Cities that are more liveable and more resilient to climate change thanks to integrated planning

From the energy transition to collective participation: the experience of 42 European cities at the "Big European Exchange": an international event of the Multiply project with all the best practices aimed at decarbonisation, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and the use of renewable sources

ROME. Decarbonisation, development of renewable sources, efficiency, sustainable mobility and participation are some of the cornerstones of the European Green Deal and the ecological transition that the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan should lead us towards, pending updates from the Italian Government. And these are the three main areas that the **European Multiply project – of which Legambiente is a partner – has been acting on for over two years,** through a peer-to-peer training course on integrated urban planning that has involved 42 European municipalities, 7 of them in Italy. To help large and small cities become more liveable and resilient to climate change, we started at the bottom: by involving managers, councillors, mayors and staff of local administrations in a training and learning path, providing useful input and tools to colour their city *green*.

An online event today, the **"Big European Exchange"**, presented the best practices and strategies learned from the municipalities involved in integrated, intelligent and forward-looking urban planning, thanks in part to the work of the Multiply project team, funded by the European Union through the **Horizon 2020** programme.

"During this process, various local administrations have been encouraged at national and European level to develop integrated urban planning actions that condensed elements of sustainable mobility, renewable energy and local planning into their normal public administration activities," says **Katiuscia Eroe, Head of Energy at Legambiente.** "After this experience, 42 European municipalities will have better planning tools and in the coming months will be able to put in place better strategies for implementing SECAPs and associated projects, also considering the issue of fundamental local participation in such profound change and transformation."

During today's online event, the various municipal representatives took turns describing all the good practices gathered and tested during the *peer-to-peer* training delivered by the Multiply partnership: apart from Legambiente for Italy, there were Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Germany), Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités" (Poland), Energiaklub (Hungary), Climate Alliance Austria (Austria), and IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute ltd. (Sweden), together with the technical partners Posad B.V. and Generation.Energy (Netherlands).

The live stream was divided into 4 themed sessions on energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and local participation, with integrated urban planning as the leitmotif of the "Big European Exchange". The proceedings were opened by **Edoardo Zanchini**, vice president of Legambiente, and **Rupert Wronski**, coordinator of the Multiply project and project leader of Municipal Climate Protection Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (Environmental Action Germany). They were followed by **Boris Hocks**, CEO of Generation.Energy, Multiply's Dutch partner, who addressed the issue of integrated planning within the urban context.

Multiply's European experience
Among the best experiences from the Multiply project abroad, it is worth mentioning the city of **Perchtoldsdorf**, in the district of Mödling, Austria, which is speeding towards **decarbonisation. A biomass district heating plant**, **highly energy-efficient public lighting and a solar power plant** have all helped achieve a 29% share of renewable energy and energy-saving policies which extend to public, private and business buildings. In the same direction we find **Budaörs**, Hungary, where a good SEAP has been developed and public buildings use solar energy. In Northern Europe, in **Örebro**, Sweden, the entire district of Tamarinden is turning into a small energy community. All the buildings will be connected by a direct current grid and the excess energy produced will be shared in storage batteries, while the buildings will be equipped with low-temperature district heating. The storage system, which allows the energy to be used for municipal or private electric cars, together with an integrated cycle path project will limit the level of vehicle traffic in the neighbourhood. **The Multiply project's best practices include** the incentive programme for energy efficiency in private homes launched by the Municipality of **Emmendingen,** Germany, in the land of Baden-Württemberg. Another role model is **Piastów,** Poland, where various initiatives have been put in place to limit air pollution: low-emission public transport, modernised thermal systems, cycle paths, and renewable sources for public buildings, leading to the construction of the "A. Mickiewicx" high school which only uses renewable sources. From Italy **the Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza**, a small municipality in the province of Trento, is about to create an energy community managing no fewer than 14 hydroelectric plants and 2 woody biomass district heating plants, in collaboration with ACSM Spa; and the small Sicilian Municipality of **Ferla** in the province of Syracuse. Here, seven photovoltaic systems power certain municipal and school buildings. The aim is to reduce car use through the proximity of services and above all the supply of pedal-assist bikes. The Municipality is about to launch an incentive plan and discounted rates for photovoltaic and solar systems.

The Big European Exchange virtual fair
To encourage the virtual exchange of knowledge, alongside the online event, the Multiply project has created a proper virtual fair with stands for all the municipalities of the six European countries involved in the project (Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Hungary). The web platform is created by AT Media S.r.l., an Innovative SME from Alessandria which specialises in developing virtual reality and VR 360 video solutions. The platform provides access to the information hotspots of the various municipalities, making it possible to interact and discover the projects and strategies implemented and those planned for the future.

All the stories told, and the work accomplished within the project in collaboration with the Dutch partners PosadMaxwan and Generation.Energy, will be published and made available on the official project website: http://www.citiesmultiply.eu/en/.