



Special Session Proposal

Urban Dynamics in the Era of Digitalisation

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Abstract

Cities play key role in regional ecosystems where digital transformation of companies can be supported efficiently therefore the optimisation of urban planning for the digital technologies can have beneficial effect on the living conditions of the population, as well. Consequently, smart development of cities which employ the advanced technologies of today can be done in human-centric way that can lead to sustainable and resilient smart cities of the future. The special session will therefore bring together practitioners who implement urban development actions that are aligned with strategic thinking on city level with a regional scope.

Balázs Barta, Róbert Németh and Solymosi Adrienn shall present the experience of the city of Szombathely as active participant of the Intelligent Cities Challenge which brings together more than 100 European cities that intend to plan the transformative actions for a sustainable future. The speakers shall present the Szombathely 2030 strategy and the innovative projects that have already been implemented as pilot actions of the strategy. Special attention shall be given to cross-border actions because Austria and Hungary and examples of successful digitalization in manufacturing and in healthcare shall also be presented.

Péter Maróti shall present the innovative ecosystem development actions in the city of Szeged where the local university has taken up the coordination role of Territorial Innovation Platform as regional initiative that brings together all stakeholders of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process. Attention is paid to industrial clusters in line with regional S3 priorities because key enabling technologies like photonics have good potential to have transformative role in the economy thanks to the European research facility that is located within the city of Szeged. The European dimension is also

complemented by cooperation with digital innovation hubs within the DIH-World project.

Raluca Cibu-Buzac shall present the experience of the Smarty City and Digitalisation Strategy of Timisoara city in Romania which has been developed recently as co-creation exercise with the involvement of various local stakeholder groups. The presentation shall devote special attention to the synergy of urban development with European digitalization initiatives including the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs which – from 2022 onwards – shall be the key regional supporting tool of the Digital Europe Programme.

Tamas Gyulai shall present the experience of EURADA member agencies in regional development with special emphasis on cross-border strategic planning. The partnership of the cities of Cantabria, Karlsruhe, Tampere with the Szeged-Timisoara cross-border region shall be presented as good example of strategic development of smart cities with regional scope.

All the speakers represent professional consortia that participate in European networks that cover all European member states (ICC, DIH-World and E-DIH network) therefore not only they bring experience into the Special Session but also they can promote the conference within their network therefore they can guarantee excellent visibility with their contribution. The scientific and professional background of the Special Session can also be strengthened by the possible contribution by other experts from the pool of professionals of EURADA therefore we can invite additional speakers if the organizers of the conference allow it.)