

LUCIA Final Conference

# *Climate-neutral by 2050 – the (evident) role of cities*

22 September 2021



Georg Houben

Unit B1 – DG Energy  
European Commission



European  
Commission

# Contents

- **Why Smart Cities  
... and why now?**
- **Smart Cities & the EU Green Deal**
- **The EU's support to cities**
- **Building on EU level initiatives & support**
- **SCC Lighthouse Projects**
- **Smart Cities Marketplace**



European  
Commission

# Why Smart Cities ... and why now?

- **Approx. 75% of the EU's population lives in cities, of which approx. 55% in Small & Medium Sized Cities.**
- **Approx. 85% of the EU's GDP is generated there.**
- **Cities deliver on jobs, growth, resilience, investments, innovation and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, to name a few ...**
- **... and cities are at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis!**



European  
Commission


# Smart Cities & the EU Green Deal

- Cities are complex spaces asking for integrated action across sectors/levels/stakeholders and embracing the whole system.
- Energy, transport, mobility, enabled by digital solutions as well as circularity and zero pollution are at the centre of any serious approach to the urban environment, largely conditional to climate-neutrality.
- The twin green/digital urban transition is therefore at the heart of the EU Green Deal aiming for climate-neutrality by 2050.



European  
Commission

# The EU's support to cities

The background of the slide features a photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, under a clear blue sky. The tower is partially obscured by a dark blue oval callout on the left side.

Total of  
€1.8 trillion of  
investment

- **European Green Deal** delivering – inter alia – a massive renovation wave, cleaner transport and logistics as well as a number of measures for the digital transition in cities!
- **Horizon Europe: Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities**, continued support to urban projects and platforms
- **InvestEU**
- **Next Generation EU** with €750 billion targeted at COVID-19 recovery, supporting the delivery of the European Green Deal
- **Recovery fund**



European  
Commission

# Building on EU level initiatives & support



HORIZON 2020



LIVING-IN.EU



# Smart Cities & Communities Lighthouse Projects



European  
Commission

- **8 editions of H2020** Lighthouse project calls
- **18** Lighthouse projects
- **48** Lighthouse cities
- **76** Fellow & observer cities
- **About € 430 million** co-funded



European  
Commission

# The relevance of SCC Lighthouse Projects

- More than 120 cities paving the way
- 550 thoroughly tested smart city solutions implemented in more than 180 sites across Europe
- Lighthouse cluster – huge resource & long term vision
- Many already working on Positive Energy Districts (PED)
- Strong cluster support facilitating collaboration
- Fully integrated and large scale
- Pan-European



European  
Commission



# Smart Cities Marketplace



European  
Commission

# What we do

## Together we

- develop and implement solutions.
- facilitate networking and partnering.
- accumulate and share knowledge.
- build capacity.
- focus on Energy, Transport and digital solutions.

# Action Clusters & Initiatives

**+6.000** partners,  
**370** commitments,  
**31** countries.

It is all about scale, acceleration,  
impact, common solutions,  
integrated approaches and collaboration.



European  
Commission

# Smart Cities Marketplace's Matchmaking

## Three phases

- Explore. See and learn what's next.
- Shape. Shape project and action plans.
- Deal! Create relations and opportunities.

Approx. 130 projects with an aggregated total budget of approx. EUR 600 million have been matched with investors' interests, so far!

More info:

<https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu/matchmaking>



European  
Commission

# Thank you!

Georg.HOUBEN@ec.europa.eu



Get in touch at

<https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu!>



@EUSmartCities



European  
Commission