#### **Digital Cities Challenge**

Cities leading in the uptake of advanced technologies 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019

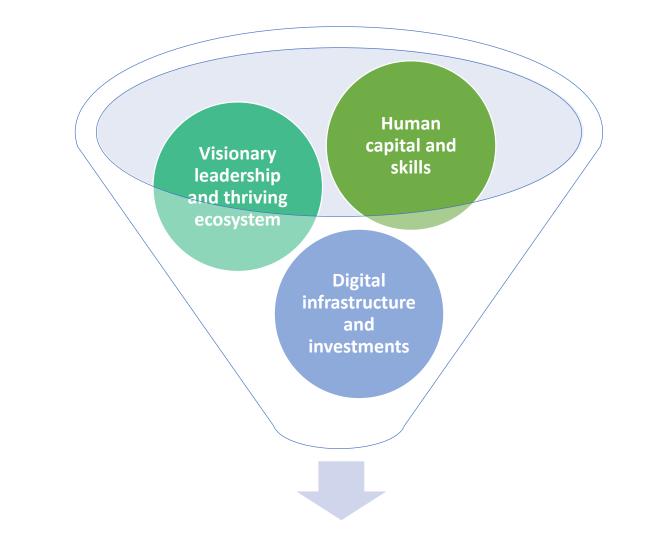
Ilektra Papadaki Policy Officer Directorate General for Growth European Commission Cities host 72% of the EU population and contribute to 2/3 of EU GDP. As centres of economic activity, employment and innovation, cities promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and help tackling economic, environmental and social challenges.

 SDGs, Habitat III, and the New Urban Agenda, the next EU budget, all recognise the role and power of cities.

In the EU, we have to work more in the local scale, reaching regions, cities, towns, islands.

When it comes to Digital Transformation we know we can achieve a lot when we work in the local level, with the local authorities, the businesses, academia.

#### Cities can be digital and act as enablers for digital transformation



#### **Digital City//City leading the digital transformation**

# The European Commission's Digital Cities Challenge

The Digital Cities Challenge initiative

### Initiative of coaching and empowerment

launched in January 2018 to help the European cities harness the benefits of **Digital Technologies** and achieve Smart **Economic Growth**.

iii:

DIGITAL Cities Challe

#### 15 Challenge Cities

Mid- to low-level of **digital maturity** 

Small and mid-sized cities

The majority of cities are **digitally transforming**: on the way to becoming digitally mature

The cities show unleashed potential and willingness to transform



20 Fellow Cities and 6 Mentor Cities

### A network of 41 cities



**Challenge Cities** 

**Fellow Cities** 

Mentor Cities



#### DIGITAL Cities Challenge

#### local

Bring local stakeholders together and develop the ecosystem

Set a common **ambitious vision** for **Digital Transformation** 

Develop and start implementing a strategy and action plan

#### **European**

Μ

е

t

h

0

d

0

0

g

У

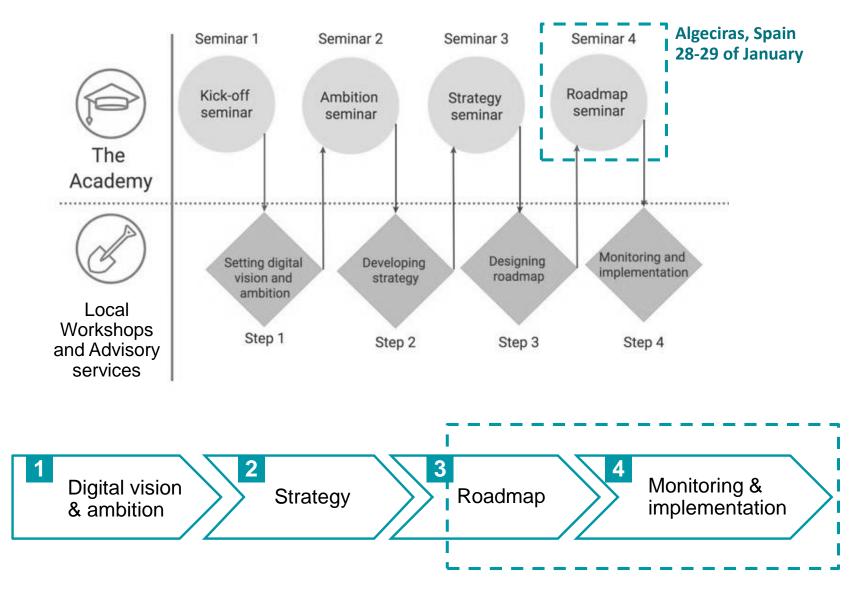
Gain exposure Establish as Digital Cities

Build a network of European peers and partners

Launch together large scale cross-regional investments Local city workshops and European City Academies

> DIGITAL Cities Chall

Along the trajectory, cities are supported through a combination of "individual" field advisory services and collective academy seminars



#### Collaboration





#### Mayors' Summit. December 2018

The mayors of the participating cities signed a **Declaration of cooperation** for digital transformation and smart growth.

DIGITAL Cities Chall

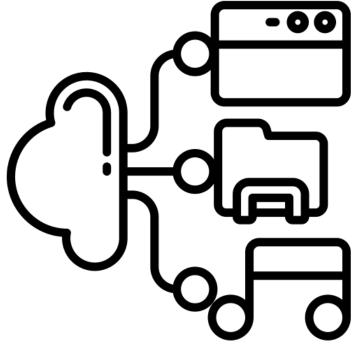
## And in practice?

### Strategic orientations

Cities

- Opening city data to boost business growth
- Developing and attracting digital skills and talents
- Strengthening of ICT infrastructure and digitalisation of physical infrastructure/utilities (transport, energy, water)
- Facilitating access to technology through innovation hubs, clusters, etc.
- Promoting the role of cities as **test-beds** for testing and demonstrating innovative solutions (e.g. 5G)

6 DCC cities are precommercial 5G trial sites



Key sectors on the focus of the digital transformation

Focus on the key sectors of the local economy, covering a broad range:

- Agro-food
  - <u>Tourism</u>

•

•

•

•

- Transport and logistics
- Services
  - Construction
  - **Creative industries**
  - High-end Manufacturing
- · Health and Chemistry

DIGITAL Cities Chall The cities are preparing for the actions and pilot activities

> DIGITAL Cities Challe

In **L'Aquila** - which is among the first ones to test 5G – the municipality and the University develop commonly a quick manual for companies on how to invest in broadband and, specifically 5G.

Municipality and local associations and businesses commonly select **unused spaces to turn into Smart Coworking spaces.** 

Municipality and Universities set up remote monitoring of structural health of buildings. Algeciras will develop within the municipality and one stop shop for digital entrepreneurs.

While in the same city, the Academia committed to develop an **observatory of digital competences.** 

**Granada** is using funding from **ERDF** for its strategic orientations Granada 2020 and Strategic Plan Granada 2018-2022.

Its technological park, OnGranada is driving industrial transformation and the city has many plans to accelerate it: such as **setting up MOOCS** from citizens and businesses. **Sofia** is preparing a pilot project to build **a platform for shared electric cars** for a certain number of neighbouring residential buildings in order to improve the urban environment.

#### The future

#### The Intelligent Cities Challenge



From Digital to Advanced Tech





Social, environmental and economic sustainability Clean and responsible industry



50 new cities (or consortia of cities and towns)

Call for applications: autumn 2019



Encourage islands and outmost regions to join forces and apply



10 international cities as mentors & mentees Thank you for your attention! For all available info on our initiative **www.digitallytransformyourregion.eu** 

#### or contact me at ilektra.papadaki@ec.europa.eu



#### **#DigitalCitiesChallenge**

