

EPIX Newsletter no.3

May 23-September 2023

Past EPIX ClusterXchange missions: success stories

Listen to the testimonies of our EPIX ClusterXchange participants!



On our website, we uploaded 6 short video interviews, in which EPIX CXC Visitors and Hosts shared their experiences, ideas, suggestions, and lessons learned during the EPIX exchanges on how this unique opportunity enriched their skills, expanded their business partnerships and knowledge about the market trends!

EPIX CXC GROUP EXCHANGE IN MUNICH, GERMANY – 14-15-16 JUNE 2023



This EPIX CxC mission took place on 14-15-16 June 2023 at **Intersolar Europe**, the world's leading exhibition for the solar industry, held in **Munich, Germany**, hosted by Viessman, a member of [MoWiN.net cluster](#).

The CxC mission engaged 7 Visitors – Polish companies belonging to **Klaster Zrównowazona Infrastruktura**, who had the opportunity to meet the best specialists and business experts from the solar energy industry, discuss with them key issues for urban energy

efficiency based on **solar power, energy storage, and smart energy**, and explore the latest market developments and trends.

EPIX CXC GROUP EXCHANGE IN TAMPERE, FINLAND – 5-6-7 JULY 2023

EPIX CXC Group Exchange
Tampere, Finland
05-07 July 2023



Co-funded
by the COSME programme
of the European Union



The CxC exchange to Tampere (Finland) on July 2023 was organised by **DUTIREG** and consisted of B2B sessions between 4 Visitors (Hungarian SME members of DUTIREG and representatives of Hungarian Universities) and the Host Organisation, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

The exchange included visits to local partner organisations (Business Tampere, Tampere University) and participation in the Final conference of the European H2020 TetRRIS of

which Host VTT is the coordinator. This was a great opportunity for Hungarian parties to **learn more about the experience of the Tampere Smart City Expo in 2023 and discuss business opportunities with Finnish companies.**



TetRRIS Final Event

Tue July 4 2023, 9:00 am – Wed July 5, 2023, 4:00 pm

The TetRRIS project has reached its final stage, and we are thrilled to invite you to the Final Conference, which will take place, also online, on 4 and 5 July in Tampere, Finland.

The aim is to continue the journey of in-depth study into the topics of RRI and Smart Specialisation, with a focus on the integration of the concept of sustainability, innovation policy and policymaking, as well as to think about the future path to follow to foster RRI in Europe during the third and last Policy Lab.

When & where

Tue July 4 2023, 9:00 am – Wed July 5, 2023, 4:00 pm

G Livelab Tampere
1 Puutarhakatu
33210 Tampere, Finland

[Add to my calendar](#)

Upcoming EPIX ClusterXchange missions!

EPIX partners are organizing CXC missions beside the international fair and events around Europe. The participation of Visitors in the CXC mission is supported by the EPIX project through vouchers, which partially cover travel and accommodation costs.

The following upcoming CxC missions are currently under preparation:

→ EPIX CLUSTERXCHANGE mission in Barcelona (Spain), hosted by Secartys beside the Smart City Expo World Congress - on 7-8-9 November 2023



[European Lighting Cluster Alliance](#) ELCA is organizing a CXC mission in Barcelona aimed at exploring the business ecosystem of the Secartys networks and taking on the opportunity to visit the [Smart City Expo World Congress](#) on 7-9 November 2023!

Secartys serves more than 1,200 industries it represents, including companies in electronics; professional audio and video and spectacular lighting; home automation, building automation and smart cities; solar energy; lighting; electronic leisure and entertainment; ICT, video games; batteries and electric mobility. As

a result, Secartys is made up of an ecosystem of clusters: AEPICAL, CICAT, SMARTTECH CLUSTER and SOLARTYS.

This is a great opportunity for EPIX Visitors to meet the Host Secartys and its business cluster-ecosystem and associated companies, establish potential business opportunities and deep dive into the **SCEWC 2023**, attend workshops and thematic events at the fair to learn more about smart city strategy and future challenges and technologies!

→ Benefit from ELCA from the ELCA collaboration with SCEWC2023 and **get a 25% discounted entry pass using the code QUJBALLB**. Book your pass [here](#)!

Would you like to participate? Contact EPIX partners and become our CXC Visitor!

→ EPIX CLUSTERXCHANGE mission in Lisbon (Portugal) to visits AMR Industrias Texteis at the Décor Hotel Fair – on 26-27-28 October 2023



HABIC cluster is organising a CXC mission in Lisbon aimed at meeting EPIX HOST AMR Industrias Texteis exhibiting at the [Décor Hotel Fair](#), the professional fair of equipment, construction, decor, products, and services in the hotel sector.

AMR Industrias Texteis is a company that combines in its design and production processes the Portuguese textile tradition and the latest technologies. The company is ISO 9001 and OEKO TEX certified and its collections are always produced with top quality raw materials and high quality finishes.

This 3-day mission will support EPIX Visitors to identify new potential business collaboration with the HOST, attend to the Décor Hotel fair, and deep dive into the Portuguese market in the habitat sector and more specifically about the Portuguese hotel sector.

Contact EPIX partners for any information and follow us to stay up-to-date!

→ For further information on the Clusterxchange scheme and how to participate, contact us and check out the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform!](#)

EPIX INTERNATIONAL FOCUS GROUPS

2° EPIX International Focus Groups in Kassel, Germany on 9-10 May 2023



The 2° EPIX Transnational Focus Group has been organised on 9-10 May 2023 in **Kassel hosted by the MoWin.net cluster**.

During these 2 days of meetings, EPIX Cluster members had inspiring discussions on the Kassel innovation, its **Smart City ecosystem** and related solutions, technologies and challenges, networking opportunities between **businesses-cities and clusters**, and visits to innovative companies and start-ups located at the Science Park Kassel!

It was a great occasion to talk about the smart city strategies and initiatives to be supported under EPIX actions!

Next EPIX International Focus Groups!

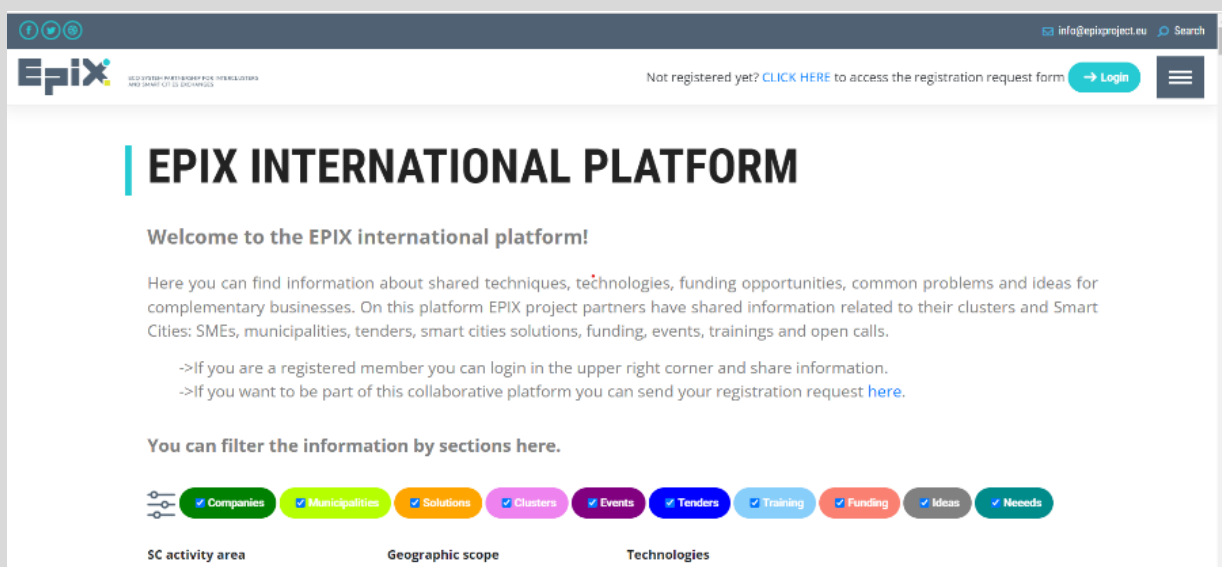
Next EPIX Focus Groups are planned for the autumn-winter period by HABIC, SIC, and DUTIREG.

- The **HABIC's** on-site Transnational Focus Group plans in **Bilbao** (Spain) engaging all partners, the selected city authorities and other relevant cluster ecosystem entities, in a co-learning event on 3 October 2023, at the Innobasque facilities.
- Transnational Focus Group is planned to be organised in **Cracow** (Poland) from 11-12 Dec 2023 by the **SIC cluster**. The event will be organised at the the Clusters Meet Regions Conference. *More details will be available soon!*

EPIX TRANSNATIONAL DIGITAL SERVICE PLATFORM IS OPEN!

The [EPIX transnational digital service platform](#) is an online database created to strengthen direct connections between clusters, SMEs and city representatives.

In order to support the growth of SMEs, they will provide a series of information on shared techniques, technologies, financing opportunities, common issues, and ideas for complementary businesses. A key focus of digital services is **smart cities issues**.



The screenshot shows the EPIX International Platform website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EPIX logo, a search bar, and a login button. The main heading is "EPIX INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM". Below this, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to the EPIX international platform!". The text explains that the platform provides information on shared techniques, technologies, funding opportunities, common problems, and ideas for complementary businesses. It also mentions that EPIX project partners have shared information related to their clusters and Smart Cities: SMEs, municipalities, tenders, smart cities solutions, funding, events, trainings and open calls. There are two instructions: "->If you are a registered member you can login in the upper right corner and share information." and "->If you want to be part of this collaborative platform you can send your registration request [here](#).". Below this, there is a section titled "You can filter the information by sections here." with a row of buttons: Companies, Municipalities, Solutions, Clusters, Events, Tenders, Training, Funding, Ideas, and Needs. At the bottom, there are three filter categories: SC activity area, Geographic scope, and Technologies.

The platform is accesible from the [EPIX project website](#) where the email and password of the registered user will be asked or it will enable the registration of the new user. The data that have been uploaded as "open" are freely visible without the login request.

In these months, EPIX partners are engaging their companies as well as municipalities to register on the database and populate it with innovative „smart city” solutions, technologies and products offered by the SMEs associated with EPIX cluster organizations, as well as public procurement and funding opportunities.

→ Contact us for any information on the registration process!

EPIX WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

„How Companies Can Support Municipalities to Create Smart City Projects” organized by Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto on 22.06.2023

The poster features logos for LUCEINVENETO, the European Union, EPIX, and EXCELLENCE. The main title is "Come le aziende possono supportare i Comuni per realizzare progetti Smart City". It is a LIVE WEBINAR on Thursday, June 22, 2023, from 11:00 to 12:30. Session 1 is titled "Presentazione delle modalità di partecipazione alle gare d'appalto pubbliche quale opportunità per le aziende del territorio." Session 2 is titled "Interazione tra aziende e uffici tecnici dei Comuni su appalti in programmazione relativi a investimenti in soluzioni smart city, con particolare focus in ambito illuminotecnico." Logos for the Federazione dei Comuni del Camposampierese and the Alleanza per lo Sviluppo del Camposampierese are also present.

Coordinator [Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto](#), in collaboration with **Federation of Municipalities of Camposampierese**, organized an **upskilling workshop** for its lighting SMEs to deep dive into procedures for participation in public tenders in the context of smart cities interventions planned by 10 municipalities of the Federation of the Camposampierese territory.

The online meeting was an opportunity to enhance the private-public dialogue and to identify opportunities both for lighting companies and local authorities on smart cities topics, in particular smart lighting solutions and technologies, smart city projects investments and the related public tenders.

MoWiN.net EPIX local trainings „Digital transformation at your fingertips workshop ” on 30.06.2023

The **MoWiN.net EPIX local training addressing challenges of the smart mobility and sustainable infrastructure for the cities of the future**, have been organised and planned in the framework of the “*Future Mobility Shift*”, a new joint upskilling regional initiative of the Regionalmanagement Nordhessen and the ItF Institute Kassel, with the strict cooperation of the MoWiN.net.

The switch to electromobility requires new skills and competencies on the part of employees at automotive manufacturers and suppliers. In North Hesse in particular, the automotive industry is one of the most important employers. The current transformation will therefore fundamentally

change the working conditions and necessary skills in North Hesse. Solutions can include further training, synergy effects and networking.



EPIX international workshop: “Smart Energy, Mobility Technologies and ICT Solutions for Smart Cities!” - 07.07.2023

The 1st international upskilling workshop and coaching session for EPIX clusters was organised online by **ELCA and MoWiN.net** on **07.07.2023** and addressed the topic of Smart Mobility and Energy, and the related ICT technologies and solutions for smart cities and regions.

ELCA leveraged the strong expertise of MoWiN.net as mobility and logistics cluster in these matters and jointly organised an interactive online event, engaging also German (Hessen) and Israeli start-up and tech-savvy SMEs. The workshop was supported by the **Regional Management Northern Hesse (RMNH)** who contributed to the open panel’s discussion and networking.

The participants and City representatives had the opportunity to learn more and discuss the vision and future “smart city” challenges in the areas of smart mobility, ICT, and IoT perspectives. The event hosted also solutions showcasing and pitches of German and Israeli IT companies and startups.



Local training on „The challenges of the sustainable smart cities of the future: innovative technologies and products of lighting sector” organized by Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto on 14.09.2023

LIV, in collaboration with the **Federazione dei Comuni del Camposampierese**, organized a workshop at the Innovation Lab on smart lighting technologies to support the realization of sustainable smart cities.



The workshop included a first training session on the impact of new technologies for smart cities in collaboration with the University of Padua, a showcasing of the most innovative products and solutions by the RI LIV companies and a networking moment with the city representatives to discuss the development of possible new collaborations.

4 local training on „Innovative technologies for sustainable architecture „ organized by HABC cluster



HABC defined and scheduled the organisation of the **four EPIX local trainings** together with the **Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos Vasco Navarro**, as well as with the collaboration of the **Department of Education of the Basque Government**, as an integral part of the programme of the Summer Course edition 2023 on 14-15 September 2023: *Innovative technologies for sustainable architecture*.

The course discussed ideas on **how technology is transforming the habitat sector**, and how new tools and technologies can enable cities and buildings to become part of the solution to combat climate change and achieve social justice.



Local trainings in Hungary „urban governance and digital tools in smart cities” organised by Dutireg in September

The EPIX workshops is organised as online events in Hungarian by Dutireg with the exception of the last workshop which will be a hybrid event in English to allow the participation of experts from abroad, as well. Each event is one scientific conference in a Hungarian town and therefore the EPIX workshop also include the contribution by selected speakers with relevant experience in the topics of the workshop and the workshop will be promoted also to the representatives of the host town and the connected clusters and companies.

News from EPIX partners

EPIX project presentation at the 16th Annual International Conference on Economics and Business CHALLENGES IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN, in Csíkszereda on 10-12 May 2023



DUTIREG participated in the 16th Annual International Conference on Economics and Business CHALLENGES IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN, in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), Romania on 10th-11th-12th May 2023. For years, the conference has provided young researchers, lecturers and doctoral students with a special opportunity to

present and discuss their research results. At the conference, the EPIX project and the EPIX Cluster exchange international network-building program were introduced, Éva Balogh's presentation explained how different cities and clusters can benefit from the EPIX Cluster exchange program by accessing the EPIX Digital Platform and take on opportunity from the CxC mobility scheme.

Local working table between LIV and Italian city representatives!



On 30.05.2023, Coordinator Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto met the **Europe Office of the Federation of Camposampierese**, which gathers 10 municipalities in the Veneto Region, **to discuss the needs of the Veneto area on smart cities perspective and potential collaborations** between clusters, lighting SMEs and local authorities to support the transition into „smart, sustainable & inclusive territory”.

LIV and EPIX project at a local event (Micro Festival dell’Abitare) in Padua!



On 3rd June 2023, Alberto Sozza, ELCA and Silvia Betteto RI LIV **presented the EPIX project activities at the *Micro Festival dell’Abitare event*** in Padua (Italy), where topic on changes due to COVID in the design of living spaces and smart cities was widely discussed.

EPIX project at the Conference about smart mobility and transportation in Wieliczka, Poland

SIC took part in the regional conference about **smart mobility and transportation in the region of Malopolska** that was organised on 15 June 2023 in Wieliczka, Poland, where the EPIX Project was promoted during a networking session after the conference.

Within this conference, SIC was also acquainted with the possibilities of the platform launched on the EPIX project website to provide a portfolio of services for connecting clusters to smart cities - cluster SMEs and technology providers will be encouraged to register on the platform to promote possible solutions and cooperation opportunities.

Presentation of EPIX project at the quarterly meeting of the HABIC's technology working group



HABIC organised two project promotional meetings for its member SMEs, where it **presented the EPIX main goals, and the training and collaboration opportunities** like the Summer Schools in September, EPIX Digital Platform and the ClusterXchange mobility scheme.



The meetings were organised on 30/06/2023 at Aula Empresa UPV/EHU and on 29/07/2023 at Costa Vasca Hotel.

EPIX at the Venetian Smart Lighting Award 2023!



On 13.07.2023, Coordinator Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto organized the eighth edition of Venetian Smart Lighting 2023, the annual competition that aims to promote creativity, reward innovation, and recognize the design and craft capabilities of Veneto lighting companies in the development of



smart, innovative and high-quality lamps, lighting fixtures, products, and solutions.

On this occasion **ELCA and LIV organized and chaired a B2B networking moment, where lighting companies and representatives of the Federation of Municipalities of Camposampierese had the opportunity to discuss themes related to smart cities and technical solutions** that can support the transition of local cities into sustainable smart cities.