

INVITATION FOR COMMITMENT

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Introduction and Background

The European Commission herewith launches an 'Invitation for Commitment' under the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities. The strategic orientation of this Partnership has been laid out in its Strategic Implementation Plan¹, which was adopted by the Partnership's High Level Group on 14 October 2013. Its goals were defined thus: "a significant improvement of citizens' quality of life, an increased competitiveness of Europe's industry and innovative SMEs together with a strong contribution to sustainability and the EU's 20/20/20 energy and climate targets".²

The Strategic Implementation Plan defines eleven focus areas and outlines specific recommended actions on the part of stakeholders for each of these areas. The Operational Implementation Plan, a live document currently available in its first version, further elaborates the specific recommended areas of action and gives examples, which can serve as inspiration for possible commitments.³

What is a commitment?

A commitment is an intention to provide a measurable and concrete engagement in support of one or more focus areas in the course of the next year and beyond; it should be oriented along the guidelines spelled out further down in this Invitation for Commitments. Primarily promotional activities for a company's own products or services cannot be regarded as a commitment in this sense.

Being part of the Partnership through making a commitment in this sense means greater visibility for your work and will allow you to network with other likeminded partners working in the same field. At a later stage, we foresee establishing working groups called "Action Clusters" so to facilitate close operational cooperation and exchange - across sectors and between the supply and demand sides – possibly leading up to joint work plans on a voluntary basis.

This Invitation for Commitments covers all the eleven focus areas that were identified in the Strategic Implementation Plan.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/files/sip_final_en.pdf

² Strategic Implementation Plan, p. 3; see "[An Energy Policy for Europe](#)" [COM(2007) 1 final] for the 20/20/20 energy and climate targets.

⁴ For the Green Digital Charter see www.greendigitalcharter.eu, for the Covenant of Mayors www.covenantofmayors.eu, for the Stakeholder Platform for Smart Cities and Communities www.eu-smartcities.eu and for CIVITAS www.civitas.eu.

For further information on the background of this Invitation for Commitment please consult the [Executive Summary of this Invitation for Commitments](#).

I Invitation for commitment

Interested parties wishing to submit a commitment should orient themselves on the guidelines outlined further down and send us a completed [application form](#). Commitments will be screened against these guidelines.

It is preferred that commitments are submitted as a joint intention of several partners, but single submissions are acceptable if you indicate what kind of partners, if any, you would want to partner up with. We particularly encourage you to reach out across the sectors of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), energy production and distribution and transport and mobility and also include private and public actors. You can include partners from outside the EU but a partner from within the Union needs to be leading the effort.

Members of the Green Digital Charter, the Covenant of Mayors, the Stakeholder Platform for Smart Cities and Communities as well as CIVITAS are also encouraged to respond to this invitation.⁴

The deadline for applications under this Invitation for Commitments is 15 June 2014. The Invitation for Commitments is independent of any Calls under Horizon 2020 and is not linked to any EU funding instrument.

Guidelines:

A. Engagement – underwriting the Partnership and its objectives, specifically:

- (1) Demonstrating a clear link towards the overall goals of the Partnership;
- (2) If relevant, using agreed standards, protocols and common data formats that facilitate interoperability across systems, prevent vendor lock-in and foster competition;
- (3) If relevant, making data accessible also to third parties (whilst fully respecting consumer privacy and protection of legitimate business interests) so to foster the development and uptake of novel applications;
- (4) If relevant, re-using existing infrastructure and put it to multiple use.

B. Inclusiveness and Partnership – widely involving relevant stakeholders:

- (1) Uniting actors across the ICT, energy and transport and mobility sectors;
- (2) Involving actors across the innovation chain;

⁴ For the Green Digital Charter see www.greendigitalcharter.eu, for the Covenant of Mayors www.covenantofmayors.eu, for the Stakeholder Platform for Smart Cities and Communities www.eu-smartcities.eu and for CIVITAS www.civitas.eu.

- (3) If relevant, identifying other optional or essential partners that you would want to partner with for your intended engagement.

C. Delivery – timely delivery of agreed outcomes/output:

- (1) Describing a tentative level of contribution, direct or indirect, in terms of financial and other resources, including free or favourable access to infrastructures and/or research;
- (2) Defining a tentative timeline and schedule of the activities contributing to the implementation of the commitment;
- (3) Identifying possible indicators to measure progress of your commitment;

II Follow-up

Following the close of this Invitation for Commitments, those that are in line with the guidelines above will be published in full on the Partnership's website. Each applicant will be duly informed about the outcome of his application. Successful applicants will receive a certificate confirming their membership in this European Innovation Partnership. A further step will be to facilitate clustering of received commitments along contribution to the same focus areas or other relevant criteria.

Once the results of this Invitation for Commitments will have been fully assessed it is foreseen to establish "Action Clusters" among partners with similar interests and greater synergy potentials – possibly leading up to joint work plans on a voluntary basis. In the lead-up to this a second Invitation for Commitments or re-opening of this Invitation, informed by the results of this first such invitation is feasible.

Additional tools and mechanisms are expected to be put in place at a later stage to develop further ways to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Implementation Plan on top of this Invitation for Commitments; for example, an online partnership marketplace is being considered. Such an online platform would be designed so to help interested parties in finding partners, in sharing practices and projects, in accessing robust data and evidence. With any such tools and mechanisms, as well as with setting up "Action Clusters" it is likely that the management of the Stakeholder Platform for Smart Cities and Communities⁵ will play a facilitating role.

⁵ See <http://www.eu-smartcities.eu/>