



5th OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ADVANCING SMART CITIES

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Co-hosted by



In collaboration with



Smart cities are rapidly adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address complex urban challenges. By the end of 2025, over 30% of smart city applications are expected to be AI-powered, transforming key aspects of city management such as mobility, housing, urban planning, land, basic services and resilience systems. Unlike earlier smart technologies that primarily gathered data, AI enables cities to interpret and apply information in real-time decision-making. Generative AI is reshaping urban planning by rapidly generating and simulating scenarios, for example to optimise land use and reduce the negative environmental impact of infrastructure. It can therefore support dynamic, data-driven decision-making and predictive modelling to anticipate and address current and future urban needs, for instance, in climate action.

While AI applications can deliver automation and efficiency gains, they also present significant ethical, legal, regulatory and environmental concerns including data privacy, service bias, accountability and sustainability. Urban policymakers face the critical task of harnessing AI's transformative potential while ensuring transparent, inclusive governance to shape the cities of the future.

This **5th OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth** will bring together key stakeholders from cities, national governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organisations to:

- **Decode** the current use of AI in urban environments;
- **Draw** insights from innovative experiences and proven strategies in leveraging AI for urban decision-making;
- **Identify** the key enablers for successful AI integration in urban development and planning; and
- **Explore** the possible futures of AI-shaped cities and their implications for inclusive growth.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:15 Welcoming remarks

Opening remarks by co-organisers

- **Soo-Jin Kim**, Deputy Head, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, OECD/CFE
- **Jong Bin Yoon**, Director of Urban Economy Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of Korea

Remarks by supporting organisations

- **Dyfed Aubrey**, Chief of Office, UN-Habitat Office for EU
- **Vera Moosmayer**, Head of Directorate S III, Spatial Planning and Regional Policy, German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building

09:15 – 10:45 Session 1: Setting the scene – Deploying AI in smart cities

Cities worldwide are integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into essential services – such as transport, energy, and waste management - to address the complex and evolving challenges of urbanisation. By transforming vast data volumes into actionable insights, AI enhances decision-making, efficiency, and sustainability - helping smart cities to become more resilient and better prepared for current and future challenges. In an era of limited resources, rising demands, and growing uncertainty, AI offers cities the potential to optimise operations and improve outcomes despite fiscal and capacity constraints. Compared to traditional AI, Generative AI brings a new dimension to urban planning by not only analysing data but also creating and simulating multiple planning scenarios in real time. This dynamic capability can help accelerate decision-making and enable more integrated, adaptive and forward-looking smart city development, while demanding a vast amount of good quality data.

AI adoption remains uneven across cities. Those with greater resources and advanced infrastructure are piloting cutting-edge AI in areas such as predictive mobility, energy optimisation, and waste management. In contrast, less-resourced cities often rely on simplified versions delivered through cloud-based services. Despite these differences, cities face common barriers including funding limitations, skills shortages, outdated infrastructure, weak data governance, and public scepticism. Concerns around data privacy, algorithmic bias, lack of transparency, and unequal access to digital infrastructure slow down AI deployment. This requires strategic planning, investment in capacity-building, robust ethical and regulatory frameworks, and sustained efforts to build public trust.

Questions for discussion:

- What is the current state of AI adoption in cities of different contexts, sizes and capabilities?
- How can local governments align AI initiatives with broader smart city goals and sustainability targets?
- What strategies have proven most effective for cities seeking to scale AI across different municipal departments and services?

Moderator and co-host: Peter Sailer, Head of Project, International Smart Cities Network, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Setting the scene: Vilas S. Dhar, President, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

Panellists:

- **Kazuko Kohri**, Mayor of Sendai (Japan)
- **Robert Thomann**, CEO Smart City Mannheim (Germany)
- **Aino-Maija Vaskelainen**, Program manager of the EU project AI4Citizens, Municipality of Tampere (Finland)
- **Gudrun Schwarz**, Senior Policy Officer, Division "Smart Cities and Regions", German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building
- **Dong-Ha Lee**, Deputy Director, Urban Economic Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (Korea)
- **Estefania Tapias**, Head of Smart & Digital at WSP Middle East

Discussant: Celine Caira, Economist, Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Digital Technologies Division, OECD/STI

10:45 – 11:15 *Coffee break and family photo*

11:30 – 12:45 **Session 2: Unlocking the potential of AI for sustainable urban development**

Cities across the globe are harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to drive sustainable urban development across multiple sectors. For example, AI applications are optimising public transport routes, enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, managing traffic flows to reduce congestion and emissions, and supporting predictive maintenance of infrastructure. Smart waste systems use AI to forecast collection needs, while real-time environmental monitoring allows for more responsive action to air and water pollution, as well as climate-related hazards. These innovations can create more resilient, low-carbon and resource-efficient cities, supporting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further opportunities to apply AI for sustainable urban development remain untapped. For example, AI models that integrate real-time urban data with citizens input could help drive localised climate action and improve heat resilience. There is also potential in applying AI for adaptive infrastructure in underserved areas. To fully realise these benefits, AI strategies must embed

sustainability at their core but also equity and transparency, beyond technological deployment.

Questions for discussion:

- What opportunities remain untapped in AI solutions designed to enhance sustainability, inclusiveness, and quality of life?
- What are the main challenges that cities face when deploying AI for sustainable urban development? How can cities manage the environmental impact of AI use and ensure AI solutions engage citizens while preventing the aggravation of existing urban inequalities?
- How could the most promising AI applications for sustainable urban development be scaled across cities with varying capacities and resources?

Moderator and co-host: Dyfed Aubrey, Chief of Office, UN-Habitat Office for EU

Setting the scene: Mato Franković, Mayor of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

***Demonstration on processing geographic data and AI:* Milene Göknur Jubin**, Co-founder & CEO, GlobeholderAI

Panellists:

- **Jan Duffhues**, Team Leader Data, Analysis and Coordination, Department of Land Use and Sustainability, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- **Gianni Rossi**, Innovation Manager, Arezzo (Italy)
- **Milan Bogunovic**, Programme Director, Digital Planning, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Digital Planning Programme (United Kingdom)
- **Silvia Verace**, Head of Public Infrastructure Development & Data Strategy – A2A E-Mobility / A2A Group
- **Gaetano Volpe**, CEO, Latitudo 40

Discussant: Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Division, Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division, OECD/CFE

12:45 – 14:00 ***Lunch break***

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 3: Enabling the adoption of AI for urban development**

Successful AI adoption in cities depends on several factors such as local conditions, institutions, and capacities. For successful AI deployment, cities need a shared strategic vision, leadership, and cross-sector collaboration. It is also essential to build AI expertise and capacity in urban planning and public service teams through training, communication, and clear ethical guidelines and accountability frameworks to ensure a more effective and responsible implementation. Moreover, funding from regional and international sources is critical to help bridge financial gaps and provide technical support, including through partnerships with universities and tech firms. Finally, effective governance

and risk management frameworks are needed to ensure AI benefits urban development while safeguarding transparency and trust.

Questions for discussion:

- How can cities build the institutional and human capacity needed to implement and manage AI systems effectively?
- What strategies can help local governments secure the necessary financial and technological resources to support long-term, sustainable AI adoption?
- What regulatory and governance frameworks, including data governance, are most effective in ensuring an ethical and inclusive use of AI in urban settings?

Moderator: Stefano Marta, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Cities, OECD/CFE

Setting the scene: Laurence Liew, Director of AI Innovation, AI Singapore

Panellists:

- **Marie Bernard**, Digital Project Manager, Nantes Metropole, (France)
- **Jürgen Spanhove**, Manager Digital Strategy & Governance, District09, City of Ghent (Belgium)
- **Elena Deambrogio**, Department of European Funds and PNRR Ecological Transition Service, City of Turin (Italy)
- **David Kim**, Associate Research Fellow, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS)
- **Thomas Cottinet**, Director of ECOLAB, Ministry of Environment (France)
- **Martin Memmel**, Head of SmartCity Living Lab, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence
- **Federico Fernandez**, CEO, URBANLY

Discussant: Lucia Cusmano, Head of Division, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD/CFE

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 4: Ways forward: AI and the future of urban development**

An AI-shaped city could feature intelligent infrastructure, adaptive transport systems, and responsive public services that continuously learn from real-time data to optimise urban life. From traffic lights reducing congestion to predictive maintenance of utilities and personalised health or education services, AI can make city operations more efficient and citizen-focused. However, retaining human agency is essential to ensure these technologies reflect public values and serve the common good. This requires transparent design processes, inclusive civic engagement, and robust governance frameworks that prioritise accountability, privacy, and equity. Human oversight must remain central, with urban planners, communities, and policymakers shaping AI deployment, setting clear boundaries, and ensuring it complements rather than overrides democratic decision-making.

An AI-shaped city should not only be smart, but also just, participatory, and adaptable, where technology enhances, rather than diminishes, people's role in shaping their shared urban future. Strategic foresight can enhance the uptake of AI in cities by helping policymakers anticipate emerging trends, risks, and opportunities, enabling informed, future-ready decisions. It encourages long-term thinking, scenario planning, and the exploration of alternative futures.

Questions for discussion:

- What does an AI-shaped city look like in different geographical contexts, and how can human agency be retained in its development?
- What potential unintended consequences could arise from the integration of AI into urban development including for vulnerable groups?
- What kinds of urban futures might emerge as AI becomes more embedded in city systems?

Moderator: Oscar Huerta Melchor, Project Manager, Smart and Sustainable Cities Unit, OECD/CFE

Setting the scene: Geoffroy Boulard, Vice-President of the Greater Paris Metropolis - Mayor of the 17th arrondissement of Paris (France)

Panellists:

- **Shuichiro Nakamura**, Director for Digital Planning and Coordination, Digital Strategy Division, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Japan)
- **Marlene Damerau**, Smart City Unit Lead, City of Gelsenkirchen, Project Lead URBAN.KI
- **Juraj Hostak**, Director General, Innovation and Strategic Development Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization (Slovak Republic)
- **Cristina Martinez Pinto**, PIT Policy Lab (Mexico)
- **George Harrington**, Urban Futures Lead, ARUP Foresight
- **Corey Gray**, President, Smart Cities Council

Discussant: Carlos Santiso, Senior Counsellor on Global Partnerships for Digital Government and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Government, OECD/GOV

17:30 – 17:45 Closing remarks

- **Jong Bin Yoon**, Director of Urban Economy Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of Korea
- **Nadim Ahmad**, Deputy Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

18:00 – 19:30 Networking

About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

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