The goal of the European Union’s Smart Cities Information System (SCIS) project is to support the European Commission to monitor and analyse EU co-financed demonstration projects in the fields of smart cities, sustainable energy districts and energy-efficient buildings.

With the aim of fostering replication and reviewing progress against EU energy and climate policies, SCIS analyses project results and experiences to establish best practices; identify barriers and point out lessons learnt; and provide recommendations to policy makers.
OBJECTIVES

The project is built around the SCIS web portal. The objective is to bring together project developers, cities, institutions, industry and experts from across Europe to exchange data, experience and know-how and to collaborate on the creation of smart cities and an energy-efficient urban environment.

As the successor to the EC’s three-year CONCERTO initiative (Energy Solutions for Smart Cities and Communities), and reinforcing synergies with the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership, the project contributes to the EU’s goals of enhancing energy efficiency and energy security, reducing CO₂ emissions, and increasing the share of renewable energy.

ACTIVITIES

The REC’s tasks in the consortium are related to managing project events and multiplier outreach activities (i.e. coordinating consortium members’ participation at external events and their promotional interactions with selected partners). Thanks to the REC’s input for outreach and events coordination, the consortium has successfully established the SCIS initiative as a central information hub of European smart cities demonstration projects.

The REC has developed online content, such as the portal’s “Mobility and Transport”, “Events”, “Demonstration Projects” and “Resources” sections. It has also contributed news items and other content.

The project’s highly successful final conference “Empowering Smart Solutions for Better Cities” was co-organised by the REC and hosted in a revitalised former industrial site in central Budapest. The two-day event took place in October 2017, attracting more than 150 creative thinkers and decision makers from throughout Europe. The goal was to facilitate the replication of solutions, good practices and lessons learned among cities and business to drive forward a smart and sustainable vision of Europe.

A number of opinion leaders commented that the conference’s highly interactive format “set a new standard”. The first day started with a “Smart Walking Tour” of Budapest, introducing smart city innovations in the field of mobility, geothermal energy, smart buildings and social innovation. The event also featured a panel discussion involving high-level city representatives from Gothenburg, Brno, Bilbao, Budapest and Warsaw. The remainder of the conference was fully dedicated to interactive sessions to maximise the sharing of experience and promote the replication of innovation.