

6th Local focus group

Event report and monitoring

Azores

Venue	EMOBICITY Azores 6 th Local Focus Group
Date	21 July 2022
Number of people attending	18
Total number of representatives of the types of stakeholders involved	8 – Azorean Government 3 – ADENE (Portuguese Energy Agency) 1 – Municipalities 6 – Public Carrier Companies

Agenda of the event

From 09:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Pictures of the event



Açores ↑ Apresentação do projeto EMOBICITY

O EMOBICITY procura melhorar as medidas regionais de apoio às políticas de economia de baixo carbono, em particular à mobilidade elétrica.

- 6 Parceiros Europeus:
 - Grécia: Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) - Coordenador;
 - Alemanha: Regional Management Northern Hesse GmbH (RMNH);
 - Croácia: Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP);
 - Portugal: Direção Regional da Energia (DREN) e ADENE - Agência para a Energia;
 - Roménia: Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWRDA).
- 1 Objetivo: Integração da mobilidade elétrica a nível regional e nacional.

Açores ↑ Boa prática do projeto EMOBICITY

Renovação da frota de autocarros em Cluj-Napoca (Roménia), através de Fundos Europeus.

- Aquisição de 41 novos autocarros 100% elétricos (~ 500 000€/cada)
- 41 Postos de carregamento normal + 9 Postos de carregamento rápido

Event assessment

Overall how would you rate the success of this specific event?

- Very successful
- Fairly successful
- Not too successful
- Not successful at all

Please briefly describe the event including:

- Main experiences, viewpoints and suggestions of stakeholders on existing regional measures, projects, initiatives on energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, their effectiveness and impact.

- Main specific needs and constraints identified by stakeholders for the promotion of energy efficiency and use of renewables in companies in the region.
- Best practices / examples proposed directly by stakeholders, if any.
- Views / suggestions on the measures / policies / good practices identified in other regions.
- Specific relevant comments made by representatives of the different types of stakeholders involved on the regional analysis.
- Facilitation techniques used, if applicable (ex: brainstorming, role playing, storytelling, etc)

EMOBICITY's 6th local stakeholder group meeting focused on the renovation of the public transport fleet, a sector in which the transition to e-mobility is still taking its first steps in the Azores.

To ensure participation and pursuance of the goals of the project, the session's purpose was to provide a space for sharing the current situation of this topic in the Azores, to identify financing sources and the companies' main challenges.

The participants had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the technology evolution in this regard, sharing experiences. For instance, one of the questions was on the autonomy of EVs, the Azores orography acknowledged and the lack of concerns that require consideration, with a few exceptions (i.e.: Tourism private initiatives).

The obstacles mentioned during the session were the cost of public electric transport remaining very high, even with the currently active incentives. In fact, these current incentives (the Azores Operational Programme) for the public fleet renovation were not found as sufficient to tackle this gap, at least for the moment. Negotiations are under way in order to strengthen the financial support to public fleet carriers for the next Azores Operational Programme.

It is worth pointing out that the Azores already have electric minibuses circulating in two municipalities, in two islands, deployed by two regional companies. Both companies acknowledged that the general public is aware of their importance and are both very satisfied with the performance and consider their current autonomy as sufficient for this purpose. The importance of training new 'e-drivers' was also mentioned.

Feedback from the public carrier companies was also recognised as important to adapting public policies and decision-making.

Around 18 participants were present, making for an enriching debate. In general, the EMOBICITY project and the Interreg Europe Programme were described in detail, with a natural focus on current and future outcomes of the EMOBICITY project.

Overall, the event was successful as it allowed for an active debate on the addressed topic within the framework of e-mobility, especially in terms of renovating the public transport fleet. Every input was of great importance to further promote electric mobility in the Azores.

Please briefly describe main success and difficulties related to this specific event, if any. Please provide suggestions for similar or future events (including improvement you would like to apply already in the next local group events you will organize in the framework of EMOBICITY), if any.

The event was a success. Debating and exchanging opinions and experiences among these professionals (from several fields of activity) was truly important not only to understand their concerns, but to also adapt present and future public policies. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go to improve on this subject.