



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATION NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
TECHNOLOGY
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Frequently Asked Questions

regarding the
Invitation for Commitments
under the
European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities

Question 1: Where can I find further information on the Invitation and the Partnership at large?

All key documents and other information on the Partnership can be found on the website <http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities>.

Question 2: What is a "Commitment"?

Invitations for Commitments are established tools under the existing [European Innovation Partnerships \(EIPs\)](#).

A commitment refers to an intention to provide a measurable and concrete engagement in support of one or more of the 11 focus areas outlined in the [Strategic Implementation Plan](#) of the EIP. Commitments should cover the course of 2014 and beyond. A commitment represents a voluntary decision to support the objectives of this partnership by means of suitable action. It does not bind the applicant in any formal manner, but rather provides positive incentives in terms of visibility, networking and learning opportunities.

Commitments should preferably be submitted as a joint intention of several partners, but can also be submitted by individual organisations provided that they indicate in their application how they intend to partner up with other organisations during the implementation of the commitment. The [Operational Implementation Plan](#) provides example actions for all eleven priority areas of action under this Partnership.

In the context of other existing EIPs commitments have been instrumental in facilitating learning, information exchange and networking among a range of different actors.

Question 3: How do I respond to the Invitation for Commitment?

Please read the [guidance document](#) carefully and fill in the submission form on [our website](#) before the closing date of 15 June 2014. You can start the submission process, save it at any time and finalise later (before 15 June). Any interested organisation from an EU Member State or associated country is invited to submit a commitment, and any other interested organisation from another country can join a lead organisation from an EU Member State or associated country (see also question 6). This is a light application process: The application procedure consists of seven questions which can be answered in a quick manner and do not require providing substantial information or supportive documentation.

Question 4: What is the advantage of submitting a commitment and thus becoming a partner in the Partnership?

Submitting a commitment offers several opportunities for learning, partnering, efficiency gains and creation of new business:

- Visibility: promote actions on a European scale.
- Engage with others to get new ideas and feedback on actions.
- Learn from others and exchanges best practices.
- Partner with others to jointly achieve more and create cost savings or new business.

By committing you will be able to promote your actions at home and on a European scale. Through this visibility you will be able to get feedback on your actions but might also get new ideas by engaging with others actors. You might also start new undertakings with new partners and achieve cost-savings jointly or even find new business and financing possibilities.

It is intended to form so called "action clusters" around like-minded commitments and build on the basis of existing commitments an online marketplace that will allow participants to learn from others and to exchange best practices.

This marketplace will in fact provide all means to collaborate and to do networking with other stakeholders. It will facilitate the further development of commitments to potential work plans in view of concrete implementation actions.

Question 5: What should be the focus of a commitment?

Commitments should address one or several of the priority areas of the [Strategic Implementation Plan](#) under this Partnership. They should address actions at the interface of energy, transport and ICT in a city context. Please read the [guidance document](#) to understand the light guidelines that should inform submission of a commitment.

Commitments need to link to a concrete implementation context at city level – purely promotional corporate activities are not eligible.

Question 6: From which countries should the lead partner of the commitment come from?

The lead partner of a commitment should come from one of the 28 EU countries or from one of the following associated countries: Israel, Norway, Iceland, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands and Moldova.

Other partners involved in a commitment can come from any country.

Question 7: What is the relation of the 'Invitation for Commitments' to the Horizon 2020 Calls for Proposals on Smart Cities (e.g. H2020-SCC1-2014)?

The Invitation for Commitments is independent from Calls for Proposals under Horizon 2020. Submitting a commitment is not linked to receiving funding from the European Commission and is not a precondition for submitting proposals to any Call for Proposals.

Question 8: What will happen with the commitments after the submission deadline?

All submitted commitments will be screened against the guiding principles and if approved, will be published on the website of the Partnership.

Once the results of this Invitation for Commitments will have been fully assessed, the Commission will identify commitments with similar objectives and actions. It is foreseen to establish "Action Clusters" among commitments with similar interests and greater synergy potentials, facilitate targeted networking and cooperation meetings and potentially facilitate work leading up to joint work plans on a voluntary basis. All of these follow-up actions will depend on the interest of partners.

Question 9: What is the relation between the Partnership and the European Commission?

The Partnership is a stakeholder-driven initiative that brings together representatives of European cities and communities, business and industry, interest organisations, academia, civil society and others under the common objective to accelerate the large-scale roll-out of smart city technologies and services in Europe's cities.

The European Commission supports the Partnership in different ways, including chairing of the High-Level Group, logistical support or hosting of the website. The Partnership remains, however a fully-stakeholder driven approach.

Question 10: Can solution proposals as submitted in the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform be submitted as commitments?

Yes, we in fact encourage all stakeholders who submitted solution proposals to consider submitting them as commitments, provided that they match the [requirements](#) of this [Invitation for Commitments](#).

Question 11: Can intentions to engage in any other related activity be submitted as a commitment?

Yes, provided that this engagement clearly relates to the [requirements](#) of this [Invitation for Commitments](#).