



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



MedCités  
MedCités

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 MedCités, 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://urbantransitionsmiission.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 in Consell de Cent (TBC)

## Draft Agenda

Date: 9 NOV 2023

Venue: Barcelona, Gran Via, CC1, Room 1.5

Setting: Classroom, 50-70 participants

Time and content	Session	Speakers
09.30-10.00	Get together	
<b>10.00 - 11.00 Session I</b> Moderation: UfM (TBC) The Urban Transition Mission and the relevance of the Mediterranean region (international-transnational level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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?</li> <li>➤ Which steps can they take to become part of this joint endeavour?</li> </ul>	Welcome/Opening	<b>Ms Barbara Pons Giner</b> Commissioner for Strategic Projects and the 2030 Agenda Barcelona City Council
	Opening by UTMC	<b>Ms Elli Tzatzanis Stepanovic</b> UTMC coordinator, Austrian Research Promotion Agency
	MedCities	MedCities: TBC
	EC: MI framework  UTM: goals, activities, etc.	Ms Giorgia Rambelli (TBC) Director UTM
11.00-11.15	Coffee/café/qahwa	
<b>11.15 - 13.00 Session II</b> Moderation: UTMC Ms Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic  Exploring Urban Transitions in the Mediterranean: Common challenges in the Mediterranean region and best practice examples of urban transition approaches (transnational-national level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Which are common trends, peculiarities and challenges in the Mediterranean region and how can cities join forces?</li> <li>➤ What can be learned from the first Mediterranean UTM cities?</li> <li>➤ Which recommendations can be shared?</li> </ul> Case studies of UTM cities in the Mediterranean region (e.g. Chefchaouen, Casablanca, Valencia)  Case studies of other cities	1) Mobility  2) Energy and Buildings  3) Urban Health	Ms Adele Newman (TBC) EIT Urban Mobility Mr Mark Nieuwenhuijsen (TBC) Director of Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative at ISGlobal
	UTM cities representatives: Chefchaouen (Morocco), Casablanca (Morocco), and Valencia (Spain)	
	City representatives: Cyprus, Tunisia, etc.	
	Closing of the morning session	UfM, UTMC

13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
<b>14.00 - 15.45 Session III</b> Moderation: EUROCITIES (TBC) Policy panel on stakeholder engagement (national-regional level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How can policy-making and stakeholder engagement be synergistic and fruitful?</li> <li>➤ Which joint discussions and actions will be indispensable for complementary solutions in urban transitions?</li> </ul>	Policy panel discussion	ENoLL & speakers
15.45-16.00	Tea/te/shay	
<b>16.00 - 16.30 Session IV</b> Relevant initiatives, partners and organisations in the region to support urban transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Which initiatives, projects and organisations offer services, expertise and funding for urban transitions?</li> <li>➤ What does it mean to think globally and to act locally?</li> <li>➤ Wrap-up and Closing</li> </ul>	Roundtable discussion on supporting initiatives	MedCITIES, UfM, Metropolis, NetZeroCities (TBC)
	Showcasing UTMC Platform Updates: Case Studies, Best Practices Recommendations and next steps Closing	<b>Mr Karel Van Oordt</b> , Eurocities, UTMC partner <b>Ms Elli Tzatzanis Stepanovic</b> , FFG, UTMC coordinator

## 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!](#)