

**Template for candidates for European Partnership
(Co-programmed, Co-funded, Institutionalised) under Horizon Europe,**
informing the structured consultation of Member States via the Shadow
Strategic Configuration of the Programme Committee

General Information	
Preliminary title of the European Partnerships	Sustainable, Smart and Inclusive Cities and Communities (SSI-CC)
Short description of the partnership	It drives R&I on urban transitions and provides scientific evidence for urban actors on sustainable urban development with a cross-sectoral, inter- and transdisciplinary approach, implemented through activities beyond joint calls
Services directly involved	DG RTD Urban and Transport Systems as the responsible, coordinating EC unit
Context and problem definition <i>[this section is new compared to the previous template]</i>	<p>Our future relies on tackling complex societal challenges, many of which must be solved within and by cities and urban communities, such as urbanisation, ageing societies, migration and the climate crisis. Cities of the future must not only be smart and sustainable, but also safe, inclusive and liveable.</p> <p>The role and importance of urban development for our national and global development is acknowledged in the New Urban Agenda of UN-Habitat and by the United Nations by including an urban goal in the UN SDGs and the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU). The 17 SDGs and their targets clearly underline the importance of sustainable urban development for the future of humanity and the planet, with 90 out of the 169 indicators encompass urban areas.</p> <p>With the UAEU, the EC and the MS/AC have given priority to sustainable urban development and advancing urban policies. The role of cities and the importance of urban-related R&I was also addressed in the BOHEMIA foresight study, stating, the importance of ‘<i>Cities as spaces where change happens in how societies relate to innovation</i>’¹.</p> <p>Urban matters have been addressed by the EU Framework Programmes over the last two decades. These activities have focussed on individual sectors – urban mobility, energy in cities, nature-based solutions, circular economy, etc. In each of these areas an integrated approach has been followed, by combining different technologies or sectoral implementation measures. To tackle the multitude of intertwined urban challenges, a more comprehensively integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach is needed.</p> <p>A transformation of the whole spectrum of urban systems is required, including new governance models, innovation in public sector and urban infrastructures, citizen participation and liveability aspects, socio-economic dynamics, etc. To support such transitions, a collaboration among committed partners on local, regional, national, European and international level is required. This collaboration must encompass capacities for R&I, policy, business and society. It must also cross borders between disciplines, stakeholder groups and nations.</p> <p>The plurality of urban goals and related strategies leads to an interrelated set of actions which risk to be counterproductive in urban development practice². Understanding potential synergies and trade-offs is critical for efficient and coherent implementation and monitoring. By this, the partnership will complement the activities of the EU Framework Programme and contribute to the preparation and implementation of an urban mission.</p>

¹ M. Weber, et al.: Transitions on the Horizon: Perspectives for the European Union’s future research and innovation policies, Final Report from the BOHEMIA project, June 2018

² Nilsson et al. (2016) ‘Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals’, in *Nature* 534, pp. 320–322 (16 June 2016), <<https://www.nature.com/news/policy-map-the-interactions-between-sustainable-development-goals-1.20075>>

Objectives and expected impacts	<p>The objectives of the SSI-CC partnership are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ create evidence for urban transitions, following holistic and cross-sectoral approaches and considering technological, social, economic, cultural, planning and governance aspects ▪ address urban dilemmas as indicated in the SRIA 2.0 ³ as they define key policy areas critical for achieving SDGs and urban strategies ▪ mobilise cities (incl. smaller and mid-sized cities), business, entrepreneurs, societal actors and research across Europe, with particular emphasis on widening countries, to engage in sustainable urban development and R&I ▪ offer an environment for experimentation, capitalising knowledge and science-policy cooperation beyond joint calls to more effectively achieve cities' strategies and strengthen exploitation and scaling-up of R&I results <p>Following these objectives the expected impact is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ capacity building in cities to drive sustainable development and foster the uptake of new solutions in cities across Europe ▪ support European industry, planning and urban construction to respond to similar issues in all cities worldwide ▪ contribute scientific evidence to the implementation of the UAEU and other international, European or national urban-related policies ▪ support implementation of internat., EU, national and local urban policies ▪ develop a transversal vision, shape an urban R&I innovation eco-system and advance the related portfolio of R&I instruments <p>The role of R&I to achieve these objectives and impacts lies not only in creating new (technological) solutions but in creating capacities to implement these in full scale. This requires research and science-policy cooperation in the fields of new governance models, public sector innovation, social, socio-economic and socio-technical innovations, new kinds of business models, etc. to ensure sustainable investments and a substantial transformation of urban systems. Urban development is a long-term ambition with investments planned and realised over years and decades. At the same time, urban matters will remain key priorities for our development in the decades to come. However, the strategic and thematic priorities identified here are oriented towards 2026.</p>
Necessity test: rationale for a European Partnership	<p>The SSI-CC partnership with its proposed thematic scope and portfolio of implementation measures adds and complements the activities of the Framework Programme for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is systemic, circular and cross-sectoral, addressing not only matters of energy or mobility but also environmental issues, health, social aspects, including nature-based solutions, urban agriculture, urban planning in a wider sense up to urban governance and participation. The partnership focuses in particular on conflicting issues across those areas and sectors which are crucial to achieve urban transformation⁴. ▪ The cooperation of Member States allows to create, support and mobilise national communities and reach out towards cities and urban stakeholders that can hardly be mobilised for EC activities, consider the diversity of national urban contexts and cross-sector activities towards enhancing impact and implementation of R&I results. ▪ While the Framework Programme focuses on funding projects, mainly large-scale ones, the SSI-CC partnership widens not only the type of projects to include smaller and mid-sized cities, it also includes a portfolio of implementation measures beyond joint calls. High emphasis is given to

³ The SRIA 2.0 was published in 02/2019 and is implemented in cooperation of 20 MS. Key dilemmas relate to urban robustness, digitalisation and urban governance, sustainable urban planning and infrastructures, inclusive public spaces.

⁴ This is proven by the current cooperation of JPI Urban Europe with various DGs (RTD, ENER, MOVE, Regio) and societal challenges (SC3, 4, 5, 6).

	<p>dissemination, capacity building and scaling-up of solutions, stakeholder involvement, science-policy cooperation, experimentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It does not only allow to increase and align R&I funding but also aligns EU and national R&I programmes and strategies. This includes measures towards Widening countries as a contribution to strengthening the ERA⁵. ▪ The partnership is a hub for international cooperation on sustainable urban development. It builds upon the relationships of the JPI Urban Europe network and collaboration with China, US, Brazil and Belmont Forum.⁶
Relevant for the following parts of Horizon Europe	<p>Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Health</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Culture, creativity and inclusive society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Civil Security for Society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Digital, Industry and Space</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Climate, Energy and Mobility</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cluster</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pillar III 'Innovative Europe'</p>
Currently identified links with other partnership candidates / Union programmes	<p>The SSI-CC partnership aims at following links and contributions to other partnerships or Union programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish links to sectoral partnerships, e.g. Clean Energy Transitions⁷, Built Environment and Construction, Mobility and Safety for Automated Road Transport, Biodiversity and Food Systems. While these partnerships are focusing on solutions for specific sectoral issues partly related to urban development, the SSI-CC partnership aims to put these into the wider urban context, address potential conflicts and synergies in implementing those solutions under principles of quality of life, inclusiveness, cross-sector governance and build capacities in cities, policy and society. ▪ Contribute to the Intervention Area of Cities and Communities by aligning national efforts, strategies and programmes, mobilising cities and urban actors that usually do not participate in Union programmes⁸, including widening countries and increasing impact and added value for Europe. ▪ Support the development and implementation of the European mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities. Achieving any possible mission in this mission area will require actions on European, national, regional and local level. Joint efforts of EC and MS will be required to mobilise urban actors, address scientific, organisational, legal or structural issues at appropriate levels and disseminate, exploit R&I results across European cities. ▪ Create synergies with Structural Funds and contribute to the Knowledge pillar of the European Urban Initiative. Such synergies could comprise mobilising Widening countries to participate in R&I activities as well as follow-up implementation measures through UAEU, structural investments or other DG Regio programmes.
Does the proposed partnership build on currently active ones?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The intergovernmental R&I initiative JPI Urban Europe, with its 20 European partner countries (and additional international cooperation partners). The JPI Urban Europe partners have approved the SRIA 2.0 end of 2018 and started into the implementation phase 2020-2026.

⁵ The existing Member States network was gradually expanded towards Widening countries, now involving Romania, Poland, Cyprus, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia and Portugal.

⁶ Two international calls have been implemented so far – one with Belmont Forum (in cooperation with H2020, EN-SUGI), one with NSFC, China (stand-alone call). Follow-up activities are under discussion.

⁷ A cooperation with the SET Plan Action 3.2 Smart Cities is already established and under implementation

⁸ An evaluation of JPI Urban Europe projects showed that a substantial share of cities active in these projects is not participating in H2020 projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Member States Initiative Smart Cities that published its implementation plan 2019-2025 in spring 2018.
Expected type and composition of partners	<p>While the core partners of the SSI-CC partnership are ministries, research councils and/or funding agencies to ensure funding of joint actions, a wide set of stakeholders need to be involved in the partnership implementation. Such stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research networks, such as the Urban Europe Research Alliance and the European Energy Research Alliance to align R&I strategies and agendas. ▪ City networks, e.g. Eurocities, ERRIN, Covenant of Mayors, as partners to co-create actions and act as multipliers to disseminate and implement results ▪ Urban stakeholders including city authorities, urban infrastructure providers, business, entrepreneurs, social innovators, societal organisations, NGOs, etc. Such actors are mobilised for R&I projects, for co-creation of calls and activities, engaged through highly interactive stakeholder platforms ▪ National outreach to urban and rural stakeholders is seen as essential to bring EU and transnational results to national, regional and local levels. This allows mobilising new actors for R&I projects and strengthens the up-take and implementation of results in sectoral and urban policies. ▪ Efforts to include more Widening countries are taken and will be continued.
Contributions and commitments expected from partners	<p>As the SSI-CC partnership builds upon existing networks and their current R&I strategies and agendas as well as portfolio of activities. Commitments comprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding of R&I projects ▪ Investment in programme management, in cash and in-kind contributions ▪ In-kind contributions on national level for coordination, consultations, dissemination, community building, etc. <p>To demonstrate the countries commitment, the track record of JPI Urban Europe can be given. Since 2012 annual calls have been launched, three out of seven calls in cooperation with H2020. So far, nearly 100 million Euro national budget have been allocated, about 85 million Euro spent to fund 84 projects. In addition, about 750.000 Euro are invested annually in the governance of JPI Urban Europe. A similar concept is established for the SET Plan Action 3.2.</p>
Currently envisaged implementation mode(s).	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Co-programmed European Partnership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-funded European Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Institutionalised European Partnership </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Article 185 <input type="checkbox"/> Article 187 <input type="checkbox"/> EIT-KIC </p>
Justification of the implementation mode	<p>A co-funded partnership is seen as appropriate mechanism for implementing the SSI-CC partnership for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stepping up the efforts for urban transitions in view of SDGs and the UAEU requires funding along the entire innovation chain. This requires the strong engagement and commitment of national R&I programmes and funders. ▪ It ensures alignment of EU and national R&I programmes and funds, allows to mobilise and support local, national and transnational communities and leverages impact of the urban mission on all territories. ▪ Urban transitions do not only call for actions on the level of individual stakeholders, but concerted actions on national, regional and local level. ▪ The governance model of a co-funded partnership will allow decision making on investments and funding on MS level with the required flexibility for different national settings and programmes, while other partners and stakeholders will be involved through a portfolio of instruments. Experiences with such a governance model are available in JPI Urban Europe.
Proposed starting year	2021