EUROPE'S DIGITAL DECADE – THE ROLE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL
16 MARCH, 13.00-15.00 CET

Event organised by Futurium[1] and Living-in.EU

13:00 Introduction and what to expect – Ms. Clara KRAUSE, Legal Assistant, Implementation of the Regulatory Framework, DG CONNECT.

13.02 'Europe's Digital Decade: the role of regional and local level' – Ms. Rita WEZENBEEK, Director Connectivity, DG CONNECT

13.10 'Hessen's Digital Decade Strategy'- Prof. Dr. Kristina SINEMUS, Minister for Digital Strategy and Development, Hessen (Living-in.EU signatory)

13:25 Short Q&A with Minister SINEMUS – moderated by Clara KRAUSE. Participants will be invited to post their questions directly on the "Regions, Cities and Local Communities" discussion forum in order for conversations to continue even after the webinar. **Make sure to join the subgroup beforehand**!

13.30 'Measuring the Digital Decade: the quest for local and regional digital indicators (LORDI)' - Mr. Marek BOBIS, Policy Officer, ECON Commission, Committee of the Regions

13.40 Break – presentation of 2030 Digital Compass video

13.45 Panel discussion: 'Strategies for localising the Digital Decade in cities and regions' - moderated by Ms. Cristina MARTINEZ, Deputy Head of Unit Technologies for Smart Communities, DG CONNECT.

- Mr. Wim DE KINDEREN, Programme Director, Brainport Eindhoven (Digital Innovation Hub) and Vice-President, ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs)

[1] https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en

- Mr. Vincent DEMORTIER, President, Faubourg Numérique DIH, Saint-Quentin

- Mr. Daniel MARCO PARRAGO, Director General for Innovation and Digital Economy at Government of Catalonia

- Ms. Stefania PAPILI, Head of IT, Emilia-Romagna, contributor to the DT4Regions project;

- Mr. Petri Räsänen, Director, Council of Tampere Region (Pirkanmaa)

14:25 Q&A with panelists – moderated by Clara KRAUSE. Same as above Q&A.

14:50 Conclusion and next steps – Mr. Eddy HARTOG, Head of Unit Technologies for Smart Communities, DG CONNECT

Background Information

Europe's Digital Decade – the role of local communities

As part of its Digital Decade strategy, the European Commission has put forth a vision for new digital objectives for 2030, encompassed by a Digital Compass that evolves around four cardinal points: skills, infrastructures, business and government. The Commission also proposed the Path to the Digital Decade policy programme to ensure that these targets are met with the help of Member States. To achieve the EU's digital transformation, input and participation from all kinds of stakeholders are crucial. This includes the actions of regional and local governments, which will make it possible for the Union's digital transformation to take place at every levels of society. A bottom-up approach to digital transformation is essential to ensure that no one if left behind and that the digital divide gap is closed.

Living-in.EU

The Living-in.EU movement is a collaborative platform for cities and communities to accelerate their digital transformation the 'European way' (citizen-centric approach, ethically and socially responsible data usage, co-creation with and engagement of citizens, open and interoperable standards). Created by a group of cities, city representative groups Eurocities, Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC), the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), and supported by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, it was launched in December 2019 by the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The aim of Living-in.EU is to work together to scale up the use of data technology to tackle a range of interconnected challenges, including urban mobility, energy efficiency, and digital public services, while ensuring environmental sustainability in line with the European Green Deal. Cities, regions and Member States leaders are invited to join the community by signing the 'Join, Boost, Sustain' Declaration, which researchers, companies, NGOs and non-EU cities can also subscribe to as supporters.

How to measure digital transformation at local level (LORDI)

The Living-in.EU movement, supported by the Commission and the Committee of the Regions, is developing a framework of indicators on digital performance of cities and regions, the "Local and Regional Digital Indicators" (LORDI) framework. The objective is to provide policy makers, businesses, and citizens with evidence of their digital transformation at local level, and to guide targeted policy responses in addressing gaps. In recognition of the significant role of local and regional government in achieving the ambitious Digital Decade targets by 2030, LORDI could contribute by localising Digital Decade policies and objectives. To make it worthwhile for cities to participate, the system should allow cities to benchmark their progress against their peers for use as a local digital health check instrument.

European Digital Innovation Hubs

The Digital Europe Programme is co-funding the establishment of a network of European Digital Innovation Hubs offering access to technology testing and **support in their digital transformation for private and public organisations all across Europe, including government at national, regional or local level**, as appropriate. The European Digital Innovation Hubs are an important tool in EU policies, in particular industrial and SME policies, to support companies and the public sector in the twin green and digital transition.

The Digital Europe Programme is an EU funding programme that aims to reinforce EU critical digital capacities by focusing on the key areas of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, advanced computing, data infrastructures, data governance and processing, the deployment of these technologies and their best use for critical sectors like energy climate change and environment, manufacturing, agriculture and health.

Futurium Digital Decade Community

Futurium is a platform managed by DG CONNECT which allows for open dialogue on EU policies. Interested parties can join a variety of subgroups or communities and contribute to the discussion on particular topics, including the Digital Decade Community, where exchanges take place and events and workshops are advertised. This is the third in a series of webinars on aspects of the Digital Decade organised through this community.

Our speakers and panelists

Ms. Rita Wezenbeek is Director Connectivity in DG CONNECT. The Connectivity Directorate's mission is to ensure widespread access to and take-up of gigabit and 5G networks for all citizens and businesses of the European Union, as one of the key targets of the Commission's Communication "*The 2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade*". Rita joined the European Commission in 2002. Before moving to DG CONNECT in December 2020, she was the head of the units dealing with Anti-Trust and Telecommunications (2017-2020) and Retail Financial Services and Payment Systems (2010-2017) in DG Competition. Before joining the Commission, Rita worked for sixteen years as a private lawyer, specialized in European and corporate law, in a Dutch/ Belgian law firm. She also was a Member of the Commission on European Integration, an independent advisory body on foreign policy to the Dutch government and Parliament.

Prof. Kristina Sinemus has been the first Hessian Minister for Digital Strategy and Development since January 2019. Prior to that, Prof. Sinemus was the managing director and founder of the consulting agency "Genius". Genius sees itself as a service provider at the interface of science, business and society. From 2014 to 2019 Prof. Sinemus was the first female President of a Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Hesse. In 2011, Kristina Sinemus was appointed Professor of Public Affairs at the Quadriga University in Berlin.

Mr. Marek Bobis works as policy officer in the secretariat of the ECON commission of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). Being in charge of the digital agenda in the ECON secretariat, together with colleagues he is managing the work of the Living-in.EU Subgroup on Measuring and Monitoring, focusing mainly on subnational digital indicators. His work in the ECON secretariat also encompasses Digital cohesion, digital divides, a European Digital Identity and a CoR-European Commission Brooadband Platform.

Mr. Wim de Kinderen is Programme Director for European Affairs, based within the Brainport Eindhoven EU Office in Brussels. Since more than 10 years, he represents the City of Eindhoven, Brainport Development and other economic stakeholders towards fellow cities and regions and towards the European Institutions. In this role, he is responsible for policy lobbying, networking/communication and project development. Within the city of Eindhoven, he is specifically involved in Strategy Department. Wim De Kinderen was involved from the start in the Living-in.EU exercise and has always been one of the driving forces behind the initiative.

Mr. Vincent Demortier is an entrepreneur involved in the co-creation of several innovative SMEs. He has co-founded a non-profit association named Faubourg Numérique, located in Northern France, with the mission to support SMEs and territories in their digital transformation. Since its creation in 2014, Faubourg Numérique has been structured as a local Digital Innovation Hub (DIH), animated by an entrepreneurial governance. Its involvement in the open source community FIWARE led this DIH to initiate the French chapter of the Open & Agile Smart Cities network with 5 cities and to contribute to the Living-in.EU technical working group. These global connections and the associated deliverables have been leveraged locally to support 28 local innovative projects, including the one managed by the mid-sized city of Saint-Quentin, now referenced as a success story at regional, national and European level.

Mr. Daniel Marco Parraga is currently in charge of the Directorate General for Innovation and Digital Economy of the Government of Catalonia, where he has held other responsibilities in the last thirteen years, such as director of Smart Catalonia, director of the Catalan Digital Agenda and Head of Business Digitization and ICT industry promotion.

Ms. Stefania Papili is the Head of the IT Unit in the Regional Administration of Emilia Romagna. The unit is tasked with fostering digital innovation using technology as enabler for change processes and its activities focus on improving the quality of IT services and promoting data-driven decision making. Stefania Papili believes in building connections and sharing experiences as critical drivers of innovation in the public sector.

Mr. Petri Räsänen has an extensive experience in innovation management and policy, including managerial positions in Technical research Centre of Finland (VTT), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, Secgo Group and Technology Centre Hermia. In Hermia he was Director of Innovation Platforms and founder and of New Factory innovation center, where award-winning co-creation platforms Demola and Protomo were created. In 2011 Petri was appointed as Director, Innovation and Foresight at the Council of Tampere Region. In this capacity, he is responsible for regional policies for innovation, foresight and the twin transition.

Mr. Eddy Hartog is Head of Unit for Technologies for Smart Communities in DG CONNECT since 2016. He has worked in the European Commission since 1989, first in Trade policy, then in Regional policy and in Maritime policy. Mr. Hartog has Dutch nationality and was born and raised in Utrecht (the Netherlands).