

Malaga City Solutions

Trends in municipal innovation to achieve the SDGs

1st October 2019



Hosted by:



CITY SOLUTIONS MALAGA

In September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the 17 Sustainable Development Goals included in the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, the first universal plan for people and the planet.

Cities and local governments have responded to this call by starting an unprecedented movement to bring the SDGs to their local territories, aligning their budgets, policies and plans with the new Agenda 2030. Since 54 per cent¹ of the world's population lives in urban areas, cities are key to make Agenda 2030 a reality for all. The SDGs are a great opportunity to find innovative ways to improve the lives of billion of people, to increase the synergies between more efficient municipal operations and services, and to ensure competitiveness while leaving no one behind.

The new sustainable development goals and the challenges of urbanization require that cities innovate and re-think their own municipal management and finance, improving their environmental impact, increasing the efficiency of their services while bringing citizens along. During the past 5 years, the Uraía Platform has identified how cities are using SMART² technologies and innovation to face the challenge of transforming cities into truly sustainable ones, using technology to create value both for cities and their citizens.

The Uraía approach brings together Mayors, city managers and their partners to share their experiences in how technology is changing city life, thanks to innovation in service delivery such water supply, waste collection, mobility, energy efficiency, tax collection or contributing to create citizenship. Our methodology is based in bringing city officials together, in small groups, to share the elements of success for SMART projects, but also the challenges and risk elements that make projects fail sometimes, due to poor planning, lack of user engagement or insufficient scale of experimentation.

To this aim, Uraía created the “City Solutions” series, that took place for the first time in year 2018 in the City of Chicago³ focusing on how Chicago was applying SMART technologies to the city mobility, management of infrastructure, emergency preparedness and public health.

This year, the second edition of the “City Solutions” Series will take place in the city of Malaga (Spain). With a population of 568.000 inhabitants, the sixth of Spain, Malaga has suffered an enormous transformation in the past decades, both in terms of urban planning (the city had only 375.000 citizens back in 1970) as well as becoming a cultural reference in the past decade. Malaga opted to host the Uraia Secretariat following a public call for interest and this is the first time that Uraía organizes an event in the city.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Malaga City Solutions will be to focus on three experiences implemented by the city of Malaga and other world cities, identifying elements of success and

¹ With 66 per cent of the world population living in cities by 2050 - Source UNDESA

² S.M.A.R.T – Sustainable.Measurable.Accountable.Realistic.Transparent

³ <https://uraia.org/en/activities/city-solutions/chicago-2018/>

failure in city innovation thanks to a frank exchange about how municipal administrations are able to innovate municipal management and finance.

The aim of the workshop will be the sharing of experiences on current leading initiatives solutions to apply SMART technologies to municipal management and finance that are shaping the daily life of cities, in order to find out convergence points and complementarities.

The Malaga City Solutions will showcase how cities of different size, budget, and political structure often have very similar problems. The event will be delivered in an innovative format to foster knowledge transfer between cities, thanks to a peer-to-peer dialogue between two cities that have put into place similar initiatives, showcasing the problems, risk, mistakes and factors of success experimented during the process.

To facilitate that, participant cities will be asked to prepare responses to the following questions:

- ✓ What was the initial problem that you faced to be solved thanks to the use of SMART technologies? (initial situation and challenge faced)
- ✓ What were the legislative or normative difficulties that you needed to face before launching the process?
- ✓ Was a procurement process necessary? What were the main difficulties to select the PPP?
- ✓ How did you involve the final users / citizens in the inception phase of the project?
- ✓ What budget did you allocate to the project? What were the source of funding identified? How is the financial sustainability of the project assured?
- ✓ What are the difficulties faced in introducing change and what actions have been taken to mitigate resistance to innovation?
- ✓ Did you establish partnerships with the private sector and research institutions to introduce innovation into city management?
- ✓ How did you monitor and evaluate the innovations in service delivery?
- ✓ What has been the reaction of citizens towards the project?
- ✓ What would have you done differently? What advice would you give to other cities wishing to do a similar project?

Other objectives of the Malaga City Solutions will also include:

1. To offer a space to exchange experiences among peers, city managers, decision-makers and practitioners.
2. To identify trends and existing practices regarding the application of SMART technologies to cities.
3. To highlight common challenges faced by city managers.
4. To establish key recommendations and lessons learned.
5. To strengthen local governments' capacities for innovation in public management.
6. To identify new opportunities to "build with" and "govern with" city residents.
7. To establish collaboration between participating cities at the to assist leaders with the implementation of new initiatives.

Deliverables of the Malaga City Solutions will include:

- ✓ Documentation of city experiences for their inclusion in the Uraia "Innovative experience" online platform.

- ✓ The creation of city “pairs” to exchange support and collaboration in implementing efforts to create SMART investments.
- ✓ Providing capacity building and inspiration for other cities to introduce innovations and take advantage of the enormous opportunities provided by SMART technologies.

METHODOLOGY

The city of Malaga and other speaker cities will be paired in teams to present how two different cities have used SMART technologies to solve a similar problem.

The proposed themes for this edition of Malaga City Solutions are:

1. Innovation in **water provision**, water saving and sanitation, including environmental impact of water management in the city.

Water technologies have played a key role in the history of water management. Currently the water problem is more threatening than ever due to population growth, the expansion of agricultural, livestock and urban frontiers, deforestation, climate change and poor management and planning. To face some challenges such as water supply, pollution and waste a number of technological alternatives exist today, they have the advantage of being more efficient, to operate without impacting the conditions of the environment and ecosystems and many times also to produce huge savings to the municipal budgets.



2. **Mobility and transportation**, including energy savings from public transport, inter-connectivity of mass transport and service satisfaction from users.

Thanks to transformative technologies, modern private and public transportation is currently experiencing major changes. Technology determines the way we plan, design, build, and operate transportation systems better and in a safer and more dynamic way. For example, the use of



technology in public transportation has allowed the decreasing of injuries and risk of crime. Linked to climate change concerns, cities leaders are redefining urban mobility and rethinking the very nature of existing transportation systems, to meet the standards related to environmental concerns.

3. **Sustainable energy generation** and sustainable energy use, smart grids, etc.

The impact of future of technology in efficient energy usage, energy economics and environment is undeniable. It allows the implementation of eco-friendly relations by reducing the usage of energy required to provide services and products.



4. **Waste management**, including connections between waste disposal and energy generation.

Adapting new technologies to better waste collection and management constitutes a main trend today. New ways of collaboration between private

and public stakeholders are required to find solutions related to solid waste treatment, sewage treatment, odor removal, sanitization methods and biological treatment solutions for waste.

Presenters will be asked to give response to some of the following questions regarding their own experiences:

- ✓ What have been the financial implications of the project in terms of budget? What are the sources of income and what is the financial sustainability model?
- ✓ How were users consulted and involved during the design phase?
- ✓ What were the type of contracts and PPPs established to implement the initiative? What could have been done differently?
- ✓ What advise could you give regarding future sustainability of the project?
- ✓ Was the scale of experimentation adequate for the identified solution?
- ✓ What were the risks of the project and how did you face them?
- ✓ How are SMART technologies helping cities to improve their own management and finance?
- ✓ What are the recent trends and future challenges?
- ✓ How is citizen engagement leading to leave no one behind in terms of innovation?
- ✓ How to deal with the multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance issues related to privacy and legal frameworks?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Innovative experiences in the field of SMART technologies applied to urban management and finance identified.
2. Participants aware of the implications of different technologies, applications, processes and actions and of the existing of concurring best parties enabling them to apply SMART technologies in their daily work to better improve municipal management and finances.
3. Main challenges and trends on applying innovation in cities discussed and identified.
4. Collection of experiences identified gathered and made available to the general public within the “Inspiring practices” of the Uraía Platform: www.uraia.org/en/library/inspiring-practices-catalogue .
5. Key potential sectors for applying SMART technologies identified.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will gather a maximum of 20 to 30 participants, including Mayors, Governors and local government officials, research institutes, academia, local government associations, and international organizations, amongst other stakeholders.

Registrations need to be previously approved by the Secretariat.

The workshop will be free of charge. Participants will need to cover the costs of their own travel and accommodation. A logistics note is available upon registration to identify suitable hotels and advise about the city.

The agenda is opened for cities who want to present their experiences during the event. A small budget is available to support the flights of speakers.

The event will take place in English, French and Spanish.

CONTACT

For any questions regarding this activity, please contact. Ms. Maritza Formisano, Uraia Coordinator

info@uraia.org

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1st October	
9.00 – 9.30	Welcome by the Mayor of Malaga Introduction to the challenges of the city of Malaga in the past decade and how innovation has proven decisive to change the city for the best Other institutional representatives
9.30 – 11.00	City A and City B debate Moderated by – Diana Lopez Caramazana, Head, Local government and decentralization Unit, UN-Habitat
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00	City C and City D debate Moderated by – Jean Francois Habeau, Executive Director, Global Fund for the development of cities
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	City E and City F debate Moderated by – Malaga city council representative
15.00 – 16.00	City G and City H debate Moderated by – UNCDF representative (to be confirmed)
16.00 – 17.00	Malaga Recommendations – Group exercise to identify questions and trends in the application of SMART technologies to municipal Management and finance. Next steps for the Uraia Platform. Moderated by – Diana Lopez Caramazana, Head, Local government and decentralization Unit, UN-Habitat