Ele.C.Tra – Electric City Transport - IEE/12/041/SI2.644730
1ˢᵗ NSG Meeting on „*Electro mobility in Skopje*"

10ᵗʰ of April 2014
City Hall (Barrack No.13)
Skopje, Macedonia

First NSG Meeting in Skopje took place on 10ᵗʰ of April 2014 (09:30-11:30h), in the City of Skopje's City Hall. Among those attending the Meeting were representatives of the relevant ministries, other municipalities, public enterprises, private sector (distributors of vehicles), faculties, NGOs, media, etc.

The participants of the first NSG Meeting in Skopje, were very pleased and happy to have the opportunity to attend this kind of event regarding the electro mobility, having in mind that this do not happens very often in the city.

Introduction to the Ele.C.Tra Project

According to the Agenda, the NSG Meeting was opened by Ms. Mirjana Apostolova (Deputy Head of Department for International Cooperation and and cooperation with NGO's and Foundations and a Project member from the City of Skopje), who started by presenting the general information on Ele.C.Tra Project, partners within the project and its future goals, highlighting the motto that we do not want to talk about electric mobility but we want to DO IT.

At the very beginning the stakeholders welcomed and accepted the Ele.C.Tra Project and its results and they hoped that this very beginning on the field of electro-mobility in Skopje and Macedonia in generally will grow continuously.

Presentation of the current situation in Skopje – Survey Analysis (WP2)

Furthermore, Mr. Nenad Tonic (from the Traffic Department of the City of Skopje and a Project member from the City of Skopje) presented the Survey Analysis or the current situation in Skopje regarding e-mobility and mobility in general.

Other activities / projects related to e-mobility

The Director of our Public Enterprise "Gradski Parking/City Parking", Mr. Borce Jakimovski, as one of the guests speakers on the NSG meeting with his presentation on "Introducing e-transport in Skopje", informed us that there are initiatives of purchasing 10 e-bikes (30km with no charging) and 5 e-vehicles (100km with no charging). They will be used in the city center, by tourists, or providing them a city tour to the most important monuments by a tourist driver with the e-vehicles. They also have in mind 5 different locations for the chargers. This project of the PE will lead towards raising environmental awareness among the citizens, reduction of greenhouse gases, access to all tourist attractions and places for citizens and tourists, organized tours with tour guide, economy of time, reduced greenhouse effect and cleaner environment.

The NGO "Electromobility" from Skopje, Mr. Kiril Minanov also a guest speaker on the NSG meeting, were very pleased that were invited on this kind of event, they already have an active cooperation on the field of the electro mobility, they promote, educate and make general public awareness campaigns for the new technologies, alternative and green means of transport in wider range on many levels. They share experiences and praxes as well as with universities, affirmed persons, innovators and initiators in the wide-ranging emerging field of electro mobility. They pointed out the promotion of electro mobility as a scientific discipline and popularizing the idea for citizenship, but not limited to the engineering by isolated nature of itself, but rather as a transformation of urban areas as a whole, which will be needed anthropological-sociological, cultural, economic, urban and architectural and other specialized research, because it will change the culture in general. The NGO "Electromobility" organized the first international conference "E-vehicles, new mobility trend" last year in Skopje, and under the specific actions to be undertaken they pointed out the following: pilot projects for electro mobility with principled partnership support and experts from the NGO, subventions (from cities and local governments and the state) to the mass dissemination of e-vehicles in all rankings, research and development, standardization, Programs for capacity development in a wide range from chambers of commerce, citizenship programs for working and training programs to transform our cities in e-mobility environments.

Within the Agenda of this first NGO Meeting in Skopje, we also included a guest speaker from the NGO MACEF, The Macedonian Center for Energy Efficiency (MACEF) which mission is to increase the Energy Efficiency (EE) and Environmental Protection by capacity building, identifying and implementing EE measures in the cooperation with governmental institutions, local self-government units, engineers, donor organization and ecologists at national and regional level. They presented the "Impact of transport on the quality of the environment in Skopje", the Action Plan - SEAP. In addition, this was part of WP6 within the project RE – SEEties, a project for greater efficiency in municipalities for the use of resources and effective mechanisms and measures undertaken by the urban communities. The project is funded by the SEE Programme of the EU.

Minutes of Discussion

The main purpose of the debate was to exchange opinions regarding e-mobility in Skopje, opportunities for its implementation, obstacles and barriers, recommendations for the future and different factors (institutional and financial) for its implementation.

1. General lack of knowledge regarding e-mobility

There is common lack of knowledge and lack of information regarding this subject. There was a debate on how we should introduce e-vehicles and electro mobility in generally to the citizens. We should increase the interest, raise the awareness, and change the way of living, the mentality and the culture of the citizens by implementing this new technology and new trends of means of transport. This represents the most difficult part, beside the realization itself.

Examples on introducing e-vehicles in the city were: proposed purchase of at least 2 real e-vehicles and their promotion in the City, by us as local government or maybe by donating them into the NGO sector for further promotion and education on e-mobility by their site.

Warmly welcomed was the project undertaken by the Public Enterprise "Gradski Parking/City Parking" for purchase of 10 e-bikes and 5 e-vehicles for tourists.

In addition there was an idea for introducing electrical Cavaliers in the city center area, for movement of elderly or disabled people.

2. <u>Preparation of the infrastructure</u>

The infrastructure is important in order to offer the full potential of e-mobility in the city/state (providing parking places with chargers, appropriately placed and marked).

During the discussion it was emphasized that the e-chargers for the infrastructure in the country should not be imported from abroad, but they should be 'homemade', we have full capacity and knowledge to produce our own chargers here in Macedonia.

3. <u>Comments on e-vehicles</u>

It was pointed out the need of breaking the taboo that an e-vehicle is very expensive, not available, there are no chargers, no awareness and knowledge about it.

There was a comment how the e-vehicles are the real, the right vehicles that should be on the streets instead of the actual motor vehicles. We should switch the standards, raise awareness, and prepare the infrastructure. Skopje and Macedonia is at the very beginning of this story, but we are on a timid start.

4. <u>Additional comments and measurements:</u>
- Undertaking rigorous measures to reduce traffic in the city
- Vehicles in the future to use renewable energy
- Campaigns for raising awareness and knowledge
- Promoting the use of electric vehicles among the citizens
- Education of users
- Investment in infrastructure and streets (reducing barriers overtaking zones, parking zones, chargers)
- Electricity supply from renewable energy sources
- Introducing Tariff Integration (public transportation system rental) through one ticket
- Environmental protection from pollution emissions
- Synergy between different stakeholders
- Assistance from the Government and local government, subventions, tax reduction, etc.