Developing a smart parking system – Budapest XIII. district

The „Smart District" concept provides a framework and a comprehensive approach to technological, strategic, political, environmental, social and financial aspects. One of the four pillars of the "Smart District" is the introduction of smart parking in public spaces. The municipality is committed to using state-of-the-art technology for the benefit of residents in the district.

With motorization in the capital and the development of the district, parking is a growing problem. People looking for a parking space account for 20-30% of traffic. Moreover the parking demands limit the development of green spaces that provide a healthy and climate-adaptive environment.

The smart parking project aims to:

- reducing traffic congestion due to parking space searches
- reducing air pollution, GHG emissions.

During the preparation, the municipality assessed the possible solutions to parking problems: the pay zone has been extended to the whole district (2018) and the residents has been encouraged to make more use of off-street car storage capacity (2016).

In the first phase, a test system was set up: from the beginning of October 2019, a smart parking system is in operation in the area around St Stephen's Park. Sensors monitor parking in hundreds of public spaces in the area and collect real-time information on the occupancy of parking spaces, and signal this to drivers via a mobile app.

Based on the experiences, it is important to take the time to select the right system and test it. The system will be further developed under the District Smart13 Action Plan 2021-2024.