

SMART CITIES WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2023

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Working Group is to act as a platform to offer early information on priorities and funding opportunities linked to Smart Cities, with a focus on the EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. The WG aims to facilitate sharing of experiences and support matchmaking to develop new partnerships and projects. The WG targets the smart city topic from an integrated and holistic approach, addressing issues such as citizen engagement, data-driven policy and smart governance models, while exploring synergies between the areas linked to smart cities as addressed by 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 2023?

- Horizon Europe Programme
 - Work Programme 2023-2024
 - Mid-term review
- EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
 - Development of the Climate City Contracts and their implementation
 - Review of the EU Missions in the Horizon Europe mid-term review
- Partnerships for Regional Innovation
- EU Partnerships
 - Driving Urban Transitions Partnership
- European Urban Initiative

Which funding programmes are important for the Working Group and how does the WG aim to facilitate project development?

Funding programmes related to the smart cities topic and the Cities Mission objectives are of importance to the Smart Cities WG:

- Horizon Europe Cluster 4 & 5 and the Mission Work Programme
- European Innovation Ecosystems Programme
- European Urban Initiative Programme

The WG aims to facilitate project development through the organisation of an information session on funding opportunities under two initiatives supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission objectives – Driving Urban Transitions Partnership and European Urban Initiative.

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 sharing information on funding opportunities related to the smart city topic and the Cities Mission objectives. The WG will also continue following and working with the NetZeroCities and MOSAIC projects in which ERRIN is a partner.

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

The Smart Cities WG will look to foster cooperation and information exchange among all WG members in the context of the Cities Mission.

ACTIVITIES

Cities Mission input for ERRIN's contribution to the Horizon consultation

January/February 2023

The Smart Cities WG will provide input on the Cities Mission to ERRIN's contribution to the European Commission's Horizon consultation. The WG will launch a questionnaire to gather input from members on the impact and added value of the Mission on the local, regional and national level. The input received through the questionnaire will be consulted in the development of ERRIN's input paper.

The questionnaire is mainly directed towards the members of the Smart Cities, Transport and Energy and Climate Change WGs.

Smart Cities WG breakfast meeting: Climate City Contracts and national support structures for the Cities Mission

March 2023 (physical meeting)

The Smart Cities WG will kick off the activities of the year with a networking breakfast. The WG leaders will present the work plan for 2023, providing an opportunity for WG members to bring forward their interest and potential involvement in the activities.

This WG meeting will also shed some light on recent developments within the Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities. Several Member States are now developing national mission networks to support the creation and implementation of the Climate City Contracts, as well as finding ways to support the transition in all cities interested in achieving climate-neutrality, also beyond the ones selected for the Cities Mission. This meeting will present experiences from cities that already have developed the first iteration of their Climate City Contract, as well as present and discuss examples of established national mission networks.

This WG meeting will be a physical event directed towards Brussels-based people.

Networking event linked to the Cities Mission conference

June 2023 (physical meeting)

The Smart Cities WG will organise a networking event linked to the Cities Mission conference, which will be organised for the Mission Cities in Brussels in late spring 2023. The networking event will enable cities to exchange and discuss challenges and opportunities around the Mission. The event will have a thematic focus which will be decided on at a later stage and will include some presentations and/or facilitated discussions around the set topic.

This WG session will be a physical event directed towards Brussels-based people and regional stakeholders travelling to Brussels for the conference.

Initiatives supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission objectives

September 2023 (physical meeting)

This meeting will follow up on the meeting organised in autumn 2022 on initiatives supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission. Representatives of the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership and the European Urban Initiative will be invited to present new funding opportunities under the initiatives. The aim of the meeting is to highlight funding opportunities outside of Horizon Europe that can help fund the objectives of the Cities Mission.

The meeting will be organised as a physical meeting directed towards Brussels-based people.

Nature Restoration Law: Showcasing local challenges and opportunities

November 2023 (online/hybrid meeting)

The new Nature Restoration Law, proposed by the European Commission in June 2022, will present challenges to cities as it proposes ambitious restoration requirements for urban ecosystems. This meeting, which will be organised jointly with the Bioeconomy WG, will discuss some of these challenges while also showcasing the innovative solutions urban areas are adopting to fulfil the requirements of the law.

WG members will be invited to present their innovative solutions, such as integrated green infrastructure solutions, compensation models as well as improving and monitoring the quality of green areas, in this best practice exchange, with the aim to jointly discuss and explore the innovation aspect of the new law. The meeting will be directed both towards Brussels-based people and regional stakeholders.

Supporting documents are available at: <https://errin.eu/wg-resources>