Forum on
"Shaping smarter and more sustainable cities: striving for sustainable development goals"

18-19 MAY 2016
TEMPLE OF HADRIAN - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ROME
ROME, ITALY

Host:	Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico
Organizers:	UNECE · Tecnoborsa (Organization of the Italian Chambers of Commerce for the Development and Regulation of the Real Estate Economy) · Camera di Commercio Roma · 1956 2016 CCITT / ITU-T · ITU
Patronage:	MEF Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze
Sponsor:	EUROPEAN REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE EREI
Venue:	Temple of Hadrian, Piazza di Pietra, Rome
Languages:	English, Italian and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Temple of Hadrian, Rome

The main objective of this Forum is to analyse and conduct discussions on the concept of smart sustainable cities. This Forum will also aim to map current national and international initiatives in the realm of smart and sustainable cities and identify key challenges and opportunities at the local level.

During the Forum, the various standards, indicators and methodologies implemented to assess the performance of cities will also be examined along with the potential of smart sustainable cities in bolstering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- To analyse and discuss the concept of smart sustainable cities and its definitions
- To map current national and international initiatives in the realm of smart and sustainable cities and identify key challenges and opportunities also at the local level
- To tackle different approaches both in terms of standards and indicators but also methodologies to assess cities performances
- To explore the role of smart sustainable cities in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The programme of the Forum has been developed together with REM and the management team of ITU-T Study Group 20 "IoT and its applications including smart cities and communities".

Background:

The global urban population is currently estimated to approximately 3.5 billion and is projected to reach 5 billion by 2030. Two thirds of the global population will be living in cities, increasing the level of urbanization. Urbanization presents a global challenge in terms of the depletion of resources, such as land, clean water and air, and risks to sustainable development (overcrowding in cities, effects of the climate change, natural and human-induced disasters, etc.). In many countries with stable and transparent governance, over the last two decades, research has highlighted how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be used to achieve urban climate targets by lowering energy use and GHG emissions while boosting socio-economic growth. When discussing the use of ICTs for cities, reference is often made to the concept of "smart sustainable cities". The words "smart" within the concept of "smart sustainable city" is used to highlight the importance and potential of ICTs in assisting cities to introduce environment friendly urban services based technological innovation including smart transportation systems, smart healthcare, smart energy and smart education.

In the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals the Conference is aimed to identifying the economic policies to promote the economic and social development and improving the quality of life of citizens. The main features of smart sustainable cities make them an efficient tool when accomplishing the urban targets set forth in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

A number of cities around the world have already jumped on the smart sustainable city bandwagon, labelling themselves "smart" and "sustainable" in one way or another. This has made it difficult to comprehend what is actually meant by "smart sustainable city". With several researchers giving their perspective on this, it has become increasingly difficult to set the terms for identifying cities which are both "smart" and "sustainable".

In line with this, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Telecommunication Union together with other partner organizations, have joined forces and developed a common definition of a smart and sustainable city which reads:

A smart sustainable city (SSC) is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects.

Furthermore, UNECE and ITU developed a set of Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators which aim to address the issues of smart and sustainable urban development and support cities to identify priorities for action.

For more information on the event, please contact:

Ms. Domenica Carriero
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Email: domenica.carriero@unece.org
Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 16 72
Website: www.unece.org

Ms. Cristina Bueti
International Telecommunication Union
Email: cristina.bueti@itu.int
Tel: +41 22 730 6301
Website: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc