

Press release
For immediate release

Free support for smart cities of the future

Freiburg, Germany, 16 December 2015: Twenty European cities are being offered free expert advice and support in their journey towards becoming smarter, more responsive cities. The new [GrowSmarter City Interest Group](#), which was launched on 26 November 2015 at the Urban Futures Conference in Berlin, will provide study visits and direct support to cities interested in developing their own smart city action plans.

The City Interest Group is open to city administrations in Europe with a genuine interest in learning from the experiences of GrowSmarter's lighthouse and follower cities (Stockholm, Cologne, Barcelona, Cork, Graz, Porto, Suceava, Valletta).

Benefits of joining the group include exclusive invitations to study visits in Stockholm, Cologne and Barcelona, and access to thematic capacity building webinars. Support for replication activities will be provided through a dedicated Helpdesk, with direct access to the staff and businesses involved in implementing the 12 GrowSmarter solutions.

Membership of the group is free of charge and applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Members are expected to attend at least one GrowSmarter capacity exchange each year from 2016 to 2019 and can choose to develop their own smart city replication assessment. This involves analysing their own needs, identifying possible smart city neighbourhoods and considering the potential to adapt some of the smart solutions being piloted within GrowSmarter for use in these districts.

The first three Interest Group members to develop a complete smart city replication assessment will be offered one on-site capacity building workshop to help develop a full smart city replication plan.

City Interest Group Coordinator Carsten Rothballer said: "Through the City Interest Group, GrowSmarter is offering long-term support in developing and implementing solutions that will have positive environmental impacts, create jobs and improve quality of life locally. It is a very practical way for cities to see what works and consider how it can be adapted to different urban environments."

Anyone interested in joining the GrowSmarter City Interest Group is invited to send a completed [application form](#) to carsten.rothballer@iclei.org, stating their main areas of interest.

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Notes to editors:

About the GrowSmarter project

- In October 2014 the consortium of partners (as above) application to the Horizon 2020 Programme was approved by the European Commission. 25 million euro was awarded to deliver a five year project entitled 'GrowSmarter' which began in January 2015.
- This project aims to stimulate city uptake of 'smart solutions' by using the three Lighthouse cities as a way to showcase 12 Smart City solutions:

Low Energy Districts

1. Efficient and smart climate shell refurbishment
2. Smart building logistics and alternative fuelled vehicles
3. Smart energy tenants through information
4. Smart local production of electricity and integration with buildings and grid

Integrated Infrastructures

5. Smart lighting, lampposts as hubs for communication
6. Waste heat integration by new business models
7. Smart waste collecting, turning waste to electricity, heat and biogas for vehicles
8. Big data protocol for saving energy and improving the quality of life

Sustainable Urban Mobility

9. Sustainable delivery
 10. Smart traffic management
 11. Alternative fuel driven vehicles for decarbonising and better air quality
 12. Smart mobility solutions
- The project enables public bodies to work in partnership with private organisations to facilitate market growth at a local level, reduce the environmental impact and improve quality of life for European citizens.
 - The combination of Smart Solutions, to be rolled out in this urban context, is intended to meet the needs of three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic. The project has the potential to create the equivalent of 1,500 jobs across Europe, and aims to reduce energy usage by 60 percent, and cut EU transport emissions at project level by 60 percent.

The GrowSmarter project consortium is comprised of 39 partners both from the public and private sector:

1. Stockholms Stad
2. Stadt Koln
3. Institut Municipal D'informatica De Barcelona
4. ICLEI European Secretariat Gmbh
5. Kungliga Tekniska Hoegskolan
6. Universidad De Navarra Iese
7. Stadt Graz
8. Municipiul Suceava
9. Authority For Transport In Malta
10. Camara Municipal Do Porto
11. Cork City Council
12. Regional Environmental Center For Central And Eastern Europe -Rec
13. Envac Ab
14. Dalkia Sverige Ab
15. Fortum Power And Heat
16. Carrier Transport Ab Carrier Sweden
17. Skanska Sverige Ab Skanska Sweden
18. Info24 Ab
19. Ab Stockholmshem
20. Insero E-Mobility
21. Rheinenergie
22. Ampido Gmbh
23. Stattauto Koeln Gesellschaft Fuer Car Sharing Mbh
24. Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe Ag
25. Agt Group (R&D) Gmbh
26. Deutsche Wohnungsgesellschaft Mbh
27. Endesa Sa
28. 28 Retevision I, S.A.
29. Anteverti Consulting Sl Anteverti
30. Barcelona Supercomputing Center
31. Consorci Centre D'innovacio Del Transport Cenit
32. Gas Natural Sdg Sa
33. Fundacio Privada I2cat, Internet Innovacio Digital A Catalunya
34. Fundacio Institut De Recerca De L'energia De Catalunya
35. 35 Philips Gmbh
36. Schneider Electric Industries Sas
37. Urbisup Consulting Sl
38. Polis - Promotion Of Operational Links With Integrated Services
39. Ibm Svenska Ab

About Horizon 2020

- *'Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.'*

For reference and more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>