

CITIES IN TRANSITION

The role of digital in shaping our future

“Think Local, Act European”

The EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum (KSF) and the Green Digital Charter (GDC - www.greendigitalcharter.eu) jointly hosted the conference ‘Cities in Transition - The role of digital in shaping our future cities’ on 25 January 2017.

The event, held in the Microsoft Innovation Centre, brought together over 100 participants, including civil servants, smart city experts, delegates from the EU institutions and partners and representatives from the private sector.

The opening plenary session, moderated by **Dorthe Nielsen**, EUROCITIES policy director, enabled local politicians to share their ‘smart city’ visions and expectations of the recently-established Urban Agenda partnership on digital transition¹.

This included an exchange of views between the cities of Eindhoven (**Mary-Ann Schreurs**, deputy mayor for innovation), Milan (**Roberta Cocco**, alderman on digital transformation), Oulu (**Eero Halonen**, chairman of the economic development board) and Rome (**Flavia Marzano**, alderman on smart city and innovation). The discussion enabled participants to better understand cities’ priorities in this new urban partnership, especially with regards to data management issues, including the opening of data, data privacy and security, standards and interoperability of systems within as well as between cities.

Eddy Hartog, head of unit, smart mobility and living at European Commission DG CNECT, described the future solutions that need to be developed - including a one-stop-shop for cities - in order to improve multilevel collaboration on urban policies within the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC).

The political debate was followed by two parallel series of technical workshops. In the morning, attendees discussed about Data, eGovernment, the Internet of Things (IoT) and Standards. In the afternoon, sessions focused on Urban Platforms, Performance Measurement of smart city projects, Connectivity and Procurement for Innovation. Each workshop discussed opportunities and challenges, examples from cities and still open questions and

¹ Coordinated by the cities of Oulu and Sofia with Estonia, the cities of Hamburg, Lyon and Helsinki are also involved in the Digital Transition partnership, along with Member States and the European Commission’s Directorates Generals (DGs) REGIO and CNECT. The objective behind this partnership is to provide better public services to citizens and create business opportunities. The focus will be on: data collection (including ownership), better use of open data, data management (including the capacity of cities and privacy issues) and digital services. (www.urbanagendaforthe.eu/partnerships/digital-transition)



delivered a small set of ‘take-away points and next steps for action’. The workshops’ moderators presented these points during the last, wrap-up session of the conference.

After the workshops, **MEP Kaja Kallas** (Eesti Reformierakond, ALDE) intervened in the plenary with a keynote speech in which she stressed the importance of the digital economy for the development of Europe.

The agenda of the conference is available at bit.ly/Agenda-CitiesInTransition.



Morning plenary session - audience



Morning plenary session - panel



MEP Kaja Kallas (Eesti Reformierakond, ALDE)



Green Digital Charter 2016 Awards

The Green Digital Charter (GDC) awards ceremony was organised during the '*Cities in Transition - The role of digital in shaping our future cities*' conference that took place in Brussels on 25 January. Peter Bosch (TNO, Netherlands) talked about the achievements of GDC signatory cities before inviting the other three members of the jury (Cristobal Irazoqui, European Commission, Spain, Jan Dictus, Goja Consulting, Austria and Miimu Airaksinen, VTT, Finland) to award the winners:

On behalf of **Zaragoza**, Mr. Carlos Alocen, Daniel Sarasa and Gerardo Lahuerta received the award on '*Citizen participation*' as a recognition of the impact of the 'Zaragoza Citizen Card' on society. This multi-purpose smart (RFID) card is part of Zaragoza's collaborative approach to facilitate citizens' access to public services. Runner-up cities for this category were **Reykjavik** (Better Reykjavik and My Neighbourhood) and **Utrecht** (Traffic Lights Hotline).

Lisbon's integrated management system for energy efficiency developed under the FP7-funded BESOS project has been awarded for its '*European added-value*'. Implemented in Lisbon and Barcelona, the project is a perfect example of how digital technologies can help in the global fight against climate change. The project's coordinator, Francisco Goncalves, received the award for the city of Lisbon. Runner-up cities for this category were Bristol (REPLICATE) and Zagreb (Zagreb Energy Week).

Finally, Tatjana Perse (**Rijeka**) received the award on '*Promoting open and interoperable solutions*' for the iURBAN smart Decision Support System (DSS) project. This integrated, multilevel and scalable tool has been designed for cities' administration to critically analyse energy consumption patterns and increase energy efficiency in public buildings. Runner-up cities for this category were Amsterdam (Open Data - Smart Neighbourhoods) and Valencia (Valencia Smart City Platform).





(From left to right): Thomas Kruse (Utrecht), Magnus Josefsson (Reykjavik), Carlos Alocen (Zaragoza), Francisco Gonçalves (Lisbon), Tatjana Perse (Rijeka), Paul Davies (Bristol), Jaak Vlasveld (GreenITAmsterdam), Daniel Sarasa Funes (Zaragoza) and Gerardo Lahuerta (Zaragoza)

In total, 21 projects, from 14 different cities, were submitted for the second edition of the GDC awards. They can all be found in our 2016 collection of case-studies available at bit.ly/2kaqUYG.

