

Urban Transition: Towards a Shared Strategic Agenda of the Cities in Europe

Brussels, 9-10 September 2025
ENEALiaison Office – Rue de Namur 72/74

Organised by the EERA Joint Programme on Smart Cities (JP-SC) and ENEA, this workshop takes place at a time when urban transitions are no longer a distant goal, they are the foundation on which Europe's future is being shaped. In a fast-evolving policy landscape, cities stand at the frontline of the green, digital, and social transformations defining the years ahead.

Over two days, the workshop will offer space for open and forward-looking dialogue. The participation of Mr **Akis Kyriacou**, from the Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto, European Commission will launch a strategic reflection on the development of *an ambitious and unprecedented Agenda of the Cities in Europe*, a shared strategic and operational direction, mandated at the highest level and jointly shaped by the European Commission, Member States, and cities themselves.

Although the EU holds no formal competence on urban policy, this initiative marks a historic turning point. For the first time, a European Commission Vice-President has been tasked with advancing a common urban agenda, not as a new EU policy, but as a collaborative framework to align regulations, funding, and priorities across all levels of governance.

Cities are no longer only implementers, they are co-authors of Europe's transition. This agenda supports their efforts to address complex societal and climate challenges while reinforcing their central role in shaping Europe's long-term strategic direction.

Bringing together institutional perspectives and local experiences, the workshop will foster exchange, collaboration, and mapping. From energy systems to digital infrastructure and urban resilience, participants will explore synergies and contribute to building a coherent research and innovation pathway that empowers the cities of tomorrow.

Day 1 – Plenary Session | 9 September 2025

12:00 Arrival and Light Networking Lunch

Getting ready for a collective reflection on Europe's Urban Agenda

13:00 Welcome and introduction

Roberta Boniotti - ENEA Brussels Office

Sonia Giovinazzi - EERA JP-SC Coordinator

13:20 Keynote Speech

Akis Kyriacou - Urban Policies and Cities Agenda, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President R. Fitto, European Commission

13:45 Policy and Technology in Dialogue: Voices for Bridging Gaps

Daniela Patti, Expert collaborating with the European Urban Initiative (EUI)



Giulia Monteleone, Head of the Department of Energy Technologies and Renewable Sources, ENEA
(*joining remotely*)

14:15 Session I - Urban transition

*Invited presentations and Q&A session, **Chair and Moderator:** Paola Clerici Maestosi, ENEA – Department of Energy Technologies and Renewable Sources.*

Anna Lisa Boni – Let's GOV project coordinator supporting Italian cities for EU Mission 100CNC, City of Bologna EU/Recovery funds, Ecological transition and International relations, (*joining remotely*)

Elli Tzatzanis Stepanovic - *Coordinator, Urban Transitions Mission Centre – Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) (joining remotely)*

Silvia Burzagli - EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change / EU Liaison Office of the Regional Council of Tuscany

- **Q&A session**

15:15 Coffee Break

15:30 Session II - Partnership supporting Urban dimension

*Invited presentations and Q&A session, **Chair and Moderator:** Giovanni Semprini, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Bologna.*

Orsolya Küttel, CEO, DUT Partnership, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

Rachele Nocera, Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) / Italian Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR)

Angiolo Boncompagni, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)

- **Q&A session**

16:30 Closing Panel – Research Alliances and Partnership for the Urban Agenda: From Knowledge to Action (Moderated by Sonia Giovinazzi, ENEA – Department of Energy Technologies and Renewable Sources)

With a particular focus on the *Better Knowledge* pillar of the European Urban Agenda, the panel will explore how a European research alliance such as EERA JP-SC can contribute in practical, coordinated ways to support cities in their transitions, offering scientific evidence, technological solutions, and capacity-building partnerships.

Panellists will identify and discuss concrete mechanisms to align research and innovation efforts with urban needs and policy objectives, from project-based collaboration to shared data, experimentation spaces, and advisory roles.

17:30 Wrap-up and Conclusions



Day 2 – Plenary Session | 10 September 2025

Building on the outcomes of Day 1, this session will focus on co-creation and strategic alignment across EERA Joint Programmes. Participants will work together to identify shared priorities, define concrete collaboration pathways, and provide input for updating the SRIA of the EERA JP on Smart Cities, in coherence with broader European research and innovation agendas.

09:30 EERA JP-SC SRIA and Sub-Programmes: Matchmaking and Co-Creation Workshop

Integrating insights from Day 1 into the SRIA and Sub-Programmes of the EERA JP-SC

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Strategic Dialogue on EERA Sub-Programme Synergies

Aligning contributions across EERA JPs and Task Forces to support EU R&I agendas

13:00 Closing Remarks

