EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	STADT WIEN (CITY OF VIENNA)
PIC number:	998030091
Project name and acronym:	Project 101138271 — Resilient Cities

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	NO FEAR OF THE DARK – PREPARING FOR ENERGY SHORTAGES TOGETHER
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Austria, Vienna
Date(s):	May 6th-8th, 2024
Website(s) (if any):	www.wien.gv.at/resilientcities, https://resilient-cities.eu/
Participants	
Female:	27
Male:	49
Non-binary:	0
From Austria:	43 (28 male, 15 female)
From Finland:	2 (2 male)
From Germany:	7 (4 male, 3 female)
From Lithuania	5 (3 male, 2 female)
From Estonia	4 (2 male, 2 female)
From Slovenia	6 (5 male, 1 female)
From Latvia	5 (2 male, 3 female)
From Hungary	1 (1 female)

From the Slovak Republic	1 (1 male)		
From the Czech Republic	1 (1 male)		
From Serbia	1 (1 male)		
Total number of participants:	76	From total number of countries:	11

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From 6 - 8 May, as the first in situ event in the resilient cities project, an international crisis management conference was held at Vienna City Hall on the topic: No fear of the dark - preparing for energy shortages together.

The conference therefore aimed to create the possibility of an experience exchange between crisis management stakeholders all over Europe, to define and discuss the role of the public during energy shortages and to evaluate practical examples. It focussed on preparing for energy shortages with specific regard to communicating with a city's population with limited technical possibilities. The issue was addressed by representatives from 17 European cities.

The presentations and discussions of the participants painted a broad picture of the crises that will affect Europe in the coming years. The conference highlighted that external circumstances can sometimes lead to disruptions in the electricity infrastructure.

The examples of the cities of Belgrade (Serbia), Budapest (Hungary) and Ljubljana (Slovenia) show that extreme weather conditions, particularly in the past year, have caused problems with the local electricity supply, but also with other infrastructure such as transport, water and sanitation. Although the events described were limited to a few days, they affected the functioning of the affected regions for weeks.

The importance of a functioning infrastructure in difficult winter weather conditions was demonstrated by the Finnish city of Pori, which also reported a 'real' blackout in its region. At the conference, Pori not only presented the risk assessment system from national to local level, but also showed how a four-day winter blackout in the northern part of the city was managed, the lessons learned from which led to a large-scale training event. The Baltic States of Tallinn and Tartu (Estonia) and Vilnius (Lithuania), which are facing major challenges to their power grids due to changing geopolitical conditions, focused their presentations on ensuring resilient power supply.

On the other hand, the German cities of Rostock and Düsseldorf, as well as Prague (Czech Republic), presented how to communicate with the public in the event of a blackout. A range of measures were presented, from information buses to social media and information apps available to the public.

Vienna presented the 'Light Islands project', which, in cooperation with seven religious communities in Vienna, offers the population 'contact points' in the event of a crisis. Specifically, low-threshold locations and volunteers are to be made available to the population in an emergency.

On a field trip to the current metro construction sites in Vienna, the importance of resilience in critical infrastructure was additionally stressed.

During the intense in-person-experience-exchange between 11 European countries and 18 European cities of different sizes, we achieved our goal of enhancing the population's resilience in the case of energy shortage through community action, knowledge and preparation by spreading more knowledge about different approaches and ways of action to important stakeholders of all these cities.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

Resilient Cities
Vienna, May 2024

International Crisis Management Conference

Vienna City Hall

06-08 May 2024

No Fear of the Dark
preparing for energy shortages together

sharing experiences and strategies on communicating with a city's population with limited technical possibilities

May 6th

18:00	**Welcome Cocktail**

May 7th

08:30	**Admission**
09:00	**Welcome** Michael Ludwig, Mayor of Vienna *(requested)*
09:15	**The importance of Communication Strategies** Wolfgang Müller, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Head of Security and Organisation, City of Vienna
09:30	**The Resilient Cities Project** Aleksandra Markianova, Project Coordinator, City of Rostock Kaspars Vārpiņš, UBC, City of Liepaja
09:45	**The Belgrade Contribution** Darko Glavas, Secretariat for defence affairs, emergency situations & coordinations, City of Belgrade
10:05	**The Budapest Contribution** Orsolya Barsi, Deputy Head, Department for Climate & Environment, City of Budapest
10:25	**The Düsseldorf Contribution** David von der Lieth, Fire- and Emergency Service, City of Düsseldorf
10:45	Coffee Break

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11:05	**Floods in Ljubljana in August 2023** Robert Kus, Head of Emergency Management Department, City of Ljubljana
11:25	**Experiences from power outages in winter conditions** Jukka-Pekka Schroderus, Finance & Administration, City of Pori
11:45	**Information and communication tools of the City of Prague in case of emergency** Jiří Čmakal, Department of Security, City of Prague
12:05	**The Rivne Contribution** Vitaliy Kardash, Rivne regional military administration
12:25	**Developing and implementing a comprehensive emergency communication system in an urban area** Rene Feige, Disaster & civil protection unit, City of Rostock
12:45	**Providing vital services during the energy crisis** Risto Aasmaa, Municipal Police Department, City of Tallinn
13:05	**The Light Islands Project** David Reinberger, Crisis Management & Security Department, City of Vienna
13:25	**No Fear of the Dark: Vilnius Case** Dovile Sulciene, Chief Officer, Public Order Unit, City of Vilnius
13:45	Lunch Break
14:30	**guided city stroll**
19:00	**dinner & wine tasting** Cobenzl Vineyard

May 8th

9:30	**field trip: metro construction** City Hall & Frankhplatz
13:00	Lunch & Transfer

Resilient Cities
Vienna, May 2024

Plan of action
Communicating with a city's population during power shortages and blackouts

keep your analogue channels prepared

Analogue communication can really be a quick win. Samples for notices and posters and an emergency power supply for your communal printing house can get you a long way. If you also set up a process with your local radio stations to ensure they broadcast your information you will already be able to reach many of your citizens.

relieve your first responders: set up information hubs

Depending on the scale of your energy shortage and current environmental conditions, your first responders will have their hands full. That's why it is important to redirect people seeking information and maybe some kind of help that doesn't necessarily involve first responders or critical infrastructure. Information hubs can be set up in community centres, commercial centres or administrative buildings. Civil protection personnel or maybe even volunteers can operate them. Apart from information, they can offer warmth and comfort and most importantly the option of an emergency call. Don't forget to share their location and services on your posters and radio broadcastings.

spread them throughout your city area

Having one central infomation and aid hub might seem like a good solution at first. Easy to set up, little ressources needed. But depending on the size and structure of your city, consider spreading points of contact throughout your city.

involve community structures

Keep in contact with organisations that work with parts of society that government structures have trouble reaching. Those might be religious communities, cultural clubs or neighbourhood associations, but also elderly homes. Disabled people's associations can help to set up effective and unbureaucratic processes to ensure information gets to everyone.

remember not everyone will understand you

A relevant number of your city's residents will have to be adressed by some alternative information channel. These people might not be able to understand your city's official language. They might have to deal with hearing and/or visual impairments. They might be tied to their beds by mental health issues or simply be illiterate. So try to keep your information simple and short so it can be memorised and as universally understandable as possible. Pictograms might be a good idea and you may want to go multilingual.

practice!

You won't really know your communication system works until you try it out. Try to involve various communication channels in your next civil protection exercises so you can adjust to lessons learned.

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