European Commission
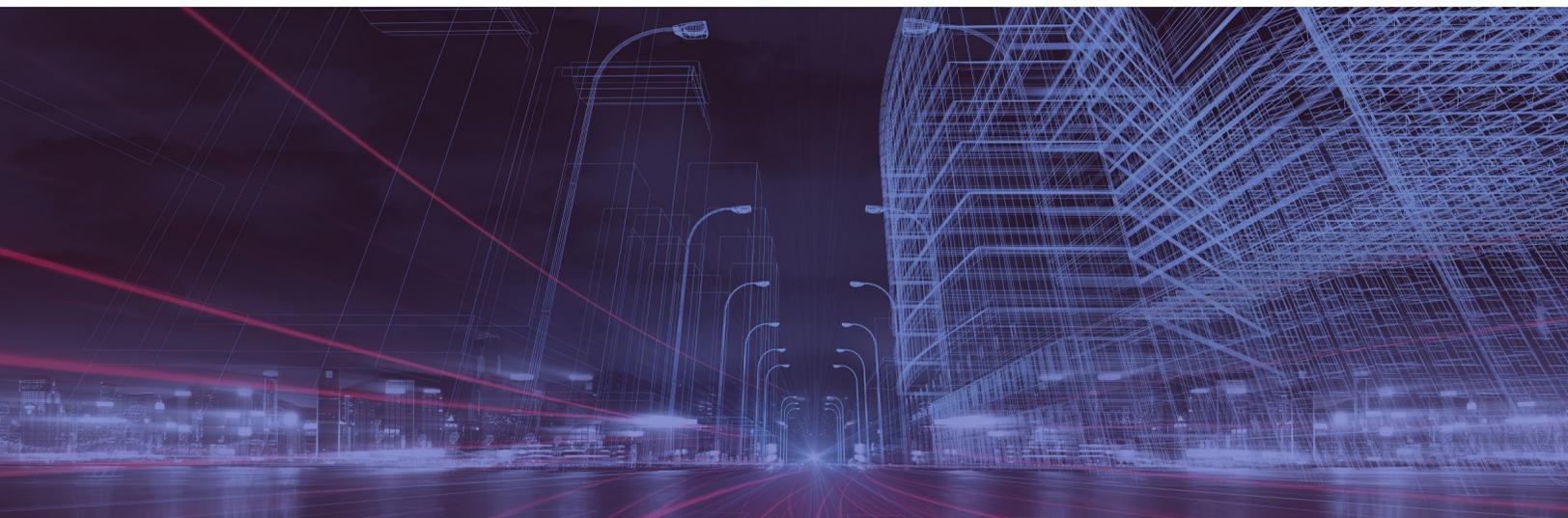
High-level Conference

The Digital Cities Challenge: A Strategy for EU Cities in the 21st century

5th of June 2019

The High-level Conference

The technological, social, and economic effects of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, Internet of Things, blockchain are rapidly changing the world around us. Nowhere is this more evident than in cities – where the density and diversity of human settlement creates innovation-friendly ecosystems that promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. City leadership must be aware and empowered to direct such transformation for the long term benefit of citizens.

The European Commission's Digital Cities Challenge initiative drives urban and industrial transformation in 40 European cities and helps them achieve smart and sustainable growth, through four pillars: demonstrating visionary leadership, building thriving local innovation ecosystems, creating new markets based on smart infrastructures, advanced technologies and data and upskilling the city.

The initiative offers policy advisory services and coaching opportunities and provides cities with tools and best practices both for assessing current city readiness and moving forward their vision for the future. The cities share a network of collaboration, knowledge sharing and peer learning.

Objectives of the conference:
The high-level conference will showcase the effects of technological transformation in European cities and will seek to agree on policy priorities and pave the way for the future strategy for Intelligent Cities in the 21st century.

It will discuss the following thematic priorities:

- Setting ambitious vision and creating modern, sustainable city-ecosystems for transformation of their territories

- Shaping the cities of the future, by promoting innovation in policy, decisions that are made on sound EU values as well as robust data, by investing in high-tech infrastructure, technology and open data and piloting the next generation of technological solutions
- Upskilling the cities through disruptive education and training, as an essential condition for the industrial modernisation and transformation of the territory.

Over 400 participants are expected including high-level speakers, such as:

- Policy makers
- Industry and business leaders, clusters and associations
- Representatives of international organisations (UN, WEF, OECD, etc)
- Academics, digital transformation and smart city experts, representatives of think tanks, training experts

Agenda

8:30-9:00 Registration and welcome coffee

09:00-09:15 Welcome

- Timo Pesonen, Director General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the European Commission

9:15- 10:15 Setting the scene: Sustainable urban growth and development in the EU Agenda

- Markku Markkula, First Vice President of the European Committee of the Regions and Rapporteur for the Digital Europe Programme
- Normund Popens, Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy

10:15-10:45 Cities leading the global economy

Jan Schoenig, Director Urban Development & Smart Cities - Siemens Global Center of Competence Cities

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:30 Sustainable city-ecosystems: Visionary leadership and Governance

For the achievement of smart growth in a city, a thriving ecosystem, which shares an ambitious vision and catalyses coordinated action among the different players is necessary.

- Success stories of city governance and reputation through the Digital Cities Challenge initiative. Panel discussion with:
  - Vojko Obernsnel, Mayor of Rijeka
  - Adrian Ballester Espinosa, Vice-president in Diputación Alicante
  - Fabio Graziosi, professor at the University of L'Aquila

12:30-13:30 Networking lunch

13:30-13:45 Keynote Speech

Massimiliano Claps, Global Lead, SAP Future Cities

13:45- 14:45 The future of cities: infrastructure, technology and data

Cities have the opportunity to become pioneers in the adoption of emerging technologies, from ethical trustworthy AI to smart waste management and self-driving vehicles. Cities-ecosystems collaborate to facilitate technological transformation, transform data sets available into tools to improve urban management and trigger innovation and economic growth.

- Pauliina Harrivaara, Manager of the ROBOCOAST cluster
- Jose Antonio Ondiviela Garcia, Western Europe SmartCities Director at Microsoft
- John Baekelmans , managing director & vice president of imec the Netherlands

14:45-15:45 Upskilling the city: Disruptive education and training

Industrial modernisation and digital transformation of a territory depend on people and their skills. Mismatches between the skills available and those needed to harness advanced technologies remain and are projected to increase. Cities need to invest on people, attract and retain talent to reap the benefits of advanced technologies.

- Christian Tordo, Deputy Mayor of Nice responsible for digital transformation
- Olivier Crouzet, Director of Pedagogy in Ecole 42- accompanied by Cristina Fernandez Bornay
- Sotiris Siagas, Investment Director at iGrow Labs in Thessaloniki

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:30 Cities as market creators

Cities pioneer in digital transformation and create the conditions for innovative business models and new markets to thrive. This session will discuss how cities can enhance growth and innovation at local level, by bringing together the new and the old economy, investing in advanced technologies and promoting innovative solutions.

- Pierre Alexander Ballard, innovation strategy advisor and professor at Utrecht University and MIT Media lab
- Eugenia Kazamaki Ottersen, Head of JASPERS Smart Development, European Investment Bank
- Success stories of market creation through the Digital Cities Challenge initiative: panel discussion:
    - Vladimir Danailov, CEO of Sofia Investment Agency
    - Piia Wollesten, Development Manager in the city of Espoo
    - Miguel Fontes, Executive Director of Startup Lisboa

17:30-17:45 Conclusion and steps ahead

17:45 Networking Cocktail

The lobby will host an exhibition of the 40 cities participating in the Digital Cities Challenge initiative and of other EU level initiatives.

DIGITAL
Cities Challenge

www.digitallytransformyourregion.eu

#DigitalCitiesChallenge