

SMART CITIES WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2022

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Working Group is to act as a platform to discuss and share information on priorities and funding opportunities linked to Smart Cities. The WG aims to facilitate sharing of experiences and support matchmaking to develop new partnerships and projects. The WG explores synergies between the areas linked to Smart Cities and cooperates with the ERRIN WGs on Energy and Climate Change, Transport and ICT.

CONTEXT

The key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2022

Priorities and strategies:

- Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities
- Driving Urban Transitions Partnership
- New European Bauhaus
- Data Act

Events:

- Nordic Edge (10 & 11 May)
- Smart City Expo World Congress

The Smart Cities WG will continue following the implementation of the Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities and look for opportunities to influence the implementation process and its key components.

Important funding programmes for the Working Group and how the WG aims to facilitate project development

- Horizon Europe
 - Work Programme for Missions: Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities
 - Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- European Urban Initiative
- Digital Europe Programme
- Interreg
- LIFE
 - Sub-programme: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The WG aims to inform members of upcoming calls by organising information sessions as well as coffee meetings where interesting funding opportunities can be discussed and developed further. The aim is to follow the development of several funding programmes to provide an overview of calls related to the smart cities topic.

How does the group support partnership building and collaborate with other European organisations or networks?

The WG will support partnership building among the membership by providing opportunities for project development activities, e.g. project coffee meetings.

What topics and tailored activities could be proposed for less active regions, for example tackling topics directed to widening countries?

The Smart Cities WG aims to include a wide range of topics in the annual plan to ensure that the WG members' interests and priorities are covered. Whenever relevant, WG members will be invited to submit their regional examples and best practices to be presented in the meetings.

ACTIVITIES

Funding opportunities to realise the twin transition

1 February 2022 | Online

This meeting aims to provide WG members with a better understanding of some of the upcoming funding opportunities for cities to realise the twin transition. The European Commission will present two calls under the Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities from the recently published Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 on the Missions. This will be followed by a presentation of the Digital Europe Programme calls on data spaces for smart cities.

The meeting will be an online information session directed towards the Brussels-based audience and regional stakeholders working on project development.

Information session on the Data Act

Spring 2022 | Online

This information session will focus on the Data Act, which is expected to be adopted on 23 February 2022, and its implications for regional public authorities and their stakeholders, including citizens and businesses. A speaker from one of the EU institutions will be invited to present the document from a regional perspective and engage in a Q&A discussion.

This meeting will be co-organised with the ICT WG.

Follow-up on the selection of Mission Cities

June 2022 | Physical

This meeting aims to follow up on the selection of cities for the Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities to explore and discuss the next steps for non-selected cities and how they can benefit from the mission activities, while also reflecting on the next steps for selected cities. The Mission Secretariat will be invited to provide an update on the next steps, and cities selected for the Cities Mission will be invited to provide insights into their planned activities.

The meeting will be organised as a physical meeting to allow for an interactive exchange between WG members and will be directed towards the Brussels-based audience.

Buildings

June 2022 (TBC)

An online meeting focused on integrated urban planning, linking to energy grids, energy efficiency, and zero-emission construction sites. This meeting will feature a speaker from one of the coordinators of the Built4People partnership: European Commission, the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) or the World Green Building Council (WGBC). The New European Bauhaus perspective on buildings or smart grids will also be tackled. Members will present their regional examples to showcase their activities within the wider integrated urban planning.

This meeting is set to be organised jointly with the Energy & Climate Change WG.

Update on the European Urban Initiative and the Urban Innovative Actions

Autumn 2022

In this information session, the European Commission will be invited to provide an update on the European Urban Initiative and the Urban Innovative Actions. The meeting is directed towards the Brussels-based audience and interested regional stakeholders, with the aim to provide an understanding of the renewal of the Urban Innovative Actions as part of the European Urban Initiative for the new programming period.