



**PRESS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

**Cities in Estonia, Poland and Slovenia switching to new energy efficient street lighting**

By the end of 2009, the municipalities of Raciechowice (Poland), Slovenska (Slovenia) and Võru (Estonia) will switch their street lighting to energy efficient systems.

This change takes place in the framework of the EU-funded project BUtK (Bottom Up to Kyoto). By helping partner municipalities to switch to energy efficient street lighting systems, BUtK serves as a model for European cities to reduce their energy consumption and to meet their Kyoto Protocol targets, starting at a local level (*i.e.* 'bottom up').

"New, state-of-the art street lighting will directly benefit Võru's inhabitants. Better lighting on our streets means a safer and nicer atmosphere for our city. In addition, energy saving street lamps will contribute to save municipal money and will significantly reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions" says Ms Kersti Kõosaar, the mayoress of Võru.

"This project is a fresh opportunity for local authorities to act as bench marks for excellence in performance contracting. The municipality of Võru is one such example of excellence in energy conservation through lighting." says Mr Gerald Strickland, ButK project leader.

Both Mrs Kersti Kõosaar and Mr Gerald Strickland will present BUtK's achievements to members of the Association of Estonian cities on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Tallinn (Estonia).

Note to Editors:

The BUtK Consortium includes the municipality of Raciechowice (Poland), the municipality of Slovenska (Slovenia), the municipality of Võru (Estonia), Berliner Energieagentur (Germany), the European Union of Electrical Wholesalers (EUEW), the European Association of Electrical Contractors (AIE) and the European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) –which serves as coordinator of the project.

This three-year project (January 2007-December 2009) is co-financed by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

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For further information please visit the BUtK website, <http://butk.elcfed.org/> or contact:

Gerald Strickland, Coordinator, Enersgs, +32 473 332 517,  
[Gerald.strickland@enersgs.com](mailto:Gerald.strickland@enersgs.com)

Marc Guiraud, Project Manager, ELC, +32 487 344 876, [marc.guiraud@elcfed.org](mailto:marc.guiraud@elcfed.org)

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