Paving the way for an ambitious uptake of e-mobility in the EU: EV ENERGY at the Policy Conference

On June 5th, the INTERREG project EV ENERGY participated in an Policy Conference, organised during the EUSEW, the biggest EU event for a clean energy and mobility transition.

Context of the policy conference

Transport represents 30% of EU final energy consumption and is responsible for a quarter of Europe's GHG emissions. It is also the main source of air pollution in our cities. Electrifying transport is key to the energy transition in Europe. The development of electric vehicles and the deployment of charging points across Europe will have a significant impact on energy production, infrastructure and on the EU's capacity to achieve its energy and climate objectives. Encouraging clean and sustainable mobility, together with the move towards full decarbonisation of the power sector can support the EU's Energy Policy in Renewables, Climate Action goals, Energy Efficiency and the transformation of energy consumers' behaviour.

This event looked at the economic feasibility and requirements for this transition to happen in transport and is an ideal complement to the current discussions on the two main Commission packages of measures: the Clean Energy Package and the Clean Mobility Package. The event will also focus on how smart buildings, diverse types of recharging infrastructure and electric mobility will foster a low carbon economy and benefit from the digitisation of the electric and building sectors.

E-mobility & Renewables in the City

European cities are investing massively into electric mobility, especially electric vehicles, but also buses, freight, water transport, bikes, mopeds, etc. This is an important way to create a healthier city. Renewable energy in the city is also growing, mostly solar as this is the most viable clean source of energy in densely populated areas. Therefore, the challenge lies in a mismatch between production and consumption: growth in solar renewable energy in the city creates an energy production peak between 10 and 16 hours, the overall energy demand peaks of a city are between 7-9 in the morning and 17-20 in the afternoon/evening. Different solutions can solve those challenges. Smart charging of EVs, Storage, Vehicle 2 Grid, Flexible energy use are among the solutions explored to overcome this mismatch.

In European cities, several city trends can be observed, which are gaining momentum. The EV market is exploding where electric mobility grows faster than renewable energy in the city, so we need to tackle first the charging infrastructure – development, organization, finance – to be able to answer the challenge. Large scale projects are scarce because they require funding and long-term investments where the results and outcomes are being monitored and implemented. Finally, policies in the different EU countries are fragmented and instable so the need to have a common and solid ground for policies development is crucial.

Conclusion

To create a more visible impact, we need large-scale demonstration projects which will create more awareness about the implications at different levels: technical experiences, financial investment and social implications. Experiences and good practices are needed to define policies and regulations.

That is why the 4 projects working on those thematic are joining forces together to create this highly needed impact on combining EV and renewables.