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## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

Latest news

### Smart Cities Information System – finding solutions



SCIS Project Coordinators Meeting - 13 October 2015

**‘With 75% of EU citizens living in cities, cities are part of the problem, but also represent the solution.’** The first **European Smart Cities Project Coordinators Meeting** took place on 13th October 2015 under the theme ‘How to Maximise the Replication Potential of Energy Efficient Buildings and Smart Cities Projects’. It brought together project leaders, town planners and architects to discuss their experiences from managing projects. The goal of the meeting was to gain feedback on ways to efficiently process information through the **Smart Cities Information System (SCIS)** web platform and to ensure project replication across Europe.

**Eric Lecomte, EC Policy Officer**, opening the meeting, said the SCIS portal should offer solutions for those setting up Smart City initiatives, and not just illustrate the potential problems. ‘Challenges appear at every stage. The SCIS should represent a One-Stop-Shop for sharing information and experience.’

The **SCIS** is a continuation of the **Concerto** series of initiatives, which began in 2005. Several of the Concerto funded projects were showcased (including CELSIUS, DIRECTION and PIME'S). Those present stressed the need for reliable data, and noted the challenges created by public authorities and local

regulations whilst highlighting the many cultural, climatic and socio-economic differences in projects. All the meeting participants agreed that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should take into account not only the synergies of projects, but also their individual features.

Architects and town planners insisted that the SCIS database needed to assist in the goal of making projects financially viable in the long term through ongoing collaboration with national, regional and local authorities. 'Energy efficiency needs to be considered in the design stage not just as an add-on at the end of the project', said one architect. 'Yet currently it carries too much financial risk.' As well as developing a **project database** from which KPIs can be calculated based on data from Smart Cities initiatives, the SCIS team will produce analysis and recommendations that will contribute to policy development in the field.

Project coordinators talked of the many skill sets that are required for ensuring that projects are successful – 'it can sometimes be about knowing how to communicate with people and ensuring they can talk to one another to find synergies amongst themselves' said one Project Coordinator based in Norway and coordinating projects in Hungary and the Basque country. 'That and a long-term commitment to making it work!' These skills may not be recorded in a database, but they are still important.

Success prediction is not always obvious either. As one participant said 'it depends... on many factors', but the database will be useful if it creates 'a catalogue of good solutions to steer projects through potential obstacles'. Participants at the meeting agreed that the possibility to meet at the Smart Cities Project Co-ordinators Meeting added extra value to the learning and knowledge transfer process. They requested further meetings with a variety of common themes.

The **conclusions** from the meeting are as follows:

- On **KPIs**: they should be general enough, and specific enough to cover diversity;
- On **user groups**: to position themselves in their local environment with the right data from the database;
- **Storytelling approach**: learning opportunity at every stage (technology, life cycle etc.);
- **Differences**: cultural, political, socio-economic and climatic angles;
- **Long-term goal**: making projects financially viable and low risk;
- **Website**: less technocratic, more user-centric, fewer problems and more solutions;
- **Common methodology**: to follow up consistently – a holistic approach.

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### Project Coordinators Meeting Overview & Presentations

The presentation slides from the recent Project Coordinators Meeting organised by the SCIS are available using the link below.

[Read more...](#)

### PASTA project invites local authorities to share best practice

The EU-funded PASTA project is inviting local authorities from across Europe to share good examples of walking and cycling initiatives.

[Read more...](#)

### Transport has a central role in the health of Londoners

The London transport system plays a very important role in people's health, enabling Londoners to access jobs, education, and much more.

[Read more...](#)

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### New Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

As part of the "new and integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy", signatory cities will pledge action to support the implementation of the new 2030 EU targets.

### Commission to invest EUR 16 billion in research funding

The European Commission will invest almost EUR 16 billion in research and innovation in the next two years under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding scheme with a new Work Programme.

### A third of safe carbon budget determined by urban policy decisions

One third of the world's remaining safe carbon budget could be determined by urban policy decisions in the next five years, according to a new report from the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

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## Events

### World Cities Day 2015

31 October 2015,  
International  
[More information...](#)

### Smart Cities & Communities Info Day

6 November 2015, Brussels  
(Belgium)  
[More information...](#)

### Smart City Expo World Congress 2015

17-19 November 2015,  
Barcelona (Spain)  
[More information...](#)

## Project Showcase



### CELSIUS

A platform of networking and knowledge, CELSIUS takes a holistic approach to overcome technical, social, financial and political barriers to district heating and cooling solutions.

[Visit the project page...](#)

[View CELSIUS presentation...](#)

## Video



### Smart City Event 2015

See the video about the TRANSFORM program, which was taken at the Smart City Event 2015 in Amsterdam with TRANSFORM participants. Explore the TRANSFORM value.

[Watch the video...](#)

[Visit the project page...](#)

## From the community



### @EUSmartCities

What's in the new @EU\_Commission's Work Programme for 2016–2017? Find it here: <https://eu-smartcities.eu/content..> #H2020 #SmartCities



### @CITYFIED\_EU

Sharing experiences in maximizing #smartcity #replication with the @SmartCitiesSCIS platform. [www.cityfied.eu/News...](http://www.cityfied.eu/News...)

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The Smart Cities Information System (SCIS)

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