

1 Partnership “Digital Transition”

1.1 Key information on the Partnership “Digital Transition”

During the Dutch Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2016 the Pact of Amsterdam was adopted by EU ministers of the Interior. It states that European cities will be more involved with the creation of EU legislation, EU funding and knowledge sharing. The relevance of this involvement is highlighted by the statistics that cities and urban areas now house more than 70% of all Europeans.

The Urban Agenda is composed of 12 priority themes essential to the development of urban areas. Each theme has a dedicated Partnership. These partnerships bring together cities, Member States and European institutions. Together, they aim to implement the Urban Agenda by finding workable ideas focused on the topics of EU legislation funding and knowledge sharing. One of the partnerships is the **Partnership on Digital Transition**.

Members of the Partnership

- Cities: *Oulu (FI, Coordinator)*, *Sofia (BG, Coordinator)*, Eindhoven (NL), Hamburg (DE), Helsingborg (SE), Lisbon (PT), Lyon (FR), Rome (IT), Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia;
- Member States: *Estonia (Coordinator)*, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Spain;
- Stakeholders: EUROCITIES, URBACT, CEMR, EUROCITIES, Committee of the Regions;
- European Commission: DG CNECT, REGIO, Committee of the Regions

Focus areas and activities

To frame its work, the Partnership identified themes:

Vertical content themes:

- Future Health and social care services
- eGovernment
- Urban Planning



Horizontal enabler themes:

- 5G and other key enabling technologies (incl. Urban Platforms)
- Data, standardization and interoperability as horizontal enablers
- New business models accelerating urban growth
- Future learning and digital skills development

1.2 Working method

For each of the above-mentioned themes, the Partnership identified bottlenecks and potentials. First and foremost, it did so through in-depth discussions among the experts from each of the Partners. In parallel, questionnaire has been set out and external expertise mobilized. Up to now, the partnership has organised two working meetings which have helped to identified bottlenecks and potential actions. Members of the Partnership have met in several occasions to identify and define concrete solutions and initiatives which would contribute to addressing the identified problems in each of the thematic areas. Most importantly, they decided to take the responsibility for the leadership of the Working Groups established on each of the thematic areas.

1.3 State of play

The Partnership has prepared an Orientation Paper in February 2017, which defined the themes the Partnership would like to work on. These topics are Urban Planning, Future learning, eGovernment, Future Health, 5G and other KETs, Business Models, and Data Standardisation. Subsequently for each of the themes a Working Group was composed of experts from the partner organisations.

Each working group has conducted their own scoping. Working Group leaders have been appointed who, together with Coordinators, have driven the process towards draft Actions. In the Working Group on Urban Planning external expert has been contracted to scope the work. The eGovernance Working Group developed a questionnaire on the level of digitalisation of public services in cities. In all other Working Groups members contribute to the scoping of the topic.

So far three meetings of the Partnership took place. Next meeting is foreseen in November 2017. During that meeting drafts of Actions for all working groups will be discussed. Thereafter, actions for each of the topics retained will be developed and an Action Plan will be prepared and submitted to the European Commission in January 2018.