



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 top-level 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, **370 commitments** 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
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:



The NSPA-led commitment

The Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian regions involved in the NSPA-network (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

For more information contact:

Emmi Kallio
Special Advisor
EAST & NORTH FINLAND EU OFFICE
Avenue Palmerston 24
B-1000 Brussels
Mobile: +32 493 55 27 71
emmi.kallio@eastnorth.fi