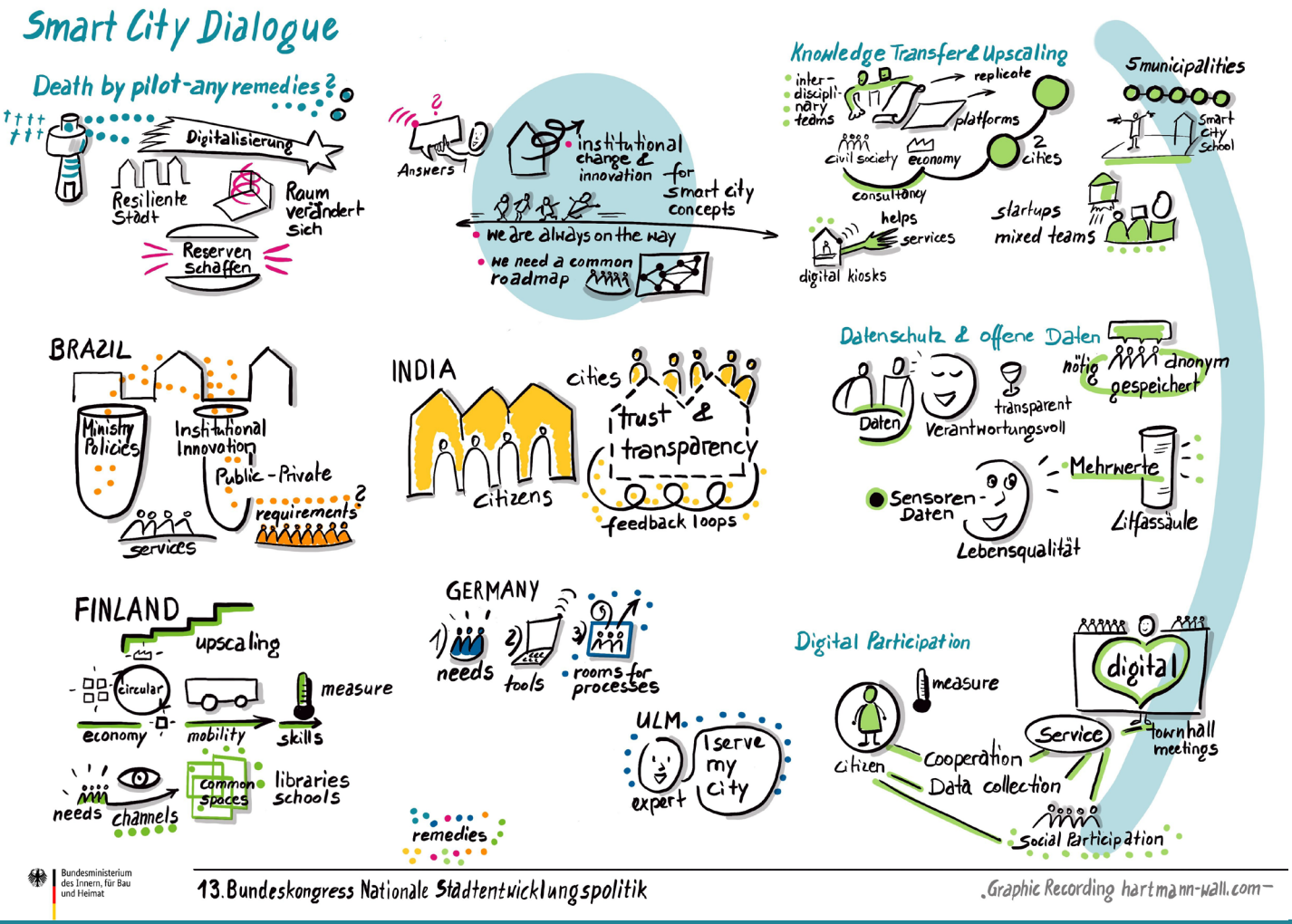
Federal Ministry
of the Interior, Building
and Community



International Smart Cities Network (ISCN) Meeting and Workshop

In the framework of the
13th Federal Congress of National Urban Development Policy 2019
20 September 2019, Stuttgart, Germany

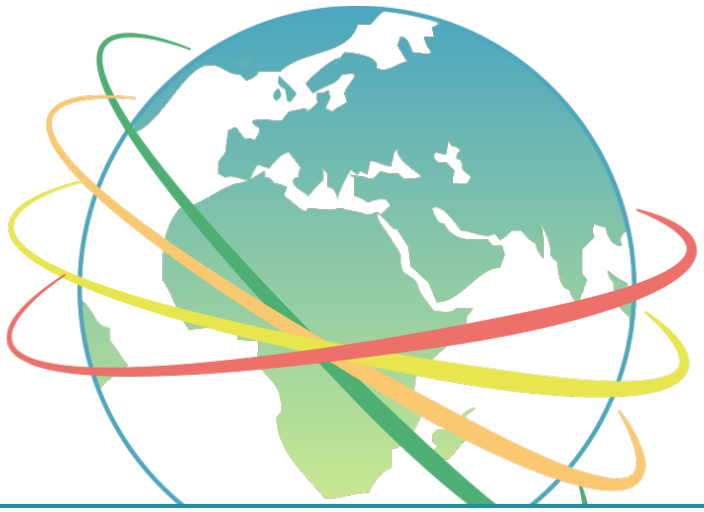
In cooperation with:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

About the ISCN

Modern information and communication technologies (ICT) open up numerous new opportunities for cities to increase citizen participation, make administrative processes more efficient and transparent, implement integrated urban development concepts, promote inclusion and social justice, and secure urban services of general interest. However, digitalisation also poses new challenges: Data protection and data security, profound changes in the local economic structure and labour market, the guarantee of local self-determination and overcoming the digital divide. Cities and municipalities must therefore play an active role in the design of their own ‚Smart City' so that they can shape the digital transformation in the city, together with the citizens, for the benefit of the public interest and common good. Essentially, the question is how the digital transformation of cities can be designed in a socially, economically, ecologically sustainable and responsible manner in order to prevent undesirable developments and secure benefits for citizens.

The Division Smart Cities and International Urban Development Policy (SW III 2) of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community therefore initiated the International Smart Cities Network (ISCN), in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Despite different contexts, cities worldwide face similar challenges of sustainable digital transformation. The ISCN is dedicated to promoting international exchange and knowledge transfer at the national and local levels. The exchange between cities and ministries of urban development broadens the discussion, promotes a common understanding and strengthens common learning processes, as well as the position of cities in the international framework. Through international dialogue, the network promotes the shaping of urban digital transformation in the sense of sustainable and integrated urban development. It supports the integration of digital solutions in citizen-centred development processes and facilitates the exchange of best practices and lessons learned between cities and urban actors worldwide.



Context of the Meeting

In the framework of the Congress, the Division SW III 2 with the support of the ISCN secretariat organized the international Side Event "Smart City Dialogue". As part of the event, the international municipal partners of the Network from Brazil (Fortaleza, Hortolandiâ), Chile (Providencia), India (Bhubaneswar), Mexiko (Guadaljara, Zapopan) and Peru (Chiclayo) together with the 13 „Smart Cities Model Projects" from Germany presented their approaches in the Smart City area and had the opportunity to connect and network.

With the opening of the event, Prof. Rabe from the Department of Urban Resilience and Digitisation at the Einstein Center Digital Future (ECDF) gave the participants a keynote on piloting and mutual learning processes in the context of urban digital transformation. The following international panel dealt with the topic of replicability and scalability of projects and solutions in the context of Smart Cities. The ISCN partners Mr. Eduardo Kaplan from the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) of Brazil, and Mr. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission Director of Smart Cities Mission of India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs took part in the panel discussion and gave insights into Smart City approaches from their home country. Finally, municipal actors from the cities Zapopan and Guadalajara (Mexico), Bhubaneswar (India) and the German cities Arnsberg, Solingen and Kaiserslautern gave short impulses on the topics „Knowledge transfer and transferability of digital solutions", „Data protection and open data" and „Digital participation". In the course of the event, an exchange of experiences between the participating persons took place and a strong interest in the topics of knowledge transfer and joint learning processes in the field of Smart Cities emerged.

The results of the side event „Smart Cities Dialogue" already underline the special interest and additional value carried by lively international exchange between national and local authorities on the subject of smart cities. The network therefore will continue to facilitate this exchange and support the partners in the design and implementation of appropriate formats.

Key Information on the ISCN

At the 13th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy in Stuttgart, Germany, the ISCN hosted on the 20th September 2019 a network meeting with international partners from Brazil, Chile, India, Mexico and Peru. In the framework of the meeting, the newly established network secretariat presented itself as well as the general network structure and basic key information on the ISCN. The partners of the network discussed and agreed on the thematic orientation of the network in a convivial atmosphere and thought of possible future exchange activities of the network.

The ISCN Secretariat

The network secretariat functions as the contact point of the ISCN, and supports and coordinates the network and its activities. It will be in charge of the organization of network meetings with regard to content-related conceptions, technical preparation, implementation and documentation as well as the knowledge management and external presentation.

Objectives

- Promote and facilitate bilateral and multilateral international exchange, mutual learning and knowledge transfer in the field of Smart Cities based on key topics and thematic clusters.
- Multilevel (national / local) and interdisciplinary dialogue based on common understanding among the members of the network

Benefits

- Further develop projects through continuous direct contact to international and German municipalities with Smart City model projects and peer-to-peer consultations in familiar group constellations
- Learning from each other and strengthening one‘s own visibility through the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in an international context

Working Formats

- Demand-oriented formats which meet logistic and content-related requirements with regard to the availability of participants, thematic suitability and feasibility, available expertise, etc.

Participation

- The Network will comprise a maximum 15 partner countries, each assigning 1-2 representatives from the national level and 2-3 representatives from the municipal level
- Members of the network can provide expertise and experience and are currently working on strategies and projects in the field of Smart Cities
- Members of the network strongly commit to the work and exchange in the network and continuously participate in the activities
- Members will benefit by the network infrastructure provided by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and delivered through the work of the secretariat, while travel costs will- in general- not be covered.

ISCN Workshop

In a two-phase workshop, the participants and members of the network first had the opportunity, to name potential topics for the ISCN. The topics were based on what knowledge and experience they could pass on to the network partners, what thematic input and insights they would like to gain from the network, and what interesting topics they encountered during the Congress.
In a second step, these topics were clustered and further elaborated in groups. In the concluding presentation and discussion round, the participants agreed on the topics, challenges and tasks that the network will address together in the future.

Overall Orientation of the ISCN

The digital transformations of cities requires for municipal administrations and decision-makers to develop strategic and integrative development plans. Thus, the overarching theme for the members of the network is the planning and development of such strategies and projects, which promote and regulate smart and integrated urban development and fully harness its potentials and benefits. New forms of urban governance and public participation have to be linked with new innovative models of public service delivery. The economic, social and environmental benefits of advanced technological solutions have to be made accessible to the population in a holistic and inclusive manner.

In this context, the ISCN will connect the jointly agreed topics on the digital transformation of cities with the following guiding questions:

- How can adequate digital strategies be developed in an integrated way and Smart City projects be implemented accordingly?
- How is political will and commitment generated in this context?
- How can mutual trust and social awareness be strengthened and at the same time personal freedom be protected?
- How can democratic decision-making processes and comprehensive, non-discriminatory participation be ensured?

During the workshop a consensus on the relevance of the three topics “Digital Inclusion”, “Financing and Operator Models” and “Data Management and Governance” was reached.

ISCN Key Topics

Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion addresses issues of opportunity, access, knowledge, and skill at the level of policy. At the political level, digital integration deals with the possibilities of digital transformation with regard to societal access, existing capacities and required knowledge. At its core is the question of the willingness and ability of cities and municipalities to recognise the possibilities and potentials of digital transformation and to make them available to their citizens. Within the framework of the ISCN, members have the opportunity to exchange and further develop their expertise and activities on the following questions:

- What are suitable legal frameworks and strategies?
- How can new knowledge and capacities be integrated and contribute to a more efficient municipal administration?
- What digital infrastructure is needed and how can it be made available across the board?
- How can equal access and the promotion of civic participation be ensured?

Financing & Operator Models

Digitalisation not only brings new players and technologies to the urban arena, but also carries new financing and operator models for municipalities. With these new dynamics, municipalities need to identify which services and projects need to be regulated or innervated, and which innovations need to be lead or owned by the public sector. They can make use of new financing models offered by digitalisation in order to finance smart urban development. Key questions identified in this context are:

- How can cities and municipalities use data and innovation as an economic resource?
- How can new municipal financing models be designed to be long-term, profitable and sustainable?
- Which new operator models exist for the municipal administration and what must be considered when designing them?
- What forms of cooperation are feasible in the digital city?

ISCN Key Topics

Data Management & Governance

Smart urban development includes digital infrastructures and devices for real-time accumulation and production of data. These enable new modes of urban governance and form the basis for the conception and implementation of a more efficient, sustainable and transparent urban development. At the same time, city authorities face the challenge to design comprehensive data management structures. These are designed to ensure a proper and efficient approach to real-time production and use of data. From the ISCN perspective, the exchange on the following question will support the municipalities in the design of efficient strategies for data management and governance:

- How can data from the private and the public sector be collected and accessed efficiently?
- How can the availability, integrity, transparency and security of data be managed?
- How can data from the private and the public sector be best made available to the civil society?
- How can data be used for municipal planning and decision-making?
- What are the effects of artificial intelligence and automated data use?

Further Topics Mentioned

One of the most urgent and important global issues, particularly in the field of urban development, is adaptation to climate change and its mitigation. In response to climate change, local city authorities need to develop evidence-based plans for rapid deployment of energy-efficient technologies and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure. Therefore, they need to identify social, ecological and economic benefits of current trends and measures, as well as suitable financing models to implement them.
For the ISCN, the question therefore is, what role does the digital transformation play in climate change mitigation and adaptation? The selection, procurement and implementation of smart solutions can therefore serve the network as a further concrete example to place the above-mentioned topics in a practical application context.

ISCN Work Formats

With the elaboration of the thematic focus points of the network, the participating members also collected first ideas on what formats could enable efficient work processes within the network. Thereby, conceptual proposals came up as well as concrete events and already existing formats were presented. Furthermore, the members already agreed on a timeline about the date and topics for the upcoming network meetings.

Knowledge Transfer

Within the ISCN, existing knowledge and information of the members will be compiled and made accessible for all members. In this way, the network becomes a valuable knowledge resource and can serve all members in their various activities. Respective tools could be:

- Informative surveys
- Project database
- Compilation of good practices and policies
- Expert directory

Peer-to-Peer Learning

Based on the existing and provided knowledge within the ISCN, the members can benefit from peer consultations on concrete projects. They can support each other in their strategic planning, incorporate various experiences in the processes and continuously obtain feedback. Therefore, working formats of the ISCN should include:

- Peer-coaching (online / in place)
- Sounding boards
- Webinars
- Joint participation in technical events

Meetings of the ISCN

The proposed work formats will mostly take place in between the larger Network Meetings. The next meeting will take place in spring 2020 in India, before the ISCN will meet again in autumn 2020 in Germany. In the following year 2021 it is planned to meet in Brazil. The themes for the meetings will be based on the jointly developed specifications, and will depend on the ongoing processes and interests of the host and participating partners.

Outlook

This documentation of the network meeting also serves as a basis for the next steps. In order to implement the above-mentioned working formats and to actively shape the network, the partners are to provide detailed information on relevant current projects of their institutions in the field of digital transformation and smart cities. The Secretariat considers itself in the role of collecting and organizing the exchange of information. On this basis, a first working format is to be developed by the end of 2019.

In addition to preparing the content for network activities, the Secretariat is actively working on creating a website and online platform that will serve as a project database and knowledge management tool, as well as a virtual meeting and working room.

Furthermore, the partners who have committed themselves to host one of the next network meetings, should begin with the preparation of the content and organization and involve the other members of the network, as well as the secretariat as far as possible.

All partners are invited to share current news, trends and events around the topic Smart Cities and, if possible, to call for participation. This can also be done via the network secretariat.

Annex

Agenda of the ISCN Meeting

Time	Programme	Actors
10.00 am	Opening	Dr. Antje Grobe, DIALOG BASIS
10.05 am	Welcome	**Ralf Schulze**, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
10.15 am	Presentation of the ISCN	**Britta Beylage-Haarmann**, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community **Julia Brennauer**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH **Sebastian Fritz**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
10.30 am	Joint Collection of Topics	Moderation: Dr. Antje Grobe
10.50 am	Group Work: Topics and Formats	Group Moderation by DIALOG BASIS and GIZ
11.20 am	Presentation: Group Results and Timeline	Moderation: Dr. Antje Grobe
11.50 am	Wrap-Up and Conclusion	Dr. Antje Grobe and Ralf Schulze
12.00 pm	Lunch / Take-Away Lunch Boxes & Networking	
13.00 pm	End	