



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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MedCities
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The Mission Innovation's Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) and Urban Transitions Mission Centre (UTMC) are joining the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC)

9 November 2023 in Barcelona

Regional event targeting cities in Mediterranean countries

The regional event on the 9 November 2023, organised by UTMC, will introduce and explain the possibilities and services offered for cities, policymakers, and governments worldwide, to join forces and find solutions for their urban transitions. It is targeting the Mediterranean region, Western Balkans and Türkiye, as a side event to SCEWC. In cooperation with the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM) and MedCities, it is bringing together national and local policy makers, municipalities and urban actors from European Union Member States and countries around the Mediterranean, to promote dialogue and cooperation.

This regional event follows the briefing of the UfM Urban Development Ministers by the Urban Transition Mission on 4 May 2023 in Zagreb, Croatia, and the UfM information webinar on 4 July 2023.

In order to align with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of the European Union and drive the global effort towards reaching climate neutrality goals, UTMC is targeting the Mediterranean region, Western Balkans and Türkiye in order to:

- Strengthen international cooperation on climate neutrality and net-zero transitions,
- Support the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) in mobilising cities in new countries, and
- Ensure a much stronger global coverage towards climate neutrality.

<https://www.smartcityexpo.com/>

<https://urbantransitionsmission.org/centre/>

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/>

<https://medcities.org/>



Funded by the
European Union

Field visit

Date: 8 NOV 2023 afternoon field visit to Barcelona Superblock project

[Registration link](#)

Agenda

Date: 9 NOV 2023 Venue: Barcelona, Gran Via, CC1, Room 1.5

[Registration link](#)

Time and content		Speakers
09.30-10.00	Get together	
10.00 - 11.00 Session I Moderation: Victoria Jimenez Tejero, Head of Sector for Urban Development, UfM The Urban Transition Mission (UTM) and the relevance of the Mediterranean region (international-transnational level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can cities in the Mediterranean region, Western Balkans and Türkiye be mobilised and supported in their urban transitions towards holistic, people-centred urban transitions built around clean energy and innovative net-zero carbon solutions? 	Welcome and Opening	Ms Barbara Pons Giner CEO of Barcelona Regional
	Opening by UTMC	Ms Elli Tzatzanis Stepanovic UTMC Coordinator, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
	Opening by MedCities	Mr Oriol Barba Director, MedCities
	Cities on a Mission: EU and global approaches UTM goals and activities	Mr Philippe Froissard Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission Ms Miriam Badino Mission Innovation - Urban Transitions Mission Coordinator, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
11.00-11.15	Coffee/café/qahwa	
11.15 - 13.00 Session II Moderation: Ms Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic, UTMC Exploring Urban Transitions in the Mediterranean: Common challenges in the Mediterranean region and best practice examples of urban transition approaches (transnational-national level) <u>Expert Panel 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which are common trends, peculiarities and challenges in the Mediterranean region? ➤ How can cities join forces in their urban transitions? <u>City Panel 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can cities join forces in their urban transitions and why should a city join the Urban Transitions Mission? Can you share your lessons learnt? ➤ Which recommendations can be shared with other cities in the region of the Mediterranean, Western Balkans and Türkiye? 	Expert panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mobility ➤ Urban Planning ➤ Urban Health ➤ Energy Transition 	Mr Lluís Puerto Market Development Director, EIT Urban Mobility Ms Hristina Odjaklieska Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia Mr Mark Nieuwenhuijsen Director of Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative at ISGlobal, Spain Ms Sarah El-Shaarawi Editor at Large of Arab Media & Society, Climate communication and the politics of energy transition, Egypt
	City panel discussion:	Mr Mohamed Sefiani Honorable Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UTM cities representative ➤ MedCities representatives 	Ms Leila Adel Youssef Engineer at Development project department of Greater Irbid Municipality, Jordan Ms Krile Prkoča Head of office for traffic and communal affairs of Dubrovnik city council, Croatia
	13.00-14.00	Lunch break

<p>14.00 - 15.45 Session III Moderation: Ms Georgia Aifandopoulou, CERTH</p> <p>Policy panel on stakeholder engagement (national-regional level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can policy-making and stakeholder engagement be synergistic and fruitful? ➤ Which joint discussions and actions will be indispensable for complementary solutions in urban transitions? ➤ The role of living labs in supporting innovative economic policies for climate change mitigation towards zero pollution ➤ Examine the practical dimensions of stakeholder engagement in driving innovation through a specific case study from the Mediterranean region 	Welcome	Ms Andrada Barata Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)
	Defining stakeholder engagement in fostering co-creation and open innovation in urban transitions	
	Gender Equality and Social Equity in City Policy-Making	Ms Laura Valdès Metropolis, Head of Policy, Secretariat General World Association of the Major Metropolises
	The role of living labs in supporting innovative economic policies for Climate Change mitigation towards Zero pollution	Mr Josep Maria Salvanova CERTH, Greece
	Living Labs as a social technology: A global approach	Mr Artur Serra I2CAT, Spain
	Case study: Practices of Promoting local green fiscal policies in order to increase the share of renewable energy sources	Mr Agron Haxhimali Executive Director, Instituti për Bashkitë e Shqipërisë Institute for Albanian Municipalities, Albania
Round Table Discussion, Conclusions	All	
15.45-16.00	Tea/te/shay	
<p>16.00 - 16.30 Session IV Moderation: Ms Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic, UTMC</p> <p>Relevant initiatives, partners and organisations in the region to support urban transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which initiatives, projects and organisations offer services, expertise and funding for urban transitions? ➤ What does it mean to think globally and to act locally? 	Initiatives and projects supporting the urban transition in the Mediterranean region	Mr Karel Van Oordt UTMC partner, Eurocities Ms Miriam Badino Coordinator, UTM Ms Victoria Jimenez Tejero Head of Sector for Urban Development, UfM
	Recommendations, next steps	Ms Laia Vinyes Marcé Project Officer, MedCities Ms Elli Tzatzanis Stepanovic , Coordinator, UTMC
	Closing	

Background

[Mission Innovation](#) is a global initiative catalysing a decade of action and investment in research, development, and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive, and accessible for all. This will accelerate progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to net zero.

The [Urban Transitions Mission](#), one of the seven missions of Mission Innovation, mobilises a Global Innovation Alliance of partners, and national governments, to support cities globally to develop, pilot, and scale innovative solutions and approaches prioritizing climate-neutral and net-zero pathways. The Urban Transitions Mission is co-led by the European Commission, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and JPI Urban Europe.

A first cohort of 50 cities is already engaging with the Urban Transition Mission, which invites pioneering cities worldwide to join.

The [Urban Transitions Mission Centre](#) is supporting the activities of the Urban Transitions Mission, enabling a wide international knowledge and practice network of cities and urban stakeholders and driving urban transitions globally. It offers a global platform that promotes urban sustainability strengthening links among policy, implementation, and funding via exchanges that transcend national and world regions' borders.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the Urban Transitions Mission by and for cities [here!](#)

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