

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.

Climate City Contracts and national cities mission networks

25 April 2023 (physical meeting)

The first cohort of cities selected for the Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 have submitted the first iteration of their Climate City Contracts, while other cities are working on developing their contracts with a view to submit them at a later stage. This Smart Cities WG meeting will invite cities to present their experiences in developing the Climate City Contracts, including challenges and lessons learnt. At the same time, national Cities Mission networks are emerging in countries across Europe, enabling cities to work together with national ministries and institutions to address the challenges faced by cities in their journey towards climate neutrality. This WG meeting will invite some of the existing networks to present the initiatives and provide insights into their activities. Finally, the Mission Secretariat will give an update on the Mission Label and the activities of the Mission Board will be presented.

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

Nature Restoration Law: Showcasing local challenges and opportunities

26 October 2023 (physical meeting)

The new Nature Restoration Law, which passed through the European Parliament in July 2023, will present challenges to cities as it proposes ambitious restoration requirements for urban ecosystems. This meeting, jointly organised by the Smart Cities WG and the Bioeconomy WG, will discuss some of these challenges while also showcasing innovative solutions. The European Commission will present the current state of play of the Nature Restoration Law as well as funding opportunities for cities and regions to create greener cities. ERRIN members will present examples of innovative solutions that urban areas can adopt to fulfil the requirements of the law, with the aim to jointly explore the innovation potential that the new law presents.

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