



#EURegionsWeek



21st

European Week of
Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe



VANGUARD INITIATIVE
New growth through smart specialisation

Vanguard Initiative regions leading by example in the local energy shift

Vanguard Initiative offices, Square de Meeus 1, 1000 Brussels

Wednesday 11th October 2023, 11:30 - 13:30

*The panel discussion will be followed by a **networking lunch from 12:30 to 13:30***

Background information

The Vanguard Initiative contributes to the clean energy transition following a place-based approach based on smart specialisation strategies and the VI Pilots. While the VI pilots provide a line to foster innovation valleys by drawing on the existing strengths of regional ecosystems, the event will showcase decarbonisation activities in the VI pilots and VI regions focusing on Hydrogen, Bioeconomy offshore wind Energy to provide other regions with the opportunity to connect for future endeavours.

Speakers

Gregor Macedoni, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Mayor of the City Municipality of Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Morena Diazi, Director-General for Knowledge, Research, Labour, Enterprises, Emilia Romagna Region, Italy

Anna Limbrey, Director, Challoch Energy, Wales, United Kingdom

Michael Andergassen, Mobility and Transport Manager, Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano/Bozen, Italy

Samo Peter Medved, Deputy Mayor, City of Maribor, East Slovenia

Rainer Gotsbacher, Technopolmanager Wiener Neustadt, Lower Austria

Damon Hewlett, Head of Energy and Climate, Scottish Government Brussels Office, United Kingdom

Janne Rautio, Project Manager, Hydrogen & Circular Economy, Digipolis Ltd., East&North Finland

Katarzyna Stec, Director, Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Ceramics and Building Materials, Malopolska, Poland

The session will be moderated by **Drasko Veselinovic**, Slovenian Business Research Association, VI Board member and co-coordinator of the VI Hydrogen pilot.

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