

#connectedinEurope

## RECAP – 1<sup>st</sup> Networking workshop for municipalities

21-22 September 2022, Leipzig (on-site & online)





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# 1 Background information

## About the project

On 21 and 22 September 2022, the first networking workshop for municipalities was held in Leipzig in the framework of the BBSR funded project “Connected in Europe”.

The project is funded by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). The BBSR has established the Smart Cities research cluster to bundle their research and policy advisory activities. One of the cluster topics is Smart Cities International which includes projects such as the Smart Cities dialogue platform, Coordination and Transfer Office Model Projects Smart Cities and the #connectedinEurope-project.

The objectives of the project overall and its main activities are as follows:




Figure 1: #connectedinEurope project objectives



Figure 2: #connectedinEurope main project activities 2022-2024

## Workshop objectives

This workshop on 21 and 22 September 2022 marked the beginning of a professional exchange, knowledge transfer and networking of European and German municipalities on the overall topic of digitalisation and sustainable urban development, smart cities. The objective of the workshops was to provide a platform and thematic framework for people to meet, connect and get to know each other on a professional and on a personal level. To this



end, the workshop leveraged cooperation and planted seeds for potential projects in the future.

The focus topic of the first networking workshop on 21-22/9/2022 in Leipzig (Germany) was “Smart City Governance”. The participants of the workshop discussed in two parallel working groups how European and German Cities can capitalize on smart city potential for a sustainable urban development. This included internal processes as well as external engagement. A pitch for collaboration collected some ideas and questions for further projects.

The event brought together expertise of municipalities on smart city governance on which upcoming project activities can build upon.

## Agenda

### 21/9/2022 | Smart City Governance

Timetable	Moderation: Dr. Jens Libbe, German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)
13:00	<b>Welcome to #connectedinEurope &amp; Agenda of the Day</b> <i>Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building; Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development; adelphi, German Institute for Urban Affairs and Steinbeis Europa Zentrum</i>
13:15	<b>Smart City Governance in the City of Leipzig: Digital City Leipzig - Together we are less alone</b> <i>Keynote by Dr. Beate Ginzler, Director Digital City Unit, City of Leipzig</i>
13:30	<b>Contribution of Smart City projects on external engagement for a sustainable city of the future: City of Reykjavík – Bay of Smoke to NetZero Future</b> <i>Keynote by Sylva Lam, City of Reykjavik</i>
13:45	<b>Parallel Working Groups:</b> How to capitalize on smart city potentials for sustainable urban development? A) Internal processes: Bridging the gap: Are data specialists and city planners working towards the same goal? <i>Moderation in Leipzig: Martina Hertel (Difu), Moderation online: Lisa Keusen (adelphi)</i> B) External engagement: New ways to engage people: How can the digital transformation (incl. visualisation) bring stakeholder engagement and participation in urban planning to the next level? <i>Moderation in Leipzig: Dagmar Köhler (Difu), Moderation online: Iva Radic-Capuani (adelphi)</i>
15:15	Coffee Break
15:45	<b>“Output Pitch” of the working groups: Pitch for collaboration</b>
16:50	<b>Closing remarks &amp; sneak preview for the next day</b>
17:00 – 18:00	<b>Get together:</b> Informal networking on site with a light evening snack

### 22/9 | Smart City Sites - From theory to practice

Timetable	Moderation: Martina Hertel, German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)
09:00	<b>Welcome back</b> <i>adelphi, German Institute for Urban Affairs and Steinbeis Europa Zentrum</i>
09:10	<b>The Smart City approach in Espoo, Finland</b> <i>Elina Wanne, City of Espoo</i>
09:45	<b>Making the Smart City real and lessons learnt: Insights of the Smart City Lighthouse Projects in Leipzig</b> <i>Presentation of background information about the projects to be seen on the field trip by Nadja Riedel, Lukas Schroll, Digital City Unit, City of Leipzig</i>
10:20	<b>Farewell to the online audience &amp; upcoming steps</b>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	<b>Study tour: Smart Cities projects in Leipzig</b>

## 2 Key inputs

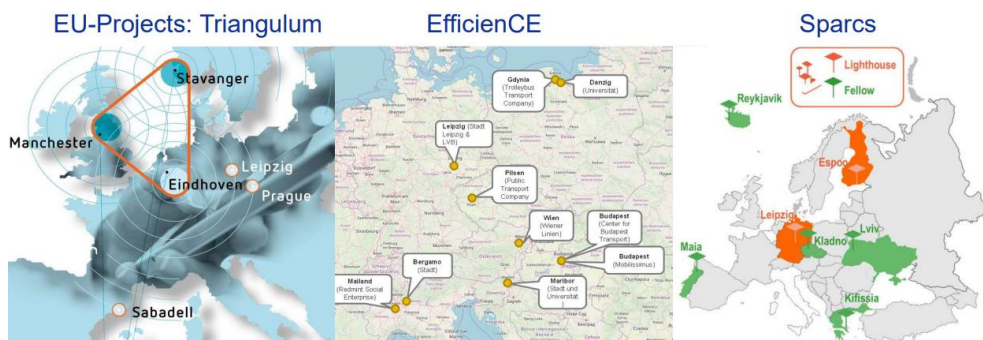
The focus topic of the workshop was “Smart City Governance” and the questions how digitalisation and sustainable urban development can succeed. The following key findings were delivered by the key note speakers:

- **“Digital City Leipzig - Together we are less alone”**  
**Dr. Beate Ginzel<sup>1</sup>, Director Digital City Unit, City of Leipzig**

Dr. Beate Ginzel shared the principles behind Leipzig’s process. “Digital City Leipzig - Together we are less alone” was not only her title but the mission that unites the smart city process in Leipzig. The team in the digital unit consists of urban planners and data specialists with complementary competences. The digital solutions and principles of a sustainable urban development follow the integrated urban development concept Leipzig (INSEK 2030) and its strategic goals (competitiveness, internationality, social stability, quality of life). The city’s Digital Agenda (which is in process) defines guidelines, fields of actions, targets and projects. A special part of the digital agenda refers to the governance itself (e.g. structures, organisation, units, definition of processes and financial situation).

International collaboration and networking in EU funded projects enabled Leipzig to step forwards and to learn from other cities. Examples are the participation as Follower city in the [Horizon 2020 project triangulum](#), the participation in the [INTERREG project EfficienCE](#), and the role as a lighthouse city in the [Horizon 2020 project Sparcs](#). An important national pilot project is “[Connected Urban Twins \(CUT\)](#)” in which Leipzig together with the cities of Hamburg and Munich advances the development of digital twins and urban data platforms.

### International and city cooperation matter!



<sup>1</sup> Beate Ginzel studied Architecture in Germany and Finland and worked as architect in Germany, Netherlands and Tanzania. She was lecturer and researcher at the Leipzig University from 2004 to 2014 and graduated with a doctorate degree in urban development. Between 2014 and 03/2019 she worked as head of division at the Office for Urban Regeneration and Residential Development of the City of Leipzig. In this function she was responsible for the coordination of the Smart City-process and the implementation of the housing policy strategy of Leipzig. Since 04/2019 she has been the director of Digital City Unit in Leipzig.





Figure 3: Pathway of Leipzig in different EU-projects

- **“Contribution of Smart City projects on external engagement for a sustainable city of the future: City of Reykjavík – Bay of Smoke to NetZero Future”**

**Sylva Lam<sup>2</sup>, Project Manager of Climate Issues, City of Reykjavik**

Sylva Lam introduced Reykjavik as one of the coldest cities in the world that aims to become carbon neutral by 2040. Transport is the main source of greenhouse gas emissions in Reykjavik, and to change established modes of transportation remains the greatest challenge. Within the [Horizon 2020 project Sparcs](#) the city, therefore, focuses on mobility and transport, addresses urban planning and land use, low-carbon energy production, energy efficient districts, citizen participation, ICT and governance. Reykjavik includes co-creation as a tool to work closely with citizens and other regional and national stakeholders.

- **“The Smart City approach in Espoo, Finland”**  
**Elina Wanne | City of Espoo**

Espoo is the second largest city in Finland, and considered a forerunner in smart city development and sustainability. Espoo’s objective is to reach carbon neutrality by 2030, including fossil-free district heating and sustainable mobility, and to reduce its emissions by 80% by the same date, compared to 1990.

In the [Horizon 2020 project Sparcs](#) Espoo takes the role of a Lighthouse City. In their demo-sites Espoo demonstrate that co-creation and strategic partnerships are essential to successfully implement with innovative solutions (e.g. smart light homes infrastructure networks, robot buses, 3D model for sustainable and smart city development, BIM model, virtual twins).


- **“Making the Smart City real and lessons learnt: Insights of the Smart City Lighthouse Projects in Leipzig”**

**Nadja Riedel, Lukas Schroll | Digital City Unit, City of Leipzig**

Nadja Riedel and Lukas Schroll provided background information about the smart cities projects participants of the workshop would visit on the study tour concluding the event. Leipzig has created a network and eco-system for digital transformation that facilitates collaboration, knowledge exchange and the development of projects

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<sup>2</sup> Sylva Lamhas is Project Manager of Climate Issues (Global Project Management and Spatial Design) and has more than 10 years’ experience in the field of F&B (food), architecture, sustainability and innovation in 11 countries. Her work has strong focus on APAC, EMEA and UK markets, from spatial planning and product development (R&D) to business strategy and operations. Past projects include LEED-certified sustainable skyscrapers and masterplan, Michelin™ restaurants and 5-star hotels. Leading sustainable food innovation in alignment with UN SDGs and the New European Bauhaus stream in New York City and Iceland.



across stakeholders and sectors. The two following project sites were presented and visited:

### **Startup Accelerator Programm in Leipzig | SpinLab**

SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator is a start-up accelerator that supports the growth of entrepreneurial and innovative teams who want to scale up their businesses. They use the premises of the Baumwollspinnerei in Leipzig for lectures and work-spaces. They run the Smart city challenge (Start-up competition) started in 2021 – currently 2nd batch. In this context SpinLab partners can e.g. request for solutions and work together with the winners of the competition.

### **Baumwollspinnerei**

The protected premises of Baumwollspinnerei (former cotton mill from 1884) with approx. 30k m<sup>2</sup> consist of partly renovated buildings mainly built of brick. The demo area is a best-practice example for the revitalization of a former industrial site used for cultural activities. As part of the [Horizon 2020 project Sparcs](#) - Sustainable energy Positive & zero cARbon Communities, a holistic energy quarter is to be built in the western part of the city of Leipzig.



## 3 Workshops

### 3.1 About the workshops

The participants had the opportunity to choose between two workshops to discuss about the situation in their municipality and their experiences regarding the specific topic of interest. The workshops were held in parallel and participants chose one. The workshops were each held in-person in Leipzig and separately moderated for the participants joining online. In total, participants were organised in four workshops A1, A2, B1, B2:

Workshop A		Workshop B	
A1 In-person	A2 online	B1 In-person	B2 online

Digitization and smart city projects should not an end in itself but help to boost sustainable urban development. While workshop A addressed internal challenges on how to achieve the necessary cooperation and shared goals between urban planners and smart city project managers, workshop B looked at use cases of citizen and stakeholder participation.

#### **Workshop A: Bridging the gap: Are data specialists and city planners working towards the same goal?**

Smart cities are committed to sustainable and integrated urban development! Municipalities should identify and define the strategic areas of action of the smart city at an early stage: These could include, for example, higher administrative efficiency. Within the local administration, different units should collaborate with regard to digital transformation. Depending on the local context, this could be done through a permanent working group (Smart City Board), a competence centre or a Chief Technology Office, which should ideally be placed at top administrative level of the Mayor's Office.

The smart city approach offers the benefit that internal processes could meet the requirements of rapid change processes – in theory. How does the “real life” looks like? Within the workshop participants discuss how to achieve the necessary cooperation and shared goals between urban planners and smart city project managers:

- How to develop a good process on a common understanding for the objects of smart-city-projects in terms of an integrated and sustainable development?
- How to achieve systematic knowledge building, an organized (internal) exchange, training (learning from others) and further education in both departments?
- What and where are challenges or even barriers?
- How is it possible to address and overcome these barriers?

#### **Workshop B: New ways to engage people: How can the digital transformation (incl. visualisation) bring stakeholder engagement and participation in urban planning to the next level?**



A transition towards more sustainable urban development requires involvement of stakeholders and the public. Working with stakeholders is generally considered common practice, but often only certain groups are actually participating in planning-processes. Exhibition in townhalls and in-person debates are not equally accessible to all type of persons. New digital possibilities e.g. deriving from smart city projects can be game changers in the way authorities provide information about a project and how they facilitate conversations. For example, new ways of visualisation can complement project descriptions; virtual exchanges that are accessible also to people with restrictions regarding time and place can empower less mobile groups such as single parents, sick or older persons to participate, engage or co-create in planning processes.

The key questions were:

- 1) How can the digital transformation bring stakeholder participation and engagement in any urban development project to the next level?
- 2) How can stakeholder and citizen participation be improved in smart cities projects?

Subsequent questions were: Which imitations need to be overcome? Which tools are or should be available? Do smart city project managers and urban planners actually work together? Is there a proper moment existing to engage with the public on smart city or urban development projects? What are examples of successful and less successful engagement experiences so far?

### 3.2 Workshop A, Topic: Internal processes

#### Topic: Bridging the gap: Are data specialists and city planners working towards the same goal?

Smart cities are committed to sustainable and integrated urban development. How do cities achieve the necessary cooperation and shared goals between urban planning and smart city projects?

#### Challenges and needs:

What are the challenges to integrate digitization and smart city into urban planning?

In-person group	Online group
No joint approach to dealing with data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for a common data platform instead of disperse data availability</li> <li>- Lack of competencies in digitalisation / digital literacy</li> <li>- Lack of common understanding</li> <li>- Missing governance structure for data</li> </ul>	Only few „lighthouse cities“ have experience and cooperation between urban planners and data specialists in place; the majority of municipalities and especially smaller cities are only starting and do not have any experience, knowledge nor networks
	No common language between planners and data specialists



	Shift in urban planning towards very technical and small-scale at the expense of strategic planning
	How to spark the interest of citizens in smart city projects?

**Solutions:**

How can digitization and smart city be better integrated into urban planning, and how can the challenges be overcome?

In-person group	Online group
Training programmes for (municipal) staff on topics of digitization and data	Creating digitalization units or other new organizational units (smart city governance)
New Alliances between urban planners and smart city stakeholders	Joint projects that involve urban planners and data specialists to create a common language
Data officer in each municipal unit with knowledge of data sets, data sources, software, etc.	Better visualisation of urban planning projects and goals to create a common vision beyond planning specialists
Analyse projects and tasks to develop a data strategy	Learn from other cities -> city networks and exchange of best practice
Develop a data governance strategy incl. guidelines and responsibilities	Identify smart city potential for small cities through city-to-city cooperation
Ease access to internal data	

**Workshop B**

**Topic: New ways to engage people: How can the digital transformation bring stakeholder engagement and participation in urban planning to the next level?**

A transition towards more sustainable urban development requires involvement of stakeholders and the public. Can new digital possibilities be game changers in the way authorities provide information facilitate citizen participation? And how can stakeholder and citizen participation be improved in smart cities projects?

**Challenges and needs:**

What are the challenges with regards to stakeholder and citizen participation?

In-person group	Online group
Difficulties to motivate citizens to participate	
Despite the efforts, the results and impact of citizen participation is often limited	How can the results of participation be used to improve the project?



How to reach more and different people? (Even with the use of digital tools, difficulties to reach citizens „beyond the usual few“	
Lack of user skills among many people and citizens to use digital participation tools	
Trust is being built at in-person meetings rather than using digital tools	
Short digital attention span	

**Solutions:**

How can digital tools be used best in stakeholder and citizen participation, and how can the challenges be overcome?

In-person group	Online group
Combine digital tools and in-person meetings	
Allow for „micro-intervention“ besides following a big strategic participation plan	Make participation easy and easily accessible by focusing on user friendly design of digital tools
Gain clarity on objectives and expected outcomes	Involving citizens at an early stage of a project
Smart city co-creation model	Use digital tools to involve citizens over a longer period of time
Audit the impact of digital tools	
Smart city co-creation model	

**Conclusion and findings**

**Key questions:**

Participants indicated the most relevant aspects, challenges or solutions that need further elaboration, each person had three votes. The topics with the highest rating in each in-person and online group were pitched as an outcome of the workshops. They were, then, discussed in small break-out groups in which participants shared experience, understanding of the issues as well as ideas how to address them with each other. The key questions that were identified are the following:

In-person group	Online group
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How to increase digital competencies across the administration, citizens and partners (academy idea)?	
How can citizens become and remain motivated to participate and engage?	
How to overcome silos across the administration with regards to sharing data?	Smart city governance: Does it need organisational changes or rather a common language?
Small action, big impact: micro-interactions and micro-interventions	What are smart city approaches for small cities?
How to build capacity for citizens to use digital engagement tools?	How to make digital engagement tools user friendly and citizen engagement successful?

**Conclusions:**

The workshop delivered a deep insight into topics, concerns and ideas that are of relevance for cities of different sizes from across Europe that aim to integrate smart city projects with strategic urban development.

While the in-person and the online groups discussed independently from each other, some shared priority topics for further elaboration derived from the discussions: 1) How can the digital competencies across the administration, citizens and partners be increased? 2) How can citizens become and remain motivated to participate and engage? This indicates that these topics are exceptionally high on the agenda for municipalities and should be taken up and further elaborated.

The topics that cities have an interest to learn more about should be considered for workshops, webinars, city network meeting or project funding priorities. They have the potential to be further developed and result into project proposals.

## 4 Connect with us

These are the communication channels to connect:

- Our website (DE/EN): <https://www.smart-city-dialog.de/europa>
- Social media channel LinkedIn (DE at this stage): [Smart City Dialog | LinkedIn](#)
- #connectedinEurope will contact all registered participants of the first European conference and of this networking workshop again to announce future networking activities

## 5 Disclaimer and contributors

The project team thanks all participating cities, presenters, moderators, partners and the BBSR for their support.

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