28 March 2024

European Commission

Smart Cities Marketplace

Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Smart Cities Marketplace Community,

In the landscape of urban development and sustainability, the call for decarbonisation has never been more urgent. As we strive to meet the ambitious targets set forth by the [European Union's Green Deal and the Paris Agreement](#), the role of islands in driving this transition has emerged as an exemplary movement.

At the forefront of this stands the [EU islands secretariat](#), rallying island communities across Europe to embrace the challenge of decarbonisation through its initiative: [the 30 for 2030 Call](#). This endeavour sets forth a clear and compelling mandate for islands to transition to clean, renewable energy sources and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

With its ambitious goals, the 30 for 2030 Call embodies the spirit of innovation and collaboration that defines the European Union's approach to sustainability. By mobilising island stakeholders, sharing best practices and providing tailored support, the secretariat empowers islands to become pioneers of sustainability, leading by example.

The significance of this initiative extends far beyond the shores of island communities. As integral parts of the European urban landscape, islands serve as living laboratories for innovative solutions to the challenges of climate change and energy transition. By harnessing the power of wind, sun, and sea, islands demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of renewable energy technologies, offering valuable lessons and inspiration to cities across the continent.

Indeed, the 30 for 2030 Call holds profound implications for the future of Europe's urban centres. Small and midsize cities stand to gain invaluable insights from the experiences of their insular counterparts.

Edita Dranseikaite, DG ENER, Policy Officer for the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat

Smart Cities Marketplace News

Explore: Portuguese Municipalities Dive into Financing Strategies in Interactive Webinar

In a bid to navigate the complexities of implementing sustainable and green city projects, municipal representatives from Portugal congregated for a dynamic one hour webinar.

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Explore: Urban Reverb - Navigating the World of Procurement

Based on the Smart Cities Marketplace solution booklet on public procurement Solution Booklet for Public Procurement in Smart Cities, this episode of Urban Reverb outlines the various aspects of public procurement.

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Explore: Missed the Smart Cities Marketplace Matchmaking Info Session?

In case you missed the Smart Cities Marketplace online Matchmaking Info Session on 13 February 2024 - this is your chance to catch up.

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Explore: Missed the Smart Cities Marketplace Webinar on Exploring AI Integration in the Energy Sector?

This Smart Cities Marketplace webinar focused on the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in reshaping the landscape of smart cities, power systems, and mobility.

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Explore & Shape: New Smart Cities Marketplace Focus group Supports 'Small Giants'

As part of the Smart Cities Marketplace, a new Focus group has been established seeking to support the local transformation outside of the major European Cities. A majority of European city residents live in small and medium sized cities and towns. Therefore, these towns take the spotlight in this Focus group.

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Explore & Shape: Deep Retrofitting Energy Performance Contracts for Private Households Focus Group

The primary objective of the Focus group is to address the legal clarity surrounding credit legislation, laying the groundwork for the broader adoption of performance-based deep retrofit solutions. By doing so, they aim to make deep retrofitting feasible and appealing to all private homeowners, fostering sustainability and energy efficiency on a wider scale.

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News from the Community of the Smart Cities Marketplace

Explore: The State of European Smart Cities has been published!

Scalable Cities is thrilled to announce the publication of its report outlining the current state of the art of European smart cities. The report highlights some of the most ambitious and impactful solutions that are also cost-competitive and ready for a wide-scale replication.

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Explore: The EuComMeet Project's Experience

The Project EucomMeet – Deliberative Spaces for Democracy, funded under Horizon 2020, is currently organising a final conference to be held on 26 June 2024.

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Explore: Deploying a European Mobility Data Space

The initiative will cultivate a broad EU ecosystem of data providers and users, facilitating the adoption of common building blocks. The work planned in the framework of the DeployEMDS project's use cases will contribute to the development of innovative services.

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Shape & Deal: PROSPECT+ Open Call on Innovative Financing

This unique programme serves as a dynamic platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange, focusing on innovative financing schemes tailored to enhance local and regional energy and climate actions.

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Shape & Deal: RAPTOR Call 2024 - European Cities Partner with Startups for Urban Mobility Solutions

The RAPTOR 2024 Call was launched on 29 February 2024, inviting startups to propose solutions addressing these city mobility challenges. Supported by technical and business advisors, each city will select promising startups to receive funding.

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Explore: Enabling a Data-informed Public Sector - An Introductory Course to BDTI Essentials
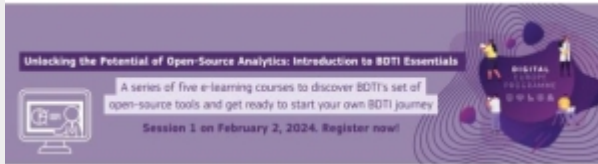
This free course aims to help public administrations explore the free-of-charge data analytics playground the Big Data Test Infrastructure offers through a practical use case.

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Explore: The European Capital of Innovation Awards

The 2024 edition of the European Capital of Innovation Awards (iCapital) is now open for submissions. The winner of the 2024 European Capital of Innovation category will receive €1 million.

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Explore: The #FOROURPLANET CAMPAIGN

Biodiversity loss and climate change are impacting our planet, but also our lives and wellbeing. Together, we can join forces to help restore and protect natural ecosystems and make a real difference #ForOurPlanet.

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Explore: 5G in Public Service - EC's Support for Smart Communities Deployment and Replicable Use Cases

Let's delve into the 5G for Smart Communities (5GSC) initiative. There are several areas, such as mobility, emergency services (fire, police departments), energy management, and many other public services, which are positively affected by the deployment of a 5G network.

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Explore & Shape: Discover the GovTech Connect Boot camps!

The GovTech Connect boot camps are a new opportunity for European startups to develop and scale their government technology solutions and tackle key public sector challenges.

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Smart City Projects News

Explore & Shape: Coming soon - Citizen-led renovation Open Call

Get ready to make a difference in your community's energy future! Phase II of the Citizen-led renovation (CLR) support service launched and will soon publish an Open Call. No matter your community's stage or size, there's valuable support and a network waiting for you.

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Shape & Deal: Second Call for Twin Cities

NetZeroCities are thrilled to share with you the upcoming launch of the second Call for Twin Cities on 08 April 2024, within the framework of the EU Cities Mission. The Twinning Learning Programme pairs cities (who are not already engaged with the Cities Mission) with Pilot Cities.

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Shape: €17 million EU project supports Zaragoza in becoming a climate-neutral city by 2030

REDOL promotes the transition of Zaragoza towards a zero residue city by 2040, thus recycling 100% of the produced urban waste. The project targets to re-use, valorise or transform over 140,000 tons of solid urban waste per year.

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Explore: Meet Udene

Funded through HORIZON Europe, UDENE kicked off last February 2024 in Ankara (Turkey) determined to build sustainable urban environments and address the challenges posed by increasing urbanisation and the effects of climate change.

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Explore: SPARCS & ASCEND present Data-driven Solutions for PEDs at Leipzig Data Week

During Leipzig Data Week, the ASCEND and SPARCS projects will organise a joint in-person event to present digital tools and data-driven solutions that enable Positive Energy Districts.

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Explore: Meet InterPED

The InterPED project, funded by the European Union's HORIZON 2023 programme aims to facilitate Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) by integrating various sectors, utilising renewable energy sources (RES), storage, and excess/waste heat (E/WH) sources.
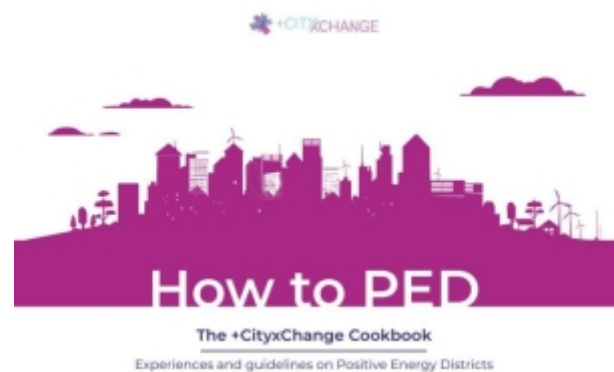
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Explore: How to PED. The +CityxChange Cookbook

This "How to PED" cookbook contains experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations gained throughout the five years of the +CityxChange EU Horizon 2020 project, specifically focused on the variety of activities necessary to design and build Positive Energy Districts.

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Explore: ASCEND General Assembly Took Place in Munich

The ASCEND project organised its second general assembly in Munich between 6 and 8 March 2024. The main goal of the event was to provide oversight of the project's roadmap, activities, scope of work and most importantly the shared ambition to accelerate Positive Clean Energy Districts (PCEDs)

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Shape: NEUTRALPATH's Call for Speakers

NEUTRALPATH is launching a call for three speakers / visitors cities at the replication-oriented workshop in Dresden which will host the upcoming NEUTRALPATH General Assembly.

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Events

Explore: SPARCS Webinar - E-mobility solutions for PEDs

Join SPARCS for a transformative webinar on electric mobility solutions for Positive Energy Districts. The event, inspired by the learnings and insights from the SPARCS brings to light the initiatives from the Lighthouse City of Espoo, Finland.

| 11 | date | 04/04/2024 |

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Explore: Focus Group Deep Retrofitting Energy Performance Contracts for Private Households

The primary objective of the Smart Cities Marketplace Focus group is to address the legal clarity surrounding credit legislation, laying the groundwork for the broader adoption of performance-based deep retrofit solutions.

📅 date | 04/04/2024

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Explore: POCITYF General Assembly

The Smart Cities and Communities project POCITYF will host its upcoming General Assembly in the Spanish Fellow city Granada between 15 and 17 April 2024.

📅 date | 15/04/2024 - 17/04/2024

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Clean energy for EU islands forum 2024

This isn't just a conference; it's an opportunity for us to connect, collaborate, and make positive changes together. Participate in interactive sessions, workshops, and discussions focusing on key aspects of island sustainability.

📅 date | 14/05/2024 - 15/05/2024

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European Sustainable Energy Week 2024

EUSEW returns in 2024 in a hybrid format, in Brussels and online. It comprises a high-level Policy Conference, the EUSEW Awards, and the fifth European Youth

Energy Day as well as opportunities to forge connections with the EUSEW community at the Energy Fair.

11 date		11/06/2024 - 13/06/2024

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Explore: Partner Event - SPARCS Project Final Event

Scalable Cities and SPARCS project are eager to announce the date of the final event that will be jointly organised between 11-12 September 2024 in Espoo, Finland.

11 date		11/09/2024 - 12/09/2024

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