

Smart Cities and Communities -European Innovation Partnership (EIP)

Focus on the NSPA-led EIP consortium

European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Smart cities and communities: what is it all about?

The European Innovation Partnership integrates the **ICT**, **energy and transport sectors**, for the purpose applying innovative urban solutions to achieve better mobility, cleaner urban environment and energy efficiency.

The goal is to bring together public and private actors across Europe (public authorities, research institutions, business etc.) who wish to come up with **innovative and transferable solutions** to the common challenges that European cities face today.

The members of the EIP community have the possibility to:

- Share knowledge on existing smart initiatives, plans and projects
- **Test and transfer innovative solutions** from one urban environment to another

European Innovation Partnerships are not funding instruments, but they provide an excellent set-up for networking and finding toplevel partners for future (EU-funded) projects.

What is the structure of the EIP community?

In 2014, as a result of the call for commitments by the European commission, <u>370 commitments</u> around smart city projects & solutions were submitted by more than 3000 partners.

Each of the 370 commitments belongs to one of the **six action clusters**. Like 73 other commitments, the NSPA-led commitment was submitted under the action cluster **Sustainable Districts and Built Environment**. This cluster focuses on improving the energy efficiency of buildings and districts, increasing the share of renewable energy sources used and the livability of our communities.

The action cluster on Sustainable Districts and Built Environment has **four sub-clusters**, one of which brings together **"small giants"**, **i.e.** is connecting interesting Smart Cities Initiatives at smaller/medium scale as to create critical mass and foster linkages. This

The NSPA-led EIP consortium: up to now close to 50 partners from 5 countries

Cities and regions

City of Oulu

City of Joensuu City of Kuopio

City of Lappeenranta

City of Mikkeli

City of Rovaniemi

City of Luleå

City of Skellefteå

City of Umeå

City of Östersund

Municipality of Kiruna

Municipality of Piteå

viullicipality of Pitea

Municipality of Sundsvall

Municipality of Örnsköldsvik

Castilla y León

Federation of municipalities,

enterprises and provinces of

Aragón (FAMCP)

Teruel Province

Troms county council Council of Oulu Region

Regional council of Lapland

Regional council of Central

Ostrobothnia

Regional council of Kainuu

Regional council of North Karelia

Regional council of Pohjois-Savo

Regional council of Etelä-Savo

Universities and research centers

Lapland University of Applied Sciences

Arctic Power

Centria University of Applied

Sciences

Kajaani University Consortium

Kajaani University of Applied

Sciences

Karelia University of Applied

Sciences

Luleå University of technology

LTU Business,

LTU-CDT-Botnia Living Lab

Mikkeli University of Applied

Sciences

Savonia University of Applied

Sciences

Umeå University

University of Jyväskylä

Kokkola University Consortium

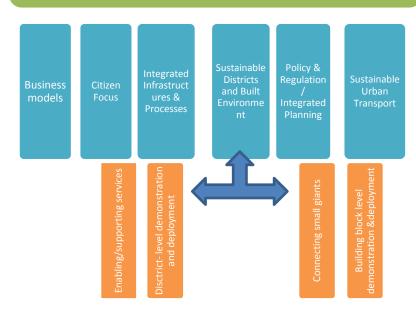
University of Lapland

University of Oulu

sub-cluster focuses on activities aiming at building large networks of cities and communities, aiming at long-term cooperation, knowledge sharing and results dissemination among the participating cities. For sparsely populated areas such as those involved in the NSPA network, creating such linkages can lead to great opportunities and better visibility.

The structure of the EIP community is illustrated below:

370 commitments



The NSPA-led commitment

The Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian regions involved in the NSPAnetwork (Northern Sparsely Populated Areas), together with partners from two sparsely populated regions of Spain, formed a consortium of interested local and regional authorities, universities and other organisations. Close to 50 partners from five countries expressed their interest to submit a common commitment.

Partners of the commitment are already involved in various Smart City -type actions. However, many on-going and planned activities are isolated, and those involved do not always collaborate with others beyond their organization, city, region or national borders.

 Through the EIP commitment, the members of the NSPA-led consortium will share existing Smart City-type solutions and strengthen collaboration among the 50 consortium

Other organisations

Castilla y León Innovation, Financing and Internationalisation Agency Castilla y Leon Regional Energy Agency (EREN) Center for Internet Excellence (Oulu) Cyberlightning Ltd Dataföreningen i Norr Kemi Digipolis Oy FREE initiative Joensuu Sciencepark, Piteå Science Park Kainuun Etu Oy Measurepolis Development **Kuopio Innovation** RIC Lower Silesia-consortium (Climate-KIC Regional Centre) Rovaniemi Development Agency TECNARA (Aragón's ITC, Electronics and **Telecommunications Companies** Cluster)

partners and with other consortia of the EIP Action Cluster Sustainable Districts and Built Environment

The six main areas of the cooperation and the corresponding task forces of the NSPA-led consortium are defined in the common commitment text as follows:

- TF1 Plans for future neighborhoods;
- TF2 Common & complementary R&D&I
- TF3 Existing business models
- TF4 Sustainable transport/mobility plans and actions
- TF5 Integrated ICT solutions & infrastructure, citizen focus and
- TF6 Resource efficiency and circular economy activities.

A first "Mapping of the landscape"- survey will be carried out in spring 2015 in order to

- identify common needs and thematic priorities, specific for each task force
- collect representative cases (regional, local or district level)

What is the added value of being involved?

- Learn about the "state of the art" and get inspired by best practice examples from other cities
- Get visibility to the know-how of your city or organization
- Meet potential partners for future (EU-funded) projects.
- Have a voice at the EU level

What makes our consortium special?

Small cities and towns as well as sparsely populated regions can contribute to the European Smart Cities and Communities Initiative

The members of our large consortium have a lot of complementary knowledge, experience and innovative ideas

We have specific know-how related to cold urban environments, for instance in the field of heating and insulation of buildings

Sustainable transport inside and between cities of sparsely populated areas is a common challenge

Small cities in sparsely populated regions can provide excellent testing environments for smart urban solutions also for other European partners

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