

SMART-MED 2017
2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference

on

“Smart, Inclusive and Resilient Small and Medium-sized Cities and Island Communities in the Mediterranean: Exploring Current Research Paths and Experience-based Evidence”

Heraklion-Crete
28-29 September 2017

The Mediterranean region is nowadays considered as a hotspot in many respects, with unpredicted repercussions with regards to the achievement of a sustainable future for its population. More specifically, it is perceived as:

- An environmental hot spot, trapped into a resource-intensive model overexploiting local resources, especially in the marine part;
- Aclimate change hotspot, associated with warming and drying that place severe risks and stresses on socio-economic and natural systems;
- Abiodiversity hotspot, rating quite low as to the percentage of remaining natural vegetation;
- A water hotspot, facing a constantly heightening rate of water stress;
- A natural risk hotspot, showing high vulnerability as regards disastrous natural events (e.g. floods, earthquakes).
- Anurbanization hotspot, with an intensive and steadily increasing urbanization pattern;
- A solid waste generation hotspot, producing almost half of EU waste, depicting further increasing patterns;
- An economic recession hotspot, beat mostly by debt crisis, deep recession, and austerity;
- Abrain drain hotspot, with severe socio-economic consequences.
- A migration hotspot, as a result of the political instability in the Mediterranean neighborhood.

Coping with emerging risks and reverting undesirable future developments call for trend-breaking efforts that can decrease communities' ecological footprint and face current resource constraints.

The rapidly spreading smart city paradigm and its potential towards managing many of the above aspects in the Mediterranean Region lies at the core of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on “Smart, Inclusive and Resilient Small and Medium-sized Cities and Island Communities in the Mediterranean: Exploring Current Research Paths and Experience-based Evidence”, to be held in a Greek smart city, Herakleion-Crete, in September 28-29, 2017.

The Conference aims at bringing together current research efforts and evidence-based results from the Mediterranean but also the international context, with the aim to

create value for small and medium-sized cities and communities as well as island territories and bring them on board for reaping the benefits of smart developments.

Themes falling into SMART-MED 2017 Conference interest are:

Smart and Sustainable Cities and Insular Communities

- Smart people
- Smart governance
- Smart and sustainable urban mobility
- Smart buildings
- Smart environment
- Smart waste management
- Smart water resource management
- Energy transition - Smart energy grids
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Smart health systems
- Smart port management
- Smart cultural heritage management
- Smart tourism
- Smart destination branding and marketing
- Smart islands
- Blue Growth – Coastal Mediterranean Small and Medium-sized Cities and insular communities

E-democracy / e-Planning / e-Participation

- e-Planning, e-Participation, e-democracy
- Inclusive cities
- Stakeholder engagement - Tools and technologies
- Crowdsourcing - Volunteered Geographic Information
- Data privacy
- Participatory spatial planning
- Spatial data infrastructures / mining
- Ontologies for spatial analysis
- Social networks
- Social resilience

Resilience to crisis

- Natural hazards management – Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change – Smart mitigation / Adaptation policies
- Insular communities and climate change – Challenges and risks
- Coastal areas and blue growth – Marine spatial planning and Integrated coastal zone management
- Migration crisis in the MED

Smart Growth

- Smart specialization for development and growth
- Urban innovation systems
- Digital learning systems/technologies
- Smart infrastructure management
- Mobile marketing
- Circular economy
- Public - Private - People Partnerships (PPPP) for smart urban development
- Open data
- Large data
- Data security
- Internet of Things
- Drones and UAVs