

# Smarter Together

Under the patronage of Executive Housing Councillor Michael Ludwig and in cooperation with numerous companies, the city of Vienna is developing future-oriented smart city solutions in Simmering. The focus is on social and technical innovations for an environmentally-friendly city of the future with a high standard of life.

*Smarter Together* is currently the largest urban renewal project funded by the EU in Vienna and its aim is to implement innovative smart city concepts in a large area of the district of Simmering. Besides the implementation of innovative technical solutions, citizen's participation and knowledge management are key pillars of *Smarter Together*. This approach is aiming at providing sustainable contributions in achieving climate goals as well as to a positive societal dynamics and quality of living in the quarter. As part of the project, Vienna is in intensive exchange with several partner cities, especially Munich and Lyon.

## A Successful First Year

*Smarter Together* was launched on the 1st of February 2016. The implementation will take three years, and it will be evaluated by 2021. The EU has allocated 25 million euros to the project. Vienna will be supported with 7 million euros. In total, an investment of more than 46 million euros will be triggered. A key role is given to Vienna's project partners: 8 Viennese municipal departments from several business groups, Viennese public utility companies, Wien Energie, Wiener Linien und NeuMo GmbH, BWSG, Wiener Wohnen, Kelag Wärme, Siemens Leberstraße, Post AG, AIT, Sycube as well as Caruso, TINA Vienna, Wohnbund:consult, the District Office GB\*3/11 and the community college VHS Simmering.

## Implementation of Innovative Smart City Solutions

The comprehensive smart refurbishment of the existing housing stock is central to the project as part of the EU funding programme "Horizon 2020". At the same time, the aim is to include integrating aspects of future-orientated and climate-friendly urban renewal i.e. aspects of heating, open spaces, e-mobility as well as information and communications technology (ICT) solutions. This also complies with Vienna's Smart City Framework Strategy, which focuses on standard of living and the societal dimension as well as on technological aspects. In Vienna, the project area en-

compasses the centre of Simmering around Enkplatz and the Geiselberg. The following is being implemented:

- Smart refurbishment of three housing blocks with a total gross area of over 65,000 m<sup>2</sup> (642 apartments). Alternative energy generation is part of it as well as mobility for residents e.g. e-car and e-bike sharing.
- Densification of district heating including the local production of energy through photovoltaic and solar means as well as decentralized feeding into the district heating network.
- The new secondary schools Enkplatz I + II will have a new zero-energy gym complex.
- A city data platform developed as part of the project will contribute to Vienna's IT infrastructure.
- Siemens at the world leading site for rail vehicles of Leberstraße is modernizing its e-logistics and installing charging infrastructure for e-cars and e-bikes.
- The Austrian postal service is switching its parcel delivery service to new e-vans and implementing innovative logistics solutions for private customers in Simmering.
- As part of a local mobility strategy, modern "mobility points" are being prepared for use in public spaces in order to interlink local mobility services that suit users' needs.
- Part of Simmering's street lighting will be changed to LED lights ahead of schedule.
- "Landmarks" in the form of innovative street equipment with photovoltaic use that allow people to charge their phones in public spaces are aimed at drawing attention to the project.
- The mobile information lab called SIMmobil will be used in the project area as a modern communication platform. It offers comprehensive information as well as the chance for residents to get involved.

In addition, knowledge and innovations will be put to use on a city-wide and international basis.



PID/Jobst

Official launch of SIMmobil. Project manager Julia Girardi-Hoog (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), the GB\* 3/11 team, Executive Housing Councillor Michael Ludwig and Head of Municipal Department 25, in charge for *Smarter Together*, Bernhard Jarolim (2<sup>nd</sup> from left).

## Participation and Knowledge Management

The involvement of local citizens is a central element of *Smarter Together*, which is something that Executive Housing Councillor Michael Ludwig has insisted upon from the start. Residents are given the chance to contribute to the project with their suggestions and ideas. They can also get involved with the conception and implementation of projects.

Another cornerstone of the smart urban renewal initiative is comprehensive knowledge management with a focus on a learning city (*Governance Learning*). A very important element is the exchange between 30 consortium partners, comprising cities, business players and research institutions (peer to peer learning). Knowledge management also serves the further development of innovations as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the city of Vienna as such.

## Positive Project Dynamic

The initial measures as part of the *Smarter Together* project, spurred on by the enthusiasm of all involved, confirm the

high level of value and attractiveness of this project. Project partners have already cooperated in a number of exciting ways and contributed ideas for implementation. A number of local residents are already getting enthusiastically involved in their neighborhood's future, contributing a wide range of ideas.

### ■ Online

Find out more on the website and in the newsletter:  
[www.smartertogether.at/newsletter](http://www.smartertogether.at/newsletter) or  
[www.smarter-together.eu](http://www.smarter-together.eu)