100 INTELLIGENT CITIES CHALLENGE
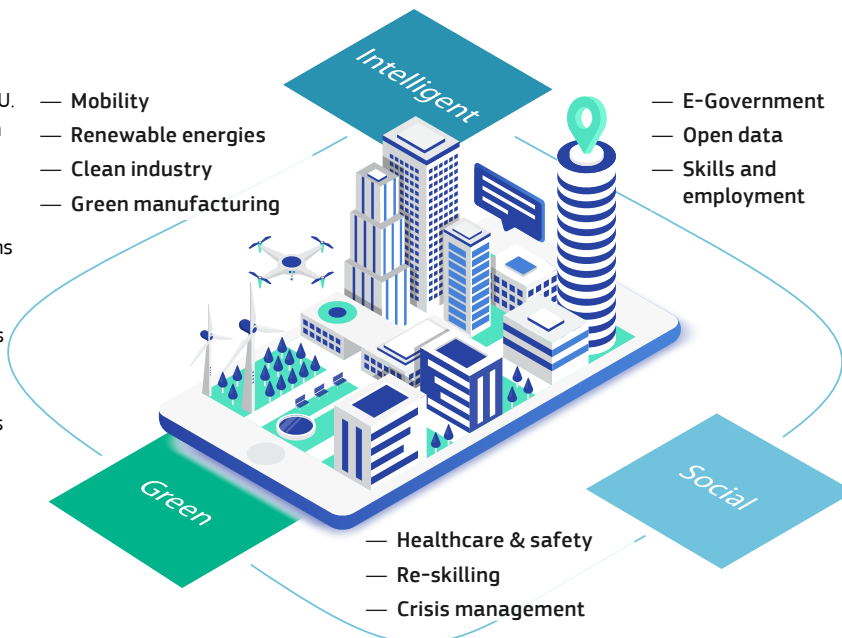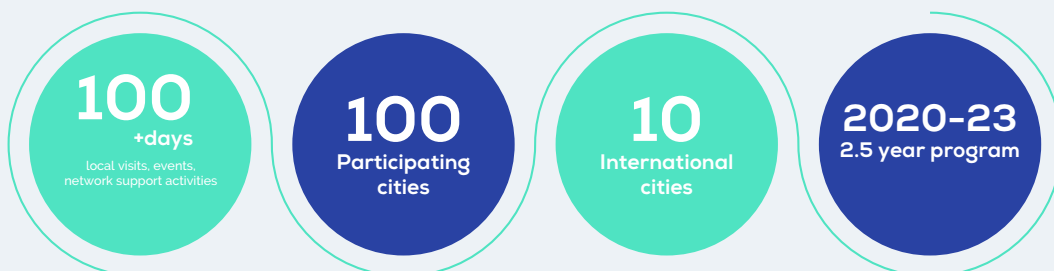
THE SUCCESSOR TO THE DIGITAL CITIES CHALLENGE

A new EU community of 100 cities who together will drive for a better quality of life

Cities shape the future of the EU. 72% of EU citizens live in urban areas[1] and their ecosystems are powerful actors of change. ~50% of the reductions necessary for net zero emissions can be achieved at city level[2]. Effective technologies are offering solutions to challenges like these. Some EU cities are world leaders in innovative technologies and their business models. Others can profit from their knowledge.

Intelligent

— Mobility
— Renewable energies
— Clean industry
— Green manufacturing

— E-Government
— Open data
— Skills and employment

Green

Social

— Healthcare & safety
— Re-skilling
— Crisis management

The 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) will unite EU cities in seizing the opportunity for green smart sustainable growth, improving the quality of life and fostering new opportunities for citizens. The ICC is part of wider EU support contributing to a European Green Deal, an economy that works for people and a Europe fit for the Digital age.

100 +days
local visits, events, network support activities

100 Participating cities

10 International cities

2020-23 2.5 year program

Cities receive world-class support — in person, online, and as a community

Expert advice tailored to the city

Regional specialists will deliver a programme based on the collective expert experience of over 100 smart city strategies, tailored to the biggest thematic issues for a city – be it energy, mobility, green manufacturing or other local priorities

Community conventions - for action over talk

Regular gathering of an EU-wide ecosystem to compare performance; hear from world class speakers, receive targeted training; celebrate city success and commit to shared action: procurement, common standards or shaping marketplaces
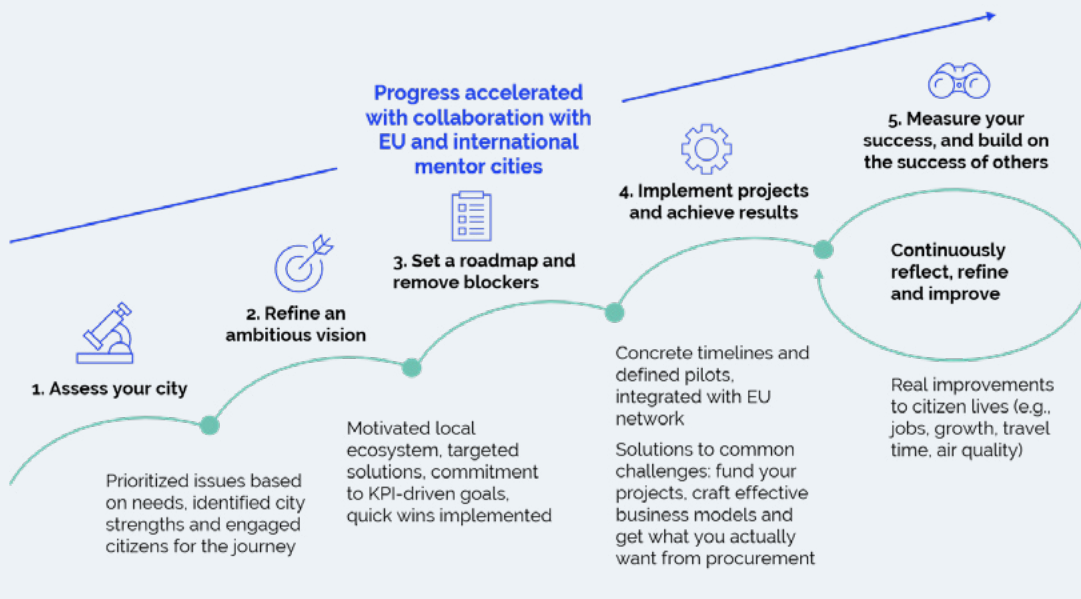
Online toolbox to activate enablers

Get best practice guidance on key enablers (e.g., creating value out of open data, breaking down market barriers for SMEs, finding new outcome-driven business models). Use also innovative tools to engage citizens to understand their views and help them track city progress

Mentoring to form partnerships – at home and abroad

Get 1-on-1 guidance from the most innovative mentor cities in the EU, who can inspire participants on their journey. Interact also with global participants, to learn, trade ideas and create new markets

1. United Nations, 2. C40

The Intelligent Cities Challenge will support a two and a half year transformation

Progress accelerated with collaboration with EU and international mentor cities

5. Measure your success, and build on the success of others

4. Implement projects and achieve results

3. Set a roadmap and remove blockers

2. Refine an ambitious vision

1. Assess your city

Continuously reflect, refine and improve

Prioritized issues based on needs, identified city strengths and engaged citizens for the journey

Motivated local ecosystem, targeted solutions, commitment to KPI-driven goals, quick wins implemented

Concrete timelines and defined pilots, integrated with EU network

Solutions to common challenges: fund your projects, craft effective business models and get what you actually want from procurement

Real improvements to citizen lives (e.g., jobs, growth, travel time, air quality)

Advanced Technologies improve outcomes for citizens, businesses and public authorities

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) is a 2.5 year programme that builds on the successful Digital Cities Challenge of 2017/2019, which saw 41 cities create a vision, strategy and roadmap for their digital transformation. The ICC is improved based on city feedback, aligned with the new EU priorities, focused on implementation, new support mechanisms (e.g., analytical tools) and an entirely new international dimension. Cities will:

— Review existing strategies based on real stakeholder needs and form a prioritised step-by-step roadmap

— Use these to deliver quick win projects in the first 6 months, followed by larger projects that result in a measurable improvement on city life

— Become part of an international self-sustaining network of innovation and collaboration working towards the SDGs

The ICC invites cities to channel their passion for better urban environments ...

We welcome applications from any city who is ready to embark on innovation, but wants to harness the scale effects of being part of a EU-wide network to make their ambitions come to life. Cities will:

— Mobilise the top-level leadership in the city

— Attend all ICC conferences and workshops (expenses inc.)

— Work to form a standing local intelligent city ecosystem

— Dedicate 3 people for two days a week – one from the city, two representatives from the local ecosystem – for execution of this high-priority initiative

... who in return can build a local ecosystem of action

By the end of the programme, cities should expect to not only be transformed in their use of intelligent and advanced technologies, but to gain long term, self-sustaining benefits:

— Quick win commitments in the first 6 months

— Center-stage of a new EU marketplace, designed for cities, SMEs, and a wide range of urban businesses

— Joint investments to seek funding, including from EU financial instruments

— New perspectives on the city's needs, progress, strengths as well as new citizen opportunities through a transition to a greener economy

— Learning from and developing long term collaborations with international mentors

— Measurable impacts that matter to the citizens within 2 years

We welcome more mature cities (EU or international) to act as mentors. These will be provided with opportunities to present their experiences and solutions to 100 city participants, help shape the marketplace in the EU and make meaningful connections to urban areas across Europe.

European Commission

The Intelligent Cities Challenge

How a programme can turn city ambitions in to reality

Visit our website