

## **Opening Final Event HIDDEN & BAT4EVER**

Wednesday 31st January 2024

The Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus

U-Residence

Welcome speech by MOBI Director and Head of ETEC Department

Prof. dr. Joeri Van Mierlo

As director of MOBI, at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel it gives me great **pleasure to welcome** you all to the final event of the projects HIDDEN as well as BAT4EVER.

Our University has over **16500 students** spread over 5 different campuses.

Since its inception in 1970, the University of Brussels has *always* been a **trendsetter** in qualitative research activities.

The result of this are the various **internationally recognized centers of excellence**.

One research area that the Vrije Universiteit Brussel has been specializing in for over *50 years* is electromobility,

known now as the **MOBI research center**. With over 120 experts, MOBI is leading the state-of-the-art in electromobility.

The strength of the MOBI team resides in a unique multidisciplinary combination of socio-economical, environmental & technical competencies.

**MOBI's Battery Innovation Centre**, led by Prof Maitane Berecibar and her team, is the **foremost Belgian expertise** center for the research and development of energy storage systems for traction and stationary applications.

**MOBI's Battery Innovation Centre** offers **state-of-the-art facilities**, tools and solutions for developing electric and hybrid energy systems.

The Battery Innovation Centre's expertise is based on in-depth experimental analysis in conjunction with a top notch Battery Lab.

Europe needs to **gain leverage in manufacturing the next-generation battery**, and an important step towards this achievement is **gaining expertise in self-healing properties**, sensor integration, and usage of more sustainable materials.

The **Battery Innovation Centre** is in this regard coordinating and participating in several of the key projects on these aspects as well as on application-level research.

The **BATTERY2030+ initiative**, in which MOBI is core partner, is inventing the batteries of the future.

For success, it is crucial to cooperate with the **European Battery Industry** and **the research community** to provide them with breakthrough technologies across the **full value chain**.

Within the collaborative umbrella of the BATTERY2030+ initiative, the **HIDDEN** project coordinated by **VTT** and the **BAT4EVER** project coordinated by **MOBI**, are two projects focusing on implementation of self-healing functionalities into advanced battery chemistries.

Both projects are coming to an end in February this year after 3,5 years of research.

Today, I am confident that we will listen to **game-changing concepts** from these two projects and this for the batteries that will shape our future.

Today's final event of HIDDEN and BAT4EVER **brings together** industry, research centers and universities.

Please take this opportunity to work together and tackle research obstacles on Self-healing functionalities and learn about the achievements and challenges from both these excellent projects.

I am confident that by addressing this topic as a group, you will exceed expectations by bringing together the latest research trends to develop the batteries of the future.

I wish you an exciting and stimulating day here at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and now hand the floor over back to **Philippe Jacques** who will guide you further through this session.