Living-in.EU
Mission Statement

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1 Mission Statement

Living-in.EU is the European movement of cities, regions, and Member states, working together to ensure an inclusive, innovative, and sustainable digital transformation.

At a time when local and regional governments are faced with growing challenges and with the rapid digitalisation of our economy and society, Living-in.EU is committed to supporting them in a "European way of digital transformation," ensuring technological innovation while respecting European values and diversity.

More than 160 cities, regions and Member States have already joined the movement and pledged to the principles and key actions of the Join, Boost, Sustain Declaration. In addition to the Declaration, Living-in.EU's political advisory body, the Mayors Digital Assembly (MDA), provides strategic orientation to the Movement. The MDA is currently co-chaired by Seppo Määttä, mayor of Oulu and Lluïsa Moret Sabidó, mayor of Sant Boi de Llobregat, elected for a mandate of two years.

At the first MDA, in June 2023, the co-chairs highlighted the importance of fostering a digital transformation which is close to citizens, democratised, and which unleashes the potential of digital technologies, while ensuring a human-centred and sustainable vision for the digital society.

Building on this basis, Living-in.EU initiated a consultation to identify the key priorities of the digital agenda in cities and regions across Europe. The following key priorities have been identified and will drive the Living-in.EU mission in the upcoming years. To each of these priorities we respond with tools and actions to support cities and regions to achieve them.

2 Living-in.EU Priorities Areas

2.1 Advancing the twin green and digital transformation at local level

Objective: Digital tools play a pivotal role in assisting local and regional governments in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and achieving their carbon neutrality goals. Cities and regions of the Living-in.EU movement aim at a more innovative use of technologies for addressing environmental sustainability challenges at local level. The two main areas where Living-in.EU signatories see the potential of leveraging new technologies are climate and sustainable mobility. One such technology is the Local Digital Twin, further supported by a Citiverse. A Local Digital Twin is virtual representation of a city's physical assets, using data, data analytics and machine learning. This technology is increasingly used to simulate scenarios, test measures, and improve policies before implementing them in the real world.

Key tools: Local digital twins and Citiverse: virtual representations of city assets, using data analytics and machine learning to simulate scenarios, test measures and involve citizens.

Living-in.EU actions: Making available and promoting a Local Digital Twins toolbox procured by the European Commission, in collaboration with the upcoming European Digital Infrastructure Consortium on Networked Local Digital Twins towards the Citiverse (LDT EDIC). This toolbox will include assessment instruments, procurement guidelines and a helpdesk to support cities and regions in developing and using local digital twins and will be made available through the Living-

in.EU platform. Strategically positioning the Living-in.EU Steering Board and the Mayors Digital Assembly to provide advice to the LDT EDIC.

2.2 Fostering technological innovation (city as a platform)

Objective: Technological innovation is not an end goal. It is about optimisation of technology and should be aimed at creating a more just, inclusive, and transformative society. Public authorities play an active role in facilitating technological innovation development and boosting local economies. Cities and regions provide a platform for technology companies to test their technology-based solutions for citizen-centric services in an urban environment. The benefits are two-fold – the city or region provides better services to their citizens and stimulates innovation that is beneficial for society. Businesses get to test their services and scale up viable products, which boosts local and regional economic development.

Key tools: Open and interoperable standards, such as the Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs) to build a European market for interoperable solutions, services, and data. Living Labs methodology to create an innovative environment that emphasizes user-driven experimentation and co-creation.

Living-in.EU's actions: Further developing standards and technical specifications for interoperability (MIMs Plus), fostering knowledge sharing, scalability, and cost reduction. Promoting compliance with those standards of upcoming digital infrastructure and projects supported by the LDT EDIC, though the Living-in.EU technical working group and Steering Board. Providing public authorities with a curated catalogue of digital transformation tools and instruments to increase their technological innovation capacities.

2.3 Better-informed policies through data

Objective: Cities and regions often face several pressing challenges (climate change, pandemics, war, inflation, food crises). An increasing number of cities and regions realise the potential of data to solve these challenges (e.g., manage the flow of people in public spaces during a pandemic), and the need to collect, process and use it in the best interest of their territory and their citizens. Fostering a more transparent and systematic management and use of quality data for informs the policy making process and improves service provision.

Key tools: Data spaces, to facilitate secure and efficient data sharing and management. Data Spaces for Smart and Sustainable Communities (DS4SSCC) Blueprint and DS4SSCC implementation action, to stimulate data interoperability and standardisation.

Living-in.EU's actions: Supporting the creation and deployment of data spaces, supporting cities and regions in navigating and implementing EU legislation on data. The data spaces implementation action will support local and regional authorities in setting up and testing a multistakeholder data governance model to make data more accessible in compliance with the highest standards.

2.4 People-centred digital transformation and digital rights

Objective: Innovative technologies have the potential to serve people, improve public services and working conditions, but the digital transformation must also be secure, inclusive, and democratic. Cities and regions need to ensure that people have access to digital technologies and the digital

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skills needed to benefit from the opportunities offered by digital services. Ensuring secure, inclusive, and democratic digital transformation, protecting digital rights, providing digital skills and bridging the digital divide should be key aspects of the digital transformation process.

Key tools: Standards for transparent use of AI and data schema algorithm registers to set common guidelines on the information collected by AI systems and their use by public authorities. Standard contractual clauses for the procurement of AI by public organisations, to ensure a transparent, accountable, and secure implementation of AI systems. Digital rights governance framework to safeguard human rights in the digital context.

Living-in.EU's actions: Promoting a more responsible use of AI compliant with EU legislation and promoting citizens' rights (e.g. procurement clauses on AI aligned with the AI act). Providing tools to measure and progressively assess public authorities' digital maturity (e.g. LORDIMAS assessment tool and interactive dashboard, testing and further development). CommuniCity grants for 100 innovative pilots leveraging AI and other emerging technologies for social inclusion in line with the needs of vulnerable communities. A Living Labs approach, to develop local/region ecosystem where citizens and stakeholders are at centre of technological evolution. Promoting digital skills development programmes as a priority in the Digital Europe programme.