

SPARCS FINAL CONFERENCE

AGENDA

Event hosts for both days: *Elina Wanne, Development Manager (Sustainable energy), City of Espoo, and Dr. Sami Kazi, Research Team Leader, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland*

SPARCS Final Conference Day I: Wednesday 11th September 2024: **SPARCS in the spotlight** Venue: [Hanaholmen](#), Hanasaarenranta 5, 02100 Espoo, auditorium Celsius

Time	Title of the slot	Presenters	Intro
08:30	<i>Registration</i>		
09:00	Official opening of SPARCS Final Conference	Dr. Mari Hukkalainen , SPARCS Project Coordinator, Principal Scientist, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland with the event hosts Elina Wanne , Development Manager (Sustainable energy), City of Espoo, and Dr. Sami Kazi , Research Team Leader, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland	
09:05	Greetings from Espoo	Mervi Heinaro , Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Sports and Culture, City of Espoo	
09:15	SPARCS Legacy: A Snapshot of Project's Highlights and Achievements	Mari Hukkalainen , VTT	Short project summary and highlights of achievements.
09:30	Cities in the Spotlight	Panelists are the leading project managers of SPARCS Cities. Panel 1: Nadja Riedel , City of Leipzig Marta Moreira , City of Maia David Škorňa , City of Kladno Panel 2: Elina Wanne , City of Espoo Sylva Lamm , City of Reykjavik Artemis Giavasoglou , City of Kifissia	SPARCS Cities share their journeys from the past 5 years for positive energy districts, energy transition and smart city development. What were the key decision points and milestones in their learning paths? Listen to their stories about their journey from obstacles to successful solutions and their plan for replication and upscaling beyond SPARCS.

		<p>Yurii Polianskyi, City of Lviv</p> <p>Moderators: Michal Kuzmič, Head of Multidisciplinary Collaboration, Czech Technical University in Prague (CVUT) and Sami Kazi, VTT</p>	
11:00	<i>Coffee break and posters showcasing solutions at the auditorium lobby</i>		
11:30	<p>Impactful and climate-neutral innovations</p>	<p>Panelists: Alexander Peitz, Teamlead energysolutions & multimedia, WSL Wohnen & Service Leipzig GmbH, Gregor Kaczmarek, Managing Director, CENERO Energy GmbH Lars Maura, Head of Business Development, Siemens</p> <p>Moderators: Gretel Schaj, Urban Innovation and Governance Senior Specialist, BABLE and Nadja Riedel, City of Leipzig</p>	<p>This session will feature interviews with the companies at the forefront of demonstrating Positive Energy District (PED) solutions to talk about key learnings and challenges in PED implementation on the ground.</p>
12:00	<p>What the real data shows from PED demonstrations?</p>	<p>Giorgos Papadopoulos, Project Manager, Data Intelligence Solutions, SUITE 5 and Aristotelis Ntalias, Project Delivery Lead, PMP, Motor Oil Hellas</p>	<p>We delve into real data derived from Positive Energy District (PED) demonstrations. This session will explore the relationships between data, monitoring, and impact assessment to illuminate the true impacts of SPARCS demonstrations. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how data-driven approaches can drive positive change and enhance the success of PED projects.</p>
12:15	<i>Lunch at Restaurant Plats, Hanaholmen and posters showcasing solutions at auditorium lobby</i>		

13:15	From pilots to large-scale transformations	Panelists: Markus Suomi , Group Sustainability Manager Citycon Halldora Gudmundsdottir , Research Project Manager, OR Reykjavik Energy Marta Moreira , Project Manager, City of Maia Moderator: Gretel Schaj , BABLE	An engaging session where partners share their inspiring journeys of replication and upscaling within the SPARCS project. Hear success stories from the project's pioneering cities and companies, highlighting the power of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange in driving sustainable urban development.
13:45	Driving sustainable business in PEDs	Tytti Nikunen , Senior Specialist, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland	What are the key factors to consider if you want to make a profitable business in PEDs or support the creation of PED business ecosystems in your city? Join this session to get familiar with SPARCS Ecosystem Business Model Assessment Framework and to hear more about service and business ecosystems around SPARCS demonstration areas.
14:00	Stage Takeover: Smart and sustainable cities and projects sharing stories	Speakers: RESPONSE: Helmi Loukonen , Specialist in circular economy and sustainable construction, City of Turku NEUTHRALPATH: Eira Linko , Project Lead, City of Vantaa ARV: Kelly Riedesel , Project Manager, NTNU POCITYF: Nuno Mateus , Project Manager, EDP NEW ASCEND: Bernhard Klassen , Head of Project development & management "European & international Projects", City of Munich ATELIER: Kirsten Dyhr-Mikkelsen , Project Leader, Copenhagen Municipality	Various European projects and cities take the stage to share their experience with energy transition, PEDs and climate neutrality in cities with short project pitches and a collective discussion.

		Q&A moderated by Elina Wanne , City of Espoo and Sami Kazi , VTT	
15:05	Introducing the ATELIER-SPARCS Massive Open Online Course on Positive Energy Districts	Michal Kuzmic , CVUT and Omar Shafqat , Project Manager at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS)	
15:15	<i>Coffee break and posters showcasing solutions at the auditorium lobby</i>		
15:45	The role of Positive Energy districts in climate neutral and smart cities	Panelists: Dirk Ahlers , Project Coordinator of the new ClimaGen project and Project Manager of NEB-STAR and Re-Value, NTNU Philippe Fournand , ASCEND, Scalable Cities, Blue-Sight Sanna Häsä , Project Manager, Siemens Mari Hukkalainen , VTT Frans Verspeek , Project Coordinator of ATELIER, City of Amsterdam Moderator: Michal Kuzmic , CVUT	How important is the role of Positive Energy Districts in fostering climate-neutral and smart cities? What are the key recommendations for changes in the policy framework for PEDS? Join the session to learn about the latest scientific advancements and the evolution and impact of energy transitions in our cities.
16:30	Closing of the 1st day and insights to the 2nd day	Mari Hukkalainen , VTT, Elina Wanne , City of Espoo and Sami Kazi , VTT	
16:40	<i>End of the presentations - free time to walk around and enjoy the environment</i>		
16:45-17:15	Exclusive for City representatives: Peer-to-peer exchange	Discussion moderators: Elina Wanne , City of Espoo and Nadja Riedel , City of Leipzig	We invite municipal experts and city visitors to join to this exchange and change to discuss with the SPARCS cities about sustainable urban development, learnings and experiences and exchanging of knowledge.
18:00	Networking dinner at Restaurant Plats, Hanaholmen <i>Get together, informal event with dinner from buffet table</i>		

SPARCS Final conference Day II:
Thursday 12th September 2024: SPARCS meets Scalable Cities
Venue: Technopolis, Innopoli 2, Tekniikantie 14, 02150 Espoo, meeting room Edison 1 & 2

Time	Title	Presenters	Intro
08:30	<i>Registration</i>		
09:00	Welcome to the 2nd day	Dr. Mari Hukkalainen , VTT Technical Research Center of Finland with the event hosts: Elina Wanne , City of Espoo, and Dr. Sami Kazi , VTT Technical Research Center of Finland	
09:10	Plenary session - Scalable cities: Results from two expert groups	Host: Ghazal Etminan , Thematic Coordinator & Senior Research Engineer, Sustainable Digital Communities Center for Digital Safety & Security, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Twins: Bruno Ávila, Head of Digitalization, Process and Information, City of Amsterdam and Hyekyung Imottesjo, CEO & R&D Manager at CitySync Solutions: Digital and Green transition through co-creation • AI: Mengjie Han, Associate professor in Microdata Analysis, Dalarna University, Sweden and Wolfgang Loibl, MMSc, PhD, CEO, Senior Scientist at Sustainable Transformation Network 	
9:30	<i>Break and transfer to parallel session meeting rooms</i>		

09:45	Parallel workshops for Scalable cities task groups:		
	<p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring and evaluation – workshop <i>(Meeting room Galileo, Innopoli 1)</i></p> <p>Hosts: Dr. Aapo Huovila, Senior Scientist, VTT Technical Research Center of Finland, and Ghazal Etminan, AIT</p> <p><i>The session focuses on drafting a call for experts on monitoring & evaluation and on planning the task group’s future activities.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Energy Communities – workshop <i>(Meeting room Edison 1, Innopoli 2)</i></p> <p>Hosts: Judith Borsboom, Director Locality and Daniele Vettorato, Head of Urban and Regional Energy Systems research group, Eurac Research</p> <p>Speakers: David Skorna, Chair of the Task Group for Energy Communities under Scalable Cities Initiative Ghazal Etminan, Thematic Coordinator & Senior Research Engineer, Sustainable Digital Communities Center for Digital Safety & Security, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology Eva Winter, Researcher Energy hubs, TNO Bernard Klassen, City of Munich Marta Moreira, City of Maia</p> <p><i>Community Energy, while offering significant potential for sustainable energy and community-driven initiatives, face several challenges. The session introduces to the Scalable Cities project work on Energy Communities and to the initial findings of the Expert Group on smartness, sustainability and scalability of CE. A panel discussion with invited cities will take place, leading into an interactive knowledge wall session.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Joint workshop between tasks groups for City-to-City Group, Replication, and Business Models and Financing <i>(Meeting room Edison 2, Innopoli 2)</i> <i>(ends at 12:00)</i></p> <p>Hosts: Gretel Schaj, BABLE, Governance and Urban Innovation Expert Emilio Miguel Mitre, GBCE, MAKING CITY Collaboration Leader, Urban Climate Economy, chair of Scalable Cities BM&F TG Mikael Edelstman, Mijo Strategy AB, Expert Sustainable and Smart Cities Graham Colcglouh, URBAN DNA Partner Philippe Fournand, Scalable Cities, Blue-Sight, Expert Smart sustainable cities Veronika Cerna, Twenty Communications, Expert</p> <p><i>The challenges to speed and scale the pilot solution require new approaches and a new mindset. We have built 5 pillars with proposals that can help to speed and scale solutions. We will dive into each of the 5 pillars and their action plan to pinpoint the most relevant and impactful ones in the short and mid-term. 5 groups will work on one pillar, physically for most of them, with one online group. We expect to deepen the proposals and prioritise proposals according to their capacity to support the speeding and scaling of climate-friendly solutions. A miro board helps to visualise the pillars and the proposals.</i></p>

11:45	Lunch at Restaurant Tastory, Innopoli 2			
12:40	Transfer to parallel session meeting rooms			
12:45	Parallel sessions on sharing of learnings:			
	<p>Harnessing AI for smart urban transformation (Meeting room Edison 1, Innopoli 2)</p> <p>Hosts: Mengjie Han, Associate professor in Microdata Analysis, Dalarna University, Sweden, and Wolfgang Loibl, MMSc, PhD, CEO, Senior Scientist at Sustainable Transformation Network</p> <p><i>The workshop will introduce what artificial intelligence (AI) is and how different AI techniques have been developed in urban transformation. We will discuss benefits, challenges, gaps, and roadmaps. You are welcome to share of your experiences and learn practices from each other.</i></p>	<p>Climate-neutral city Espoo (Meeting room Edison 2, Innopoli 2)</p> <p>Hosts: Elina Wanne, Development Manager (Sustainable Energy), and Niina Nousjärvi, Development Manager (Climate neutrality), City of Espoo</p> <p><i>Come and learn how Espoo is working towards climate-neutrality by 2030. Introductory presentation by Niina Nousjärvi will outline Espoo learnings of compiling Espoo climate-neutrality roadmap and Climate City Contract. After the introductory presentation we will discuss the ups and downs of climate work in cities. Espoo is one of European Commissions 100 climate-neutral and smart cities Misson cities, Espoo's Climate City Contract was approved in March 2024.</i></p>	<p>NEB in Practice and Proposals - Does NEB make a difference, and can it contribute to climate neutrality? (Meeting room Galileo, Innopoli 1)</p> <p>Hosts: Kelly Riedelsen, Project Manager of ARV, and Dirk Ahlers, Project Coordinator of the new ClimaGen project and Project Manager of NEB-STAR and Re-Value, NTNU</p> <p><i>This session will explore the practical applications of NEB and its integration into proposal writing. Participants will engage in interactive discussions and gain insights from project leaders who have successfully incorporated NEB into their work, sharing valuable experiences and best practices.</i></p>	<p>Engaging residents (Meeting room Hippocrates, Innopoli 1)</p> <p>Host: Ritva Salminiitty, Citizen Engagement Manager, RESPONSE project, Turku University of Applied Sciences</p> <p>Speakers: Nelli Vasse, Project Coordinator, City of Espoo Merja Honkanen, Project manager, KONE Julia Schließauf, Project manager, City of Leipzig, Louisa Martin, Project engineer, secon Ingenieure GmbH</p> <p><i>In this session, we will introduce citizen engagement methods (such as the Buddy Class programme and the Peer-mentor method) used in Espoo and Leipzig in SPARCS-project, and in Turku in RESPONSE-project. We will share experiences on how to reach citizens and explore what motivates them to get involved in the development of positive energy areas.</i></p>

13:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
14:15	The adventure continues... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Smart Cities Collaboration • Scaling up PED innovations • City transformation 	Mari Hukkalainen , VTT Technical Research Center of Finland, Philippe Fournand , Scalable Cities, Elina Wanne , City of Espoo and Nadja Riedel , City of Leipzig interviewed by Sami Kazi , VTT Technical Research Center of Finland
14:30	Seeing is believing - intro to site visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sello • Lippulaiva • Practicalities 	Lars Maura , Head of Business Development, Siemens Markus Suomi , Group Sustainability Manager, Citycon Iina Turunen , Specialist, City of Espoo
15:00-17:30	SPARCS site visit to Sello OR Lippulaiva demonstration site	
	Sello: Group 1: 15:21-17:00, group host: Johanna Kuusisto Group 2: 15:21-17:00, group host: Tytti Nikunen Group 3: 15:21-17:00, group host: Elina Wanne Group 4: 15:33-17:20, group host: Olivia Koskinen Group 5: 15:39-17:30, group host: Joni Mäkinen	Lippulaiva: Group 1: 15:19-17:10, group host: Aapo Huovila Group 2: 15:19-17:10, group host: Mia Ala-Juusela Group 3: 15:19-17:10, group host: Nelli Vasse Group 4: 15:29-17:20, group host: Kati Borgers Group 5: 15:29-17:20, group host: Jani Tartia
	<i>Detailed group division will be informed to the site visit participants in the final conference.</i>	

SPARCS project reserves the right to modify the agenda.