FP7 FINAL CALL FACT SHEET ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – SMART CITIES

Facts & figures

Seventy percent of the EU population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is growing. Urban areas consume 70% of energy, and account for 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. This share is foreseen to grow in the coming decades. Cities are the places where most energy savings can be made, helping the EU achieve its 20% of primary energy saving target by 2020. Further attention to energy use is therefore called for, especially in urban areas, where much of the existing infrastructure and building stock will be renovated in the next decade. Moreover urban road transport is responsible for a quarter of all GHG emissions from road transport and, along with other energy uses in cities, can contribute to air pollution. Due to fast growth, the ICT sector's energy use by 2020 could double from today's 8 to 10% of the EU's electricity consumption. These trends show that European cities are key for meeting energy and environmental goals.

How much money do we plan to invest?

Approximate budget of €365 million

- € 209 million for a dedicated cross-thematic call on smart cities and communities

- € 116 million for the cross-thematic call on the Public-Private Partnership on Energy-efficient Buildings (contributing to this objective)

- € 40 million for the ICT call on the Public-Private Partnership on Green Cars (contributing to this objective)

- The Commission is also separately proposing a "Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership"

Why this priority?

Urban areas are important centres for all economic, social and cultural life in the EU. Innovation in energy, transport and ICT amongst others is essential to transform urban areas into smart, sustainable, low-carbon environments that are also resilient to the impacts of climate change.. Advanced digital communication and information management can improve efficiency, quality, safety and reliability of these sectors' service offerings. Yet there is huge unexploited potential for these sectors to work more closely together to address jointly the problems that Europe faces. Many challenges will find a solution where they interface and this is where new business opportunities will arise.

What results do we expect in which area?

- large-scale integrated, innovative and replicable solutions for more energy efficient buildings, electricity distribution grids and heating/cooling systems, including local storage;
- Smart internet, energy-efficient data centres for an environmental friendly internet and integrated personal mobility for smart cities..
- ….to create new markets for industry and to provide new or enhanced services to end users and citizens.