

Agenda

Timing	Session and content
15:00 – 15:10	Introduction and tour de table
15:10 – 15:20	Overall policy context (EU Green and Digital Transition, Recovery and Resilience Facility) and the urban dimension
15:20 – 15:25	Objectives, methodology and timeplan of ICC
15:25 – 15:40	Post COVID-19 challenges and local recovery plans + Q&A
15:40 – 16:45	Discussion on ICC themes and key EC initiatives ; 3 min presentation followed by 10 min discussion per theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Economy and Local Green Deals including Renovation Wave, Affordable Housing Initiative and the New European Bauhaus • Citizen participation and digitisation of public administration • Upskilling and reskilling • Supply chains, logistics and the economics of mobility covering also localisation of Supply chains and food systems • Green and digital transition in tourism
16:45 – 17:00	Next steps: working methods and timeplan

Participation

Organisation	Participants
Advisory Board Members	<p>Alice Charles, World Economic Forum</p> <p>Bob Bennett, Cities Today Institute</p> <p>Carlo Ratti, MIT SENSEable City Lab - excused</p> <p>Christophe Rouillon, European Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur for Recovery and Resilience Facility, Coulaines, Mayor of Coulaines (including Matthieu Hornung & Audrey Parizel)</p> <p>Daniel Gonzalez-Bootello, Smart City Cluster</p> <p>Emilia Saiz, United Cities and Local Government (including Massimo Perrino)</p> <p>Frank Lee, European Investment Bank</p> <p>Leonie van den Beuken, Amsterdam Economic Board</p> <p>Margit Tünnemann, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community</p> <p>Martina Otto, United Nations Environment Programme - excused</p> <p>Soo-Jin Kim, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities</p>
European Commission	<p>DG GROW: Ulla Engelmann, Dana Eleftheriadou, Natalia Gkiaouri, Andrei Bunis, Ilona Lelonek Husting, Krisztina Boros</p> <p>EASME: Igor Kalinic, Lucia Masarova, Corina Barbu</p> <p>DG CNECT: Serge Novaretti</p> <p>DG EMPL: Joao Santos</p> <p>DG ENER: Georg Houben, Jens Bartholmes</p> <p>DG ENV: Helen McCarthy-O'Kelly</p>

Organisation	Participants
	DG RTD: Philippe Froissard JRC: Carlotta Fioretti, Ine Vandecasteele
Contractor	Technopolis Group: Nikos Maroulis, Morten Rasmussen, Paresa Markianidou John Higgins, advisor to the consortium

Mandate of the ICC Advisory Board

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) supports 136 cities make the most of cutting-edge technologies to lead a green and digital recovery and improve their social resilience. Cities and their local ecosystems receive one-to-one strategic advice by international experts. This will help cities to improve the quality of life and create new opportunities for their businesses.

In order to maximize impact and build powerful synergies, an Advisory Board has been set up composed of high-level European and international experts from academia, businesses, organisations and policy thinktanks, with the mandate to:

- Advise on the overall direction of the ICC action, including of the advisory services offered to the cities, the networking and knowledge exchange between cities and the latest policy, technological and scientific developments.
- Have an oversight of the project execution and offer strategic guidance for the implementation.
- Provide ideas to maximize the uptake of ICC results and their dissemination among relevant stakeholders.
- Help bridge and connect to relevant European and international initiatives and programmes when necessary.

Key takeaways and highlights from the advisory meeting

COVID-19 challenges and local and national recovery plans

The Advisory Board members stressed that cities are at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic and assume a vital role for the response through coming up with innovative, green and social resilience measures. They are engaging actively and locally with citizens to cover citizen needs, a process that is enabled and accelerated by digital technologies. While cities are at the centre stage in the fight against COVID-19, cities also tend to recognise the crisis as an opportunity to re-think cities' planning and urban transitions, to thereby make cities more carbon-neutral, liveable and healthy, and to build back better.

During the discussion of the national recovery plans, it was highlighted that cities should play a key role and have fair access to the recovery funds, also taking into account that the green and digital recovery to a large extent is concentrated at city-level. Christophe Rouillon, European Committee of the Regions, mentioned that the CoR is launching a survey and will organise a Forum on the Recovery and Resilience Plans next October, in order to take stock of the involvement of cities and regions in the national recovery plans. Daniel Gonzalez-Bootello, Smart City Cluster, stressed the need to also ensure that recovery initiatives are made specific and tailored to cities as well as defined by cities,

which are facing different needs, so as to give a key responsibility also to local governments, in collaboration with SMEs, cooperatives, social communities and citizens. Emilia Saiz, United Cities and Local Government, emphasised equally the role of cities for the recovery and mentioned that the pandemic also has created a window of opportunity for ecological transformations. Further to this, it was highlighted how cities through a bottom-up approach are leading the recovery efforts by addressing city centric needs at lower levels and through collaboration and citizen involvement by Bob Bennett, Cities Today Institute.

Local Green Deals

The importance of implementing the Local Green Deals and for supporting a green recovery at city-level was emphasised by several board members. Leonie van den Beuken, Amsterdam Economic Board, highlighted that the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area is presenting a Local Green Deal that brings together green and digital transformation and reskilling. This can serve as a role model for the ICC cities. Christophe Rouillon, European Committee of the Regions, underlined that the CoR is elaborating a joint action plan focussing on the renovation wave, sustainable mobility and climate adaptation/urban greening, in line with the scope of local green deals. The Committee of Regions has similarly set up the working group "[Green Deal Going Local](#)" seeking to launch an extended network of CoR Ambassadors for the Climate Pact. Margit Tünnemann, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, underlined that the ICC could serve as a good mechanism for promoting the Green Deal at local-level, and to guide city actions in this direction. According to the [OECD analysis of city responses](#) to the COVID-19 pandemic, local recovery strategies have at core the green recovery, and are focussing on technology and inclusiveness, which was stressed by Soo-Jin Kim, OECD. Several members, including Bob Bennett, Cities Today Institute, and Leonie van den Beuken, Amsterdam Economic Board, equally underlined the relevance of leapfrogging existing technologies, also as a mean to overcome resource constraints.

Pact for Skills - Re and Upskilling efforts at local level

The Re and Upskilling efforts at local level needs to be prioritised: the local and regional perspective can help create qualitative foresights and quantitative skills forecasts for more efficient reskilling plans. Board members underlined the significance of the Pact for Skills and the power of public-private partnerships in delivering the right skills based on the local needs.

Leonie van den Beuken, Amsterdam Economic Board, emphasised the importance of the re-skilling efforts and mentioned how local reskilling initiatives were carried out in order to timely shift jobs where needs emerged in the Amsterdam Metropolitan region (i.e., by training airline stewards to move into cargo or health-related jobs, shifting jobs from airport logistics to food supply chain logistics, reskilling for green jobs, etc). Equally, larger reskilling programmes can be designed to address shortages in AI and technology skills but also for addressing a shortage in energy and circular transition-related skills.

Christophe Rouillon, European Committee of the Regions, outlined that the CoR and DG EMPL will co-organise "Local Jobs Fairs" around Europe to improve jobs and skills matching and invited the ICC cities to join this effort. Given that the pandemic also has induced an uptake of digital technology, solutions and services, Margit Tünnemann, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, underlined that as part of the re-skilling and up-skilling efforts, emphasis should be given to digital skills, digital literacy and digitalisation as the digital transformation is gaining importance in urban environments. In addition to this, Daniel Gonzalez-Bootello, Smart City Cluster, flagged the [EU cluster alliances](#), with close links to SMEs in Europe, for providing opportunities for not only pursuing regional specialisation but also promoting the upskilling and re-skilling agenda as part of the recovery

activities. Beyond reskilling and upskilling, it was also commented by Emilia Saiz to address the digital divide, digital rights and give emphasis to persons with disabilities.

High-level overview of feedback and suggestions by advisory board members

Advisory Board member and / or speaker	Suggestions and recommended initiatives
<p>Ulla Engelmann, DG GROW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulla Engelmann, DG GROW, presented respectively the overall policy context focussing on the EU Green and Digital Transition and Recovery and Resilience Facility. • The Recovery Plan response and package, including its focus to support Member States and cities and regions, was underlined as a mean to kick-start the economy, mobilise investment and address strategic challenges. • Further to this, the Next Generation EU, covering seven flagship areas for investments and reforms, was presented as a key mechanism to push forward green and digital transitions in many areas closely related to efforts at city-level and in ICC, such as for energy efficiency, clean technologies, re-skilling and digitalisation of public administration among others.
<p>Dana Eleftheriadou, DG GROW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Intelligent Cities Challenge was presented as an EU initiative seeking to help 136 participating core and mentor cities to leverage cutting edge technology, to thereby lead to a green, smart and sustainable recovery and social resilience, by providing strategic guidance and advisory expert support, access to networks and capacity building tools.
<p>Bob Bennett, Cities Today Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted that cities' management plans and digital governance plans were initially either missing or not well resourced when the COVID-19 pandemic started. Equally, the relevance of leapfrogging existing technologies was emphasised as key, also in light of limited resources at city-level. • Cities are leading the recovery efforts, relying on collaboration and citizen-centric bottom-up approaches and citizen involvement, in some case due to missing plans at the national-level. • Offered to also involve CTI's cities also for building synergies across the thematic tracks in ICC.
<p>Christophe Rouillon, European Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur for Recovery and Resilience Facility, Coullaines, Mayor of Coullaines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the National Recovery Plans, the CoR is teaming up with organisations such as CEMR, Eurocities and CPMR for a survey targeting national associations of cities and regions to know about their involvement. It will be launched at the end of the month. Asked for support of the ICC advisory group to participate in the survey and disseminate it. • The CoR is elaborating a joint action plan with the European Commission. It will focus on 3 main areas: the renovation wave, sustainable mobility and climate adaptation/urban greening. This is completely in line with the objective to help create local green deals. Envisions interesting synergies and collaboration between the ICC and the CoR in this context. • As for upskilling and reskilling, the local and regional perspective could help create qualitative foresights and quantitative skills forecasts. In turn, cities and

	<p>regions can develop skills anticipation model or method that can be used for future planning or policy formulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CoR and DG Employment agreed to look into possibilities to co-organise "European Local Jobs – Fairs" around Europe to improve jobs and skills matching. Thessaloniki, which is an ICC city, may volunteer to host such a "European Local Jobs Fair" at the earliest possible occasion. Such an event could become a model for similar events in other EU cities. It could include a part on skills.
Daniel Gonzalez-Bootello , Smart City Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressed the leading role of cities in defining the recovery efforts, since national-level policy initiatives are too general, while the local-level requires tailoring of specific initiatives to the local context, with involvement of citizens but also local stakeholders such as local SMEs, cooperatives, social communities. Commented that the EU cluster alliances have a significant potential for providing opportunities both for regional specialisation but also for enhancing upskilling and re-skilling activities as part of the recovery activities, while also involving the needs of local SMEs in this process.
Emilia Saiz , United Cities and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the local recovery initiatives, the United Cities and Local Government has created a Cities for Global Health Platform providing insights and examples of cities and regions recovery strategies and bottom-up engagement of local communities for tackling the crisis. The crisis has also provided a window of opportunity for ecological transformation. It was suggested to give more focus to persons with disabilities, so as to also make cities more inclusive and accessible. Further to this, other important topics for the ICC to address could be the digital divide and digital rights.
Frank Lee , European Investment Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned EIB-related activities and measures to support investments. Various EIB advisory/funding support services are provided, typically with a sector-based set up. URBIS, the dedicated urban investment advisory platform within the European Investment Advisory Hub, was emphasised as a one-stop-shop to provide advisory support to urban authorities, to thereby facilitate, accelerate and unlock urban investment projects, programmes and platforms.
Leonie van den Beuken , Amsterdam Economic Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reskilling is a top priority to shift unemployed into jobs in accordance with the new needs, such as by training airline stewards to move into cargo or health-related jobs, shifting jobs from airport logistics to food supply chain logistics, reskilling for green jobs, etc. The deployment of larger reskilling programmes – often backed and funded by local companies with skills needs - can be designed to address shortages in AI and technology skills but also for energy and circular transition-related skills. With the increase of digitalisation and technology, enhanced emphasis is also needed to address cyber-bullying. Highlighted the importance of promoting digital technologies for a green recovery and inclusiveness, such as by facilitating connectivity and laptops and by enhancing digital skillsets as well as more broadly by leapfrogging in the adoption and use of technologies.
Margit Tünnemann , German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also in Germany it was experienced that cities are at the forefront and assume a leading role in the national recovery plans; it was exemplified that cities also play a critical role in building trust and acceptance, thereby underlining the importance of engaging the cities in the national recovery plans.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was observed that cities having local smart city strategies had a quicker response to the COVID-19 pandemic as these city administrations tend to have digital literacy and cooperation across sectors and towards citizens as well as shared values and principles relevant for the roll out of digital solutions. • Significant uncertainty of the pandemic's long-term impact on urban environments, work settings, retailers and city centres; however, it is anticipated that digitalisation will be boosted, thereby also pushing for a need to focus on digital and technology-relevant skillsets. It was mentioned that the national level has an important role to play when it comes to promoting digital skills and digitalisation of urban environments. Further to this, important to consider citizens as actors rather than users of digital solutions. • Suggested to make the Local Green Deal the overarching goal in ICC, while orienting the other thematic tracks and actions in ICC in this direction. • The German Smart City Dialogue carries out pilot initiatives with cities in Germany, facilitating a network for knowledge sharing and providing a smart city charter with guidelines and recommendations on how to design digital transformation in a sustainable manner within municipalities.
<p>Soo-Jin Kim, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities are at the frontload to respectively implement national measures but also bottom-up measures. According to the analysis of OECD on cities policy response to Covid-19, cities tend to have recovery strategies in place typically with a focus on smart, green and inclusive objectives. Cities tend to influence the national recovery plans through consultation committees where cities are represented to voice local regional concerns. • Based on an OECD survey, it was emphasised that cities and local leaders vis-à-vis the national-level benefit from more citizen trust; examples of citizen engagement were given with city portals (e.g. Dusseldorf and Bratislava) that for example organised webinars dedicated for building relationships of trust.

Next meetings

The meeting schedule for upcoming advisory board meetings was agreed: Upcoming meetings to be scheduled for June 16th 2021, November 17th 2021 and June 15th at 2022, typically at 1-3pm CET so as to also facilitate participation from the members based in the US and Singapore.



Annex

Annex 1: Relevance of recommended initiatives per thematic track in ICC

The table, below, provides an overview of different initiatives and networks referred to by the Advisory Board members during the meeting on November 18th. Based on a preliminary assessment, each initiative has been categorised according to their linkages to the five thematic tracks in ICC. As a next step, we are assessing which initiatives are the strategically most relevant for the ICC and where closer synergies will be sought and in which way (i.e., as a resource to be shared with the ICC cities, as inspiration for delivery in the thematic tracks or whether more strategic collaboration is desired).

The EC and ICC teams may get back to the advisory board members for further information for this assessment. Equally, should you have additional relevant initiatives or resources that you would like to make us aware of us, please do not hesitate to get in touch through helpdesk_icc@technopolis-group.com or GROW-Intelligent-Cities@ec.europa.eu.

Table 1: Relevance of recommended initiatives per thematic track in ICC

Initiative / network	Website	Description of initiative / network	Green economy and local green deals	Citizen participation and digitisation of public administration	Upskilling and Reskilling	Supply chains, logistics and the economics of mobility	Green and digital transition in tourism
Cities for Global Health	https://www.citiesforglobalhealth.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative seeks to list best experiences and practices launched by governments and communities to tackle the COVID-19 crisis while also providing inspirational material for the recovery and transformation plans. • The repository on crisis management initiatives combine a focus on 1) examples of first hand local and regional initiatives of managing the crisis and planning the recovery and 2) initiatives involving communicate engagement from a bottom-up approach, while also having a focus on city-to-city cooperation between administrations. • It combines 650 initiatives from 24 countries and 105 cities at the global-level. • The initiative is led by World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Euro-Latin-American Alliance for Cooperation between Cities (AL-LAs). 					
The live Learning Experience Hub	https://www.beyondtheoutbreak.uclg.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of 17 sessions covering the different areas in which local and regional governments will have to work to guarantee the safety and well-being of all citizens, during the crisis and in its aftermath. • Organised by UCGL, UN-Habitat and Metropolis. • The initiative leverages our collective power to exchange ideas, resources, and knowledge to respond to the immediate needs of urban citizens and also to re-imagine the cities that we want to build after the crisis. • Areas covered include: safer cities, migration, local economic development, accessibility, digital technologies, housing, food systems. 					
UCLG Decalogue for	https://www.uclg.org/en/node/31076	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decalogue is a document that will guide our international advocacy, and shape our thinking for the future of humanity in the 					

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the Covid-19 aftermath		<p>aftermath of Covid-19, focusing on the commitment of local and regional governments to build a world of solidarity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decalogue has been inspired from the lessons learnt from the UCLG membership during exchanges held in the first 3 weeks of the outbreak. • The document covers: public services, financial support, consumption and production models, green deal, citizenship, culture, generation multilateralism. 					
Cities Policy Responses	http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/cities-policy-responses-fd1053ff/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A note developed by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) in collaboration with the OECD Working Party for Urban Policy and the OECD Champion Mayors Initiative for Inclusive Growth. • It includes examples of measures taken by cities to respond to COVID-19 and recover from the economic and social crisis and an analysis on issues related to the economic, social and environmental impacts, lessons learned in terms of digitalisation, mobility, density, urban design and collaborative governance, and action-oriented guidance to build back better cities, building on previous work on urban resilience. • Six categories: i) social distancing; ii) workplace and commuting; iii) vulnerable groups; iv) local service delivery; v) support to business; and vi) communication, awareness raising and digital tools. 					
Global Future Council on Cities of Tomorrow	https://www.weforum.org/communities/gfc-on-cities-of-tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Future Council on Cities of Tomorrow will seek to identify how cities can be re-designed to build back better and provide the climate and resilience, social and digital. infrastructure to do so, as well as rethinking traditional revenues and financing mechanisms to deliver liveable, sustainable and affordable cities. • It is part of The World Economic Forum's network of Global Future Councils, the world's foremost multistakeholder and interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking to shape a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future. • Provide strategic insights, scientific evidence, forward guidance and multidisciplinary understanding of major issues that will shape the post-COVID. 					

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G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance	https://globalsmartcitiesalliance.org/?page_id=107	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance unites municipal, regional and national governments, private-sector partners and cities’ residents around a shared set of principles for the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies. • The Alliance establishes and advances global policy norms to help accelerate best practices, mitigate potential risks, and foster greater openness and public trust. • The effort aims to foster greater openness and trust as well as create standards for how this data is collected and used. • The Forum will coordinate with members from the G20, Urban 20 and Business 20 communities to develop new global governance guidelines for the responsible use of data and digital technologies in urban environments. • The World Economic Forum, the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation, serves as secretariat for the Alliance. 					
Systemic Efficiency: Net Zero Carbon Cities initiative	https://www.weforum.org/projects/systemic-efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative aims to work with a coalition of cities and other stakeholders to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030, by focusing on energy efficiency, buildings and clean electrification. • The initiative brings together a diverse community of stakeholders from 10 industry sectors alongside academia, civil society and government at both national and city-level. The community works together to deliver exemplar solutions and strategies to drive system integration and transformation in the city-ecosystem. • Key focus areas include: Flexibility and energy optimization measures to reduce energy demand across energy, buildings and transportation, including solutions for heating and cooling; Accelerate electrification of buildings and transport, which is powered by clean, renewable energy; Digitalization to enable flexible use of city infrastructures from both a demand and supply side; Circularity of materials for buildings. 					

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Smart City Dialogue	https://www.smart-city-dialog.de/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative aims to shape Smart Cities together in a dialogue between politics, administration, business, science and civil society: • The German government established the National Smart Cities dialogue platform in 2016 to address the opportunities and challenges of digitalization for urban development. The dialogue platform now accompanies the implementation and further development of the Smart Cities Charter, which presents guidelines and recommendations on how to design the digital transformation in the municipalities in a sustainable manner and in the sense of integrated urban development. • Under the common umbrella of the Smart City Dialogue Germany also runs pilot projects to support cities and municipalities to develop Smart City strategies and test and try out their specific implementation. • The Smart City Dialogue contains furthermore an International Smart Cities Network (ISCN) where cities from Mexico, Peru, Brazil, India and Germany exchange their experience. • To strengthen the networking and exchange on the European level Germany will start a Smart City networking project as part of the Smart City Dialogue. 					
Global Future Council on Urban Mobility Transitions	https://www.weforum.org/communities/gfc-on-urban-mobility-transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Future Council on Urban Mobility Transitions will seek to identify the points of innovation or cultural transformation on the brink of affecting the movement of people and goods. The council will support the work of the Forum's Platform on Shaping the Future of Mobility. • The Forum will: examine the intersection of cities and mobility across all regions through the lens of issues such as congestion, distribution networks and equity; explore the implications of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies; seek a more sustainable future in consideration of fuel consumption, congestion, electrification and energy efficiency; assess the impact of mobility on society by exploring how it affects communities, particularly communities historically marginalized by transport planning. • It is part of The World Economic Forum's network of Global Future Councils, the world's foremost multistakeholder and 					

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		interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking to shape a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.					
Urban Aerial Mobility: The Path to Scale	https://www.weforum.org/projects/urban-aerial-mobility-challenge-the-path-to-scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through this project, the World Economic Forum’s Future of Mobility team at the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution is working with companies, policymakers, and civil society organizations to co-design the policies required to foster safe, clean, and inclusive aerial mobility systems that complement existing transportation networks. • The output of this process will be a continuously growing library of shared knowledge to guide development of relevant aviation policies and to capture experiences from pilot projects in the field of low-altitude aviation with initial case studies from North America, Europe and Asia. • This project is part of the World Economic Forum’ Shaping the Future of Mobility Platform which aims at Accelerating the global transition to safer, cleaner and more inclusive transportation systems, optimizing the delivery of goods and ensuring easy access to mobility for everyone. • The project aims to address the challenge of cities and suburban areas struggling with increasing congestion and the need to provide mobility services for a growing population, exploring the possibilities of new aerial platforms. 					
Coalition for Urban Transitions	https://urbantransitions.global/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coalition for Urban Transitions is the foremost initiative supporting national governments to secure economic prosperity and tackle the climate crisis by transforming cities. • The initiative aims to drive a shift away from business-as-usual by empowering national governments with the evidence-based rationale and policy tools they need to prioritise more compact, connected, clean urban development. • the initiative helps catalyse and inform implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. • A special initiative of the New Climate Economy (NCE), the Coalition for Urban Transitions is jointly managed by C40 Cities 					

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		Climate Leadership Group and World Resources Institute Ross Center.					
C40 Cities	https://www.c40.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C40 is a network of the world’s megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. • C40 Cities connects 97 of the world’s greatest cities to take bold climate action, leading the way towards a healthier and more sustainable future. • Mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe. • C40 currently has 16 networks that cover the mitigation, adaptation and sustainability topics of highest priority to C40 cities and with the potential for the greatest climate impact. C40 networks help cities replicate, improve and accelerate climate action. • City practitioners from around the world advise and learn from one another about the successes and challenges of implementing climate action. 					
Global Covenant of Mayors	https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCoM is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 cities and local governments. • The cities and partners of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy share a long-term vision of supporting voluntary action to combat climate change. Together, they’re working towards a resilient and low-emission society. • GCoM serves cities and local governments to raise the bar on climate by providing a robust agenda for change. • The cities and local governments’ shared goal is: to increase access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy; ensure communities live in healthy environments; and raise awareness to accelerate the response to climate change. 					
Urban20	https://www.urban20riyadh.org/front-page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban20 (U20) is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states, plus observer cities from non-G20 states, to discuss and form a common position on important 					

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		<p>urban issues, including climate action, social inclusion and integration, and sustainable economic growth. Meetings and discussions culminate in a final Communique through which the U20 issues recommendations to G20 Heads of Government. This year Riyadh is Chair city and host of the annual Mayors Summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of the U20 is to bring urban issues to the forefront of the G20 agenda. The U20 is a unique platform for ambitious, local government leaders to step up and send a joint message calling for global climate action and sustainable development to their national leaders. • As U20 Chair, Riyadh has introduced taskforces to add additional structure and focus to the U20. These taskforces are dedicated to three themes: circular, carbon-neutral economy; inclusive prosperous communities; nature-based urban solutions. 					
United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities	https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/united/Pages/default.aspx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U4SSC initiative aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". • It is a UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat, and supported by CBD, ECLAC, FAO, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNEP, UNEP-FI, UNFCCC, UNIDO, UNOP, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women and WMO. • U4SSC serves as the global platform to advocate for public policy and to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities. • U4SSC is working on the following Thematic Groups: city platforms; economic recovery in cities and urban resilience building in the time of COVID-19 ; guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance SSC projects ; guiding principles for artificial intelligence in cities ; simple ways to be smart ; practitioner guide to measure SC&C ; practitioner guide to monitor SC&C ; procurement Guidelines for Smart Sustainable Cities ; U4SSC Index. 					
Senseable City Lab	http://senseable.mit.edu/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MIT Senseable City Laboratory aims to investigate and anticipate how digital technologies are changing the way people live and their implications at the urban scale. • The Lab's mission states that it seeks to creatively intervene and 					

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		<p>investigate the interface between people, technologies and the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lab's work draws on diverse fields such as urban planning, architecture, design, engineering, computer science, natural science and economics to capture the multi-disciplinary nature of urban problems and deliver research and applications that empower citizens to make choices to make a better liveable urban experience. • The Senseable City Lab begins its project and research work with a vision for an urban future, or "urban demo". This vision is tailored to a particular city's needs and can be motivated by the challenges a place may be confronting, or by opportunities for providing new experiences or services due to advances in digital technologies. 					
What Works Cities	https://www.bloomberg.org/program/government-innovation/what-works-cities/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The What Works Cities initiative tackles the challenge of a lack of tools to use data and evidence to improve how governing gets done in cities. • By providing robust technical support, access to expertise, and peer-to-peer learning to cities, Bloomberg Philanthropies is encouraging mayors and cities to better use data and evidence to engage the public, improve services, evaluate progress, and fund "what works." • In 2017, the program created What Works Cities Certification, a standard that measures the extent to which cities have the right people, policies, and practices in place to use data for decision-making, and inspires many more cities to improve their practices. • The What Works Cities program is part of the American Cities Initiative, a suite of investments that empower cities to generate innovation and advance policy that moves the nation forward. 					
Global Parliament of Mayors	https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Parliament of Mayors is a governance body of, by and for mayors from all continents with a vision to the world in which mayors, their cities and networks are equal partners in building global governance for an inclusive and sustainable world. • The mission is to convene a Global Parliament of Mayors to facilitate debates between mayors, national governments and international organisations, drive systematic action to take on 					

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		<p>global and national challenges and opportunities to achieve political change on a global scale. Mayors take leadership and ownership of the global challenges that they face on a local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GPM is about local government, based on the city's right to self-government. The GPM promotes collective city decision-making across national borders, addressing critical challenges that face humankind, and creating better outcomes for all. • The GPM promotes proposals and demands of mayors, draws on successfully implemented policies and activities by mayors around the world and creates greater awareness of the crucial role cities play in our interdependent world. 					
Global Resilient Cities Network	https://www.rockpa.org/project/global-resilient-cities-network/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRCN is the city-led organization that will drive urban resilience action to protect vulnerable communities from climate change and other physical, social and economic urban adversities and challenges. • It emerges from the 100 Resilient Cities Program with a unique reach, strength and legacy to understand and support the challenges of the ever-growing urban society. • With support from The Rockefeller Foundation and other funding partners, the Network aims to continue supporting cities and their Chief Resilience Officers in future-proofing their communities and critical infrastructure. • The Network supports a thriving community of urban resilience practitioners in 98 cities and 40 countries. • the work will prioritize resilient projects that aim to improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable. 					
Smart Cities for All Global Initiative	https://worldenabled.org/our-projects/smart-cities-for-all/#:~:text=G3ict%20and%20World%20Enabled%20launched,in%20Smart%20Cities%20programs%20worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G3ict and World Enabled launched the Smart Cities for All initiative to define the state of ICT accessibility in Smart Cities worldwide. • The initiative seeks to eliminate the digital divide for persons with disabilities and older persons in Smart Cities around the world. • The toolkit contains four tools to help Smart Cities include a focus on ICT accessibility and the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons. • The toolkit supports a range of organizations and roles related 					

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		<p>to Smart Cities, including government managers, policy makers, IT professionals, disability advocates, procurement officials, technology suppliers, and developers who design Smart City apps and solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the tools addresses a priority challenge identified by global experts as a barrier to the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons in Smart Cities. 					
G3ict	https://g3ict.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative aims to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Digital Age • G3ict's objectives and global outreach are aligned with the dispositions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the accessibility of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Assistive Technologies • G3ict's objectives are to: Promote awareness of the ICT accessibility dispositions of the CRPD and of effective public policies, private sector initiatives, and accessibility standards; Support advocates and policy makers with capacity building programs, policy development tools and benchmarking; facilitate and share good practices and innovation in accessible and assistive technologies; Foster harmonization and standardization to achieve lower costs and interoperability on a global scale ; Define and promote the accessibility profession through networking, education and certification in order to enable and mainstream the creation of accessible products, content and services. 					
OECD Champion Mayors	http://www.oecd-inclusive.com/champion-mayors/about/#:~:text=As%20a%20response%20to%20the,inclusive%20economic%20growth%20in%20cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a response to the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the OECD launched the Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative in March 2016. • Champion Mayors form a coalition of willing leaders who have committed to tackling inequalities and promoting more inclusive economic growth in cities. • This initiative has helped governments analyse rising inequalities, monitor material living standards and broader well-being, and design policy packages that promote equity and growth. It is driven by a multidimensional approach to Inclusive Growth, going beyond income to see how people are faring in 					

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		<p>other areas of life, like jobs and health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic covered include: housing, land-use and spatial development; integrating migrants and refugees; culture; supporting SMEs; smart cities and innovation; financing inclusive growth. 					
Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat	https://euislands.eu/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative on behalf of the European Commission aimed at catalysing the clean energy transition on EU Islands. • Islands and island regions face a particular set of energy challenges and opportunities due to their specific geographic and climatic conditions. The opportunities have the potential to make Europe's island communities innovation leaders in the clean energy transition for Europe and beyond. • The Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat was created to facilitate the clean energy transition on EU islands from the bottom up. It is built on the vision that in order to assure the best environment for change, and to benefit all members of the island communities, a balanced collaboration between public and private stakeholders is essential. • Topics covered are: energy production; energy efficiency; heating and cooling; transport. 					
Race to Zero	https://racetozero.unfccc.int/system/cities/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race To Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. • The platform gathers stories of progress, from across the planet, being delivered by business, governments, cities, civil society, faith groups and more. • It mobilizes a coalition of leading net zero initiatives, representing 452 cities, 22 regions, 1,101 businesses, 45 of the biggest investors, and 549 universities. • The objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26. • Topics include: land, oceans, energy, industry, transport, water, resilience, human settlements. 					
Green Deal Going Local	https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/green-deal.aspx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new initiative of the European Committee of the Regions that aims at placing cities and regions at the core of the European 					

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working group of the European Committee of the Regions		<p>Green Deal and ensure that both the EU's sustainable growth strategy and the COVID-19 recovery plan translate into direct funding for cities and regions and tangible projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seeks to provide a crosscutting view on the numerous policy areas within the European Green Deal and ensure policy coherence and consistency across files and related opinions; to reinforce the institutional outreach of the European Committee of the Regions on the Green Deal as to place cities and regions at the core of the path towards climate-neutrality; to channel the challenges that local and regional authorities are facing while implementing the green transition locally and communicate their achievements and best practices as to facilitate its replication across the European Union. •The 'Green Deal Going Local' working group is composed of thirteen local and regional elected representatives. The Chair of the working group is Juan Espadas (ES/PES), Mayor of Seville. 					
European Local Jobs – Fairs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The CoR and DG Employment agreed to look into possibilities to co-organise "European Local Jobs – Fairs" around Europe to improve jobs and skills matching. •Thessaloniki may volunteer to host such a "European Local Jobs Fair" at the earliest possible occasion. Such an event could become a model for similar events in other EU cities. It could include a part on skills. 					