

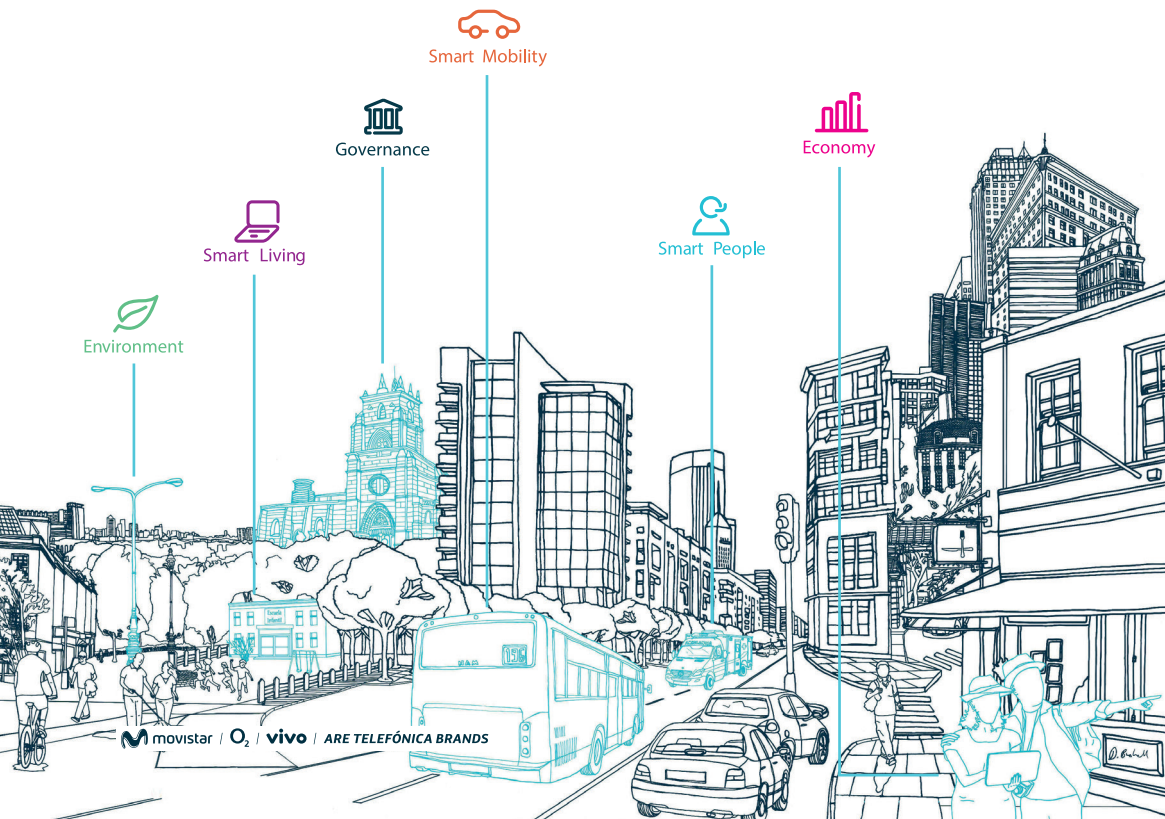
*Telefónica*

One city.  
Hundreds of *possibilities*

## **SMART CITIES**

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE**

The city as a platform for Digital Transformation



## The city as a platform for Digital Transformation

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The 21st century is going to be the century of cities. The world is undergoing the largest wave of **urbanization**: more than half of the population is now living in the cities. The **digital revolution** is leading us to a hyper-connected world and a sharing society. Hence, the **Smart City** concept, at the confluence of these two mega-trends is especially relevant.

Europe, well-positioned in the development of its cities, has now the opportunity to **leverage the city as a platform for digital transformation of the economy and the society**. Latin America can take advantage of the digital transformation to meet the economic and social challenges ahead.

New technologies allow the **improvement of the citizens' quality of life** and a more **efficient delivery of services by public administrations**, in an **environmentally sustainable way**. Besides, there is an **opportunity** to go beyond. Cities are meant to become a fundamental tool for the development of **public policies** and economic growth in the coming years.

Cities have always managed to adapt to new challenges. Now it is the time to address the **cities' new digital ecosystem**, to respond to environment the citizens. The digital revolution will allow the **Smart City to be at the heart of a new digital ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship**, expanding and transforming the information of citizens and organizations.

Cities must provide a **digital infrastructure, a platform for digital services**. This will allow not only the provision of nowadays services, but the development of new services by any provider or entrepreneur supported on a common digital infrastructure of the city. The city may thus foster a flourishing, creative, innovative and entrepreneurial digital ecosystem that will lay **foundations for future economic growth**.

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The city platform must be set up to **facilitate synergies** and ensure **interoperability** with other services and systems such as transport, energy, health, etc. We need to **encourage innovation** based on an **open platform** and **open data**, promoting the city as a **living lab for the Internet of Things** and a **tech hub**.

Europe has the **opportunity to repeat the success of the GSM standard**, developing a **digital single market of applications and services for cities and industries**, attractive to European developers and entrepreneurs.

To do so, Europe must **promote an open platform for the city**, thereby generating the necessary **scale** and encouraging the **creation of ecosystems** in which the development of solutions arises not only from the city, but also from citizens and organisations.

In short, there is an opportunity to promote a shared vision and ensure the leadership of our cities, enterprises and industries, developing six areas of work in Europe.

## Action Programme

1 Foster Smart Cities to put into practice Large Scale Pilots (LSPs) and promote the development and adoption of Internet of Things solutions through:

1/ Innovative sample projects ("leading by example")

2/ The aggregation of demand and advanced procurement mechanisms in the public sector.

2 Promote a horizontal open platform standard in order to overcome fragmentation and encourage the development of a competitive offer and a balanced ecosystem, allowing the necessary scale.

The FIWARE open platform is becoming the *de facto* standard adopted by cities. It has been developed upon the basis of the European Future Internet initiative, conducted in partnership with industry. Its main aim is to promote the creation of an open and sustainable ecosystem based on standards, easing the development of smart applications in different sectors among others Smart Cities, Smart Industry, Smart Agrifood, Smart Energy.

3 Endorse data sharing and the use of open data in a safe and reliable manner, stimulating data-driven digital development ("Economy of Data")

4 Promote acceleration and funding programs for start-ups and SMEs launching new products and services for the city and industries, particularly those related to the Internet of Things. Ensuring that SMEs can gain access to the technology platforms and open data necessary for the development of innovative applications and services.

5 Encourage public-private models of relationship and new patterns for the more effective management of innovation and take-up actions (e.g. public-private partnerships, pre-commercial public procurement schemes and public procurement of innovative solutions)

6 Integrate city initiatives to stimulate the scale and the development of communities of agents around open horizontal platforms, supporting the creation of networks and interaction, the exchange of good practices and promoting skills and training activities (e.g. Open Agile Smart Cities (OASC))

For further information:

<https://www.telefonica.com/en/web/public-policy/economic-growth>

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