

OPEN DAYS 2010

Code: 05A34

Workshop: Smart sustainable cities and regions

05 October 2010, 14:30-17:00

Organiser: European Commission, DG Information Society and Media and DG Regional Policy

Chair: Paul Bevan, Secretary General, EUROCITIES, Brussels, Belgium

Speakers: Anette Holm, Chief Information Officer, City of Stockholm, Sweden
Antonio Parodi, EU Adviser to the Mayor, Genoa, Italy
Marit Schweiker, Policy Officer, CEMR, Brussels, Belgium
Claire Roumet, Secretary General, CECODHAS, Brussels, Belgium

Outline

The workshop was opened by **Paul Bevan** who presented EUROCITIES and its work on energy efficiency and smart city agenda, including the Green Digital Charter, signed by 23 big cities.

EUROCITIES actively campaigns for a stronger recognition of the urban dimension of Climate Change and Energy challenges. Without cities, Member States cannot reach the 20% targets by 2020, and, without the help of the EU, cities cannot fully develop the actions needed. EU action on Climate Change and Energy needs a clear territorial dimension building on integrated local development. Smart, sustainable, inclusive growth can be achieved through smart, sustainable, inclusive cities. Cities' leadership can be demonstrated by promoting the use of digital technologies to support intelligent cities, who are using ICT for new and innovative ways of increasing energy efficiency, and who understand ICT is an enabler across sectors, including urban planning, buildings, education, and waste management.

Debate

In EUROCITIES' perspective, presented by **Paul Bevan**, a *smart city* integrates state-of-the-art green technologies to create a sustainable city which can secure high living standards, leading to CO₂ neutrality, and delivering efficient and cost effective solutions for its inhabitants. It is a healthy, energy-efficient city using renewable resources, a pioneer in the deployment of advanced smart technologies, an inclusive place, using technology and innovative solutions to increase social inclusion, to combat poverty and deprivation, a good place to live, offering the best possible quality of life, with the lowest possible use of resources.

Anette Holm presented the Green IT strategy of Stockholm. European green capital in 2010, with an outstanding, long historical track record of integrated urban management, Stockholm has signed the Green Digital Charter. IT is seen as eco-

technology in many action areas: energy efficient buildings, environmentally efficient transport, digital meetings, developing e-services, digital case processing, eco-friendly procurement. Stockholm took initiatives to reduce the environmental impact and to promote sustainable urban development and renewal. In this exercise, changing behaviour is the most important thing, based on information and communication, as well as prioritisation of projects.

Antonio Parodi presented Genoa's profile and sustainable development guidelines, projects in the areas of urban planning and mobility, and the way forward to a smart city. The key actions to turn Genoa into a smart city are: long term strategic urban planning as the main tool to mainstream sustainable development, private-public partnerships and a participatory approach. It is necessary to define the objectives for the future and the available resources to achieve them. The city signed the Green Digital Charter, pooling the city's ICT resources to implement it and to become "Genoa Citta Digitale", one of the most sustainable EUROMED cities by 2020.

Marit Schweiker presented a more theoretical approach towards the aims and goals of smart city management, focusing on the quality of citizens' life. Efficiency is not an aim in itself; the aim of city policies is the quality of citizens' life. CEMR proposes to concentrate on *development* and *quality*, instead of growth and quantity. It subscribes to all priorities of Europe's Digital Agenda. A smart city uses innovative ICT-based solutions to improve living and working conditions and to support a more inclusive and sustainable urban environment. A flexible and evolving strategy for our societies and the quality of life must benefit from the ICT contribution.

Claire Roumet's presentation tackled the social acceptance and awareness of people, and drew the attention to common challenges: the housing market, demographics and energy performance. A sustainable city should not only be seen from an environmental perspective, but also as a city answering to major social challenges. ICT is closely related to sustainable smart cities; it is a very good instrument to link people, to foster social cohesion and to increase local democracy participation. More attention should be given to issues such as mistrust in ICT, in particular for smart meters and how people private life will be protected.

Conclusions

During the discussion the following ideas were underlined:

- There is a real European added value; European institutions should set up clear goals for Member States and cities, and provide support in building consensus, in disseminating best practices.
- A smart city is a complex concept, including a broad range of issues and having the citizen at the centre.
- Smart cities need smart politicians to change things, to act differently and courageously to take on and drive the challenges.
- Sustainability should be inclusive: a democratic process, with participation and empowerment of people.
- Smart city governance means long term political vision, cooperation, public-private partnerships, using innovative technical solutions.
- By signing the Green Digital Charter, cities implementing new policies learn from one another, communicate, share experience and information.

More information:

ICT for Sustainable Growth:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sustainable_growth/index_en.htm

Regional policy – urban development:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/themes/urban/index_en.htm

EUROCITIES: <http://www.euocities.eu/main.php>

CEMR: <http://www.ccre.org>

CECODHAS: <http://www.cecodhas.org>

City of Stockholm: <http://www.stockholm.se>

City of Genoa: <http://www.comune.genova.it>

Quote

"An integrated and intelligent approach to urban development is needed to address the complexity of a smart sustainable city, aiming at improving the quality of life of all its citizens."