and environmentally smarter Europe, and expected to create up to 1,500 new jobs.*

Opening the launch, Karin Wanngård, the Mayor of Stockholm, said: *“It’s a great honour for Stockholm to be part of **GrowSmarter** and we are proud to be a **Lighthouse City** within the project. **GrowSmarter** holds a huge potential to create and spread new ideas enabling cities to develop in a social, environmental and economic sustainable way, in addition to creating new jobs.*

***GrowSmarter** is a role model when it comes to organising future cities – working together to reduce environmental impact, strengthen local growth and improving city life. We expect that by 2050, more than 6 billion people will live in urban areas. This trend requires some rethinking in cities – we need to think smart. We are hugely excited to be a **GrowSmarter** city!*

Stockholm, Cologne and Barcelona will act as ‘lighthouse cities’ within the project, implementing 12 smart city solutions: from advanced information and communication technology and better connected urban mobility, to energy efficiency. The solutions will be rolled out in a number of city areas, including downtown districts, suburban and industrial areas, ensuring a sample base representative of European cities.

Five ‘follower cities’ Cork, Graz, Malta, Porto and Suceava will work in close partnership with the ‘lighthouse cities’ to learn from their experiences, and provide a market for solutions suitable for their specific local context.

Project coordinator Gustaf Landahl, from the city of Stockholm says: *“The **GrowSmarter** project aims to show the benefits of public and private sector partners working together to stimulate the smart city economy.”*

*The idea behind **GrowSmarter** is to create jobs and provide a boost for a smarter more sustainable Europe by showcasing innovative, intelligent practices and technology in real life scenarios, so that other cities can learn from our experiences and think, yes this is something we can do too.”*

Spearheaded by a team of European partners, including ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, environmental technology partners, and local authorities, the project is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme and will run for five years.

To find out more information, please visit www.grow-smarter.eu

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Notes to editors:

About the GrowSmarter project

- In October 2014 the consortium of partners (as above) application to the Horizon 2020 Programme was approved by the European Commission. 25 million euro was awarded to deliver a five year project entitled 'GrowSmarter' which began in January 2015.
- This project aims to stimulate city uptake of 'smart solutions' by using the three Lighthouse cities as a way to showcase 12 Smart City solutions:

Low Energy Districts

1. Efficient and smart climate shell refurbishment
2. Smart building logistics and alternative fuelled vehicles
3. Smart energy tenants through information
4. Smart local production of electricity and integration with buildings and grid

Integrated Infrastructures

5. Smart lighting, lampposts as hubs for communication
6. Waste heat integration by new business models
7. Smart waste collecting, turning waste to electricity, heat and biogas for vehicles
8. Big data protocol for saving energy and improving the quality of life

Sustainable Urban Mobility

9. Sustainable delivery
10. Smart traffic management
11. Alternative fuel driven vehicles for decarbonising and better air quality
12. Smart mobility solutions

- The project enables public bodies to work in partnership with private organisations to facilitate market growth at a local level, reduce the environmental impact and improve quality of life for European citizens.
- The combination of Smart Solutions, to be rolled out in this urban context, is intended to meet the needs of three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic. The project has the potential to create the equivalent of 1,500 jobs across Europe, and aims to reduce energy usage by 60 percent, and cut EU transport emissions at project level by 60 percent.

The GrowSmarter project consortium is comprised of 37 partners both from the public and private sector:

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| 1. Stockholms Stad | 20. Rheinenergie |
| 2. Stadt Koln | 21. Ampido Gmbh |
| 3. Institut Municipal D'informatica De Barcelona | 22. Statauto Koeln Gesellschaft Fuer Car Sharing Mbh |
| 4. ICLEI European Secretariat Gmbh | 23. Agt Group (R&D) Gmbh |
| 5. Kungliga Tekniska Hoegskolan | 24. Deutsche Wohnungsgesellschaft Mbh |
| 6. Universidad De Navarra Iese | 25. Endesa Sa |
| 7. Stadt Graz | 26. Retevision I, S.A. |
| 8. Municipiul Suceava | 27. Anteverti Consulting SI Anteverti |
| 9. Authority For Transport In Malta | 28. Barcelona Supercomputing Center |
| 10. Camara Municipal Do Porto | 29. Consorci Centre D'innovacio Del Transport Cenit |
| 11. Cork City Council | 30. Gas Natural Sdg Sa |
| 12. Regional Environmental Center For Central And Eastern Europe -Rec | 31. Fundacio Privada I2cat, Internet Innovacio Digital A Catalunya |
| 13. Envac Ab | 32. Fundacio Institut De Recerca De L'energia De Catalunya |
| 14. Dalkia Sverige Ab | 33. 35 Philips Gmbh |
| 15. Fortum Power And Heat | 34. Schneider Electric Industries Sas |
| 16. Carrier Transport Ab Carrier Sweden | 35. Urbisup Consulting SI
Polis - Promotion Of Operational Links With Integrated Services |
| 17. Skanska Sverige Ab Skanska Sweden | 36. Ibm Svenska Ab |
| 18. Info24 Ab | |
| 19. Insero E-Mobility | |

About Horizon 2020

- *'Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.'*

For reference and more information visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>