Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency (NiCE)

What is the project about?

NiCE (Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency) will promote and advance implementation of the commitments of the Green Digital Charter (GDC), promoted by EUROCITIES and signed by currently 23 cities with a view to use ICT as an enabler to significantly reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

NiCE will be led by EUROCITIES in a consortium with Clicks and Links, the City of Manchester and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development as partners. The project will start on 1 September 2011, with a duration of 30 months.

The project aims to do this through three key areas of action:

1. GDC Framework and Tools

developing a common implementation framework, reporting tools, and information resources for classifying, measuring, reporting and supporting city actions in the context of the Green Digital Charter.

This will include in particular two reporting tools and links with the EU's Covenant of Mayors (CoM):

- **Method for ICT footprint reporting:** A reporting tool which is flexible and complementary to existing methods that cities already use. The method will draw on existing international standards to enable cities to measure, compare and report on ICT's direct carbon footprint on city level.
- **Tool for GDC-CoM reporting**: A tool that allows integration of a specific strand on ICT-related actions into the Covenant of Mayor's (action planning and) reporting process. This GDC-CoM reporting tool will enable GDC cities (and beyond) to highlight the ICT dimension of their efforts to reach the CoM commitments without creating separate processes and extra burden.

These outputs will be developed in an iterative process including evaluation and feedback loops with a group of reference cities and an Expert Advisory Board.

2. City Support and Action

Offering a support portfolio to cities through a series of targeted exchange and learning activities with experts and other signatory cities with a view to triggering implementation of the GDC. This will in particular include:

- **Study tours:** NiCE will ofacilitate a series of study tours, visiting leading cities in the field of ICT/EE and showcasing innovative activities around the fields of action in the GDC. Study tours will be offered to small groups of 5-10 persons from different cities, but with similar job profiles and a common learning interest. The programme will run over 1-2 days and include short presentations, site visits and demonstrations, opportunities for testing technologies and peer-to-peer discussions with experts from the host city.

- **Technical training:** Based on the GDC framework & tools, a series of 5 technical training events will be designed and delivered to cities. Each training will focus on a specific theme, for example on "ICT Footprint Reduction – Best practices, calculation and reporting", or "Financing ICT-EE projects".

3. Outreach and Engagement

Organising networking and visibility events to increase the number of Charter signatories and showcase cooperation opportunities with key policy and practices communities, including a special focus on engaging with Chinese cities currently developing similar initiatives.

This will in particular include:

- **GDC roadshows:** In contrast to the study tours and technical trainings, these roadshows will focus on visibility and profiling partnerships between GDC cities, European Institutions and other relevant stakeholders. 3 roadshows will be hosted by GDC signatory cities, highlighting different aspects of the GDC:
  - o **Roadshow 1:** GDC and EU policy/funding
  - o **Roadshow 2:** Public-private cooperation on GDC commitments
  - o **Roadshow 3:** Energy grids & ICT
- **Collaboration with Covenant of Mayors:** Aside of developing the GDC-CoM reporting tool, NiCE will collaborate with the Covenant of Mayors on selected high-visibility events such as the annual ceremony. The first event is planned for November 2011.

All activities will be facilitated via an online collaboration platform, which will include wiki-style information resources and make all outputs above available, as well as enabling structured cooperation and online discussions between cities.

Benefits for cities to get involved

City involvement in the project will be structured in three groups. Signatory cities will be the primary beneficiaries, whilst members of the reference city group will also be able to access a wide range of activities. Detailed conditions for participation in and for hosting activities will be developed during the first phase of NiCE.

Signatory cities

- Benefit from free technical trainings (Travel & accommodation for 1 person/city reimbursed up to 600Eur/Person)
- Benefit from free study tours (Travel and Accommodation for 1 person/city reimbursed up to 600Eur/Person)
- Host a study tour (technical support by project staff, no financial contribution)
- Host one of 3 GDC roadshows (5500Eur support per roadshow for hosting costs)
- Leverage visibility for city activities by participating in events with Covenant of Mayor
- Use the final reporting & action tools to progress on Green Digital Charter commitments

Reference cities

- Participate in meetings of reference city group (M4, 12, 24 – Travel and
- accommodation reimbursed up to 600Eur/Person per meeting) and virtual group meetings (M6, 14)
- Review and validate the draft versions of the Green Digital Charter implementation framework & tools
- Feedback on selection of themes for technical trainings
- Benefit from free technical training (Travel & accommodation for 1 person/city reimbursed up to 600Eur/Person)
- Leverage visibility for city activities by participating in events with Covenant of Mayor
- Use the final reporting & action tools to monitor and structure city activities

All

- Benefit from technical training, Green Digital Charter roadshows and other events
- Use the final reporting & action tools to monitor and structure city activities
- Contribute to the creation of case studies and a knowledge library on Energy Efficiency & ICT in cities
- Contribute to the outreach of the project and the Green Digital Charter, by disseminating information at relevant national & local event