



## Event Details

### Title of Event

Implementing the Urban Agenda – The role of the digital transformation and financing mechanisms

### Organization Details

**Organization:** European Commission, Union for the Mediterranean, European Investment Bank, French Development Agency and Open and Agile Smart Cities

**Organization Country:** Spain

### Summary

The event will raise awareness on the growing synergy between the Urban Agenda for the EU and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Urban Agenda in integrating urban infrastructure and services in the Euro-Mediterranean region, by showcasing the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) as a catalyst and facilitator to this end. At the same time, the session will highlight how the Urban Agenda for the EU has recognised the role of the digital transformation and how the implementation of interoperable, standard-based urban digital platforms could facilitate the scaling up of digital solutions. The session will showcase cities in different parts of the world that have benefitted from these digital enablers and demonstrate the impact of the funding mechanisms to replicate cases in other places.

The event will bring together key urban development actors for the implementation of the evolving UfM Action Plan for Sustainable Urban Development for 2020s through bankable programmes and projects with regional added value, which would maximise opportunities and alleviate challenges for sustainable urban development in the region.

The session will also present the pathway towards an 'EU ecosystem for the communities of the future', built on open, digital and trustworthy urban platforms, while at the same time respecting citizens' digital rights. It will demonstrate how a set of principles and open standards, endorsed by numerous European cities, could be re-used by cities and communities in other parts of the world. As such, the session aims to trigger the interest of potential partners that may wish to re-use some of the presented European solutions.

The groundwork for a UfM Action Plan is already underway. This Action Plan will enhance regional interaction, cooperation and convergence, foster inclusive and sustainable development, reinforce and expand the stakeholder base, and align the UfM work with other regional and global action agendas and best practices. To implement innovative projects at local level that often combine urban development, housing, air quality, mobility, energy efficiency and public services, the role of digital technologies cannot be underestimated. At the same time, however, sufficient investment is needed to launch and sustain innovative urban digital projects.

The UfM has been successful in identifying and sharing good practices and in mobilising financing instruments, such as UPFI. UPFI identifies and prepares potentially replicable and innovative integrated urban projects, in order to accelerate their implementation and enable them to become bankable. The initiative offers technical assistance for project preparation and subsequent access to funding.

## Other Organization name

### Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)

	First name	Last name	Role	Organization
1	Wallis	Goelen Vandebrock	Welcoming speeches	Senior Expert to the Deputy Director-General of Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development, European Commission, DG REGIO
2	Amb. Ayşe	Asya	Welcoming speeches	Deputy Secretary-General for Transport and Urban Development, Union for the Mediterranean
3	Martin	Brynskov	Moderator	Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC)
4	Peter	Diry	Panellist	Minister Counsellor for Digital Policy, EU delegation to the United Arab Emirates
5	Gerry	Muscat	Panellist	Head of Urban Development Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank (EIB)
6	Noureddine	Selmi	Panellist	Minister of Equipment Housing and Territorial Planning, Tunisia
7	Roberto	Rocco	Panellist	Associate Professor of Spatial Planning at the Delft University of Technology, in The Netherlands
8	Frédéric	Audras	Panellist	Head of Urban Development Department, French Development Agency (AFD)
9	Lena	Weiler	Panellist	Senior Expert on urban development and and Head of the International Building Exhibition project, German Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
10	Davor	Meersman	Panellist	CEO of Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC)
11	Takehiko	Nagumo	Panellist	Co-Founder & Director of Smart City Institute Japan