

ATELIER - DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIVE ENERGY DISTRICTS

Final webinar

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

FORM: ONLINE

Bratislava was a member of the international consortium for the European ATELIER project, which fell under the purview of the Department of Urban Strategies and Analysis. The main objective of the project was to design and implement Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) while supporting the long-term transformation of cities.

Eight cities were involved in the project; Amsterdam and Bilbao implemented their own Positive Energy Districts, while the other participating cities, including Bratislava, focused on acquiring know-how and developing concepts.

PED are urban complexes that actively manage energy consumption and production through efficient buildings, local renewable sources, storage, and smart grids. Over the course of a year, they achieve a positive energy balance and enable energy sharing both within and outside the area. The project contributed to enhancing the city's expertise and professional capacities and fostered cooperation among partners and stakeholders.

PROGRAM 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

ATELIER - CREATING POSITIVE ENERGY DISTRICTS / 30 MIN

Ľubica Šimkovicová, Andrea Borská, Dept. of urban strategies and analysis, Bratislava
Atelier Project Activities, Benefits for Urban Strategic Planning, PED Methodology.

A practical guide developed as part of the project presents positive energy districts as a response to growing pressure on urban energy systems, land development, and infrastructure. It translates practical experience into an accessible format that supports decision-making without prescribing specific solutions. It is intended for experts in urban planning, local government, and planning, as well as for developers and energy partners. It focuses on practical steps, such as site selection and stakeholder engagement. It draws on the experiences of the project and the city of Amsterdam. It helps cities manage complexity and integrate energy planning at the district level.

Discussion

LIGHTHOUSE CITY AMSTERDAM / 30 MIN

Machiel Brautigam, REPUBLICA property developer, Amsterdam
From Vision to Reality: Delivering the Republica District in Amsterdam

The development company Republica Property Developer built the "Republica" showcase project in Amsterdam. In the Atelier project, it played the role of the so-called Lighthouse City. Republica was responsible for the entire project process, from acquiring the land through obtaining zoning decisions and building permits to commissioning the architect and other consultants. The company was founded exclusively for the purpose of implementing this project. All buildings comprising the Republica district were constructed and put into operation as part of the Atelier project.

Discussion



FELLOW CITIES / 2 X 20 MIN

Kirsten Dyhr-Mikkelsen, Climate Department, Municipality of the City of Copenhagen, Sustainable urban development concepts, incentive tools for developers

Copenhagen aims to become an ecological and sustainable city. To improve cooperation with developers and stakeholders, it has created a new tool that establishes the framework conditions for construction in the area. A sustainability tool facilitates dialogue in the planning process and helps align stakeholders toward sustainable urban development. Sustainability is treated as a shared responsibility that requires early goal-setting and active engagement. The tool serves as a common platform for municipalities, developers, and consultants, ensuring a coordinated approach. Its outcomes are formalized in planning documents through jointly prepared sustainability summaries. The tool also translates city policies into concrete initiatives across environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

Discussion

Álmos Tivadar Papp / Daniel Hedari, Municipality of the City of Budapest, PED replication plans, urban development planning, PED implementation strategy

Budapest's climate and energy transition is guided by its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), adopted in 2018 and updated in 2021, with a long-term vision towards 2050. The city integrates this framework into a broader City Vision, aligning data and strategies with its Climate Plan 2050. A key priority is sustainable mobility, focusing on public transport, cycling, low-emission vehicles, and traffic reduction measures. Budapest is also part of the EU "100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission," aiming for climate neutrality by 2030. The process involves collaboration across public, private, and academic sectors. Despite challenges such as data gaps and limited capacity, the city continues to build a resilient pathway toward its climate goals.

Discussion

WEBINAR CONCLUSION

