Origin and current status

- October 2009: Communication on SET-Plan (COM(2009)519 final)
- October 2010: Communication on Innovation Union (COM(2010) 546 final)
- March 2011: Public consultation on Smart Cities and Communities initiative
- June 2011: Launch of Smart Cities and Communities initiative
- Autumn 2011: Launch of Stakeholder Community

An early draft of the European recovery plan in 2009 held a Eur500 million programme on "smart cities", foreseen to support green investments or possibly offer support to actions taken by Covenant of Mayor cities. This part of the recovery plan has disappeared in later drafts. Following further demands by the European Parliament and the Council, the idea of a Smart Cities initiative was taken forward into the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), which can be understood as technology roadmap to reach the EU's 20/20/20 targets. After a public consultation in March 2011 the Smart Cities & Communities initiative has been launched in June 2011.

The Smart Cities & Communities initiative should test a holistic approach which wants 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 intending to bring together activities in ICT, Energy and Mobility/Transport together, focusing on activities in the following areas

- Buildings Networks: electricity and heating and cooling
- Supply technologies: electricity and heating and cooling
- Energy in cities – system integration and management
- Transport
- Innovative use of Public Procurement
- Standardisation
- Financial engineering and assistance

Supported cities should progress by 2020 towards a set of targets based on local sustainability plans, for example the sustainable energy action plans developed under the Covenant of Mayors.

EUROCITIES involvement

A first meeting between EUROCITIES and EC on the topic in March 2010 was followed by further exchanges throughout 2010&2011, as well as EUROCITIES' participation in an expert workshop on Smart Cities, which took place on 24 September 2010. EUROCITIES also prepared input through a technical note that was submitted to the Commission in July 2010 and a mini-survey that was conducted with EUROCITIES members throughout January 2011. In May 2011, EUROCITIES published a response to a public consultation on the initiative. In January 2012, a meeting between key stakeholders and the cabinets of Directorate-Generals Energy, Mobility and Information Society took place, to which EUROCIITES was invited.

Funding

Until 2013, the financial contribution will come from a number of FP7 call for proposals. The first call has been launched in July 2011 (FP7-ENERGY-SMARTCITIES-2012) and included three thematic priorities:

- Demonstration of nearly Zero Energy Building

- Heating and cooling technologies for large-scale systems for urban areas
- Strategic sustainable planning and screening of city plans

. The next FP7 call, likely to be opened in June/July 2012, could focus on ICT or transport aspects.

Stakeholder Platform

The Commission has tendered for a stakeholder platform that was launched in November 2011. The stakeholder platform will involve cities, industry and research to structure technology roadmapping, facilitate knowledge sharing between cities and their partners and replication and plan future activities of the Smart Cities & Communities initiative. The Platform will run three specific thematic working groups

- **Energy supply networks**: this Working Group will focus on the solutions for balancing energy supply and demand, smart electricity grids and innovative energy solutions in water and waste processing.
- **Energy efficiency in buildings**: this Working Group will deal with savings in energy end-use, renewables-behind-the-meter (RBM) technologies and energy savings for transport.
- **Mobility and transport**: this Working Group will concentrate on two main topics:
  o Urban Mobility Concepts, such as combining public transport in urban areas with other modes of motorised and non-motorised transport or constructing the route from origin to destination in a seamless manner
  o Technologies for Urban transport management, with particular attention to the role of smart technology to reduce the costs

The platform will also run two strategic groups
- The **Coordination Group on Finance** will develop accessible, clear information on financial opportunities from the EU (and other possible sources) to Smart Cities Platform stakeholders. Its overall goal is to accelerate the rate of research, innovation and market integration of new technologies.
- The **Smart Cities Roadmap Group** will develop a Ten Years Rolling Vision of the Smart Cities' technologies. This will streamline the development of innovative Smart Cities' measures and help ensure replication across Member States.

The thematic working groups are expected to run from June 2012 - Spring 2013 and will each hold 3-4 meetings. The first meeting of the groups will take place together with the first conference of the stakeholder platform on 4-5 June 2012.

There will be an open call for applications running via the stakeholder platform, through which cities should be able to apply directly.

In addition to this, EUROCITIES has been invited to nominate a EUROCITIES representative for each of the thematic groups.

Smart Cities & Communities post-2013

The initiative is part of the proposal on a new framework programme to fund research&innovation, Horizon 2020. At the moment the initiative is being placed under the heading of "inclusive societies", whilst EUROCITIES is proposing it should be set-up much more strategic and link the specific programmes on Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges.

Further details on the future of the initiative are expected to be set out in a Commission Communication planned for April/May 2012. A second objective of the Communication will be to streamline and coordinate different Smart Cities activities within the European Commission from key areas in ICT, Mobility& Transport and Energy under the joint heading Smart Cities & Communities.

What are the advantages for cities to get involved?

Cities are key players to reach Europe's energy targets; they are major energy consumers (building, transport, lightning, energy use etc.) but also bodies that can come up with the kind of innovative solutions that can effectively address challenges in reaching 20/20/20 goals. They can also serve as test beds for large-scale pilots and introduce new holistic models of urban planning with great impact. Cities can also play a big role in driving behaviour and social change in this respect.

The Smart Cities initiative offers a valuable financing and co-financing source for energy and climate

projects in big European cities and ideally added value and support to activities already underway in the Covenant of Mayors.

Possible options to get involved

Short term:
- Lobby MS in FP7 programme committee to influence future calls and place the initiative at a strategic level in the future framework programme Horizon 2020
- Apply to Working Groups in Stakeholder Platform

Mid-term:
- Participate in Stakeholder Platform
- Apply for funding through FP7
- Link Covenant of Mayors/national/regional action plans with Smart Cities

Next steps/actions to implement		
European Commission		EUROCITIES
April/May 2012 Commission Communication on Smart Cities & Communities **June/July 2012** Next FP7 Smart Cities Call **4/5 June 2012** Annual conference of Stakeholder Platform and Working Groups		**Early 2012** Nomination of EUROCITIES representatives for stakeholder platform **June 2012** Matchmaking event on FP7 Smart Cities Call **Second half of 2012** Input into EP opinion on Commission Communication

Further info
FP7 SMARTCITIES-ENERGY-2012 call:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-ENERGY-SMARTCITIES-2012
EU SET-Plan: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm
Smart Cities and Communities initiative European Commission website:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/smart_cities_en.htm
Smart Cities and Communities Stakeholder Platform
http://eu-smartcities.eu/

Contact in EUROCITIES Brussels Office
Jan Franke, Policy Officer Knowledge Society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu , +32 (0) 2 552 08 70