



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-Bistrica (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').

The implementation of a project "Energy performance contracting of electric energy consumption, public street lighting in Slovenska Bistrica" through active participation in BUtK project represents a modern step towards decreasing total energy consumption and allows municipalities to divert funds that would otherwise be spent on energy bills into investments.

The "Decree/regulation on the limit values of light environment pollution" entered into force in 2007, so at the same time the project represents the real base for the adoption and implementation of environmental legislation.

The fact that the BUtK project is the first of its kind in Republic of Slovenia, it can reasonably be expected that wide dissemination and awareness activities (such as, for example, the forthcoming workshop in Maribor on 22nd Oct 2009) will ensure the results, inform and mobilize other municipalities to action", says Ms Irena MAJCEN, the mayoress of Slovenska Bistrica.

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

Both Ms Irena MAJCEN and Mr Gerald Strickland will present BUtK's achievements at a public workshop held in Maribor (Hotel Piramida), on 22nd October from 10:00 till 14:00.

Note to Editors:

The BUtK Consortium includes the municipality of Raciechowice (Poland), the municipality of Slovenska-Bistrica (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.

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

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