

# Starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> project year with Smarter Together

Future-oriented Smart City solutions are at the focus of Vienna's currently biggest EU-funded urban renewal project Smarter Together. A key role is played by innovative social and technical measures in the 11<sup>th</sup> municipal district Simmering to ensure a liveable and eco-friendly city of the future.

Smarter Together – gemeinsam g'scheiter: the name says it all. Since early 2016, manifold project ideas were concretised through collegial co-operation of many project partners and in constant dialogue with local residents.

As per 2017, these include 41 different conceptual and implementation projects; approx. 80 persons are involved in project tasks; and nine municipal departments of the City of Vienna join forces with seven other project partners and numerous other institutions to develop innovative solutions for and with the people in central Simmering.

One key indicator highlights the dynamism of this project: while the project application provided for a total investment volume of Euro 46 million, with subsidy funding to the tune of Euro 7 million, the former has increased to over Euro 80 million in the meantime. In this way, the EU funding contribution serves its purpose perfectly: as an impulse for manifold further activities.

## Implementation in full swing

2017 marked the beginning of the concrete implementation of project ideas. Important milestones included the start of rehabilitation work for the Hauffgasse 37-47 housing estate of bwsg, a nonprofit housing co-operative. Approx. 53,000 square metres are up for smart refurbishment combined with the addition of new storeys. The energy supply system provided for by KELAG Wärme GmbH will be complemented by photovoltaics. In October 2017, e-car sharing was introduced as an entirely novel mobility offer for the housing estate.

The New Middle Schools in Enkplatz make for another focus. Following a first feasibility study, an international architectural competition was organised, attracting 34 teams

from five EU Member States. The Enkplatz schools are to be given four new zero-energy gyms and 13 additional classrooms; green and open spaces will be upgraded. The energy concept aims for the extensive use of solar panels on the school building, including an innovative system of feeding energy into the district heating network of Wien Energie. In autumn 2017, two solar benches were set up in the forecourt of the schools to draw sustained attention to the project. The benches inter alia serve to recharge smartphones with solar energy.

## VCÖ Mobility Award 2017

Smarter Together received the VCÖ Mobility Award 2017 in the category "Active Mobility and Public Space" for its "intelligent combination of various means of transport". In the future, different mobility services (e.g. e-car sharing, e-bike sharing, charging station) will be linked at the Simmeringer Platz mobility point of Wiener Linien. The Sycube company



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Provincial Parliament Member Barbara Novak with pupils of the Enkplatz New Middle Schools at a solar bench



© DDBVB, Konrad Khittl

More than 6,000 kids and their families had great fun participating in the Beat the Street game.

developed a novel e-bike sharing system, which will be launched in 2018. The electric vans for postal parcel transport and the electric forklifts at the Siemens Leberstrasse plant are fully operative. Moreover, Siemens set up a new logistics and bulk material plant as well as charging stations for its employees' e-bikes and e-cars.

Preparations for refurbishment measures at two Wiener Wohnen housing developments in Lorystrasse and Herborgasse were continued. Tenants were able to voice their concerns directly and to codetermine individual measures. Further innovations concerned the dialogue with tenants, e.g. neighbourhood information events or roundtables where personal requests, ideas and suggestions can be expressed. In their turn, these tools can be used by Wiener Wohnen and the wohnpartner team in other locations, which ultimately proves of advantage for all inhabitants of municipal housing developments in Vienna.

In the field of smart technologies, a data platform using FIWARE software components was set up to facilitate data processing. City-related data as well as the first project data measured were already incorporated. In autumn, the city-wide switch by Municipal Department 33 – Public Lighting to suspended LED lamps for street illumination was launched in Simmering.

### Co-operating with residents

“SIMmobil”, the information and communication vehicle of the GB\* 3/11 office, stopped in four spots to reach over 1,500 persons through numerous accompanying events. Schoolchildren could voice ideas for school organisation. An e-cargo bike has been available for rent since summer 2017. With “Beat the Street”, an activating mobility game was very successfully transferred to Simmering in co-

operation with the Vienna Mobility Agency – more than 6,000 participants walked approx. 80,000 kilometres as part of the game, which involved eleven schools. Smarter Together moreover organised numerous public and target group-specific events at the Simmering adult education centre and received visitor groups from Austria and abroad. Among many other events, workshops for schoolchildren were organised together with Science Pool, an association promoting the interests of children and young people; another amongst many additional projects concerned a “saving energy café” set up in collaboration with the energy consultants of the agency “die umweltberatung”.



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Project leader Julia Girardi-Hoog explains how a test e-bike works.

### Smarter Together fosters European exchange

A key aspect of the EU-funded project Smarter Together relates to the exchange of know-how with European partners and other cities. Several international events provided a background to report on Vienna's project contributions and communicate the City of Vienna's strategic approach to international partners.

# High-quality social housing as an everyday reality

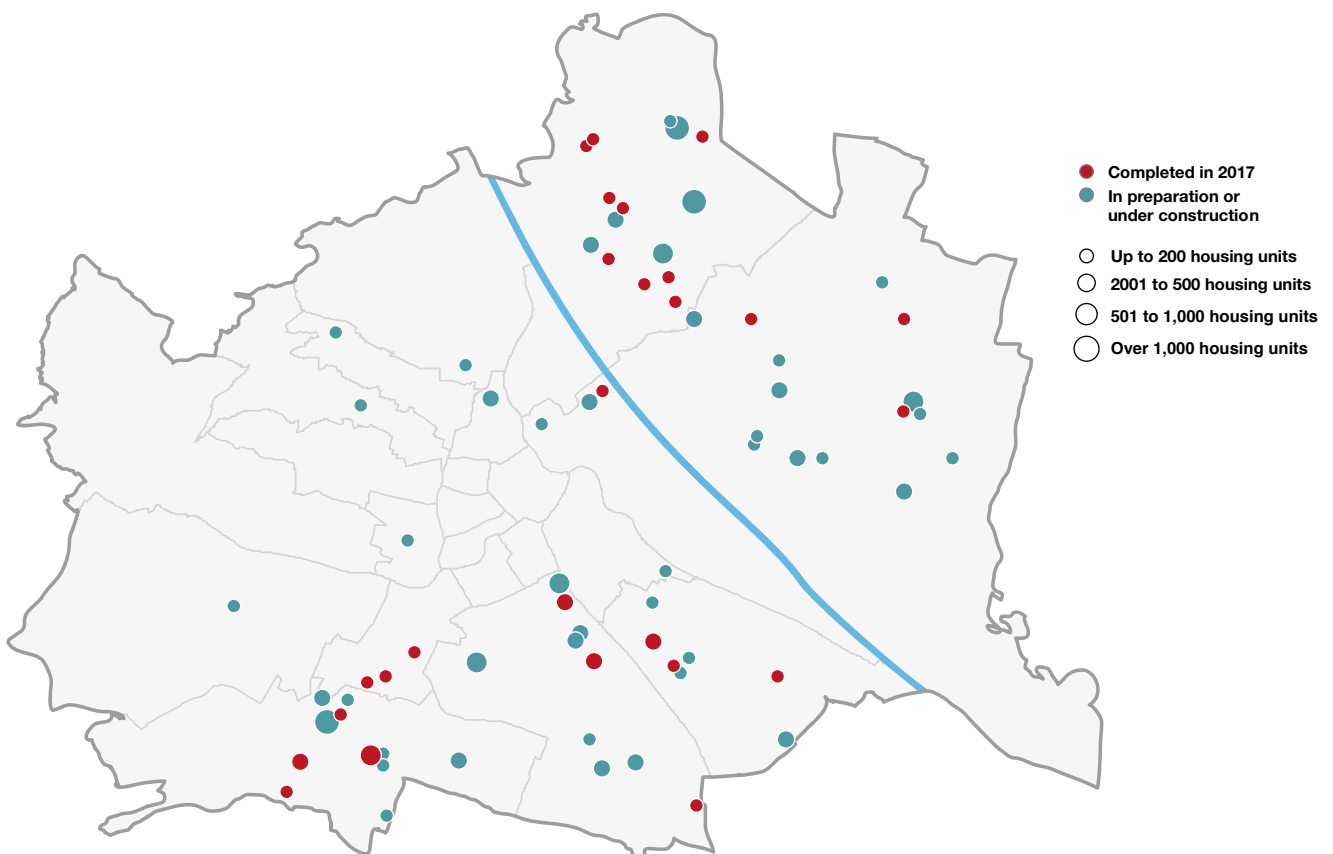
Vienna is growing. This growth entails a number of complex challenges that Vienna's social housing sector is facing by means of manifold instruments. Key elements include measures to promote social cohesion and adequate supply with housing space.

Vienna enjoys an enviable reputation as being one of the world's most sustainable and liveable metropolises. Its high quality of life is to a large part due to social housing, socially oriented urban renewal and strong tenant protection. Moreover, Vienna's citizens may count on a wide range of service facilities that address all facets of housing. Year after year, the City Administration invests significant amounts of money to keep housing in Vienna as affordable as possible.

## A varied range of instruments

With its manifold instruments in the fields of housing construction, urban renewal and municipal housing management, Vienna's housing sector disposes of an internationally acclaimed range of instruments that is increasingly exerting a model effect at the European level as well.

Reacting to topical challenges by providing the necessary competencies for action also means ensuring that estab-



lished systems remain flexible. For Vienna's housing sector, this applies to a particularly evident and demonstrable degree.

Currently, projects comprising a total of approx. 18,900 housing units are being planned or under construction, receiving subsidies to the tune of Euro 733 million, with total construction costs amounting to around Euro 2.1 billion. The development of new residential quarters from scratch is safeguarded by a comprehensive approach extending across neighbourhoods and in addition to enhancing the quality of individual buildings also focuses on collaborative interaction within each neighbourhood. The premise of affordability is met by providing a high share of SMART dwellings and the resumption of municipal housing construction activities.

Moreover, the successful system of tenant-oriented gentle urban renewal involving the instrument of Wiener Gebietsbetreuungen (Area Management Offices) is specifically tackling other important tasks and hence supports tenants' housing satisfaction both in historic (so-called "Gründerzeit") and newly emerging residential quarters.

Wiener Wohnen, Europe's biggest housing administrator with a stock of approx. 220,000 units owned by the City of Vienna, responds by initiating projects such as the "Social and Secure Tenancy" (Soziale Wohnungssicherung) service to respond to changes in life situations among its tenants, thereby emphasising the social competency embodied by Vienna's housing sector to a particular degree.



Provincial Parliament Member Kurt Stürzenbecher at the infrastructure symposium "Future Business Austria" in 2017



The Smarter Together team with Provincial Parliament Member Barbara Novak at the VCÖ Mobility Award ceremony

This is supported by wohnpartner, whose local, on-site offices contribute important work in the fields of conflict moderation, integration and the fostering of good-neighbourly relations.

### Smart City

Moreover, the Administrative Group for Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal and its employees manage to implement projects that address other key challenges of growing cities, such as climate protection, digitalisation and objectives expressed in Vienna's Smart City Framework Strategy. An excellent best practice in this area is the partly EU-funded lighthouse project Smarter Together in Vienna's 11<sup>th</sup> municipal district Simmering, which sets relevant accents through a high degree of local and international networking and citizen participation. The VCÖ Mobility Award conferred on Smarter Together in the category "Active Mobility and Public Space" demonstrates clearly that Vienna's housing sector is actively committed to making an innovative and future-oriented contribution to urban development and quality of life.

The necessary basic research and expertise required to meet the challenges Vienna's housing sector is constantly confronted with at multiple levels is ensured by the Vienna Housing Research Programme. The International Building Exhibition IBA\_Vienna, which supports expert discussions on the future of social housing in Vienna through different event formats, functions as an additional think tank.

Vienna is growing and is especially well prepared for the future in all housing matters. With its flexible instruments, Vienna's social and subsidised housing sector ensures further improvement of the city's quality of life in this area as well.