

## EWRC and Living-in.EU Digital Assembly 2024

**Location:** Brussels, CoR premises, Jacques Delors Building

**Date:** Wednesday 9 October 2024 – 14:30 to 16:00

**Duration:** 1h30

### What is Living-in.EU?

Living-in.EU is a network of local, regional, and national governments, helping them use digital technology to achieve their sustainability and climate neutrality goals. It was launched in 2019 with the support of the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions as the first and only multi-level governance network on digital transformation. It currently has [170 signatories](#) and is open to all municipalities, regions, and Member States across the EU.

### EU institutions supporting Living-in.EU Digital Assembly

- European Commission: DG CNECT C3 Unit, HoU Martin Bailey, Deputy HoU Helen Koepman
- CoR: Marek Bobis and Anke Schuster, co-chair of the Living-in.EU Monitoring and Measuring Working Group

The Living-in.EU Steering Board, the governance body of Living-in.EU, unanimously voted in favour of holding the movement's annual Digital Assembly during the EWRC 2024. The group is co-chaired by Eurocities and DG CNECT Unit C3, 'Technology for Smart communities', with representatives from the CoR, OASC, ERRIN, ENoLL and CEMR.

### What is the Living-in.EU Digital Assembly?

The Living-in.EU Digital Assembly is the political advisory body of the Living-in.EU movement. It is co-chaired by **Mayor Lluïsa Moret Sabidó**, from the City of Sant Boi de Llobregat, and **CoR Member Mirja Vehkaperä**, Chair of the City Board of Oulu. It meets once per year, and the annual event is the opportunity for all EU mayors, regional presidents, and other stakeholders to debate the political priorities of the movement and to provide strategic orientation in support of the twin green and digital transformation of EU cities and communities.

### Theme for the 2024 edition of the Living-in.EU Digital Assembly

The overall theme of the event will be centred on **highlighting regions' and cities' remaining needs for digital transformation**, and on **providing key messages to the incoming Commission**. The panel '*Digital innovation ecosystem with a people-centred approach*' will be articulated around two topics:

- **Fostering technological innovation ("city and region as a platform")**. Speakers will discuss ways to facilitate technological innovation development to boost local economies and to support European regions in the modernisation of their economies, in line with the ambition of the cohesion policy investment, by giving public authorities a more active role in the innovation ecosystem;
- **People-centred digital transformation**. Panellists will debate how to ensure a secure, inclusive, and democratic digital transformation which protects digital rights and helps bridging the digital divide to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the mission letter of Commissioner Ferreira and the need to support the regions and people most affected by the twin transition.

Draft programme

<p><b>14:30 – 14:40</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome</b>            Chair of the Board <b>Mirja Vehkaperä</b>, City of Oulu, Member of the CoR            Mayor <b>Lluïsa Moret i Sabido</b>, Sant Boi de Llobregat</p>
<p><b>14:40 – 14:50</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote speech</b>  <b>Guido Rink</b>, Vice-Mayor of the municipality of Emmen, Member of the CoR</p>
<p><b>14:50 – 15:25</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel discussion – Digital innovation ecosystem with a people-centred approach</b>             Moderated by <b>Andre Sobczak</b>, Secretary General of Eurocities   <i>with the participation of:</i>             Chair of the Board <b>Mirja Vehkaperä</b>, City of Oulu, Member of the CoR            Mayor <b>Lluïsa Moret i Sabido</b>, Sant Boi de Llobregat            Regional representative (TBC)  <b>Arnis Gulbis</b>, Director, Riga Digital Agency</p>
<p><b>15:25 – 15:50</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exchange with the room and ‘Join, Boost, Sustain’ Declaration’s signing ceremony</b></p>
<p><b>15:50 – 16:00</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusion</b>            European Commission representative</p>

Interpretation will be available for the meeting in **English, Spanish and French**.