The PrioritHy conference on hydrogen takes place today under the auspices of the German EU Council Presidency. The aim of the conference is to present regional best practice examples of green hydrogen mobility and discuss possible approaches for international cooperation. By adopting a New Mobility Approach, Germany intends to gear the transport system throughout Europe to sustainability and climate change mitigation and, at the same time, make investments in order to future-proof economies, businesses and jobs in the EU.

Federal Minister of Transport, Andreas Scheuer:

“We now have the chance to pave the way for climate-neutral transport together. At present, more than 95 percent of transport is still dependent on the use of fossil fuels. That is why we urgently need more mobility that is based on renewable energies. We can only achieve our climate targets with zero-emission vehicles. Green hydrogen complements other alternative forms of drivetrain in an appropriate and climate friendly manner – across the entire range of transport modes.

The conference was jointly organized by the National Organization for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NOW GmbH) and the Fuel Cell Joint Undertaking (FCH JU); it is supported by the EU Commission and the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure. The event is part of the European Hydrogen Week.

Here you can find further information on the registration and the agenda: https://www.now-gmbh.de/aktuelles/veranstaltungen/priorithy-how-hydrogen-can-bring-recovery-growth-and-jobs-for-europe/

Information on best practice examples:

HyLand hydrogen regions:

Since 2019, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) has been pursuing a three-stage funding approach in the context of the National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP). The funding is aimed at regions and municipalities with different levels of development in terms of hydrogen technology and includes different funding instruments to provide targeted support.

The regional focus of the programme permits the provision of funds for closed systems that allow exploiting synergies in an entire region and across all sectors. In this way, integrated strategies for the entire chain of production, distribution and use of hydrogen applications in the transport sector and beyond can be realized.

Example project from the HyPerformer category:

The HyBayern project is planning to establish a closed cycle of green hydrogen production, distribution and use in emission-free vehicle fleets. The green hydrogen is produced regionally with a large-scale electrolyzer. This will serve passenger car and bus filling stations, among other things. In addition, two sub-projects with decentralized hydrogen production and on-site refuelling from photovoltaic electricity surpluses will be implemented. At HyBayern, transport companies, energy suppliers, industry and trade work together to implement the project. The use of green hydrogen, among other things, for new fuel cell buses, cars, materials handling equipment such as hoisting trucks and forklift trucks, is expected to save an estimated 4,500 tonnes of CO2 annually.

The next step is to connect the hydrogen regions to create a comprehensive infrastructure and as open systems as possible.

Further information on the Hyland projects can be found at the following links:
https://www.ptj.de/projektfoerderung/nip/hyland (German only);
https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/064-nine-hydrogen-regions-announced.html

Funding project at European level

Example project Green Hysland:

With around 10 million euros, the European Commission is supporting the green Green Hysland hydrogen project on the Balearic Islands. As part of Green Hysland, a system is being created on the island of Mallorca that will produce, distribute and use at least 300 tonnes of renewable hydrogen from solar energy each year. Mallorca is to become the first hydrogen node in southern Europe and, at the same time, Europe's first example of an integrated island economy based on green hydrogen. There will be several applications for green hydrogen on the island, including fuel supply for a fleet of fuel cell buses and fuel cell rental vehicles, the generation of heat and electricity for commercial and public buildings and the provision of auxiliary energy for ferries and port operations. The project involves feeding green hydrogen into the island's gas pipeline network by means of a guaranteed origin system in order to decarbonize gas supply. The initiative requires a total investment of around 50 million euros, including renewable electricity generation and green hydrogen end-use applications. The project is coordinated by Enagás and jointly funded with Acciona, CEMEX and Redexis as part of a CEMEX reindustrialization plan.

Information on the promotion of hydrogen by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure:

As part of the National Innovation Programme for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP), the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure is already promoting research and development as well as market activation measures. According to the budget plan, the NIP will have funds available from 2021 totalling around 80 million euros per year.
A further 1.6 billion euros has been earmarked by 2024 to implement the National Hydrogen Strategy.
In addition, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure plans to promote open technology for the purchase of buses, commercial vehicles and rolling stock, including vehicles powered by hydrogen and fuel cells as well as the refuelling infrastructure required for vehicles.
All information about the funding programmes can be found at the following link: https://www.now-gmbh.de/foerderung/foerderprogramme/wasserstoff-und-brennstoffzelle/