



Briefing note

EU Smart Cities and Communities initiative

Update 01 October 2013

Origin and current status

In July 2012 the European Commission published its Communication on a European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities. It aims to enable cities to combine technical change with economic and organisational innovation and an increase of energy efficiency across all aspects of urban life. The objective is to create a framework for accelerating the deployment and widespread market uptake of low carbon technologies and sustainable solutions in cities. The initiative is being led by Commissioners Oettinger (energy), Kroes (digital) and Kallas (transport).

As part of the Communication, the European Commission mandated the creation of a High Level Group to draft a strategic implementation plan for the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities by November 2013.

Smart Cities High Level Group (HLG)

The role of the HLG and our participation

The role of the HLG is to draft a strategic implementation plan for the EIP. This should be a broad framework setting a visionary target and providing operational objectives, with a view to accelerating full scale deployment of smart city solutions. It should be a framework for action for all relevant stakeholders (e.g. EU, cities, industry, research, SMEs, NGO).

The SIP may influence future smart cities funding calls, particularly the 'Lighthouse Projects' which the Commission will fund - these will be large scale projects which are close to market and can really demonstrate the impact of smart cities solutions and be replicated elsewhere.

The President of EURO CITIES, the Mayor of Warsaw, is participating in the HLG as mayor, and also as president of EURO CITIES. Ahead of each meeting we seek input from our executive committee, forum chairs and from our cross-sectoral smart cities group, in addition to liaising closely with Warsaw. EURO CITIES already has 2 published position statements on the smart cities initiative, which have also been used to provide input.

EURO CITIES also participates in the Sherpa group (which does the drafting of the SIP for the High Level Group). The Sherpa group is composed of representatives for each of the HLG members and others from cities, industry, universities and research organisations.

The process so far

There have been four Sherpa meetings so far and one meeting of the HLG. The first two Sherpa meetings focused on what cities need in terms of deploying smart city solutions, and what the barriers are to large scale roll out of these solutions. The outcome was presented to the first HLG on 14 May, setting out three 'key aspects':

- Insights & Governance: citizen/customer insight & engagement/city governance/local leadership & vision'
- Funding & finance: new integrated business models, modernized public procurement, better leveraging of funding instruments
- Information & Decisions: accessible public and other data, standards for interoperability, performance indicators, measuring frameworks

The third and fourth Sherpa meetings identified 12 priority areas for the SIP (listed below). The three areas of: sustainable urban mobility; districts and built environment and; integrated infrastructures, were identified as particularly important and will act as pillars for the other priority areas.

Action plans have been developed for each of the 12 areas and contain expected impacts, key performance indicators (KPI's) and suggested implementation actions for each of the 12 areas.

- Urban sustainable mobility
- Districts and Built Environment
- Integrated Infrastructures
- Citizen Focus
- Integrated planning & management
- Knowledge sharing
- Procurement
- Finance, Business Models, Funding

- Open data
- Standards
- Baselines, Performances Indicators
- Policy & Regulation
- General Implementation Modes

The Commission has proposed to divide the SIP into two documents: i) a strategy document outlining overall objectives, commitments of various stakeholders and governance issues, ii) an implementation plan with proposals for concrete actions under each priority area.

Next steps

- The HLG will adopt the SIP at their final meeting on 14 October. This document will be concise and focus on 1) key issues/state of play, 2) desired state and 3) the game changers under each priority area
- The Commission will then release the SIP along with an annex document on implementation containing suggestions for actions in all priority areas.

Funding

From 2014 onwards, funding for the Smart Cities Initiative will come from Horizon 2020. The exact funding available and the funding programmes to be used for lighthouse projects are still not clear. The Commission would like to see through different funding sources so it may be possible to utilise structural funds, Horizon 2020 funds etc. but this remains to be clarified by the Commission.

Stakeholder Platform

The Smart Cities and Communities stakeholder platform held its final meeting in Budapest on 5/6 June. The Platform presented their final report which included recommendations for the High Level Group to incorporate into its strategic implementation plan. The conference also saw a presentation of the key innovations identified by the Platform.

Smart Cities & Communities post-2013

- In 2014 the Smart cities stakeholder platform will start in its 2nd version. It remains to be seen what the exact role and aim of this platform will be.
- The initiative is part of the proposal on a new framework programme to fund research and innovation, Horizon 2020. The budget is approximately 70 billion and the first calls are expected in December 2013.

Next steps

European Commission	European Parliament	EUROCITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 14 Final HLG Meeting • November EC to adopt a Communication on the Strategic Implementation Plan late November - with corresponding launch conference • December First H2020 calls expected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn 2013 Expected EP plenary vote on Horizon 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27-29 November EUROCITIES Annual Conference - Smart Citizens(in Ghent)

Further info

FP7 SMARTCITIES-ENERGY-2013 call:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-SMARTCITIES-2013>

EU SET-Plan: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm

Smart Cities and Communities Communication and initiative website:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/smart_cities_en.htm

Smart Cities and Communities Stakeholder Platform

<http://eu-smartcities.eu/>

