

D9.23: Report on attendance at events held by other SCC-01 co-ordinators 9

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Authors	Kelly Riedesel, Annemie Wyckmans, Dirk Ahlers, Shreejana Poudyal (NTNU)
Contributors	Sander Smit (R2M); Filippo Giglio (OV), Taliah Dommerholt (ISOCARP)

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Acronyms	3
Executive Summary	4
1 Cooperation with the SCC Board of Coordinators and Task Groups, Scalable Cities and the Smart Cities Marketplace	5
1.1 Scope	5
1.2 SCC Board of Coordinators meetings and Scalable Cities	5
1.2.1.BoC Meetings	5
1.2.2 SCC Task Groups	6
1.2.3 Cooperation with the Smart Cities Marketplace	6
2. Meetings and Events	7
2.1 Cooperative events organised by the SCCs and Scalable Cities	7
2.1.1 Smart City Expo Barcelona (15-17 November 2022)	7
2.1.2 Scalable Cities and MAtchUP - Joint event: From Positive Energy Districts to Climate Neutral Cities: how to scale up our technologies and solutions (29-30 March 2023, Valencia)	8
2.2 Task Group joint sessions and meetings	9
2.2.1 Joint Session with TG Replication and TG Business Models and Finance on Proven examples of innovative financing instruments (1 December 2022)	9
2.2.2 TG Replication Meeting: Innovation Management (January 12 2023)	9
2.2.3 TG Replication and City Coordinators Group (CCG) Knowledge sharing session on Energy Communities (16 February 2023)	9
2.2.4 TG Replication and TG Business Models and Fiance Workshops at Scalable Cities and MAtchUP joint event (30 March 2023, Valencia)	9
2.3 Participation in SSC project advisory boards	10
2.4 Other meetings and events	10
2.4.1 New European Bauhaus	10
3 Next Steps	11

List of Acronyms

BoC	Board of Coordinators
BM & F	Business Model and Finance
CCG	City Coordinators Group
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
EEEF	European Energy Efficiency Fund
EIP SCC	European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities
EU	European Union
EERA JPSC	European Energy Research Alliance, Joint Programme on Smart Cities
ISOCARP	International Society of City and Regional Planners
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NEB	New European Bauhaus
NTNU	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
OV	Officina Verdi Group
PEB/D/N	Positive Energy Blocks / Districts / Neighbourhoods
R2M	Research to Market
SCC	Smart Cities and Communities
SCC01	Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities call
SCIS	Smart Cities Information System
SCM	Smart Cities Marketplace
SCEWC	Smart City Expo World Congress
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SET-Plan	Strategic Energy Technology Plan
TG	Task Group
TK	Trondheim Kommune
UL	University of Limerick
WP	Work Package

Executive Summary

+Cityxchange collaborates with other EU platforms, projects and initiatives to facilitate and exchange good practices. This report provides an overview of the participation of +CityxChange and partners in events organised by Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse (SSC) projects, their Board of Coordinators and Task Groups, the Scalable Cities secretariat, the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM), the EU Cities Mission, the NetZeroCities Platform, New European Bauhaus, and the EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities from November 2022 to April 2023 (M49-M54).

This report is part of Work Package 9 “Inter-Project Collaboration and Clustering” connected to +CityxChange task 9.2 on Extra-Project Cooperation through other SCC01 projects and EU platforms, in Work Package 9 “Inter-Project Collaboration and Clustering”. This report compliments Deliverable D9.21 “Report on Intra-Project Collaboration Including Study Visits and Peer to Peer Workshops 9”.

1 Cooperation with the SCC Board of Coordinators and Task Groups, Scalable Cities and the Smart Cities Marketplace

1.1 Scope

In +Cityxchange we work closely with other projects such as Horizon 2020 SSC projects, the Smart Cities Marketplace and the Scalable Cities secretariat. The collaboration provides anchoring of experiences in a broad setting, feedback from peers and opportunities to share learnings, both positive and negative, to support improving both current and future projects.

The Board of Coordinators (BoC) of the SCC projects meets online monthly, supported by the Scalable Cities secretariat. Every other month, the BoC meeting is extended with participation by representatives of the Smart Cities Marketplace and DG ENER. Typical topics of discussion and cooperation are:

- Updates regarding cross-project Task Groups
- Cooperation towards the EU Cities Mission, the NetZeroCities platform, the Smart Cities Marketplace, and the New European Bauhaus;
- Joint dissemination activities such as SCC project events and the Smart City Expo Barcelona

1.2 SCC Board of Coordinators meetings and Scalable Cities

In the regular Board of Coordinator (BoC) meetings conducted during this reporting period, main topics of discussion were the connection between the SCC projects and Scalable Cities with the Cities Mission and the NetZeroCities platform, as well as the future direction of the cooperation when more and more SCC projects get finalised.

1.2.1.BoC Meetings

The first BoC meeting during this reporting period was in person at the Smart Cities Expo in Barcelona (See Section [3.1.1](#)) in November 2022. Planning for this event was done during the previous reporting session as described in the previous report¹. The next event that was discussed is the Joint Event with the Matchup project held in Valencia (See section [3.1.2](#)).

1

<https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d9-20-report-on-attendance-at-events-held-by-other-scc-01-co-ordinators-8/>

Main discussion points during the end of 2022 included discussions on 2023 Roadmaps for TGs, choosing focus topics for the upcoming year, and joint overview publications. This includes for example the “State of the European Smart Cities”, the “Systemic Changes in Governance” Booklet as important joint outcomes. Other points of discussion include financing schemes and the development of the Task Group on Energy Communities and Digitalisation.

1.2.2 SCC Task Groups

+Cityxchange participates in the following TGs, in the chart below the name, representative and the event in which each TG has participated in during M49-M54. The events will be further described in section [2.2](#). Further descriptions of Task Groups can be found in previous reports. In addition, +CityxChange joined the new Energy Communities & Digitalisation task force.

Task Group	Representative	Activities and participation in events
TG Replication	R2M is the co-chair, NTNU frequently participates	-joint sessions -digital meetings
TG Communication	ISOCARP participates	-joint communication approaches, incl. social media -focus on Smart City World Expo in Barcelona
TG Group Monitoring	KPMG participates, NTNU joins occasionally	-WP7 information
City Coordinators Group	Some City Coordinators for both LHCs and FCs	-Digital monthly meetings meeting at Smart City World Expo

1.2.3 Cooperation with the Smart Cities Marketplace

NTNU (WP9) and R2M (WP8) cooperate with the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM) to identify opportunities for +CityxChange partners to cooperate on topical Action Clusters and Initiatives, masterclasses, matchmaking, cities-meet-investors meetings and similar activities organised by SCM. In this period, there were no specific events to report for the project.

2. Meetings and Events

2.1 Cooperative events organised by the SCCs and Scalable Cities

+CityxChange actively participates in the cooperative events organised by the SCC projects and Scalable Cities.

2.1.1 Smart City Expo Barcelona (15-17 November 2022)

From +CxC, representatives from NTNU, Trondheim Kommune, Limerick City and County Council, and ISOCARP Institute participated in the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona². As one of the 30 projects represented at the European Pavilion under the umbrella of the European Commission, the experiences and learnings from +CxC on cross-cutting topics related to climate neutrality, digital solutions, citizen engagement, urban governance, and smart city finance were shared. Spearheaded by the Scalable Cities secretariat and Smart Cities Marketplace, the pavilion represented the joint presence of partners that are collectively leading the way and piloting cutting-edge innovative solutions with the aim to replicate them across cities in Europe on the path to climate neutrality. +CityxChange participated in the following sessions from +CxC at the EU pavilion:

- Tuesday 15 November [16.45-17.30]: Annemie Wyckmans of NTNU and representatives from other SSC projects (IRIS, MatchUP and STARDUST) participated in a session, held in the Green Agora, on “The state of European Smart Cities”.
- Wednesday 16 November [15:00-16:30]: Dirk Ahlers of NTNU and Alan Dooley of Limerick City and County Council participated in a booth session on “Local collaborative governance”, about new forms of stakeholder engagement.
- Wednesday 16 November [15:00- 16:30] Dirk Ahlers represented +CxC in a booth session on Local collaborative governance.
- Thursday 17 November [09:15-10:00]: Dirk Ahlers and Annemie Wyckmans of NTNU spoke at the Central Agora in a session titled, “How do we reach climate neutrality in cities by 2030?” This session explored the European pathways from positive energy districts to climate neutrality.

The event was an opportunity for networking and sharing learnings and experiences between projects and cities. It helped to reach an audience of stakeholders beyond those directly involved in the various projects. The topics covered in the various panels and sessions were multifaceted and comprehensive. Key takeaways include:

2

<https://cityxchange.eu/cityxchange-will-attend-the-smart-city-expo-world-congress-2022-with-the-european-smart-cities-and-communities-escg-group/>

- The importance of making time for complex and long-term projects – avoid getting caught up in day-to-day challenges;
- Be bold and open to experimentation and failure, so that you learn from your mistakes;
- Make knowledge open and accessible;
- Participation isn't an afterthought. Involve stakeholders in all aspects of the discussion, including children and young people;

2.1.2 Scalable Cities and MAtchUP - Joint event: From Positive Energy Districts to Climate Neutral Cities: how to scale up our technologies and solutions (29-30 March 2023, Valencia)

The joint event "From Positive Energy Districts to Climate Neutral Cities: how to scale up our technologies and solutions" was hosted by the MAtchUP project and Scalable Cities on March 29 and 30th in Valencia.³ The aim of this event was to promote energy solutions and business models being tested in SCC projects and see how solutions can be scaled and replicated across Europe.

The first day of the event included a panel on "From PEB to Climate Neutral Cities. How do we scale up our technologies and solutions", a presentation on the outcomes of MAtchUP, and parallel sessions on solution packages:

- Scaling up RES through energy communities and socialised power plant
- Scaling up RES through infrastructures.
- Scaling up e-mobility by coupling charging points and smart lamp post
- Energy Refurbishment business model

The second day included pitches from the results of the solution breakout groups from day 1 and parallel meetings of the Board of Coordinators and the Business Model and Finance Task Group. The day concluded with a Joint session with the City Coordinators Group, TG Replication and TG Monitoring in a knowledge sharing workshop.

The +CityxChange participation in this event was an opportunity to share the experience from the project and our plans for upscaling as the project is ending this year (2023). +CityxChange could connect with others in similar projects and discuss how to solve issues. The event set an example for future events, including when Trondheim will be hosting its final event and invite the SSC projects in October.

³ <https://www.matchup-project.eu/event/scalable-cities-valencia-joint-event/>

2.2 Task Group joint sessions and meetings

2.2.1 Joint Session with TG Replication and TG Business Models and Finance on Proven examples of innovative financing instruments (1 December 2022)

At the knowledge sharing session on Finance models, examples of innovative financing instruments, matchmaking, and capacity building were discussed. The TG Replication led a discussion on the barriers on using financing, followed by an example of how financial instruments have been deployed in Amsterdam. The Smart City Marketplace matchmaking experience from the city of Sestao was presented by the +CityxChange partner from Sestao Berri, Andy Bäcker. The main takeaways from the meeting were better insight in the various available financial instruments and how cities applied combinations of such instruments to fund climate-neutral cities projects.

2.2.2 TG Replication Meeting: Innovation Management (January 12 2023)

At the January 12th TG Replication meeting, the discussion was based on the topic of innovation management. The takeaways from this meeting include the importance and impact of the innovation culture and organisation in city organisations and a better understanding of the problems especially smaller cities have in terms of making available staff and resources for innovation projects.

2.2.3 TG Replication and City Coordinators Group (CCG) Knowledge sharing session on Energy Communities (16 February 2023)

On February 16th the TG Replication and CCG TG hosted a joint session on energy communities. During this session, insights to the different types of energy communities and the actors involved were discussed. Learning from this event included better insight into the different types of energy communities in the various member states, the actors involved in energy communities, and the impact of national and EU regulation on the uptake of energy communities.

2.2.4 TG Replication and TG Business Models and Fiance Workshops at Scalable Cities and MAtchUP joint event (30 March 2023, Valencia)

TG Replication led a workshop on Replication of Positive Energy District solutions during the 2nd day of the Scalable Cities and MAtchUP joint event. The main learning from the workshop includes that for replication the focus should not be on solutions but on the process since that is of higher value for target cities and is expected to translate easier. Another point of importance is using storytelling as a way of communicating project experiences and inspiring other cities. These insights will be taken into account when further drafting the replication profiles in the +CityxChange project.

The TG Business Models and Fiance also contributed to the event by giving a presentation on the two +CxC Lighthouse Cities, Trondheim and Limerick and how they have implemented their demonstration projects. They presented the work in 2 phases which include Phase 1: energy data collection, financial and economic analyses; followed by Phase 2: Development and implementation of innovative business, investment, and risk sharing models, including ESG factors. The presentation also included Demo Business Cases including the Limerick Tidal Turbine Power Plant and REC (Renewable Energy Community) approach and Trondheim's developed and applied Financial Risk Sharing Model (FRSM) approach tailored to the city demonstrators and scaling. The main lessons learnt from the discussion were that private investment could be promoted and leveraged by public bodies and that smart cities projects could be a platform to build a pipeline for ESG investment opportunities.

2.3 Participation in SSC project advisory boards

Within +CityxChange we have project partners who participate on the advisory board of other SSC projects. Andy Bäcker from Sestao Berri, and Silja Rønningsen and Bjørn Ove Berthelsen from Trondheim Kommune are members of the advisory board for the project EU EXCESS. Being on the advisory board, Andy, Silja and Bjørn Ove were invited to travel to Helsinki. Furthermore, other +CityxChange members participated in this event including Tudor Drambarean from Alba Iulia Municipality. Main outcomes were knowledge transfer from and to EXCESS project, site visits to Helsinki PEB of 215 apartments, and relevant discussions about regulations, funding and technical solutions at EU level in the area of PEDs.

2.4 Other meetings and events

+CityxChange is actively participating in conferences, workshops and other types of meetings relating to Positive Energy Districts and Climate Neutral Cities. Their participation in events with +CityxChange partners promotes the sharing of project experiences, and results and shared learnings.

2.4.1 New European Bauhaus

+CxC cities Písek and Limerick presented their work in a Cities Session session hosted by the project CrAFt⁴, which bridges the New European Bauhaus and the Cities Mission. Other SCC cities have also presented their work in CrAFt Cities Sessions. Having cities sharing their innovative ideas across both SCC and NEB creates knowledge sharing across projects which share similar goals of creating a sustainable and beautiful future.

⁴ <https://craft-cities.eu/>

3 Next Steps

During months 49-54 of +CityxChange we have actively participated in events organised by Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse (SSC) projects, their Board of Coordinators and Task Groups, the Scalable Cities secretariat, and additionally linked with the Smart Cities Marketplace (SCM), the EU Cities Mission, the NetZeroCities Platform, New European Bauhaus, and the EERA Joint Programme Smart Cities. As the project is coming to an end in M60, there has been a focus on sharing and exchanging our learnings so that others can learn or adapt from our barriers and processes, and we may still learn from others for final project phases. Now LHC Trondheim and NTNU will be preparing to host the final +CityxChange conference, planned for 3-5 October 2023.