



# EUROCITIES statement on standards in the Digital Single Market



Common, open standards and interoperability solutions are essential for the completion of the EU Digital Single Market further stimulating innovation and growth in Europe.

Cities, directly or through their associations at EU level, can take a more active role in the development of standards and technical specifications that will affect the next generation of urban projects and especially those related to Application Programme Interfaces (APIs), the Internet of Things and smart cities.

Most projects about energy efficiency, climate change and 'getting smarter' are currently implemented at city scale. City authorities can provide input based on citizens' needs. We are also best placed to evaluate the impact of standards in tackling economic and societal challenges including Internet Protocol (IP) and data privacy issues.

As major procurers of goods and services, city authorities can support the consistent application of existing and new standards.

The Commission should fully recognise the role of cities in the roll out of the Digital Single Market strategy.

## General recommendations for standards

ICT will be a major enabler not only in delivering efficient city services but also in the creation of new markets and solutions to societal challenges. Flow of data and the interoperability of systems and organisations are the basis of an efficient smart city market<sup>1</sup>. The Commission should work more closely with standard-setting organisations to, first, identify, widen<sup>2</sup> where applicable and promote existing standards and, then, deliver new standards for open data, APIs and layout of digital technologies. All these standards should add value when adopted by cities. They should:

- respond to input coming from all key stakeholders (cities, business, academia and member states)

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<sup>1</sup> For example as in the European Interoperability Framework:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/isa\\_annex\\_ij\\_eif\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/isa_annex_ij_eif_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> "While there are already a large number of standards in many of the key technology and organisational management areas related to smart and sustainable cities and communities, those standards may not necessarily reflect the complexity of dealing with a smart and sustainable city or community as a system of systems, and the specific challenges that this brings", SSCC-CG Final Report, p.33, <http://bit.ly/1PNbihQ>

- be relevant to existing and emerging challenges and needs in cities. Citizens' needs must be the starting point of the smart cities standardisation process, for example<sup>3</sup>:
  - protection of personal data to prevent their misuse
  - support the provision of better public services
  - encouragement of collaboration and co-creation mechanisms
  - development of digital skills for those at risk of exclusion
  - accessibility to technology and information for persons with special needs
- pay attention to the sensitivity of data collected in public spaces
- be low-threshold, simple and easy-to-adopt
- be followed by mechanisms that will ensure their adoptability by national standardisation organisations and final users
- be linked to financial mechanisms that will promote their use
- be part of a wider framework that supports SMEs, innovative start-ups and citizen initiatives contributing to the development of digital technologies, stimulates innovation and safeguards diversification of the market

## Priority domains for standardisation

We would welcome the development of standards in many domains of the Digital Single Market and especially those that directly affect the 'delivery of services' and 'innovative and integrated solutions' categories.

Related to delivery of services, standards for *data driven services and applications* (especially APIs and open and big data), *intelligent transport systems, smart and efficient energy use*, and *cybersecurity* are priorities. For example, city authorities increasingly develop cybersecurity strategies by addressing prevention and reaction measures. It is necessary to establish cooperation on cybersecurity to access information in case of major incidents, e.g. network information security processes for the exchange of electronic health records or cloud computing services.

City authorities need to provide innovative and integrated solutions while reducing pressure on their budgets due to insufficiently tested solutions and preventing provider lock-ins. Developing standards for *5G communications*, the *Internet of Things*, *eHealth and aging*, and *smart cities* are priorities in this category.

We also see a particular need for investments in interoperability and common standards that facilitate cross-domain solutions, creating an added value that goes beyond a specific domain. Some cities are running experiments that indicate great potential in this approach. The focus should be on modular, easy-to-connect building blocks, common open interfaces and shared data models to stimulate fast, open innovation, as opposed to a platform approach, which may lead to over-specification as well as unnecessary technology and vendor lock-ins.

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<sup>3</sup> Cities' needs have been mainly identified through the work developed within the EUROCIITIES Knowledge Society Forum, the Green Digital Charter (<http://www.greendigitalcharter.eu/>), CITYKeys project (<http://www.citykeys-project.eu/>) and our participation in the CEN/CENELEC/ETSI Coordination Group 'Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities'.

## Intelligent Transport Systems

Urban Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are an important tool for tackling congestion in cities, promoting integration and inter-modality, improving and encouraging use of public transport and increasing safety. They have the potential to significantly improve the functionality and quality of life of our cities, as well as increase accessibility within and between cities for goods and passengers.

Providing more coherence via common urban ITS standards, interoperable data formats and/or interfaces would be welcome. Lightweight data exchange formats are required and some of the traditional approaches to large data exchanges may not be appropriate.

Standards would also facilitate the deployment of new technologies. We would prefer these technologies to increase the shift towards more sustainable modes of transport like public transport, cycling and walking through, for example, integrated ticketing or real-time travel information.

We would welcome fast delivery of standards in the three identified domains related to ITS suggested by the European Commission in the “EU Guidelines for ITS deployment in urban areas”<sup>4</sup> (multimodal information services, traffic management and urban logistics) as a pre-requisite for the development of interoperable, robust systems and applications.

## Smart cities and urban platforms

We agree that open urban platforms are a pre-requisite to support fast take-up of smart solutions in cities, to allow many stakeholders of a city to participate and for different vendor solutions to be easily integrated<sup>5</sup>. Interoperability and common standards in the supply side are necessary to curb fragmentation and uncertainty on the demand side.

As EUROCITIES, we welcome the coordinated work of various stakeholders (European Commission, European standardisation organisations and signatories of MoU on urban platforms<sup>6</sup>) in this area. It would be important that equal efforts are made also in the other priority domains for standardisation.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/road/action\\_plan/its\\_for\\_urban\\_areas\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/road/action_plan/its_for_urban_areas_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> Memorandum of Understanding “Towards open urban platforms for smart cities and communities”  
<http://bit.ly/1ZGpVZF>

<sup>6</sup> <https://eu-smartcities.eu/urban-platforms>