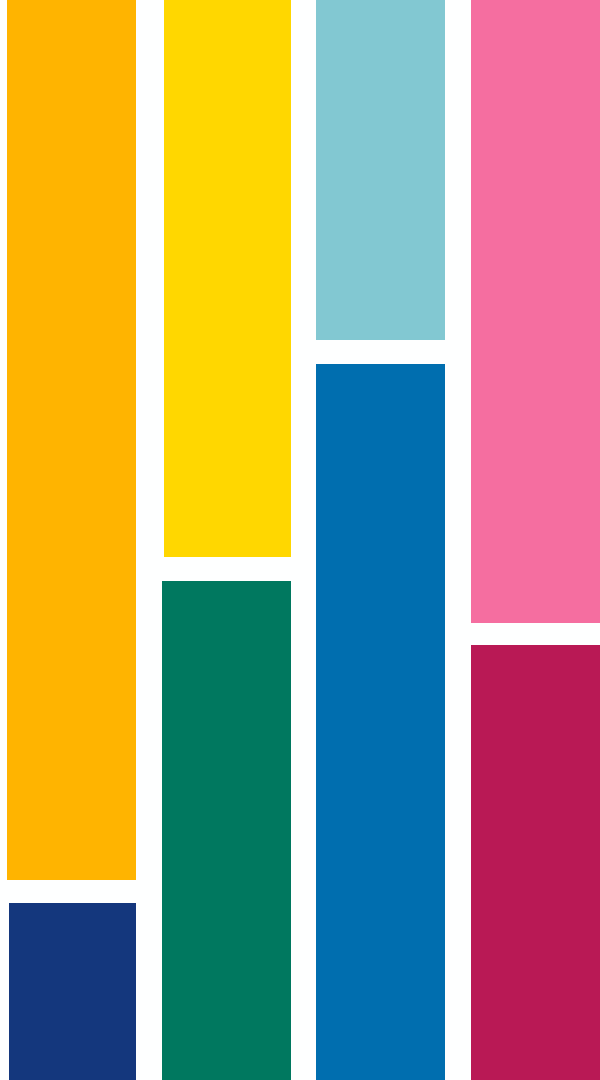


Delivering digital transformation for cities: a European network perspective

Veneto Data Platform – Brussels, 24 June 2024

Chiara Venturini, Head of Digital Transformation and Economic Developments, Eurocities

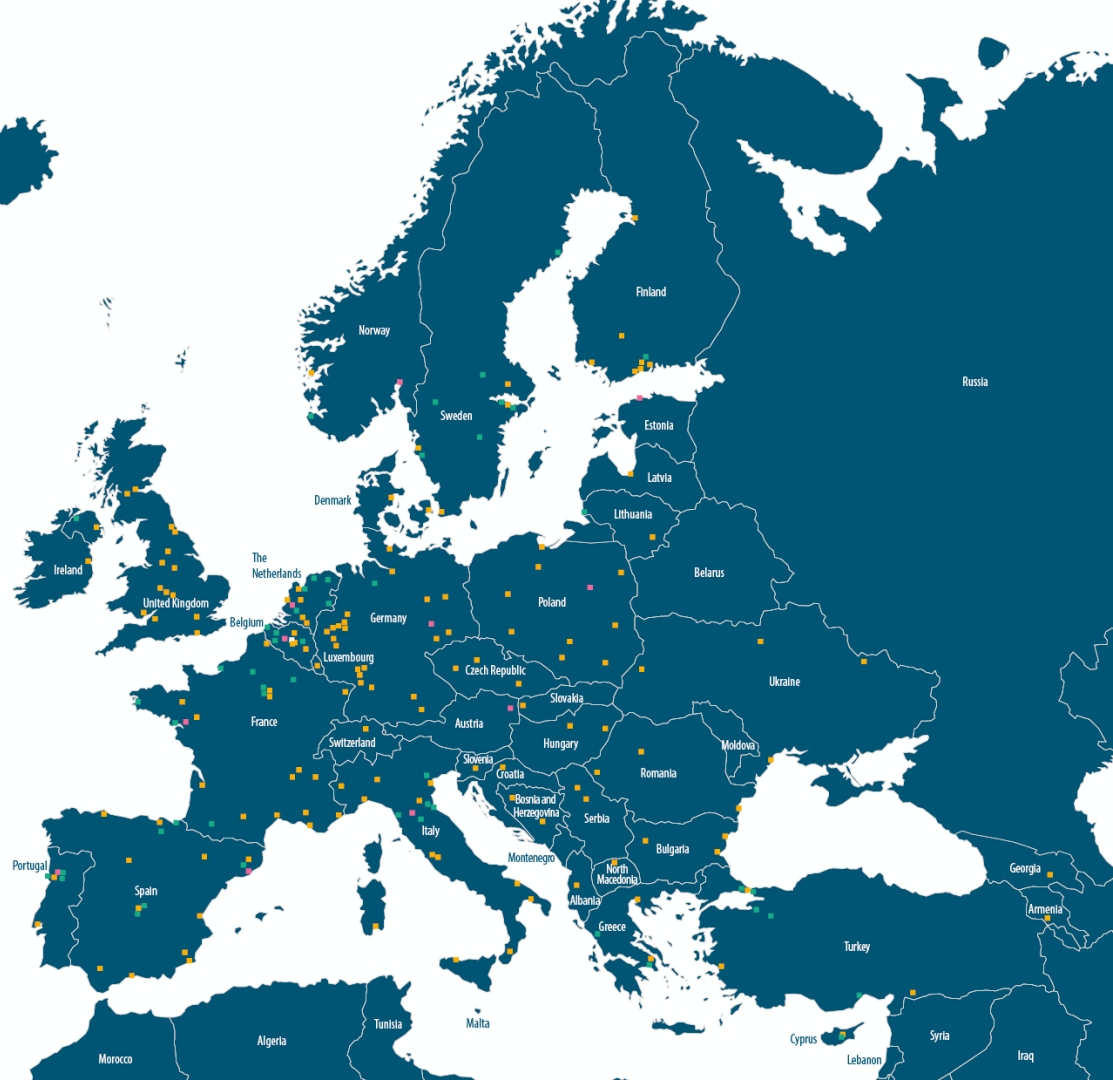




The network of
major European
cities

We connect 200+
cities across Europe

Representing more
than 150 million
people



Vision and mission

Eurocities is the leading network of major European cities, working together to ensure a good quality of life for all our citizens

We work in all areas of interest for cities, from culture to mobility, environment to social affairs, economic development to smart cities

We facilitate learning experiences between cities, and represent cities' interests towards the European Union

People progress in a prosperous local economy

People move and live in a healthy environment

People make vibrant and open public spaces

People take part in an inclusive society

City governments address global challenges

City governments are fit for the future



Digital innovation takes place in cities

- Recent developments have accelerated the need for and the uptake of digital solutions in cities
- The pace and scope of change also create challenges
 - Capacity and resources gaps in the administration
 - Digital divide
 - Social impacts of certain types of technology
 - Climate and environmental footprint



Addressing the challenges

- Capacity building through data and technology investment, creation of dedicated digital, innovation, and foresight departments
- Measuring and addressing the digital divide in cooperation with social workers and civil society organizations
- Pilot programmes to provide connectivity, devices, and training
- Setting standards for the ethical and responsible use of digital technologies (e.g. algorithm registers, <https://www.algorithmregister.org/eurocities>)

Calling on Europe

Our digital priorities for the new mandate:

- A common **EU Digital Rights Governance Framework** to guide cities in effectively upholding human rights in the digital space
- Support to cities in tackling the **digital divide** through a common EU measurement tool, a digital helpers curriculum, and dedicated funding
- **Investment in urban capacity building** and financial support to initiatives like the [Living-in.EU](#) movement
- Increasing the level of ambition and investment related to **data**
- Increased attention to **ICT's footprint** and implications for climate neutrality and the raw materials strategy



Accessing and using data in cities

- **Open data** (= data that anyone can access, use, and share) **platforms** → accountability, efficiency, public service, fulfilling government mandates
- From data lake (= central repository) to **data space** → decentralized infrastructure supporting a sector- or application-based data ecosystem
- **Local digital twin** = a virtual representation of a city's physical assets, enabled by data/analytics and machine learning



The role of smart cities in delivering the Green Deal



Monitoring
and tracking



Simulation and
forecasting



Systems
management



Virtualisation



Information and
communication
technologies

- **Real-time** understanding of the state of the environment (air/water quality)
- **Modelling** to assess the impact of transportation system changes to traffic flows, congestion, pollution
- Energy **capacity optimization** through real-time demand-response, renewables integration into the energy grid
- 3D platforms to visualize **proposed urban projects** to facilitate citizen involvement and stakeholder feedback

A holistic approach is needed

- Considering and addressing the risk of digital exclusion
- Understanding the social impacts of the digital transformation
- Building resilience against climate change

Thank you!

Chiara Venturini

chiara.venturini@eurocities.eu

