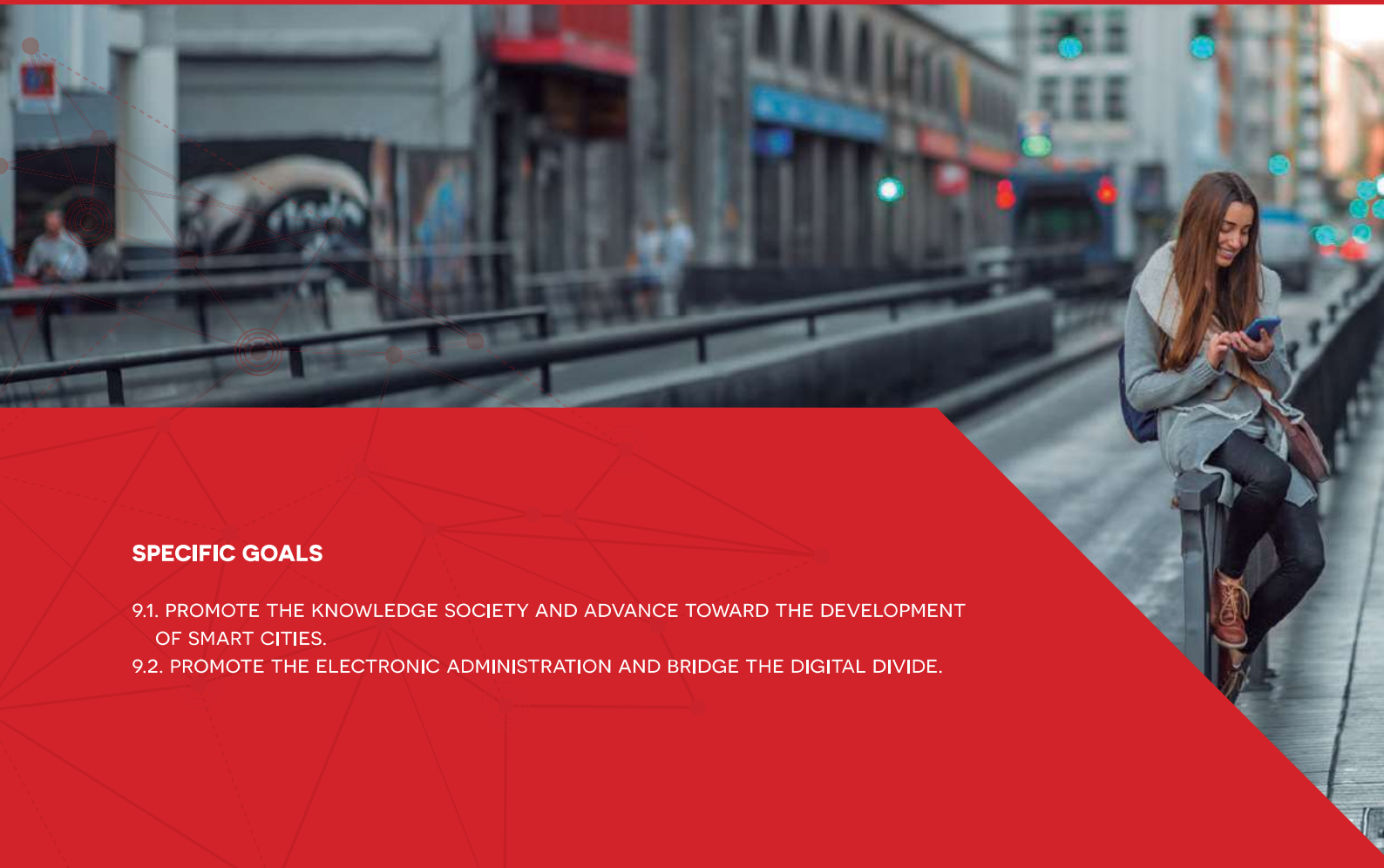# 9

LEADING AND ENCOURAGING DIGITAL INNOVATION

SPECIFIC GOALS

9.1. PROMOTE THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY AND ADVANCE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART CITIES.

9.2. PROMOTE THE ELECTRONIC ADMINISTRATION AND BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

The use of new technologies is undoubtedly one of the main challenges that must be addressed now to reduce current uncertainties and, at the same time, increase the ability to anticipate what is required by the future. The Digital Age is defining a different world, one in which people, information and things are being connected at an unprecented intensity and speed that we have to adapt to. Technological innovation, and especially digital technology, are the true driving force behind the change processes in society and will continue to be so in the future. The Internet of Things, big data, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, e-commerce, 5G connectivity and autonomous driving are just some of the great trends that we are witnessing now, all of them the result of unprecedented technological advances that are beginning to define a different world. And each of these advances has an enormous capacity to yield processes of change in cities, but not only in cities.

When talking about the Smart City, we have to connect this concept not only to digital innovation, but also to the ability to offer, mainly to citizens, spaces for coexistence and personal, professional and social development of the highest value, well-being and competitiveness. And this requires not limiting ourselves to big cities. It can be an objective in itself, regardless of the size of the population. In fact, new technologies have an enormous influence on multiple aspects of well-being. One of them, which must not be ignored, is direct participation and governance. Nowadays, Spain is one of the most advanced countries in the world in terms of the number of open data portals that offer understandable and accessible data to everyone using standard formats for professionals and researchers. This requires transforming data so that they may be of interest to the general public, but also, allowing access to processing algorithms so that the forms and depth of the information are open to everyone.

All of these aspects impact the need to link sustainable urban development with the knowledge society.

As part of the process of economic and production diversification that should take place in Spanish society (traditionally characterised by the dominant presence of the construction and tourism sectors), it is essential to consider other futures that are not restricted to one or two specific industries. And it is evident that Smart Cities are an important part of these issues. Through their broader approach, not linked just to new technologies, Smart Cities must help us reach a consensus and implement a vision of the future for both the cities and the people who inhabit them.

The specific goals and lines of action proposed to achieve this goal are as follows:

SPECIFIC GOAL

9.1. PROMOTE THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY AND ADVANCE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART CITIES.

LINES OF ACTION

- Promote the development of **smart tourist destinations** as a specific case of Smart Cities working toward the sustainable development of urban and rural tourist destinations.
- Adopt measures, through plans or strategies that promote the incorporation of new information technologies (Big Data and Data Mining, Artificial Intelligence), into urban management so as to progress toward **a smart urban model.** Strategies **should also be set up to work on a model** for smart territories.
- **Promote the digitisation of cities and urban services through efficient and sustainable models based on smart digital management platforms.**
- Facilitate access to mobile communications networks by modifying and adapting regional and local regulations to the new national regulation in this area.
- **Promote public spaces** as the backbone for citizens to **access new technologies.**
- Consider the deployment of **electronic communications as a basic tool** for cities that must be part of the structuring determinations of planning instruments.
- Promote **clean technologies** in information and communication processes and in smart transport systems, as well as in the efficient and sustainable management of city resources (energy, water, waste and urban environment).
- Strive for the economic and competitive development of the city through innovation, technology and better use of social and human capital.

SPECIFIC GOAL
9.2. PROMOTE THE ELECTRONIC ADMINISTRATION AND BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

LINES OF ACTION

- Foster **open and transparent governance** (open data portals) that relies on technology to achieve quality and efficient services and activities, and to encourage **citizen participation** in the decision-making processes that affect the city.
- Promote the existence of **open information portals** that provide access to raw and unprocessed data, that can offer reliable results and that also encourages the exchange of information between cities.
- Establish **mechanisms and strategies for ranking and standardising information** such that it is comparable in space and time and accessible to all.
- Expand **electronic administration** services by facilitating administrative procedures for citizens and companies.
- Adopt **technological innovation** measures with applications that bring citizens closer to public

services. This is also related to electric and autonomous vehicles.

- ✔ Have **digital literacy strategies** for vulnerable groups (long-term unemployed, elderly people, etc.) in order to bridge the digital divide.
- ✔ *Improve specialised training* in these subjects, both for public employees and for society in general.

The **descriptive data** related to strategic goal #9, "*Leading and encouraging digital innovation*", are as follows:

▌STRATEGIC GOAL #9. **RELATED DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

D.01	Population change	**D.06**	Population density in urban land	**D.08**	Housing density
D.22	Ageing of the population	**D.26**	Number of workers	**D.27**	Number of establishments
D.39	Urban agenda, strategic planning and Smart cities				

The relationships between this strategic goal and the SDGs and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international projects can be summarised as follows:

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA	17 SDGS: GOALS		NEW INTERNATIONAL URBAN AGENDA	EUROPEAN URBAN AGENDA (PARTNERSHIPS)	EDUSI SPECIFIC GOALS 14–20
9.1. Favour the society of knowledge and move towards the development of Smart Cities		**9.5** Scientific research, technological capacity	66; 150; 151; 157	Digital Transition (Smart Cities)	S.G.2.3.3. Promote information technologies in integrated urban strategies, including Local Electronic Administration and Smart Cities
9.2. Promote the Electronic administration and bridge the digital divide		**5.b** Use of technology and ICT	156		