



# LIVING IN EUROPE



**Green Digital Charter**

**GuiDance**

Support the coordination of cities' activities  
via the Green Digital Charter

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The Green Digital Charter aims to improve the quality of life in cities through the use of digital solutions. It was first launched in 2009 by EUROCITIES, drawing on preparatory work by the city of Manchester and Clicks and Links Ltd. A large number of European cities – home to over 26 million people – have already committed to work together towards the aims and objectives of the Green Digital Charter. The charter is also supported by the European Commission.

The EU 20/20/20 energy and climate targets provided the backdrop to the creation of the Green Digital Charter. Today, the Digital Single Market, the Energy Union, the Urban Agenda and the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan) provide a new framework for the EU's policies, and acknowledge the increasing role of cities and their citizens in helping to shape and achieve policy goals.

The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC) and Horizon 2020 'lighthouse' projects highlight the need for cities to adopt and use digital technologies. Cities across Europe are encouraged to deploy integrated infrastructure, develop open urban platforms and draw up European standards for smart cities, enable the emergence of a collaborative and co-creative urban ecosystem and further develop public procurement strategies for innovation.

Given the widely recognised need for technology and infrastructure-driven changes, it is even more important to highlight and exploit the social benefits of the digital economy. As the cities are entering a new stage in their evolution, they need to work towards becoming 'smart cities', where innovative technology applications are used to address the societal, economic and sustainable development challenges, improving the quality of life for all citizens.

The Green Digital Charter is a strategic initiative with the support of the GuiDanCe project in its current phase. The initiative adapts to current trends and in particular to the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the lives and needs of citizens.

The revised Green Digital Charter commits cities to work together to deliver on the EU's objective of expanding the use of digital technologies that improve the life of their citizens and address the challenges of growth, sustainability and resilience.

### We, mayors and leaders, acknowledge that

- ICTs are critical enablers that support growth, sustainability and climate action and will continue to be integrated into the work of European cities
- Cities can lead Europe in maximising the potential for ICTs to contribute to sustainable growth and reach its energy and climate targets by delivering innovative technical solutions and encouraging behaviour change
- Citizens and their wellbeing are at the centre of innovation and ICT solutions
- City administrations working together locally with city partners and stakeholders as well as with other cities across Europe, provide the best opportunity for lasting benefits from ICTs
- European and international good practices and standards must be based on local authorities' practical experience, which may also serve as an example for others

### We, therefore, declare our commitment to

- **Compile and implement local and digital strategies** to make the most efficient use of ICTs to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of all their citizens
- **Create new city-to-city partnerships** by connecting city leaders, citizens and stakeholders in order to secure practical commitments for implementing the local and digital strategies
- **Develop cities into platforms for innovation and experimentation** through digital planning and new smart infrastructures and services, including connectivity and data integration
- **Foster the Smart Cities Initiative** and technological innovation

- **Ensure that citizens have equal access** to the benefits of the digital society and that ICT-enabled initiatives are coupled with work to promote social cohesion, given that large segments of society are still excluded in many cities
- **Engage citizens** through their involvement in the design, development and use of digital services and solutions
- **Regularly review** ways for cities to make best use of ICTs and innovation for the benefit of all their citizens
- **Demonstrate that cities can lead by example** by ensuring the measurement, transparency and visibility of each city's use of ICT infrastructure and digital services in terms of carbon footprint, and by promoting these practices in the private sector and the wider community
- **Promote integrated approaches as well as replicable and scalable solutions** by involving citizens, service providers, public sector organisations and businesses in demonstration projects
- **Enable access to and use of city data** to promote entrepreneurship, enabling better services and solutions, and also facilitating responsible solutions to privacy, data security and data reuse
- **Support open innovation** by encouraging and promoting open standards and interfaces, the creation of interoperable urban platforms, R&D activities and the deployment of projects in user-driven, open innovation environments
- **Develop and support new business models and procurement processes** that facilitate innovation, local growth and the implementation of socially responsible policies
- **Use the Green Digital Charter as an example of peer learning** to promote cooperation between European cities and cities across the world that share the same objectives and aspirations

### We, mayors and leaders, will address sustainability, growth and resilience in the interest of our citizens by

- Working with other Green Digital Charter signatories to promote the best applications and results of ICT solutions
- Establishing local partnerships to implement the Green Digital Charter's commitments, and to make these central elements of the cities' wider strategies
- Deploying five large-scale and replicable ICT pilots per city within five years and communicating the impact of these to citizens and local stakeholders
- Decreasing the direct carbon footprint of the ICT sector by 30% per city within ten years

### We will work on the above by

- Relying on and making use of the vast expertise available within the EUROCITIES network, and in particular by drawing on experiences gained from the EU-funded NiCE and GuiDanCe projects to coordinate our efforts, develop a roadmap for the implementation of the above commitments, exchange experiences and establish best practice benchmarks, as well as identify external sources of funding to support our ambitions
- Exchanging with relevant partners and networks

This annex highlights cities' most recent efforts towards deploying ICTs for the benefit of citizens. It will be regularly revised.

### Terminology

The term 'smart city' is commonly used to signify very different things, depending on whether it is used in a technological or policy-related context. For our purposes a more detailed definition is required. The terms and definitions below are taken from European Commission documents.

- 'Smart infrastructure': physical infrastructure (e.g. transport, energy or water distribution network) to which a 'smart layer' of digital communication components is added for functional purposes beyond the monitoring, control and automation of traditional infrastructures.
- 'Urban platform': the system allowing for the integration and service extension of multiple smart infrastructures and interfacing with other digital applications within a city/urban community context.
- 'Smart city project': a set of activities focused on the design, deployment or operation of smart city technologies within a given city/urban community and intended to serve the specific needs of that city/urban community.
- 'Smart city strategy': an approach to urban development that involves the explicit integration of one or more ICT dimensions (skills, sector and technology) in urban policy planning.
- 'Integrated sustainable urban development': a comprehensive approach to urban policy as laid out in the legislation underpinning the EU's regional policy, Urban Agenda and corresponding funding. 'Integrated sustainable urban development strategy' refers to its application at city level.

### Initiatives

The following initiatives, communications and projects are directly relevant to the implementation of the Green Digital Charter for cities and citizens. The Green Digital Charter signatories have been and will continue to work with these initiatives and to promote the charter's objectives and results:

- **European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC)** as defined through its:
  - › Strategic Implementation Plan
  - › Operational Implementation Plan
  - › 'Urban Platforms for Europe' initiative (city group and industry group with a Memorandum of Understanding "Towards open urban platforms for smart cities and communities")
  - › EIP-SCC Market Place
- **European Commission initiatives and policy measures:**
  - › A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe – COM(2015)192
  - › Energy Union package – COM(2015)80
  - › Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan)
  - › Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks
  - › New Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- **European Union research & innovation programmes & projects:**
  - › EU Smart Cities Information System (SCIS) project
  - › Horizon 2020 smart city and communities' 'lighthouse' projects
  - › Horizon 2020 CITYkeys project
  - › Horizon 2020 ESPRESSO project
  - › Horizon 2020 ICTfootprint.eu project
  - › EU-China PDSF-II ICT dialogues
- **Other initiatives:**
  - › ITU-T L.14x0 recommendations (ICT in cities)
  - › International (ISO/IEC and ITU-T) and national (e.g. BSI) standardisation organisations results