



United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative
Fourth meeting of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative
3 October 2019
Valencia, Spain

Meeting Report

1. Introduction

The [“United for Smart Sustainable Cities” \(U4SSC\)](#) is a United Nations initiative coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). U4SSC is supported by the following 13 UN Agencies and Programmes:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)
- United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations University-Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO),

U4SSC aims to help achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"**. U4SSC serves as the global platform to advocate for public policy and to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities.

The [Fourth Meeting of the U4SSC Initiative](#) was kindly hosted by the City of Valencia on 3 October 2019 in Valencia, Spain. This meeting was held during the [9th Green Standards Week](#) that took place from 1 to 4 October 2019 in Valencia, Spain.

This meeting brought together leading specialists in the field, from city planners to engineers, designers, policy-makers, government officials, regulators, academia and standards experts.

2. Objectives and Programme

The main objective of the 4th U4SSC meeting were to:

- revise the terms of reference of the U4SSC;

- present the set of deliverables developed within U4SSC in 2018 and 2019;
- provide a platform to present views on recent trends and explore opportunities to identify strategies on, inter alia, standardization, integration & interoperability to build smarter and more sustainable cities;
- deliberate on the future activities and develop an action plan for 2019-2020;
- launch the U4SSC Verification Report carried out in Pully
- launch the new U4SSC deliverable: City Science Application Framework and its 8 case studies.

The programme and the presentations of the Fourth U4SSC Initiative can be found at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/gsw/201910/Pages/programme-05.aspx>

3. Highlights of the discussions

3.1. Opening of the Meeting

Ms Blanca Gonzalez, Head of Unit from the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Digital Advancement, Spain opened the meeting, welcomed all participants and stated Spain's commitment to U4SSC and ITU's activities.

Mr Kire Ilioski, Director of Office of the Executive Secretary of UNECE provided an overview of UNECE's agenda to help cities become smarter and more sustainable and confirmed UNECE strong commitment to U4SSC.

Ms Cristina Bueti, Counsellor of ITU, highlighted ITU's commitment to U4SSC and pointed out the need to collaborate with other UN agencies, city representatives, industry leaders and policy makers to help cities become smarter and more sustainable and achieve the SDGs

Mr Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief of Legislation Unit of UN-Habitat thanked the host for their kind invitation and delivered opening remarks highlighting the importance of the U4SSC Initiative as a United Nations Initiative which provides an international platform for information exchange, knowledge sharing and partnership building, with the aim of formulating strategic guidance for cities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and implement the New Urban Agenda and other international agreements.

During the Opening Ceremony the importance of the implementation of the U4SSC key performance indicators was often emphasized as a powerful tool to help cities to shape better policies.

An Award Ceremony took place on 1 October 2019 to recognize and provide the Certificates to five of the over 100 cities that are currently implementing the U4SSC KPIs worldwide, for having successfully implemented the U4SSC KPIs. These were: Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Moscow (Russian Federation), Ålesund (Norway), Valencia (Spain), and Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

3.2. Session 1: Overview of the U4SSC Current work

Ms Cristina Bueti (ITU) moderated the session and provided a brief overview of the U4SSC initiative, its current work and future projects and activities.

Mr Tomás Llorente provided a brief overview of the current deliverable on "The impact of Frontier Technologies in Cities" which focuses on how IoT applications and smart sensors can transform different aspects of city management.

Ms Soumaya Ben Dhaou presented the deliverable on Blockchain 4 cities, which objectives are to: understand and assess the effective contribution of blockchain to develop smart sustainable cities; present the potential and transformative effect of blockchain on SSC, identify, define and assess the benefits and risks of the use of blockchain, and propose a framework for policy assessment, design and implementation of Blockchain for cities. She also highlighted the results of a questionnaire carried out in various municipalities in order to get information on the knowledge and usage of blockchain in their cities, the learning from 8 ongoing use-cases on Blockchain for cities.

Mr Okan Geray presented the deliverable on "Guidelines on Strategies for Circular Cities" which is currently on its final stage, provides a circular city strategic framework, and identify the city assets and products and its actions such as recycling, refurbishing, reusing, replacing, sharing, digitizing among others. The Guidelines also presents a strategic prioritization approach and its implementation levers for example policies, regulations, procurement, financial incentives, capability and awareness.

Mr Okan Geray presented the new deliverable on "[City science application framework](#)". The report provides a four-step methodology for cities to solve their pressing urban challenges. By using empirical evidence as the basis for evaluation, the city science application framework offers a reliable and consistent way for cities to assess, prioritize and boost their city applications.

The report includes the following [case studies](#) on city science application:

- [Air quality management in Southern California, USA](#)
- [Smart Dubai Happiness Meter in Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#)
- [Crime prediction for more agile policing in cities - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)
- [Data driven energy savings in the Hyperdome shopping centre in Queensland, Australia](#)
- [Fine dust filtration in Stuttgart, Germany](#)
- [Smart Dubai - Rashid - City Concierge](#)
- [Identifying the cascading effects on vital objects during flooding](#)
- [Unlocking the potential of trust-based AI for city science and smart cities](#)

3.3. Session 2: U4SSC Implementation Programme

Ms Kari Eik moderated the session. Ms Eik is the Leader of the U4SSC Implementation Programme, which aims to support the implementation of the U4SSC KPIs in cities, carry out projects and build partnerships, which aim to build smarter and more sustainable cities worldwide.

The session provided a brief overview of the different projects that will be developed within the U4SSC IP.

- **Bart Gorynski and Thomas Müller**, Managing Partner of BeeSmartCity presented: *Guiding the Transformation to Smart Sustainable Cities: Based on a Circular Strategic Approach*. This Guide aims at employees in municipalities as a support tool for understanding the concept of smart cities, what is a smart city, understand the stakeholders, and gives an overview of approaches to smart cities.
- **Warren Smith**, Global Digital Marketplace Programme Director of Government Digital Service, UK presented the "*Procurement Guidelines for Smart Sustainable Cities*"
- **Arno Scharl**, CEO, webLyzard technology presented on *Web Intelligence and Visual Analytics for Smart Sustainable Cities*.

- **Kristian Mjøen**, Project Manager, University City 3.0, Trondheim, Norway presented on the *National U4SSC Programme Norway*.
- **Stefan Ebner**, CEO, Braintribe presented the *United for Smart Sustainable Cities Lab*.
- **Ramon Ferri**, City of Valencia, shared briefly information on the implementation of an ITU-T Recommendation in Valencia and offered to develop a case study within U4SSC and to create a new *Thematic Group on City Platforms*. This proposal was welcomed.

3.4. Session 3: SSC projects carried out worldwide that could be included in the U4SSC IP

- **Robert Hermans**, Director, Development Regional Data Centres of Statistics Netherlands (the National Statistical Institute of The Netherlands) presented a proposal to implement the U4SSC KPIs in Curacao (an Caribbean Island that, as an autonomous country, is part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands) and, in addition, in all the 60 Small Island Development States (SIDS) worldwide, starting in 2020 as a pilot year with 2 SIDS in the Caribbean. If approved, by the Inter-american Development Bank, this project will be included as part of the U4SSC Implementation programme. A final confirmation will be provided by Mr Hermans in due course.
- **Santtu Hulkkonen**, CEO, Solved – The Cleantech Company presented remotely on *Global Digital Marketplace*.

3.5. Session 4: Launch of the U4SSC Verification Report of the City of Pully

The session was moderated by Ms Cristina Bueti, Counsellor, ITU.

Mr Alexandre Bosshard, Member of the Board of Directors, Coordinator and Project Leader of the City of Pully launched and presented the “U4SSC Verification Report of the City of Pully”. The report contains the results of the implementation of the U4SSC Key Performance Indicators in the City of Pully, Switzerland. It provides an overview of the current status of smartness and sustainability of the city of Pully.

3.6. Session 5: Terms of references and future action plan

Ms Cristina Bueti started the session by presenting the revised U4SSC Terms of Reference, which were reviewed and approved. The approved ToR are available [here](#).

Additionally, Ms Bueti presented the U4SSC Action Plan for 2019 and 2020 in which the following new deliverables and activities were introduced:

- **New U4SSC deliverables**
 - **Simple ways to be smart:** This report will provide guidelines on how cities or communities without big budgets can make use of free or cheap tech tools to become smarter. (including using of e-mail more effectively, free cloud storage solutions and other services, doing away with paper, using social media etc.)
 - **Practitioner guide to measure SSC&C:** This guide will describe:
 - How to navigate the different city indicator standards;
 - The value of using standard indicators;
 - Different types of indicators (input, process output phases.);
 - How many indicators should be tracked;

- How to choose relevant indicators
- How to use indicator data.;
- Data collection as well as best practices,

It will also assist cities to get started, even on a small scale.

- **Practitioner guide to monitor SSC&C:** This document will provide guidelines for cities and communities on how to monitor the city progress, by tracking indices over time, setting goals and benchmarks, and setting up monitoring processes. It will also contain suggestions on:

- When to participate in city indices (benefits and costs); and
- Which indices to participate in.

- **U4SSC Implementation Programme**

The U4SSC Implementation Programme (U4SSC-IP) supports the implementation of the U4SSC KPIs in cities, carries out projects and builds partnerships, which aim to build smarter and more sustainable cities worldwide.

The U4SSC-IP Leader is: Ms Kari Eik, Organization for International Economic Relations (OiER).

The following projects will be carried out within the U4SSC IP:

Project Title	Organization	Leader	Timeline
Data for Cities - A Pragmatic Approach	Smart Dubai Office	Okan Geray	2019-2020
U4SSC Country Hubs	OiER; ITU; UNECE and UN hábitat	Kari Eik	2020-2025
Data Management Platform including City/KPI Dashboard	OiER and ITU	Cristina Bueti	2020-2025
Innovation & Co-Creation LAB Vienna	OiER; Braintribe; and Austria	Stefan Ebner and Lukas Ertl	2020-2025
Innovation & Co-Creation LAB Alesund	OiER; City of Alesund; and Norway	Bente Glomset Vikhagen	2020-2025
Global City Simulation Tool	OiER; and Augment City	Joel Alexander Mills	2020-2025
Digital Co-Creation Toolbox and blue print for city solutions	OiER and Deutsche Telekom	Ole Schilling	2020-2025

Smart City Guide and Business platform	OiER and BeeSmartCity	Bart Gorynski	2020-2025
National U4SSC Programme Norway	OiER and Trondheim	Kristian Mjøen	2020-2025
City SDG Intelligence Tool	OiER; and Weblyzard	Dr Arno Scharl	2020-2025
Twin City Program	OiER; Smart Dubai Office; and ITU		2020-2025
E-Mobility Energy Calculator	OiER; and Austria Mobile Power	Heimo Aichmaier	2020-2020
Global City Solutions Marketplace	OiER and Solved	Santtu Hulkkonen	2020-2025

- **U4SSC Smart Sustainable Cities Index**

It was agreed to create a new Thematic Group to develop a U4SSC Index. Dr Barbra Kolm, Vice President of the Austrian Central Bank has been appointed as Leader. The [first meeting of the Thematic Group on the U4SSC smart sustainable cities index](#) will take place on 13 December 2019 in Vienna, Austria.

- **Smart Sustainable Cities Measurement Framework**

An initial proposal was presented by Cristina Bueti (ITU). It was agreed that this proposal will be further elaborated with support from UN-Habitat, UNECE and UNU-EGOV and will be shared with U4SSC experts in the next few weeks.

The U4SSC Action Plan contains the list of deliverables, the names of the Leaders responsible for the coordination of each deliverable and it lists the United Nations agency tasked to provide secretariat support. The Action plan was discussed and approved as contained [here](#).

4. Closure of the meeting

Ms Cristina Bueti thanked the U4SSC Management Team, U4SSC leaders, speakers and the participants for their contributions and support during the meeting. She also expressed her gratitude to the host, City of Valencia, for their excellent organization and warm hospitality.
