

The European Commission's
**INTELLIGENT CITIES
CHALLENGE**

Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC)

Info session for ICC applicants

Application tips and advice

April 2023



European
Commission

the Intelligent Cities Challenge is funded by
the Single Market Programme



Agenda

- What is the Intelligent Cities Challenge?
- What were some of the key achievements in Phase 1?
- What is the ICC journey for a city?
- Who is eligible to join ICC?
- What type of information exists on the application process?

What is the context of the Intelligent Cities Challenge?

Why do cities matter?

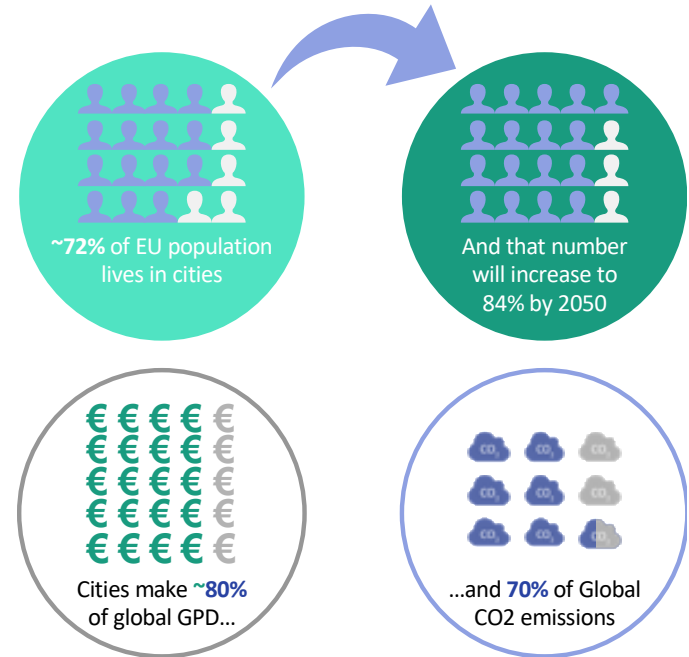
Cities shape the future of the EU

Cities are becoming drivers of the green and digital transition
the twin transition = new opportunities to decarbonise the economy and create resilient and sustainable economic sectors

The ICC is part of a wider EU support effort for the European Green Deal

An **integrated approach** to move cities and businesses from green policy and strategy to implementation

Source: C40, Eurostat



A community of cities with untapped potential, clear aspirations and strong commitment to grow



Digital Cities Challenge (DCC)

Supported cities and their local economy in their path to digital transformation. DCC initiative contributed to speed up the digital transformation and the industrial modernisation of cities.



DCC created a network of 41 cities and offered policy advice and support to 15 cities in Europe



Intelligent Cities Challenge phase I

Supported cities in their path towards a green and digital transition, and sustainable competitiveness of their local economy. Rolled out during the Covid-19 pandemic, the initiative supported social resilience and a higher quality of life.



ICC-I created a network of 136 cities and offered policy advice and support to 80 cities in Europe



Intelligent Cities Challenge phase II

Continues supporting European cities towards the green and digital transition of their local economies, through Local Green Deals. ICC helps cities harness the power of digital and clean tech, while strengthening sustainable competitiveness, social resilience and the European citizens' quality of life.



ICC-II will strengthen the existing network of cities and further expand with new cities

The Intelligent Cities Phase 1 Achievements



€1.9 billion

Funding earmarked for ICC cities' actions



€247 million

Leveraged public funding from EU, national and regional sources



42

Cities on their way to launch a **Local Green Deal**



35

Cities signing the **Pact for Skills** and other skills initiatives



23

Cities among the 100 cities selected for the **Cities Mission**



336

Actions planned by 136 Core cities

What is the Intelligent Cities Challenge?

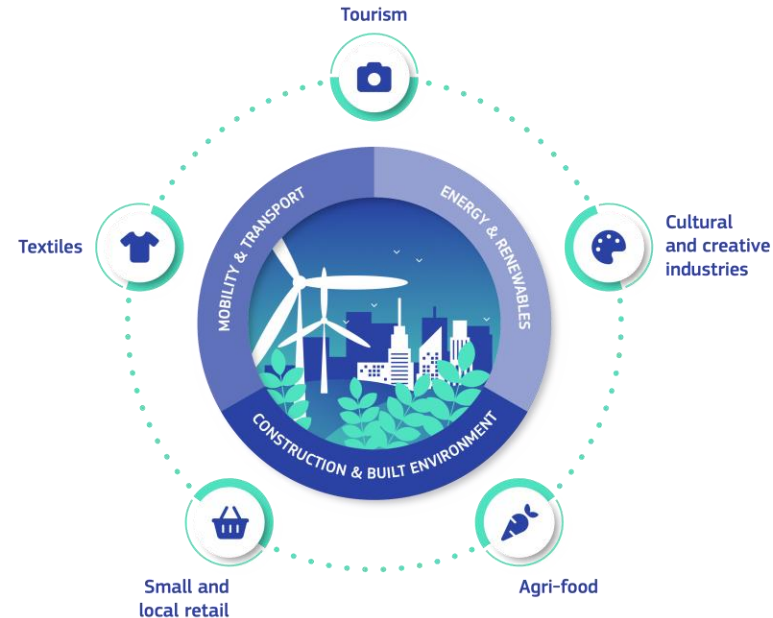
One of EU's biggest initiatives supporting European cities towards the green and digital transition of their local economies

Harness the power of **digital and clean tech**, while strengthening sustainable competitiveness, social resilience and the European citizens' quality of life.

Local Green Deals are a **promising governance approach** to **strengthen partnerships** with the cities' stakeholders.

New phase will build on lessons learned in the first phase with a revamped approach to generate **more impact tailored to cities' needs**:

- Focus on **three core sectors** of strategic importance and five secondary sectors based on their preferences
- **Follow the programme at different speeds**, in accordance with their available resources
- Collaborate with smaller group of cities facing similar challenges.



What are the objectives of the Intelligent Cities Challenge?

The goals and vision

Tailored guidance and **expert support**, access to advisory and city peer networks (European and international), and capacity building tools, to drive priority policy goals and the implementation of Local Green Deals.

Through its action oriented and collaborative approach, the ICC helps cities to:



Identify local strengths and formulate priorities and real needs



Learn from and share experiences



Leverage cutting-edge technologies to bring innovation to the city



Scale up visibility, recognition and business opportunities for their city



Engage in long-lasting collaborations to co-create and co-design



Get their voices heard

What is the ICC journey for a city?

Core cities will receive world-class support from leading experts and EU and international mentor cities – in person, online and as a community – to **transform their strategies into effective action** by empowering their ecosystems and developing **concrete agreements with businesses**, Local Green Deals. Support and activities will include expert consultant support on the ground, facilitated sessions at several high-profile multi-city events, and a suite of online tools.



1
Assess your city's
performance and needs



2
Create a vision
and refine your strategy



3
Create a roadmap
to achieve your vision



4
Implement projects
and see results



5
Measure and build
on your success



Sector focus

ICC support all participating cities' transition across predefined sectors of intervention:

- > **three core sectors of strategic importance**, where cities have a high degree of local influence (in order of preferences across 3 sectors):
 1. Construction & built environment
 2. Energy & renewables
 3. Mobility & transport

- > **five secondary sectors of influences**, where cities will identify areas, they wish to build their involvement in the ICC on; secondary sectors focus include:
 1. Tourism
 2. Small/Local retail
 3. Agri-food
 4. Textiles
 5. Cultural and creative industries



The most popular sectors among the secondary sectors will be given priority. This means that there is no guarantee that all sectors in the second group will be covered.

Are you eligible to apply?

Whilst the formal application period is now closed, if your city is still interested in getting involved with the ICC programme, please contact the Intelligent Cities Helpdesk (helpdesk_icc@technopolis-group.com) to explore the possible options.

To be eligible to participate in the ICC, you must be:

- A local public government entity (i.e. municipalities, districts) that are either responsible for or involved in the funding and/or implementation of a policy or programme of a city related to digital transformation, smart / intelligent city, sustainable urban development
- Located within the European Union
- Representing cities with more than 50.000 inhabitants, exceptions:
 - Cities located in an EU-27 country with less than 1.5 million habitants
 - Cities located on an island in an EU-27 country (excluding Ireland)
- Stand-alone applicant*



*This eligibility criteria does not apply to existing ICC cities (edition 2020-2022)

The existing ICC cities (edition 2020-2022) that show a high level of commitment and interest will be selected to continue in the second phase of the Challenge. They must nevertheless present a complete and satisfactorily completed EOI.

Guide for Applicants

- The main reference document outlining the application procedure and eligibility criteria
- Available on www.intelligentcitieschallenge.eu

Newsletter

- Sign up on our website with your e-mail address

FAQ section

- Common questions from info sessions and the helpdesk

Helpdesk email: helpdesk_icc@technopolis-group.com

- Questions can be submitted in 23 languages
- Replies provided in English
- Reply within 24 hours (except weekends and holidays)

Applicant support