

LIVING-IN.EU | GO-LI.EU

Annual plan Legal working group
2026



Legal Working Group

- The **Legal working group** assesses contractual and legislative measures related to the provision of a common EU framework for cross-sector and cross-border digital solutions for cities and communities.
- In 2026, the Legal working group will build on the activities of 2025, aiming to further facilitate a more in-depth understanding of European legislative measures and policy proposals, and accompany cities, regions, and communities in their implementation through dialogue and discussion, awareness raising, sharing knowledge and best practices, and presenting the main legal instruments.
- Involving legal experts and experts from local and regional administrations, the Legal working group will analyse EU legislative proposals and acts relevant for cities, regions and communities and inform signatories on activities based on legislative measures and policy initiatives.

Main results 2025

In 2025, the Legal working group continued exploring topics related to the legal aspects of smart cities and communities' digital transformation of interest to Living-in.EU signatories:

- Collaborated with the other working groups, and particularly the Financial working group, on the topic of the EDICs, in particular the LDT CitiVERSE EDIC;
- Discussed the most recent updates of the Digital Wallet legislation and pilot use cases, and their implication for cities and regions;
- Focused on the ongoing work on the EC's procurement support package;
- Explored the priorities and the upcoming legislative proposals of the new Commission, including the AI Continent Action Plan and the AI Apply Strategy. And responding to the related consultations.

Lessons learned in 2025

- Exploring key European legislative proposals is dependent on the European legislative procedure's timeline and the priorities of the new European Commission. Therefore, similarly to 2024 and 2025, in some cases, the group had to flexibly adapt its plan.
- The Legal working group aims to further explore the synergies with other Living-in.EU working groups, as well as the Digital Forum of Eurocities.
- Furthermore, it aims to involve an even larger number of signatories and build on some of the activities initiated in 2025, such as: discussing recent EU legislative proposals and acts of interest to the Living-in.EU signatories, as well as exploring the impact of policy initiatives (such as the Apply AI Strategy and the Digital Wallets) on public authorities.

Objectives of the Legal Working Group in 2025

- **More in-depth understanding of EU legislative measures and policy proposals** and their impact across cities of different sizes, regions, and member states, also in the context of the new European Commission priorities
- Understanding the **legal instruments available** to speed up the implementation of multi-country projects to achieve the objectives of the Digital Decade
- **Encouraging an ongoing dialogue, discussing common challenges and opportunities, and exchanging know-how and best practices** to tackle common legal challenges related to the adoption and scaling up of digital solutions

Legal WG: 2026 activities and results

Activity	Results/ expected outcome	How does it contribute to the WG objectives in 2026?	Link to other WG and/or other stakeholders	Scheduled	Activity leader
Develop working group work plan for 2026	Finalised work plan for 2025, published on the WG space	Establishing a structured framework for the WG's activities over the year	All Living-in.EU working groups	Q1	Eurocities
Exploring EU Apply AI instruments	Discuss the AI Toolbox and PAIR Pathway and their potential for public administrations	Understanding European legislative measures and policy proposals, and their practical implementations	All Living-in.EU working groups	Q1/2	Eurocities
Exchange of best practices on AI Act implementation and compliance	Share best practices and identify key mechanisms in cities and regions for complying with the AI Act (esp. obligations for high-risk use cases)	Discussing common challenges and opportunities, exchanging know-how and best practices	Technical working group	Q2/3	Eurocities
Digital public sovereignty in cities and regions	Discussion of key aspects and impact of legislation on cloud, procurement and open source	Understanding European legislative measures and policy proposals, and their practical implementations	All Living-in.EU working groups, BBWT	Q2/3	Eurocities
EU Digital Wallets and EU Business Wallets	Discuss updates and impact of EU digital identity initiatives, B2G data sharing and local/regional use cases	Understanding European legislative measures and policy proposals; exchange of best practices	Digital Forum at Eurocities	Q2/3	Eurocities
Evaluation of the work plan for 2026	Assessment of the activities of 2025 and ideas for the 2026 work plan	Ensuring ongoing improvement in achieving the WG's objectives	All Living-in.EU working groups	Q3	Eurocities

Schedule of meetings or events

Date	Meeting / event	Who is it for?	Contact person
22 January 2026	Develop working group work plan for 2025	Living-in.EU signatories	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Q1/2	Exploring EU Apply AI instruments	Living-in.EU signatories, Eurocities Digital Forum members	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Q2/3	Exchange of best practices on AI Act implementation and compliance	Living-in.EU signatories, Eurocities Digital Forum members	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Q2/3	Digital public sovereignty in cities and regions	Living-in.EU signatories, Eurocities Digital Forum members	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Q2/3	EU Digital Wallets and EU Business Wallets	Living-in.EU signatories, Eurocities Digital Forum members	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher

Cross-over activities and partnerships

Activities	Together with other working group/project/partnership/...	Who is it for?	Contact person
Exploring EU Apply AI instruments	Eurocities Digital Forum	Signatories	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Exchange of best practices on AI Act implementation and compliance	Technical working group	Signatories	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
Digital public sovereignty in cities and regions	Eurocities' Digital Forum, BBWT	Signatories	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher
EU Digital Wallets and EU Business Wallets	Technical working group	Signatories	Gabriela Ruseva, Ana Georgieva, Luca Kerscher

Risks and measures

Risk	Measure	Owner
Limited capacity from signatories for peer review activities	Living-in.EU communication and individual partner networks to collaborate for wide and timely dissemination of invitations	Go Li.EU, Living-in.EU partners, Eurocities Digital Forum
Involving legal/policy experts to provide contributions during webinars on (legal) impact of proposed policies and regulations	Leverage the wide Living-in.EU network by calling for interested experts to contribute on a structural level	Legal working group, Go Li.EU
Limited input for the activities	Involving cities, regions, and communities (and their experts) for production of the output, ask support from the SB/Go Li.EU Project	Legal working group, Go Li.EU
Ownership of the outputs	Harnessing overlap in membership to ensure close coordination between Legal WG and Eurocities Digital Forum	Legal working group, Go Li.EU, Eurocities Digital Forum

Support needed to execute the work plan

What does this working group need to achieve results?

Activity	What is needed? (e.g., expertise, resources, comms)	By when?
Exploring EU Apply AI instruments	Legal/policy expertise (DG DIGIT), communications, peer review capacity	Q1
Exchange of best practices on AI Act implementation and compliance	Legal expertise, policy expertise, communications	Q2
Digital public sovereignty in cities and regions	Legal/policy expertise (DG CNECT, BBWT, other experts), communications	Q2
EU Digital Wallets and EU Business Wallets	Policy expertise, legal expertise, communications	Q3