

EPIX Deliverable 1.3 - Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members



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Deliverable D1.3 – Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members

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PREMISES

Throughout the duration of the EPIX project, a comprehensive series of transnational and local training sessions, along with coaching sessions, have been implemented with the goal of fostering connections between clusters and smart cities. These training were designed not only to augment the knowledge and skill sets of cluster managers and staff members but also to equip them with the necessary tools for effectively managing cluster initiatives within the framework of smart cities. Furthermore, the aim of this initiatives was to empower companies, in particular SMEs, associated with the EPIX project-clusters to provide solutions that are not only aligned with the project objectives but also uphold standards of affordability and quality within the Smart Cities frameworks.

Each training session incorporated a coaching component, fostering the exchange of ideas, insights, and expertise among cluster members, thereby facilitating improved matchmaking and the exploration of innovative financing avenues for smart city endeavors.

EPIX Local and transnational training sessions were conducted in alignment with the project's trajectories. Event titles were customized to suit the unique characteristics of each cluster and their respective contexts, guaranteeing their relevance and effectiveness.





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1. Local training and coaching sessions

The local training sessions were conducted by the partners in the local language to facilitate dialogue, comprehension, and networking among participating companies and stakeholders. Each project partner tailored their local workshop to address the unique needs of their members and stakeholders, focusing on the Smart city frameworks, trends and opportunities.

1.1 Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto

Training “Il nuovo codice degli appalti” (The new public procurement code, use of public procurement platforms and tools for project financing), **was organised on 16.10.2023, via Zoom portal** in collaboration with the Association of 10 Municipalities of the Camposampierese area (IPA Camposampierese, Veneto region), and their centralised public procurement office department.

During this online training activity the IPA Camposampierese central purchasing manager Mr Massimiliano Berto reported an updated analysis of the requirements set out in the new procurement code. The expert described the methods for registering step by step in the new platform adopted by the IPA Camposampierese explaining the companies how to present their products and solutions to the public administrations. A special emphasis was placed on "project financing" as a new method of collaboration between private entities and public Administrations, particularly important for the continuous provision of services to citizens.

The training was attended by 16 participants.

Banner & photos of the training in Italy:

The banner features a dark blue header with logos for the European Union, EpiX, and LUCEINVENETO. The main title is in bold blue text. Below the title, the date and time are listed with calendar and clock icons. The content is organized into three parts, with a megaphone icon next to the speaker's name and title. At the bottom, logos for the organizing partners are displayed.

Funded by the European Union

EpiX

LUCEINVENETO
rete di imprese

Il nuovo codice degli appalti: l'utilizzo delle piattaforme digitali e lo strumento del project financing

Lunedì 16.10.23 **Ore 10:30 - 12:00**

I PARTE:
L'obbligo dell'utilizzo delle piattaforme telematiche dal 1° gennaio 2024

II PARTE:
Il project financing con il nuovo codice degli appalti

III PARTE:
Esempi virtuosi di project financing svolti dalla Federazione - IPA del Camposampierese

Massimiliano Berto
Responsabile della Centrale di Committenza/Stazione Appaltante della Federazione dei Comuni del Camposampierese

In collaborazione con:

Federazione dei Comuni del Camposampierese

ALLEANZA per lo SVILUPPO del CAMPOSAMPIERESE

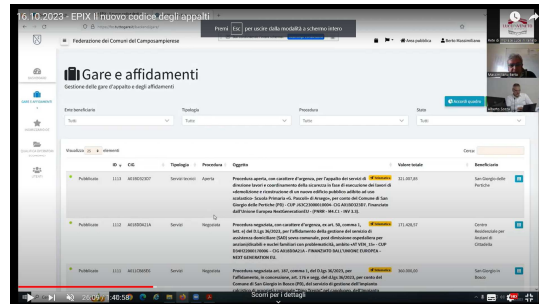


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1.2 Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster

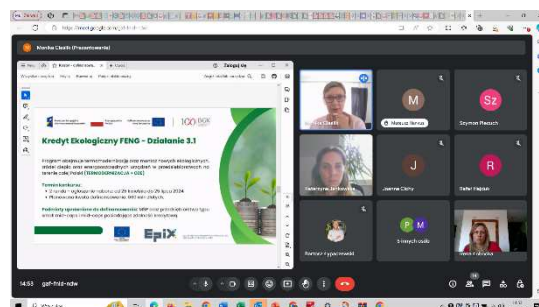
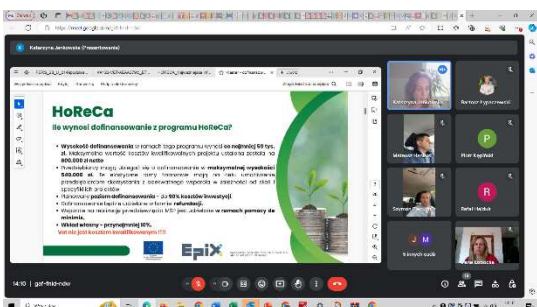
On the afternoon of **11 April 2024**, SIC cluster organized an event entitled **“Możliwości finansowania, Inwestycji OZE”**, shaping the discourse around funding opportunities in Poland for green technologies, renewables, and smart solutions. Hosted as an online webinar, the session served as a platform for insightful discussions and revelations regarding the landscape of sustainable initiatives in Poland.

14 attendees, predominantly comprised of companies with an interest in green technologies, joined the online event to explore the potential of green innovation for both societal and environmental advancement and to deep dive into ongoing financing programs currently accessible in Poland.

The event, conducted in Polish, encompassed various discussions, including eligibility criteria for funding schemes in Poland and strategies to implement smart city actions aimed at driving transformative change. Participants actively engaged in dialogue, sharing experiences, challenges, and success stories, fostering a collaborative atmosphere conducive to collective learning and growth.

Given the significant interest, another training session has been scheduled for April 30, 2024, in person.

Banner & photos of the training in Poland:





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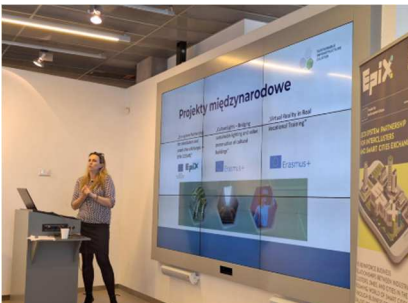
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The second training was organized on **30.04.2024** as an in presence workshop in **Krakow Technology Park**, between 12:00 – 15:30.

In the training there was 27 participants, including start-up companies residing in Krakow Technology Park, cluster members, city representative, some educational institutions including 3 technical schools from Krakow (construction, energy and IT technical schools) interested in common joint projects focused on innovations, smart city and energy infrastructure topics. SIC presented many possibilities of cooperation, including educational European project opportunities preparing future staff for smart city investments in Poland from the executive and operational side. After the training there was a networking session planned to enable further and detailed discussions and analysing potential consortia and joint applications.

Banners and photos below:





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1.3 Cluster HABIC

Within the framework of the summer course "*Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Architecture*", Mikel Barrado, Director of Market and Business Development at TECNALIA Research & Innovation, delivered training session on **15 September 2023 on public funding**, to raise awareness of the different local and national grants available to industrial SMEs in the Basque Country in relation to smart cities.

Brief description of the grants that were presented:

1. **Fast Track Innobideak Programme:** This programme, offered by the Basque Government's Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, aims to support the implementation of innovation projects in the areas of specialisation framed in the Euskadi 2030 Science, Technology and Innovation Plan and/or the implementation of key complementary actions to boost innovation.
2. **Industria Digitala:** This programme, managed by SPRI (Basque Business Development Agency), is aimed at promoting all companies in the Basque Country, providing them with the necessary resources and personalised advice to increase their competitiveness through the implementation of digital and sustainable technologies that will enable them to develop competitive advantages to improve their market positioning.
3. **Eraikal:** Eraikal grants are a set of subsidies and programmes promoted by the Basque Government, aimed at promoting economic activity and innovation in the construction sector in the Basque Country. These grants tend to focus on areas such as energy efficiency, sustainability, technological innovation and quality in construction. Their main objective is to promote the development of projects and the adoption of practices that contribute to the progress and competitiveness of the construction sector in the region.
4. **Smart Industry:** The Smart Industry aid programme promoted by the Basque Government through the SPRI is an evolution of Basque Industry 4.0 that subsidises Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects that address Technology Transfer from R&D agents to industrial companies in the field of Advanced Manufacturing with up to 300,000 euros.
5. **AEI aid for Digital Technologies projects:** The projects presented under this heading must incorporate knowledge and/or technologies that promote the digital transformation of the companies that carry them out within the framework of the following categories:
 - Industrial research activities.
 - Experimental development activities.
 - Organisational innovation.
 - Process innovation.
6. **Balioa Sortzeko Eraldatzen Programme:** Aid programme of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. Its aim is to promote the generation of opportunities, differential value and sustainability of the business fabric of Gipuzkoa by promoting the transformation of activity through the contribution of value from new activities and new sustainable business models.

The training was attended by 34 participants.

Photos of the training in Spain:





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1.4 DUTIREG – STEPP Cluster

DUTIREG has established partnership with the Hungarian Cluster Community (HCC), which brings together the most active clusters on national level in Hungary. Therefore DUTIREG and HCC have planned to deliver the project financing in the month of May 2024.

The local workshop is strategically scheduled after the 2024 European Cluster Conference, which will take place in Brussels on May 7-8, 2024. This is because both HCC delegates and DUTIREG representatives will personally attend the conference to discuss, analyze, and engage with other clusters and associations on current EU strategies and policies. The outcomes of matchmaking activities during the conference will be integrated into the agenda of local training in Hungary, incorporating insights from international speakers.

Agenda:

Date & Time	Co-organiser together with DUTIREG / STEPP Cluster	Main topic
14th May 2024	Hungarian Cluster Alliance and Eubility Group	project financing for smart cities in EU and in Hungary

The EPIX deliverable 1.3 will be updated after the completion of the training.

In cooperation with the Hungarian Cluster Community Magyar (Klaszterközösség Nonprofit Kft, MKN), facilitated by the Pannon Business Network Association as the professional training organizer partner of MKN and DUTIREG, an online training session was organized on **22 May 2024**. The session aimed to analyze the outcomes of the EPIX project in Hungary, showcasing how they have been instrumental in fostering international cooperation initiatives resulting from urban community development efforts with European partners. Moreover, building on discussions initiated during bilateral meetings at the European Cluster Conference in Brussels, opportunities for collaboration between clusters in Hungary and Poland were explored in depth. Special attention was given to sustainable construction and smart city development as key areas of focus. Presentations were delivered by the Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster (SIC) and the Polish Construction Cluster (PCC). In total 16 participants.

Photos:

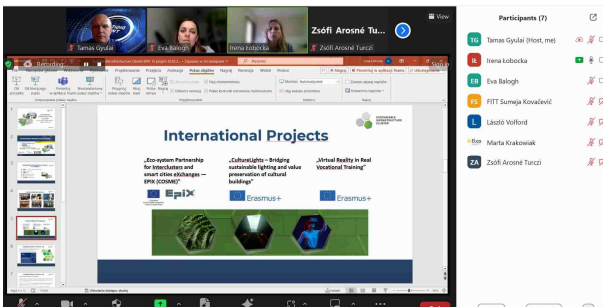
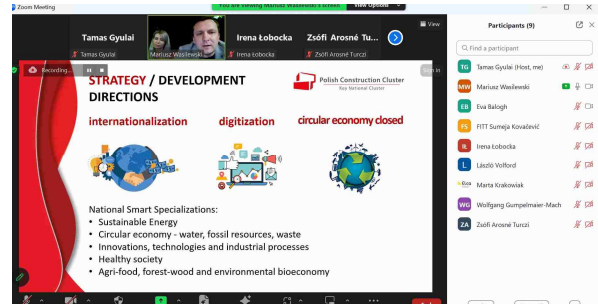
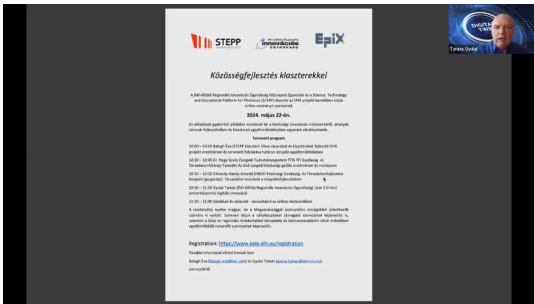


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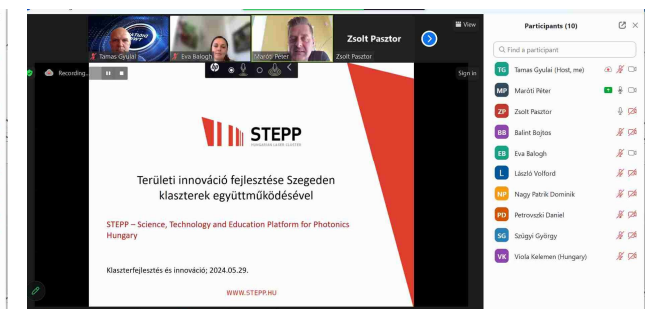
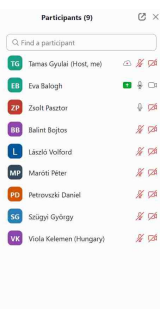
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D1.3 - Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members



Furthermore, on **29 May 2024**, DUTIREG organized an online training for SMEs and stakeholders on project financing and innovation. The presentations underscored the extensive transnational cooperation opportunities available to innovative companies, emphasizing current European funding calls and other financial instruments designed to support SMEs development and cluster. The training provided a platform for stakeholders to delve into strategic partnerships and explore avenues for future collaboration, thereby enriching the landscape of European cluster initiatives. In total 11 participants.

Photos:



1.5 MoWin.net cluster

MoWin.net cluster has arranged its local training in Germany for May 2024. The EPIX deliverable 1.3 will be updated after the completion of the training.

MoWin.net organized its local training “Funding in Northern Hesse” on **23.05.2024** to support SMEs, start-ups, in Northern Hesse to find various support measures to strengthen the local economy and promote innovation and technological developments.



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By leveraging targeted financial grants, low-interest loans, consulting services, and fostering networks, the aim of this EPIX local training was to enhance the competitiveness of local companies and contribute to the economic growth of Northern Hesse. A total of 10 participants were involved in this initiative.

Photos:



Projekt: Fortbildung für Förderungen KMUs in Nordhessen

Datum: 23.05.2024

Uhrzeit: 10:00 – 13:30

Ein Programm zur Förderung von kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen (KMUs) in Nordhessen könnte verschiedene Unterstützungsmaßnahmen umfassen, um die lokale Wirtschaft zu stärken und Innovationen zu fördern. Hier ist ein Vorschlag für ein umfassendes Förderprogramm:



D1.3 - Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members

2. International training and coaching sessions

ELCA, being a European organization, has taken the coordination of a series of international training sessions tailored specifically for cluster managers and staff members, with the primary aim of enriching their understanding and expertise in the intricate realm of smart city initiatives. These sessions have been organized to delve into a diverse topics for sustainable smart cities, with a specific focus on smart energy, smart mobility, data and IoT devices, smart infrastructure and funding opportunities.

By equipping cluster managers with comprehensive insights and practical strategies, these training sessions included also coaching sessions which serve as invaluable platforms for fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

2.1 International training and coaching session on Smart Mobility & Energy



The **1st international training and coaching session** for EPIX clusters was organised online by ELCA and MoWiN.net on 07.07.2023, and addressed the topic of **Smart Mobility and Energy**, and the related ICT technologies and solutions for smart cities and regions.

ELCA leveraged the strong expertise of MoWiN.net as mobility and logistics cluster in these matters and jointly organised an interactive online event, engaging also German (Hessen) and Israeli start-up and tech-savvy SMEs. The workshop was supported by the Regional Management Northern Hesse (RMNH) who contributed to the open panel's discussion and networking.

The event was chaired by Dr. Astrid Szogs (Managing Director of MoWiN.net e.V.) and Marta Krakowiak (Project Manager at ELCA European Lighting Cluster Alliance) with contributions from Mr. Kai-Georg Bachmann (CEO of the Regionalmanagement Northern Hesse). The pitching session hosted the following companies and their solutions for smart cities-smart mobility:

- ✓ RoadSense Advanced Technologies LTD RoadSense's PaaS (Platform as a Service) is a solution that monitors the public space in real-time without any privacy breach, digitizes the information, adding additional essential data layers, to solve countless use cases in the public space, related to safety, HLS, equality, and well-being.
- ✓ Layer Four GmbH & Co. KG - a startup from Kassel, Germany. Together with the municipal utilities of one of Germany's largest cities, the company has already implemented a smart city project. In addition, Layer Four has extensive knowledge in the areas of blockchain/NFT as well as zero knowledge proof, which can be regarded as basic technologies in the field of smart cities.
- ✓ Blackshield.security - is a startup from Kassel. The philosophy of blackshield is to enable companies to establish IT security sustainably. The focus here is on simple communication and up-to-date



D1.3 - Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members

technologies. Security tools are constantly evolving, blackshield is evolving with them. The solutions are tailored to the requirements of the companies, without product constraints or one-sided advice.

- ✓ Pietsch IT GmbH – the company expert in data protection. Since 1986, it has been supporting industry, commerce, and banks as a holistic service provider. Offering personal security strategy with you and develop it, from implementation to ongoing operation of all solutions.

To be able to connect the various projects and inputs/outputs from the regional management of North Hesse and at the same time to build bridges/networks between the EPIX partners, a specific Panel discussion was organized, tackling two different angles of Smart City and Smart Innovation Concepts. First Panel focused on the digital transformation on ICT Solutions for Companies, Cities and Regions.

Panel 1 ICT Technologies: Lars-Christian Heimburger & Judith Dorn (Project Manager of the Cluster of ICT RMNH) - The digital transformation will continue to decisively change the economy and society in the coming decades. The Internet of Things (IoT) plays an essential role in networking the analog world. The handling of sensors and communication modules as well as their integration into cloud applications are the prerequisite for new applications and business models.

The second panel picked up the ICT/IoT perspectives and discussed the mobility concepts of tomorrows Smart City by giving a brief overview of one joint breakout session. The breakout room was moderated by ELCA and MoWiN.net and the technology and mobility experts, all participants have had an opportunity to network and share its insights.

Panel 2 Smart Mobility: Dr. Astrid Szogs (Cluster of Mobility MoWiN.net.e.V) & Baruch Gueta (CEO of RoadSense) - The smart mobility ecosystem contains in its definition a wide range of alternative modes of transportation, including traditional gas and electric vehicles, bike and scooter share programs, autonomous vehicles, rail lines, even augmented traffic realities where road space is designated for specific types of transport at different points throughout the day.

The event ended with a co-learning coaching session with the participating companies and cluster organizations. The participants had the opportunity to learn more and discuss the vision and future “smart city” challenges in the areas of smart mobility, ICT, and IoT perspectives.

The event was attended by all EPIX partners, representatives of the showcasing SMEs and the Regional Management Northern Hesse (RMNH) and its ICT cluster. In total 24 participants.





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VISION AND SMART PROJECTS: AIRMOUR

SmartXChange NORDHESSEN

AIRMOUR

- AIRMOUR is a research and innovation project supporting urban air mobility via emergency medical services.
- Mobility is therefore expanding into the third dimension: the airspace.
- The AIRMOUR project offers valuable UAM tools and drastically advances the understanding of necessary near-future actions

EVENT HOSTED BY: REGIONALMANAGEMENT NORDHESSEN

USE CASES

Smart Cities	Industrial Security	Smart Ports	Smart Homes	Smart
<ul style="list-style-type: none">People LocationFacility SecurityPlant & Machinery SafetyAsset TrackingAccess ControlAsset ManagementAsset MaintenanceAsset Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Process ControlInventory ControlAccess ControlAsset ManagementAsset MaintenanceAsset Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Port & ShipyardPort & ShipyardPort & ShipyardPort & ShipyardPort & ShipyardPort & ShipyardPort & Shipyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart HomeSmart Home

EVENT HOSTED BY: REGIONALMANAGEMENT NORDHESSEN

SMART CITY BLOCKCHAIN

Best Use Cases

- Public Services
- Smart Mobility
- Smart Energy

Use Cases: User-level, Software Service Provider, Proven & KYC Knowledge Proof, Blockchain-based Liveness Platform

EVENT HOSTED BY: REGIONALMANAGEMENT NORDHESSEN

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- 1st Panel: Smart Mobility
- 2nd Panel: ICT Technologies

Your Opportunity! Ask Questions! Share Experiences! Exchange Ideas!

EVENT HOSTED BY: REGIONALMANAGEMENT NORDHESSEN, EpiX, Elco

SmartXChange Collection

Interactive SmartXChange Selection

Any further questions? Leave us a comment!

Search SmartXChange

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2.2 International training and coaching session on technologies and solutions for Smart Cities & Data IoT

The poster features logos for the European Union, EpiX, and EXCELLENCE at the top. The main title is 'INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TRAINING BIG DATA & IOT FOR SMART CITIES'. It is a 'LIVE WEBINAR' on '20 October 2023' from '09:30-11:00 CEST'. The topics listed are: 'Data management and IoT technologies & solutions for "smart cities"' and 'Smart infrastructures for smart cities'. The website 'www.epixproject.eu' is provided. At the bottom, it is organized by 'Elca' (European Lighting Cluster Alliance) in collaboration with the 'UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA'.

ELCA organized the **2nd & 3rd international training**, in a joint online session, delivered in collaboration with the University of Padova - Department of Information Engineering, on 20.10.2023 and addressing the topic of **data management, IoT devices, technologies and solutions as well as smart infrastructure for smart cities.**

The topics addressed included as follows:

- ✓ Data management and IoT technologies & solutions for "smart cities"
- ✓ Definition of smart city & Examples of smart cities
- ✓ Definition of IoT and its role in enabling smart cities (data collection)
- ✓ IoT for data gathering and transmission
- ✓ Data processing: edge and cloud paradigms
- ✓ Techniques for data analysis
- ✓ Key challenges for data management from data gathering to analysis
- ✓ Smart infrastructures for smart cities
- ✓ Definition of wireless networks and radio spectrum (licensed and unlicensed portions)
- ✓ Definition of telecommunication protocols and standards
- ✓ Requirements for IoT networks
- ✓ Examples of IoT technologies: NB-IoT, LoRaWAN, Sigfox

The training took place from 9:30 to 11:30 CET, including an interactive exchange session between the expert (prof. Meneghello, University of Padova) and the project partners and their associated SMEs.

In total it engaged 28 participants.



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2.3 International training and coaching session on smart cities opportunities



ELCA European Lighting Cluster Alliance organized an online international training on the **Smart Cities trends, challenges & funding opportunities** to support collaboration among clusters, companies and cities on **24.04.2024**. The online event was open to all EPIX clusters, their companies, and their networking cities. In total it engaged 24 participants.

In the realm of urban development and sustainability, European initiatives play a pivotal role in shaping the future landscape of our cities. These initiatives not only underscore the commitment towards combating climate change but also emphasize the importance of harnessing innovation and technology to create smarter and more resilient urban environments thanks to

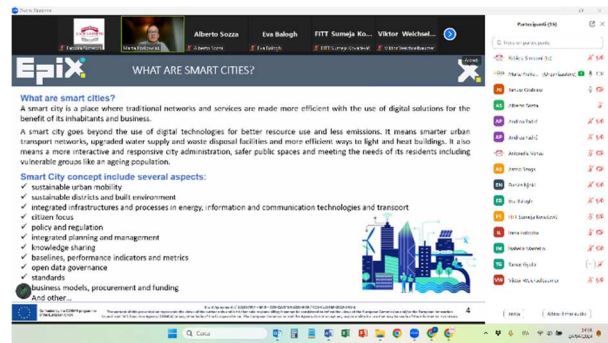
transnational and sectoral partnerships.

During the workshops participants analysed the concept of the “Smart City”, its definition and the “smartness dimension” criteria that shall be accomplished by a city to be called “smart”. Furthermore several trends and challenges related to the Smart Cities have been discussed in line with the EPIX trajectories of interest like smart mobility, energy efficiency, smart building & infrastructure, digitalisation and many others.

Topics discussed are European initiatives such as Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Horizon Europe Programme; Smart Cities Marketplace and Scalable Cities initiatives and funding opportunities for Cities, Clusters and Companies to be considered for potential follow-up joint actions, including European Urban Initiative, LIFE, Interreg Europe, Horizon Europe, I3 Instrument, Erasmus+ programme. These funding opportunities extend beyond individual projects, encouraging collaboration and partnership at both local and international levels between different actors.

The virtual meeting served not only as a platform for knowledge sharing but also as a catalyst for the dissemination of potential collective actions that each actor can undertake to promote sustainable urban development in Europe.

Screenshots from the training:





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Smart City criteria
The criteria for assessing the degree of smartness of a city were theorised by Rudolf Giffinger, an expert in the field of analytical research of urban and regional development (TU Wien), who in his study *Smart cities Ranking of European medium-sized cities* explains what this 6 dimensions of a smart city are:

- A **smart economy** refers to an innovative business model that encourages the interconnection of ecosystems in different cities (circular economy).
- **Smart people** refers to an active, inclusive, sustainable, intelligent citizenship that offers equal opportunities to all, taking into account the needs of individuals.
- **Smart governance** is a decision-making process in which organisations, institutions, companies and all stakeholders participate. Smart governance encourages citizen participation and the use of new digital technologies (digital management).
- **Smart mobility** is based on a modern, sustainable and comprehensive transport system available to citizens and workers as well as tourists or those in need of international mobility.
- **Smart environment** stands for smart management of natural resources to which is added the care of the environmental heritage and the use of new technologies for the production of electricity.
- **Smart living** is primarily about the quality of life of citizens and focuses on: health, safety in the city, easily accessible services, housing for all, presence of schools and universities, social cohesion, local air quality.

THE 6 DIMENSIONS OF SMARTNESS

ENGAGE, EXPLORE, SHAPE & DEAL

SMART CITY challenges & EU Initiatives

The Smart Cities Knowledge and Business Cities are initiatives of the European Commission and play an important role in supporting the EU's goal of becoming a leader in Europe by improving citizens' quality of life, increasing the competitiveness of European cities and industry, as well as using the resources of digital technologies, access to smart data and services such as smart transport, mobility, logistics, food innovation, energy innovation, urban data, digital services, innovative citizen engagement and other opportunities.

Smart City Knowledge

The Smart Cities Knowledge and Business Cities are initiatives of the European Commission and play an important role in supporting the EU's goal of becoming a leader in Europe by improving citizens' quality of life, increasing the competitiveness of European cities and industry, as well as using the resources of digital technologies, access to smart data and services such as smart transport, mobility, logistics, food innovation, energy innovation, urban data, digital services, innovative citizen engagement and other opportunities.

Smart Cities with a resource for innovation, knowledge and insights on covering sustainable, inclusive, and climate neutral cities.

Focus and objectives through Smart Cities Marketplace (ongoing)

SMART CITY challenges & EU Initiatives

EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Horizon Europe Programme

Cities play a pivotal role in achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the goal of the European Green Deal. They take up only 4% of the EU's land area, but they are home to 75% of EU citizens. Furthermore, cities consume over 65% of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global CO2 emissions. Since climate mitigation is heavily dependent on urban action, we need to support cities in accelerating their green and digital transformation. In particular, European cities can substantially contribute to the Green Deal target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2035 and, in more practical terms, to buffer climate or, safer transport and less competition and roles to their citizens.

Aims of the Mission

The Cities Mission will involve local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to:

- Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
- Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050

The Cities Mission takes a cross-sectoral and demand-led approach, creating synergies between existing initiatives and building its activities on the actual needs of cities. The Commission launched a Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities in 2021 and, after an evaluation of the submissions, it announced in April 2022 the 100 cities that will participate in the Cities Mission. The 100 cities come from all 27 Member States, with 12 additional cities coming from countries associated to Horizon Europe. The 112 selected cities are invited to develop **Climate City Contracts**, which include an overall plan for climate neutrality across all sectors such as energy, buildings, waste management and transport, together with related investment plans, designed in collaboration with key stakeholders and citizens.

More information about the Mission and the Cities results is available on the citiesmission.eu portal's knowledge repository

SMART CITY - EU Funding Opportunities (subjective selection)

European funding opportunities for Cities, Clusters and Companies

UfA

Horizon Europe

Interreg Europe

Erasmus+

HORIZON EUROPE - BUILD4PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP Call for proposals 1/3

Digital solutions to foster participative design, planning and management of buildings, neighbourhoods and urban districts (Build4People Partnership) [HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-05](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-opportunities-and-grants-opportunities/build4people-partnership-call-proposals-1-3_en)

Programme: Horizon Europe - Research and Innovation Programme (HORIZON)

Call: HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-05-EN-SC1-D4-02-05-01

Type of action: HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-05-EN-SC1-D4-02-05-01

Deadline (start): 21 January 2024 11:00:00 (Coordinated time)

Eligible beneficiaries: Any legal entity, from EFTA/EEA or otherwise associated countries.

→ **Max. eligible funding rate: 30% (50% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a call of up to 100% applies))**

→ **Max. project budget: 5 M EUR**

This topic focuses on the development of digital solutions for a stronger participation of end users, citizens and other relevant stakeholders in the design, planning and management of the renovation of existing buildings, neighbourhoods and / or districts.

Proposals are expected to address one or both of the following points:

- Digital solutions that facilitate participative design and planning through visualisation, analysis and engagement with data that is directly relevant to building users as well as citizens in the surrounding urban area (including e.g. immersive and interactive technologies, Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality, simulations and scenario modelling).
- Digital solutions that allow to analyse and model different scenarios for to-be-renovated buildings, neighbourhoods and / or districts in terms of energy use and general users' health and wellbeing, impact on the energy grid, problems for active and electric mobility, and sustainable delivery solutions, life-cycle environments and micro-climate impacts, and socio-economic impacts for citizens, building users, owners and occupants.

INTERREG EUROPE

Interreg Europe is an interregional cooperation programme, co-funded by the European Union. Interreg Europe has a budget of 16.9 billion EUR to help local, regional and national governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. The programme contributes to all EU priorities and strives for better regional governance through capacity building.

Topics covered by Call for Proposals

- Smarter Europe**
 - Research & innovation integration
 - Digitalisation
 - EU energy and energy services
 - Digital connectivity
- Greener Europe**
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy
 - Water management
 - Circular economy
 - Nature-based energy
 - Green infrastructure
- More connected Europe**
 - Transportation 10/10
 - Sea connectivity
- More social Europe**
 - Human capital
 - Social inclusion
 - Equality of territorial and rural areas
 - Resilience
 - Culture and sustainable tourism
- Europe closer to citizens**
 - Integrated urban development
 - Integrated rural development
 - Policy governance

Beneficiaries: Public authorities (national, regional, local) and other relevant bodies responsible for developing and/or implementing regional development policies, and ERDF/ERDF programmes + Business non-profit support organisations (development agencies, chambers of commerce, clusters, etc.) + Environmental organisations + Education and research non-profit institutions (universities, research centres, etc.)



D1.3 - Training and coaching sessions for managers and cluster members

Conclusion

The EPIX project has implemented a comprehensive series of training sessions, both transnational and local, alongside coaching sessions, aimed at fostering robust connections between clusters and smart cities.

In conclusion, the EPIX project has been instrumental in enhancing the knowledge and skill sets of cluster managers and their staff members thereby equipping them with the necessary expertise to effectively manage cluster initiatives and cultivate value chains within the framework of smart cities.

Enhancing the knowledge of industrial clusters about public procurement and project financing is essential for harnessing the potential of smart city initiatives. Urban authorities increasingly look to innovative technologies and solutions to address complex challenges such as sustainability, mobility, and public safety, areas where industrial clusters can offer significant expertise. By understanding the mechanisms of public procurement, these clusters can tailor their offerings to meet the specific needs of urban projects, thereby increasing their chances of participation and success. Furthermore, knowledge of project financing allows EPIX clusters and their associated companies to navigate the financial landscapes of large-scale urban investments more effectively, ensuring they can secure and manage funds necessary for their involvement. This knowledge also empowers clusters to form strategic partnerships and alliances, which are often crucial for meeting the multidisciplinary demands of smart city projects. As clusters become more adept at engaging with public sector opportunities, they not only drive their own growth but also contribute to the economic vitality and innovation capacity of urban areas. Moreover, their active participation ensures that urban authorities have access to a broad spectrum of competitive, cutting-edge solutions that can lead to more effective and sustainable urban development. In essence, well-informed industrial clusters become instrumental in transforming urban environments into smart cities, benefiting the broader society through enhanced urban living conditions.

Through a comprehensive series of training and coaching sessions - tailored to the unique needs of each cluster - EPIX project has fostered a culture of continuous learning and collaboration, by empowering each project cluster with the tools and insights needed to navigate the complexities of smart city development strategies and for potential follow-up actions.