

1st Local focus group

Event report and monitoring

Azores

Venue	EMOBICITY Açores 1 st Local Seminar
Date	December 18 th 2019
Number of people attending	44
Total number of representatives of the types of stakeholders involved	Government – 18 Municipality – 15 Social institution – 1 Energy agency – 1 Private company – 8 Association – 1

Agenda of the event
14h00 to 17h00

Pictures of the event



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)

Following previous experiences, it was decided to pair the EMOBICITY 1st local focus group with a seminar on electric mobility in order to increase attendance, count on external expertise and provide a longer session intertwining debate periods with different types of presentations.

The event took place in the island of São Miguel, with a schedule that would minimise the time needed for attendees to come from other islands. The event was scheduled about 1 month in advance and announced through social media, traditional media and by e-mail to several institutions. These announcements were then followed by phone calls resulting in about 25 confirmations prior to the event.

The event took place in the city hall given its central and well-known location.

Attendance was higher than expected with 41 people.

As described, it was a hybrid meeting with presentations on several electric mobility related topics allowing a comfortable atmosphere for informal debate. Presentations ranged from original equipment manufacturers to transport policy in municipalities, incentive schemes and, naturally, on EMOBICITY.

In general, the event was very successful as it allowed for an active debate on several topics within the framework of electric mobility while the presentations brought important fact and discussion points to further deepen those topics.

EMOBICITY project was largely described, followed by the description of Interreg, the results so far as well as some of the measures proposed.

The attendees engaged on an active debate that rapidly converged to the following challenges regarding electric mobility and that should be tackled first:

- The relatively higher acquisition cost of electric vehicles when compared to traditional internal combustion vehicles;
- The lack of charging infrastructure, not only at the public level where there is already a widespread fast charge network, but also on the private or final-user level. Detailed examples were given for the difficulties found in installing charging stations in shared condominium spaces as well as the lack of charging options in hotels that hinder the electrification of rental car fleets;

- Generalised lack of information and experience, especially regarding the lifetime of batteries.

These challenges were then countered with several proposed solutions:

- Financial incentives for the acquisition of electric vehicles and charging stations;
- Information campaigns and hands-on experiences that put users at ease with electric vehicles;
- Legislative amendments to streamline the installation of charging stations, especially in shared private spaces.

All these proposed solutions are well aligned with the ongoing electric mobility policy, reinforcing its validity. On the other hand, much discussion went on the need for an integrated transport policy, where electric mobility will certainly play a role but not the only one.

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 RESOR), if any.

The event was success. The idea of pairing the meeting with a seminar on the topic with presentation from external experts served as an effective starting point for debate, providing an active and informal discussion atmosphere.

Setting the event well in advance with a strong publicity and follow-up to the major stakeholders by phone also strongly contributed to its success.