

## SMART CITIES WORKING GROUP

### ANNUAL PLAN 2022

#### WORKING GROUP LEADERS

Anthony van de Ven, Brainport Eindhoven, [anthony.vd.ven@eindhoven.nl](mailto:anthony.vd.ven@eindhoven.nl)

Pieter Faber, Cities Northern Netherlands, [p.faber@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu](mailto:p.faber@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu)

Miia Paananen, Turku-Southwest Finland, [miia.paananen@turku.fi](mailto:miia.paananen@turku.fi)

Runa Monstad, Stavanger, [runa.monstad@stavangerregion.no](mailto:runa.monstad@stavangerregion.no)

#### 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

**What are 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.

### **Which funding programmes are important for the Working Group and how does the WG aim 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 | Online meeting**

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.

## **Data legislation: Impact on cities and regions**

**28 March | Online meeting**

This joint ICT and Smart Cities WG meeting will provide a bird's eye view of the current EU legislation in the field of data, with a focus on the recent Data Act proposal. Two European Commission speakers will systematise existing initiatives, also in the wider context of the EU digital strategy, and showcase their impact and possible ways forward for local and regional administrations. Concrete examples of use cases with particular relevance for regions and cities will also be presented.

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

## **Towards climate neutrality by 2030: Initiatives supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission**

**20 October | Physical meeting**

After the announcement of the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart-cities by 2030, cities are exploring ways to effectively implement the mission objective of a net zero future. This Smart Cities WG meeting aims to provide an overview of initiatives that can support cities in this endeavour, while exploring links and synergies between them. The Mission Manager of the Cities Mission will also be invited to present the current state of the mission as well as its outlook in terms of funding opportunities and links to other EU initiatives and policies. Finally, the ERRIN Secretariat will give an update on its work within the NetZeroCities project, which is supporting cities on their journey towards climate neutrality.