

A Living Lab is organized on March 23 in Bansko under the cross-border project E.VE.CR.I.

Municipal councilors, hotel owners and representatives of the Union of Tourism Business in Bansko will participate in the discussions

On Wednesday, March 23, 2022, in the town of Bansko will be held the fourth for Bulgaria meeting with the local community - Living Lab - within the cross-border project E.VE.CR.I. The aim is to stimulate the sustainable use of electric vehicles, to reveal the prospects and benefits for the region from the installation of charging stations for business development in the region, and stakeholders to express their intention to join the initiative to build charging stations at their sites.

At the meeting, entitled "Building a sustainable future for local businesses and the community through electric mobility", guest speakers from Greece and Bulgaria will present the benefits of electric vehicles and opportunities to install charging stations in the region. The E.VE.CR.I. is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and national funds of the countries participating in the Cross-border Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020. Municipal councilors, hotel owners and representatives of the Union of the Tourist Business in Bansko have confirmed their participation in the Field Laboratory. Before the meeting, each of the participants will be able to test driving an electric car. The meeting is open to the public and is expected to be joined by representatives of small and medium-sized local businesses to consider and establish partnerships for opportunities for cooperation.

At the end of 2021, the first and second Round Tables for Bulgaria were held in Petrich and Blagoevgrad, and an open meeting was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. In mid-March this year the third for Bulgaria round table was held in the town of Simitli. Within the project, 8 more events will be held with the participation of the local administration, small and medium local businesses, non-governmental organizations and other interested participants. Additional information and advance announcement of dates, locations for all events within E.VE.CR.I. is published regularly on the website and on the Facebook page of E.VE.CR.I.

By the end of 2023, a network of 50 charging stations should be built. It will provide a sustainable answer to the key problem - the lack of a constantly accessible, easy to use and widespread network of charging points. Its construction will help the areas near the border, where many trips to the neighboring country are understandably made, and therefore it is of paramount importance to have opportunities to charge the other country. E.VE.CR.I will make it easier for companies managing charging infrastructures to establish themselves more quickly in Greece and Bulgaria and to reach usability levels similar to more advanced European countries.

Expanding the network of charging stations for electric cars in the cross-border region offers a number of benefits - improved energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions affecting air quality and quality of life, improving entrepreneurship in the cross-border region through sharing, partnership and mutual learning and creation a living network of proponents of electric mobility, be it small businesses or municipalities.

E.V.E.C.R.I was initiated by the Alliance of the producers of ecological energy - BG (SPEE-BG), the Center for Research and Technology Hellas at the Greek Institute of Transport (HIT-CERTH) and the Bulgarian Electric Vehicle Association (BAEPS).