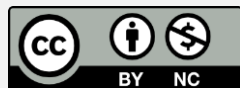


LIVING-IN.EU | GO-LI.EU

Annual plan working group 2026



This work is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>



Education and Capacity Building Working group

The role of the **Education and Capacity-building working group** is:

- **Enhancing administrative capacities:** We aim to empower public administrations to harness digitalisation effectively, avoiding technology or vendor lock-in.
- **Skills identification:** We support the identification of new skills required by public authorities, facilitating workforce upskilling accordingly.
- **Citizen-centric design:** We promote citizen-centric design approaches as a vital competence for public sector intermediaries and policymakers.
- **Co-creation and participation:** We develop a culture of co-creative, participative and cross-sector approach to designing and implementing smart and sustainable local solutions.
- **Digital education access:** We strive to provide citizens with access to platforms that facilitate digital education and skills development, enabling them to benefit from smart city solutions and participate in decision-making processes.
- **Knowledge sharing:** We facilitate and coordinate activities focused on knowledge sharing, communication, dissemination, and consultancy. Our goal is to scale successful digital solutions through a participatory, cross-domain approach.
- **Collaborative acceleration:** We seek to leverage opportunities and exchanges with projects that can accelerate deployment, including collaboration with Digital Innovation Hubs.

Main results 2025

1st meeting: Living-in.EU: Shape & Contribute to the Working Groups' plans 2025!

- Target: Living-in.EU signatories & supporters
- Joint meeting of all WGs

2nd meeting: Exploring Large Language Models (LLMs) in Action: Responsible Language Technology for Amsterdam's Municipal Use Cases

- Target: Living-in.EU signatories & supporters, CommuniCity pilot teams
- [Event recording](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Report](#)

3rd meeting: Navigating the Digital Shift: Upskilling Public Authorities

- Target: Living-in.EU signatories & supporters
- [Event recording](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Report](#)

Main results 2025

4th meeting: The Living Lab Approach for Vulnerable Communities

- Target: Living-in.EU signatories & supporters, CommuniCity pilot teams
- [Event recording](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Report](#)

5th meeting: AI for Smarter Cities: Understanding the Basics and real-world Applications

- Target: Living-in.EU signatories & supporters
- [Event recording](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Report](#)

Main results 2025

2026 Uptake Actions

- **Application:** Strengthen cities' capacity to identify and prioritise relevant funding opportunities, and effectively link them to municipal objectives and long-term digital transformation goals.
- **Collaborative Acceleration:** Facilitate knowledge exchange on emerging initiatives such as the Citiverse EDIC, highlighting concrete benefits, opportunities for engagement, and synergies with existing city strategies and projects.
- **Facilitation & Coordination:** Enable peer learning and exchange on how cities use participatory and co-creation methods to scale digital solutions across domains, supporting adoption, replication, and long-term impact.

Lessons learned 2025

Lessons Learned:

- **Online audience's fatigue and engagement challenges:** Engaging the signatories has proven challenging, despite the high expressions of interest.
- **Importance of direct contacts:** There's a need to identify the right contacts within each signatory organisation. Bilateral outreach might be the most effective approach.
- **Importance of collaborations:** New collaborations with organisations and consortiums is important to ensure sharing latest developments and creating strategic partnerships.

Approach for 2026:

- **Focused, time-bound engagement:** Structure a programme prioritising high-impact actions of high value to members.
- **Practical, skills-oriented workshops:** Plan hands-on workshops for concrete skills and tools (identifying funding opportunities and aligning with city and regional objectives).
- **Strategic awareness of developments:** Keep members informed about European initiatives, policy priorities, and funding shifts, to help them anticipate where EC investment in digital development is heading.

Objectives of the Education & Capacity Building Working Group for 2026

- Map the needs of the members
- Build practical capacity within cities
- Increase readiness for upcoming European funding priorities
- Strengthen peer learning on scaling digital solutions
- Maximise impact within the project's final phase

Activities and results

Activity	Results/ expected outcome	How does it contribute to the WG objectives 2025?	Link to the other working groups and/or other stakeholders	Scheduled	Activity leader
Living-in.EU: Co-create the Working Groups' plans 2026!	Identifying the needs of the members to shape the offerings of the WG for 2026, and the activities of the CBP	Mapping the needs of members for 2026.	All WGs	22 January	Eurocities
Funding Opportunities for Cities – Understanding the landscape	Capacity Building, Skills development	Build practical capacity within cities, Increase readiness for upcoming European funding priorities		18 February	ENoLL
Funding Opportunities for Cities – Lessons & what to do (and avoid) when applying	Capacity Building, Skills development	Build practical capacity within cities, Increase readiness for upcoming European funding priorities		February	ENoLL
Citiverse EDIC workshop	Capacity Building, Skills development	Increase readiness for upcoming European funding priorities		TBD	ENoLL
Citiverse Workshop – What is it	Capacity Building, Skills development	Knowledge sharing and skill building	ITU	4 March	ENoLL

Schedule of meetings or events

Date	Meeting/ event	Who is it for?	Contact person
22 January 2026	Living-in.EU: Co-create the Working Groups' plans 2026!	Living-in.EU signatories	Gabriela Ruseva (Eurocities)
18 February 2026	Funding Opportunities for Cities – Understanding the landscape	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
February 2026	Funding Opportunities for Cities – Lessons & what to do (and avoid) when applying	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
TBD	Citiverse EDIC workshop	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
4 March	Citiverse Workshop – What is it	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)

Cross-overs activities and partnerships

Activities	Together with other working group/ project/ partnership/...	Who is it for?	Contact person
Living-in.EU: Co-create the Working Groups' plans 2026!	All WGs	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
Funding Opportunities for Cities – Understanding the landscape	CERM / Dutch National Agency	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
Funding Opportunities for Cities – Lessons & what to do (and avoid) when applying	CERM	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
Citiverse EDIC workshop	Citiverse EDIC	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)
Citiverse Workshop – What is it	Virtual Worlds	Living-in.EU signatories	Danae Pantelide (ENoLL)

Risks and measures

Risk	Measure	Owner
Low engagement of the members in the activities	Personalised outreach, campaign	All
High interest, low turnout of participants	Reduce number of offerings, diversify for specific audience, increase collaborations and utilise existing opportunities	All
Courses are either too basic or too specialised	Describe the content and target group from the get-go and ask for experience confirmation for more specialised courses	All
Skill gap remains unchanged	Regular needs assessment and relevant offerings formulation	All
Insufficient knowledge sharing	Utilise more channels to share, including the knowledge base, WG forum, etc	All

Support needed to execute the workplan

What does this working group need to achieve results?

Activity	What is needed? (e.g., expertise, resources, comms)	By when?
Training session on funding opportunities	- Expertise on seeking funding approaches for cities and funding opportunities	February 2026
Training on CitiVerse	- EDIC expertise, Virtual Worlds expertise	TBD