



UNECE

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION POLICY

5 DECEMBER 2019 | ROOM XII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



International Policy Conference

Smart and Sustainable Cities: the Role of Governance and Innovation Policy

5 December 2019

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XII

Registrations: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52275>

The world is rapidly urbanizing, with the proportion of the global population living in cities projected to rise from over one half today to more than two thirds by 2050¹. The proportion is even higher in the ECE region, where cities already account for over 75% of the population in Europe, 80% in North America, and close to 50% in Central Asia.

This urbanization has been caused in part by the remarkable productivity and opportunities for economic growth that cities offer. They contribute 80% to world GDP. Their productivity is driven by agglomeration benefits, economies of scale, knowledge sharing, business synergies, access to jobs and services, and energy and transport efficiencies.

Cities can not only be engines of economic growth but also important locations for societal progress and innovation. Leading cities bring together industries, research and education institutions, consumers, investors, policy makers, culture – and perhaps most importantly, different kinds of talent. The concentration of these elements in one place fosters the development of innovative ideas and solutions to many of the sustainable development issues facing the world today, including traffic congestion, energy and resource depletion, pollution, human health, waste management and affordable housing.

Innovation is critical in responding to these complex challenges – not only for the cities themselves, but in contributing to sustainable development on a larger, even global scale. Recognising this, more and more cities turn to the vision of “smart sustainable cities” as a means to fulfil Sustainable Development Goal 9, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” and Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. A smart, sustainable city is defined as an “innovative city that uses ICT and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operations and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of the present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects.”² There is no single recipe to achieve this. Therefore, governments at the local, regional and national levels are employing different approaches to harness the strengths of each city and provide an enabling environment for innovative and smart solutions.

The conference explores the role of innovation policy and governance in this context. The results will serve as the basis for a policy paper for endorsement by the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships at its next session in March 2020.

¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision. Available at: <https://population.un.org/wup/Download/>

² Definition endorsed by the Committee on Housing and Land Management in 2015 (ECE/HBP/184) and contained in ITU-T Recommendation Y.4903

Programme

Thursday 5 December 2019

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome and opening of the conference³

10:15 – 11:40 Session 1 – Cities as hubs of innovation and sustainability solutions

Cities can be breeding grounds for ideas, creativity and innovation. They can provide concentrations of human capital and resources needed to test solutions to the broad and complex challenges across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The ECE region is home to many cities that are leading the way to becoming “smart” and “sustainable” and making significant contributions to sustainable development overall, in line with Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The panel of experts in this session will share best practices and lessons learned from leading cities in the ECE region in transitioning towards smart and sustainable cities, focusing on:

- What constitutes a smart and sustainable city, and why innovation is at the centre of the transformation towards smart and sustainable cities
- The role of cities as drivers for sustainability innovation and sustainable development
- How cities can create the optimal conditions for driving sustainability innovation
- Solutions for cities that work towards achieving SDG9 and SDG11 on building smart, sustainable communities and fostering innovation
- Engagement with stakeholders, including the local/municipal governments, national governments, the private sector and the public

Moderator: Salvatore Zecchini, Chairman, UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Panelists:

- Alice Charles, Lead, Cities, Infrastructure and Urban Services, World Economic Forum
- Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, CEO, Women@theTable
- Miguel Eiras Antunes, Partner, Deloitte PLC
- Stephanie Trpkov, TOPAX Consulting and World Bank
- Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief, Legislation Unit, UN-HABITAT

³ The conference is part of the 12th annual session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies. During the opening, the agenda of the annual session will be formally adopted, before the conference begins.

11:40 – 13:00 Session 2 –Innovation tools for making cities smarter and more sustainable

Technical innovation and ICTs offer new opportunities for managing cities more effectively and holistically and transitioning towards “smart” and “sustainable”. Every city has its own unique requirements and there is no universal solution that would fit every city’s needs. Instead, cities have a broad range of applications at their disposal that they can tailor to support initiatives such as smart buildings, smart water management, intelligent transport systems, and new efficiencies in energy consumption and waste management. These initiatives further promote interaction of governments and service providers with the public, public participation in decision-making, awareness-raising and transparency.

Technologies such as 5G mobile networks, the Internet of Things and Big Data play an increasingly important role in sustainability innovation. However, the smart use of technology requires smart management and smart policy. With this background, this session explores the role of innovation policy in enhancing the transformation of smart and sustainable cities. The experts will be invited to discuss policy experiences and good practices on:

- How smart technologies change a city and the role of innovation policy in enhancing the transformation
- Governance structures and legislative frameworks (laws, standards, norms) that better enable smart sustainable cities, and the importance of public procurement in fostering innovation
- How to address regulatory frameworks (including barriers) for innovation and provide incentives for delivering new and more sustainable business practices (e.g. taxation, subsidies, green procurement)
- How to mobilize private investments in smart solutions for urban sustainability challenges
- How smart policy and technologies can help to reduce disaster risks and make cities more resilient to climate change and major industrial accidents

***Moderator:* Alice Charles, World Economic Forum**

Panelists:

- Rocco Bubbico, Policy Advisor, European Investment Bank
- Ana Paola López, i.lab Program, Director Digital Innovation, Barcelona City Council
- Dmitriy Cheshkovskiy, Head of International Relation Department, Kyiv Smart City, Ukraine
- Jennifer Rae, Head of Innovation, NESTA, United Kingdom
- Medet Dyussebayev, Director of Technology Transfer Centre, National Agency for Technological Development, Kazakhstan
- Cristina Garrido, Director of Innovation, Anteverti, Spain

15:00 – 16:30 Session 3 – Citizen engagement in innovation and smart and sustainable city solutions

The digital revolution further promotes interaction of governments and service providers with the public, public participation in decision-making, awareness-raising and transparency. Smart sustainable cities use technology to build strong relationships between citizens and city governments so that all citizens can benefit from, and can even co-create public services.

This session will focus on:

- Why citizen engagement is important in devising and implementing smart sustainable city policies and initiatives, e.g. informing decisions, monitoring success, and participating to improve public services and build platforms for further opportunities.
- Co-creation and social innovation – examples from the ECE region
- How governments can engage a wider circle of stakeholders – businesses, consumers, public authorities, academia and research institutes – to work towards sustainability
- Sharing good practices and challenges by governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia and NGOs

Moderator: Alexandre B. Hedjazi, University of Geneva

Panelists:

- Serge Novaretti, Policy and Programme Manager, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- Kate Robinson, Climate and Innovation Policy Manager Europe, Climate KIC
- Davor Meersman, CEO, Open and Agile Smart Cities
- Krista Kampus, Head, Smart City Projects Competence Centre, City of Tallinn, Estonia
- Alexandr Pishchelko, Head of State Public Institution "New Management Technologies", city of Moscow, Russian Federation

16:30 – 18:00 Session 4 – Smart sustainable city key performance indicators (KPIs) and monitoring transformation

In order for smart technologies to succeed in driving sustainable development and the transformation of smart and sustainable cities, intelligent monitoring and management are required. An important part of experimentation and testing various initiatives is being able to self-assess – including to identify and evaluate the positive and negative impacts that they have, or will have, on people, places and the environment. Key performance indicators and monitoring are useful in setting measurable targets, identifying impacts and evaluating an initiative's success.

This session will focus on:

- The importance of monitoring and managing the impacts of innovation policy and smart sustainable city initiatives
- How to provide cities with a consistent and standardized method of collecting data and measuring performance

- The use of key performance indicators, including the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative's KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) in establishing criteria and providing the means for self-assessment

Moderator: Aziza Akhmouch, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Panelists:

- Agata Krause, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Bilel Jamoussi, Chief, Study Groups Department, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Alexandre Bosshard, city of Pully, Switzerland
- Christopher Hire, Managing Director, 2thinknow, Australia

Registration

Participation is free of charge. To register online, please click [here](#) or go to the webpage: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52275>

The conference is the substantive segment of the twelfth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, an intergovernmental expert group promoting knowledge sharing, network-building and good practices leading to better innovation policies. Please visit our [website](#) to find out more about our activities and publications.

Entrance and accreditation (see map overleaf)

Meeting participants need to pick up their security badges at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations. Please bring the registration form with you. With a valid piece of identity and the security badge you will receive at the Pregny Gate, entry will also be possible subsequently through the Place des Nations Gate.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation English-French-Russian will be provided throughout the conference.

Conference Venue

The [Palais des Nations](#) is an outstanding testimony to twentieth century architecture, situated in a beautiful park overlooking Lake Geneva, with a splendid view of the Alps.

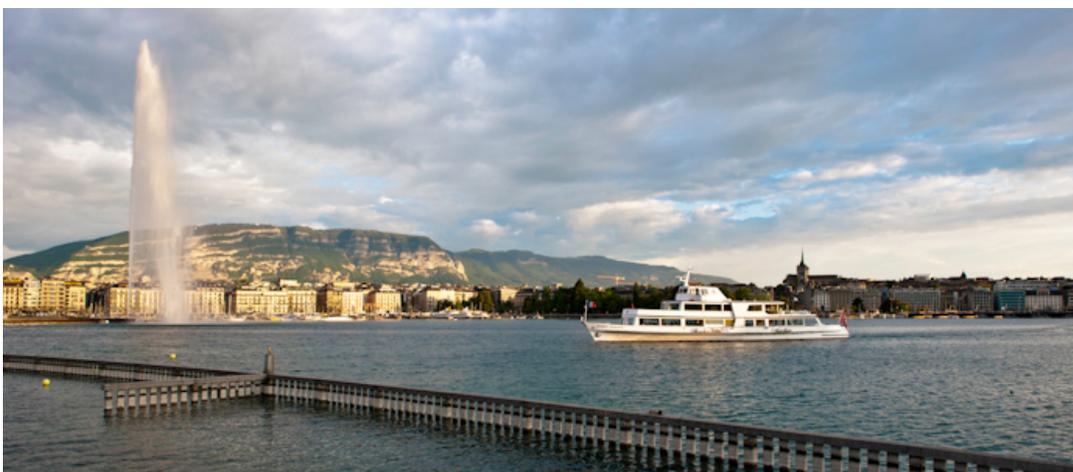


Accommodation

Geneva is the world's leading international conference center. There is a large choice of hotels of all categories. However, hotels can fill up quickly during peak times, so it is a good idea to book early. The Geneva Tourist Office maintains a [search engine](#).

Geneva

Birthplace of the Red Cross movement and seat of the European headquarters of the United Nations, Geneva's exceptional history and international vocation make it a cosmopolitan and lively city. [Geneva](#) is uniquely set on the shores of Western Europe's largest lake with a magnificent view of Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in Western Europe.



Getting there

[Geneva International Airport](#) is located about 6 km from the Palais des Nations. Taxis are readily available. There are also free public transport tickets available from a machine in the luggage collection area (on the left hand side just before passing customs). Bus 28 goes from the airport to the [Pregny Gate entrance](#) (“Appia” stop), which is the point of entry for conference participants.

Moving around

Details on public transport links can be found in the website of [Transports Publics Genevois](#), which includes a useful [route planner](#) in English.

For further information, please contact:

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