European Commission | LIVING-IN.EU | DIGITAL TOOLBOX

Support services for EU Smart Communities

Empowering European communities in their digital journey, by providing resources, training, and collaboration opportunities

Context

- Through the **Digital Europe Programme**, the **European Commission has launched a collaborative effort to accelerate digital maturity,** with a particular focus on **cities and communities that are less digitally ready for digital transformation**. These services aim to foster the adoption of local digital twins and other digital solutions across rural and urban areas, ensuring that technology is accessible to all.

- As part of the project, 150 cities from the European Union will be supported by the Online Procurement Helpdesk to thereby get direct access to the support services for the implementation of a Local Digital Twin.

Benefits for cities and communities

- **Advisory services** to assist your city or community in developing, reviewing and preparing the implementation of a digital strategy
- A **customised digitalisation roadmap** for your city, detailing the necessary initiatives to enhance your digital capabilities
- **Expert guidance and validation** to help ensure that your digitalisation strategy is aligned with not only best practices but also EU standards and interoperability needs
- Tailored **support and guidance on the procurement process** to implement the digitalisation roadmap, including with the identification of procurement needs and future access to tailored procurement guidelines and templates

Financial commitment

Fully funded by the European Commission, this initiative covers all expenses related to support activities and assessments**.** It's important to note that while the costs for these preparatory stages are fully covered, **there isn't direct funding available for the actual implementation of the solutions.** Cities and communities looking to fund the implementation phase are advised to **explore the DEP (Digital Europe Programme) grants and funding opportunities.**

Required actions

Assemble a multidisciplinary team to efficiently respond to assessment questions and invest an estimated 2-4 days. This should include Innovation Managers (like Chief Innovation, Digital, or Technology Officers), key strategic city departments, the PMO, and specialists in IT, data, and architecture such as Data Managers, ICT Managers, IT Architects, alongside IT Procurement and Infrastructure Providers. **This comprehensive team composition ensures a well-rounded approach to addressing the assessments' requirements.**

What you will get

A **detailed and tailored digitalisation roadmap** to enhance your technical capabilities, to streamline objectives and activities, and to set up and validate investments.
Dedicated procurement support to identify objects of procurement, navigate the procurement guidelines and use the procurement templates.
The support offered is equivalent of 100+ days consulting services.
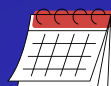
Kick off activities — LORDIMAS — Strategy Assessment — IT Infrastructure Assessment — Digitalisation Roadmap — Procurement Support — GOAL!

Onboarding of cities for support and journeys will occur until June 2025.