# Valencia Scalable Cities Joint Event

Highlights and Perspectives

## Day 1

The Scalable Cities communities met in Valencia for two days. The focus was on how to scale up solutions, technologies and methods (more than 500) deployed by 18 Smart Cities and Communities projects to deliver solutions related to Energy and mobility both at district and city scale.

Since the first generation of projects started in 2015, the journey and progress have been impressive. We enjoyed the «State of the Smart» European Cities presentation given by Cecilia Sanz and Veronika Cerna. It makes us confident that cities across Europe will scale their solutions and deal with the climate urgency. Indeed, the State of European Smart Cities showcases not only promising solutions but also delivers key messages:

1. INTERNAL WORKING STRUCTURES IN CITIES NEED PROFOUND RE-THINKING AND CHANGES ARE ON THEIR WAY

2. THE ECOSYSTEM IS FLOURISHING AND OPEN TO NEW PARTNERSHIPS

3. CITIES ARE IMPLEMENTING PROFOUND CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE

4. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT, THE POWER OF THE CROWD IS INCREASINGLY PURPOSE-DRIVEN, DIGITAL AND INNOVATIVE.

5. DIGITALISATION IS STARTING TO SCALE UP, BUT INTEGRATION OF DATA REMAINS A CHALLENGE

6. HOT TOPICS: ENERGY COMMUNITIES, DIGITAL TWINS, AI?

7. CITIES ARE BOOMING, AND SO IS SUSTAINABLE URBAN TECH.

8. GROWTH FOR GOOD WILL DRIVE INNOVATION. CITIES CAN OFFER SAFE AND , CERTIFIED PROJECTS TO INVEST IN.

9. BRIDGING THE FINANCIAL GAP. HOW TO DE-RISK INVESTMENT?

10. ACCELERATING THE PACE OF IMPLEMENTATION IS CRUCIAL. CITY SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES COULD BE A WAY FORWARD TO TIMELY DELIVER

Later, a panel about the Climate Neutral Mission was carried out, with

the contributions from Mar Ferrer, who provided the Valencia approach, Julio Lumbreras, representing NetZeroCities and the Spanish Mirror Group (citiES) and Cecilia Sanz, representing Scalable Cities.

Then, the outcomes of MAtchUP project, which hosted the meeting, were presented by Laurie Barriol, Nese Ozcandir and Tania Molteni.

Two additional presentations about the Test and Experimentation Facility (TEF) for Artificial Intelligence for Smart Cities focused on the Climate Mission and the Spanish Network of Smart Cities were given by Ernesto Faubel and Daniel Vega, respectively.

## Day 2

On the second day of the event, a study tour to visit some of the pilots in Valencia, was carried out.

The sessions and workshops emphasized the KSFs to scale up our solution package via innovative financing. 4 solutions were presented from MAtchUP and MAKING-CITY projects:

- The Energy Socialised Power Plant (Valencia) by Victoria Pellicer (Las Naves)

- The Solar Pedestrian Lane (Groningen) by Katerina Radosteva (Groningen) and Cecilia Sanz (CARTIF)

- E-mobility coupling charging points and humble lamppost by Angel Navarro (Las Naves)

- Energy Performance Contract by Emilio Miguel Mitre (GBCe) and Carlos Ballesteros ANESE (Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Servicios Energéticos, Spain)

The workshop aimed to identify the conditions to scale up those solutions at the city scale: what kind of business model/financing schemes and vehicles do cities need to consider?

Main conclusions were drawn by Mohaddeseh Maktabifard (R2M) and Philippe Fournand (Scalable Cities):

1. Cities should start with pilot projects, learn from existing deployments of solution packages and their operation, identify issues, find solutions, de-risk, and scale them.

2. Exploring various funding options (both upfront and operational costs) is likely to encourage the involvement of the public and private sectors.

3. Different stakeholders need to have a common consensus on responsibilities.

4. Demand bundling and aggregation have a high impact, while joint procurement might be essential to reduce the upfront costs. Bundling projects in a portfolio reaching a critical mass at the level of the city or in a region could pave the way for innovative financing schemes such as City Investment funds

5. A clear high-level regulation framework and political support are paramount in pushing the solutions to a larger scale.

The event stressed innovative financing methods (special purpose vehicles, city investment funds) that can help bridge the financial gap and accelerate climate city contract implementation.

The joint Valencia event highlighted the current shift in the economic vision of the Energy efficient Districts and Climate Neutral Cities. We see a new rationale rising in investment decision-making, adding to classical criteria such as return on investment, new parameters to integrate into the monetisation co-benefits. Those new parameters do not directly create profits and ROI but create economic, social and environmental values that are key for delivering sustainable districts and investments.

## City Coordinators

The CCG partnership building session took place in Valencia with a session led by David Skorna (Kladno Municipality) presenting two projects ideas – one connected on e-plaza and the other on energy communities

Feedback on topics cities need support for was collected in relation to the action grant:

- Artificial intelligence
- City of Lund – systemic changes in governance – city districts integration between mobility systems
- Monitoring
- Trondheim – innovative procurement
- Battery business models – energy communities PED sandbox, energy trading
- Porto – breaking the silos and department engagement.
- Business models
- Behavior change
- GDPR -Pooling data

## Replication and Monitoring

The Task Group Replication organised a joint session with the Monitoring and Evaluation Task Group where the following topics were discussed in depth.

**Stakeholder engagement.**

Engaging local stakeholders:

- The structure of Lighthouse projects makes it easier to involve local stakeholders for the Lighthouse cities compared to fellow cities. Lighthouse cities have a network of local actors to collaborate with, while fellow cities must create all local partnerships. This is often a hurdle for fellow cities. However, some more recent projects, such as +CityxChange have also created the same support structure for fellow cities.
- The frequent turnover of personnel in local partner actors is another barrier.
- Cities are not really set up for such large-scale projects.
- CityxChange – all cities did Climate hackathons (Climathons).

Citizen engagement:

- It is essential to organise activities that attract citizens. Some cities, such as Limerick and Trondheim, have developed interactive platforms and physical spaces to engage with their citizens. Specifically, Limerick has developed an «Innovation Playgroundé", including an online/ app, a participation playbook and

a physical center to interact with citizens. These centers offer various interesting activities. Citizens can propose project ideas and receive seed funding to implement them. The challenge is the transition from sporadic participation to continuous participation. Trondheim: they have a dedicated interdisciplinary department, but it does not work because the staff of the other departments does not have time.

Breaking the silos – communication between departments within the municipality:

- Munich – top-down approach: the mayor asks each department to designate a person responsible for overseeing the project. An interdisciplinary team is formed. Political will is essential for making it work.
- Amsterdam: they have an entire interdisciplinary department tasked with getting the departments to collaborate.
- Trondheim: they have a dedicated interdisciplinary department, but it does not work because the staff of the other departments does not have time.

## Knowledge sharing

We mainly focused on one question: How can Fellow cities extract the most useful information/practices from Lighthouse City activities and learn and replicate them better? How do you facilitate this in your project?
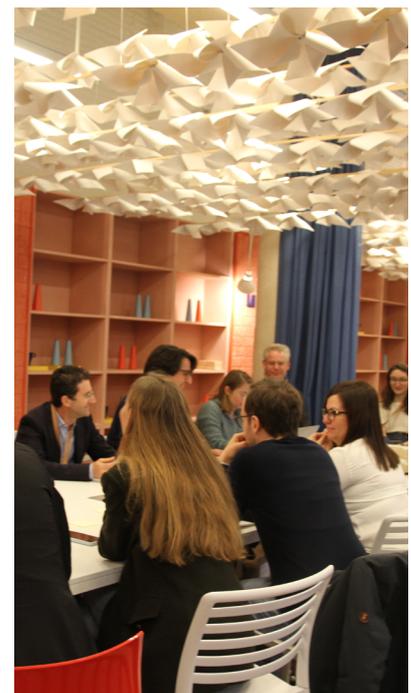
- Proactive and consistent communication is key. We have to listen to the fellow city needs, discuss what is possible in their local context, and even go to the cities physically to ensure better communication. On-site learning sessions in cities work well, as well as practical study visits and meeting with local stakeholders. An idea: longer city exchanges (for example, a city goes to another city for 2 week period to learn rather than just 2 days)

- Focus learning sessions more on the replication process and organise sessions where cities share their failures, the steps they took, the support they had (political, citizen, etc), and the processes they went through.

- Adaptation is very different in each local context. Perhaps having a session on how to analyse best the local context and what to consider for successful replication.

- City advisors, city mentors – a very helpful role in some projects. City advisors help navigate the process, and translate the many different solutions to the local level.

- Sometimes, having separate discussions among project experts also help cause then the experts can go deeper into the solutions and challenges.

- We have to break down the idea that lighthouse cities are the advanced ones and fellow cities are the «students learning» from lighthouses. In many cases, learning can happen between fellow cities, and lighthouse cities learn from fellows as well.

- In some cases, new topics emerge within the learning processes in projects. A lot of learning happens in lighthouse cities as well, they are not just showing the best example, they are learning as well.

## Roadshow

The Scalable Cities team presented the new format for the Roadshow. The objective is now to propose to cities capacity building roadshow on relevant strategies and financing schemes to scale up energy efficiency and climate investments. It will take the format of peer to peer, training and mentoring sessions delivered by GNE Finances
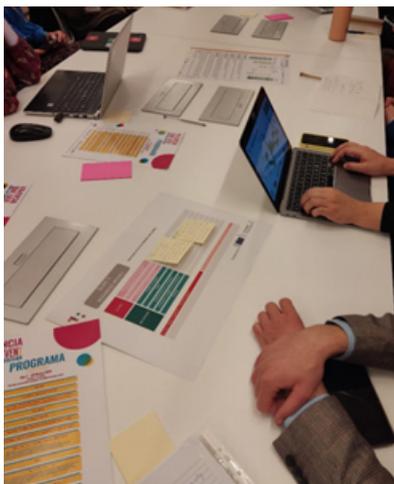
# Testimonials of the P2P Learning Site Visit

📍 Valencia, SPAIN

«The event has been very successful, with more than 80 people attending. All the organisers of the event received from the participants both formal and informal congratulations.

Generally speaking, it has been a fantastic opportunity to share experiences and knowledge within the Scalable Cities Members and also to showcase the great achievement made in particular in the MAtchUP Project through presentation, workshops and study tour.

We were delighted to receive the support of the P2P which help us to promote the event and to find many visitor cities to participate in it. »

***Ernesto Faubel,*** *Smart City Office Manager, MatchUP Project Coordinator, Vice-chair of the BoC*



📍 Lund, SWEDEN

«The Valencia event exceeded my expectations in terms of networking, learning from the case studies on business models and replication, and the knowledge sharing during discussions.

It is clear that the experiences from the Lighthouse projects are evolving into structured knowledge, resulting in models that cities can use on their journey to climate neutrality.

On a personal level, I very much appreciated the discussions with peers during the visit.»

***Mikael Eldelstam,*** *Expert Smart Sustainable Cities*



📍 Grevena, GREECE

«My experience of participating in the «Valencia Joint Event» was more than constructive. We broaden our horizons both in terms of European Smart Cities 2022 and their innovations, as well as the practices used by the 100 cities committed to climate neutrality.

Regarding the section «How to scale up our solutions», I personally participated in the group for the solar pedestrian lane, since it is a practice that could be applied in my area. With the World Café method, we created a canvas by placing all our views on this innovation, the challenges, the benefits/added value, the recipients, etc. On the second day of the event, we toured the city and saw some innovative practices. What impressed me initially is that most drivers use hybrid cars, as well as the humble lamppost project.»

***Efthymia (Fenia) Karamitrou,*** *Legal counsel, Scientific Associate specialized in regional development*

📍 Brussels, BELGIUM

«During the opening plenary, the collaboration between Spanish cities for the Mission was particularly inspiring to hear about and could be an example to follow for Belgium.

The interactive session in the afternoon (on the socialised power plant) helped to fully understand the solution put in place in Valencia. Even though we might not replicate the solution exactly as it is in Brussels, the discussion and proposed questions helped to ask myself a number of questions that could get us closer to replicating a similar solution to increase RES production on public buildings.

During the site visits, being able to see the solutions implemented was so much more impactful than reading or hearing about them. Particularly the sensors for parking spaces could be implemented in Brussels.

During the city Coordinators Group meeting, I had shared beforehand some of the problems that I am facing as replication manager in RESPONSE, and they were included to be discussed in one of the groups. I thus received very valuable input from other projects that I will use to support the Fellow Cities in RESPONSE.»

***Lea Kleinenkhunen,*** *Project coordinator (coordinating the city's involvement in the H2020 RESPONSE project, leader of the WP on replication)*



📍 Ardahan, TURKEY

«By being on site, we were able to see how important the project that have been implemented are for the area. We have seen on the spot how much importance it adds to the concept of the city and to the transportation system. We understood that such complex projects are indispensable for cities and the meaning they add to the image of the city. We have realised that our city should be included in such organizations and projects, that our people and our city need this; We decided that we would speed up the project applications and make all the necessary negotiations in order to include our province in the upcoming projects.»

***Rukiye KESER***, *Plan and Project Manager*