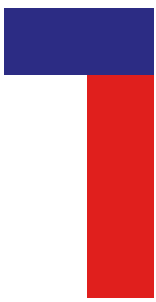


REPORT 2025

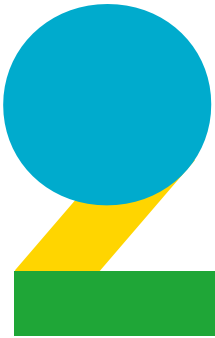


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Smart City Expo World Congress 2025

Overview and Figures
Co-Located Events



Partners

Corporate Partners
Ecosystem Partners



The Expo: The World's Stage for the Smart City Market



The Congress: Issues That Matter on the Global Urban Map



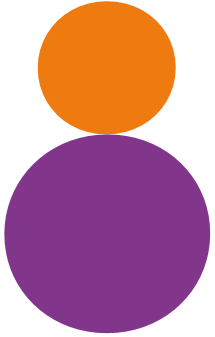
Innovation Playground & Breakout Sessions



World Smart City Awards



Sustainability and Diversity



Editions Abroad



What's Said About Us

Smart City Expo World Congress



Hope Meets Strategy

Karl Popper said that optimism is a duty. Today, as algorithms reshape our grasp of common sense and truth, optimism must also be strategic.

The 2025 edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress made it clear that people are at the center and that we somehow need to stop talking about AI to better discuss outcomes. As Tech Humanist Kate O'Neill put it, "between dystopia and utopia there's strategy to optimize for the hopes".

On this note, diverse experts highlighted the need to ask the right questions and agree that sharing best practices is a good way to advance smart cities, which are "cities that help people live better", as Ugo Valenti, Director of the Event, put at the Opening of the event.

Alongside Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress, Tomorrow.Building World Congress, and Tomorrow.Blue Economy World Congress, the event achieved record-breaking attendance once again. More than 27,104 participants from over 997 cities and 138 countries joined, with 1,190 exhibitors and 592 experts presenting strategies currently implemented around the globe to address key urban challenges.

Not only did they present practical solutions with a strong emphasis on implementation, but they also inspired hope by emphasizing that caring for one another's well-being should be our top priority.

The event's layout organized into four principal sections —the Main Stage, the Expo, where key topics were addressed across multiple stages, an Innovation Playground and spots for side events— significantly supported this objective. This structure was further enhanced by a variety of side events.

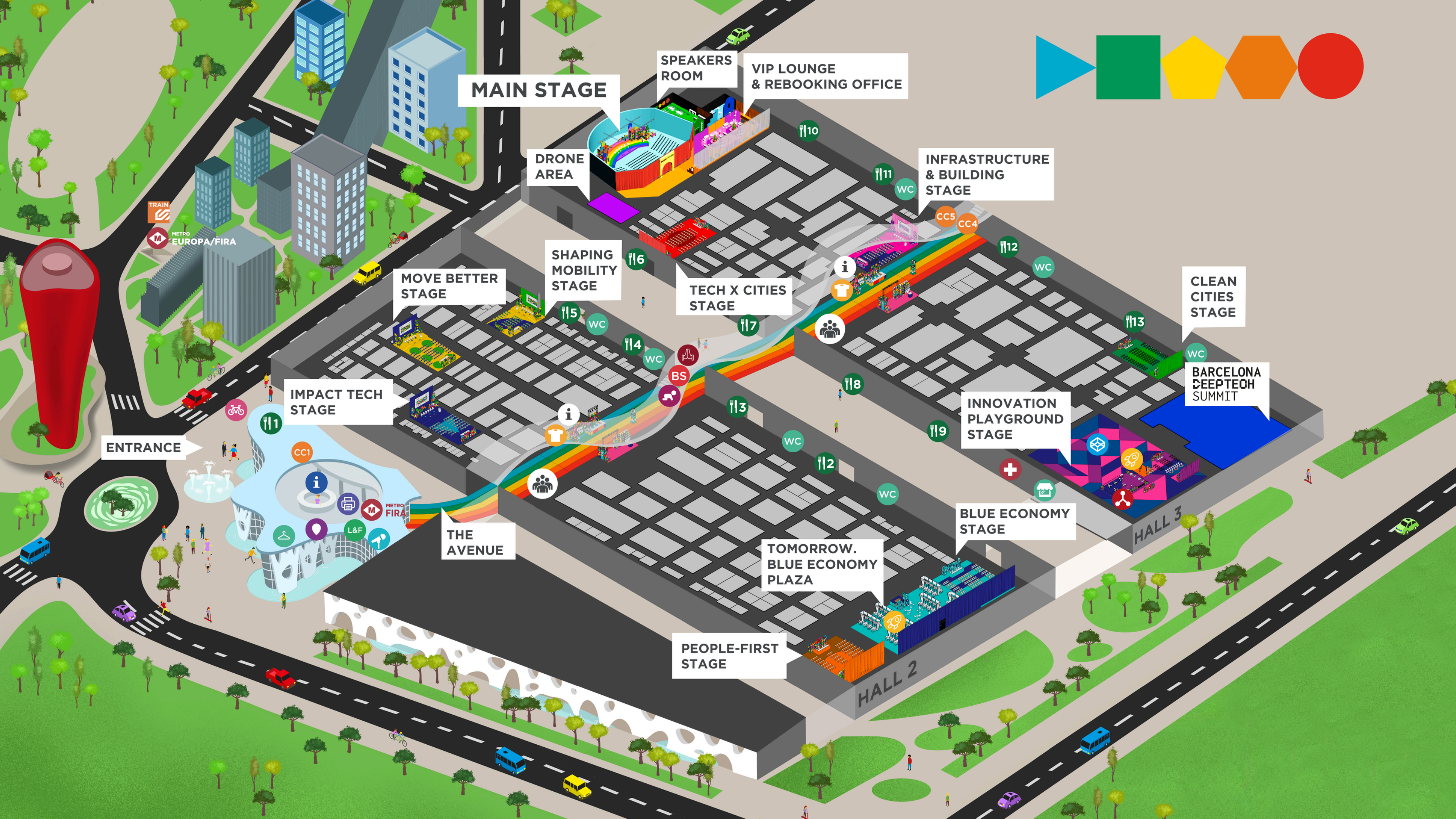
Exhibitors showcased innovative solutions within a market which is anticipated to hit \$6,061.00 billion by 2030. The idea that technology needs to serve people and not the other way round, that it's not about the AI hype anymore but about our capacity to learn, and that cities are a place for rights, democracy and climate justice pervaded the sessions both in the Main Stage and the different spots all over the Expo floor.

Furthermore, the World Smart City Awards received an unprecedented 462 submissions from 65 different countries, once again demonstrating that dedication and innovative thinking lead to success. Rome was recognized with the City Award for reimagining the Eternal City to meet the evolving needs of its people and its future. The gala also prized pioneering projects from Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Korea, Kuala Lumpur, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United States.

Barcelona also demonstrated its continued position as a leader in innovation during the show. With the slogan 'Barcelona, Living City', and featuring more than a dozen initiatives, the city's stand showcased the latest actions and forward-thinking policies that place innovation at the service of people and contribute to a city with a more responsible and sustainable outlook.

In summary, Smart City Expo World Congress 2025 stood out as our most successful edition so far, with attendees experiencing positive networking and exploring new partnerships to improve quality of life. The event is scheduled to return to Fira Gran Via venue, in Barcelona, for its 15th edition from November 3 to 5, 2026.





MAIN STAGE

SPEAKERS ROOM

VIP LOUNGE & REBOOKING OFFICE

DRONE AREA

INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDING STAGE

MOVE BETTER STAGE

SHAPING MOBILITY STAGE

TECH X CITIES STAGE

CLEAN CITIES STAGE

IMPACT TECH STAGE

INNOVATION PLAYGROUND STAGE

BARCELONA DEEPTech SUMMIT

ENTRANCE

THE AVENUE

TOMORROW. BLUE ECONOMY PLAZA

BLUE ECONOMY STAGE

PEOPLE-FIRST STAGE

HALL 2

HALL 3

TRAIN
METRO EUROPA/FIRA

METRO FIRA

CC1

CC5

CC4

110

111

112

113

115

114

117

113

118

119

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111

L&F

METRO FIRA

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THE EVENTS FOR BETTER CITIES

1,190 EXHIBITORS



592 SPEAKERS

359 SESSIONS

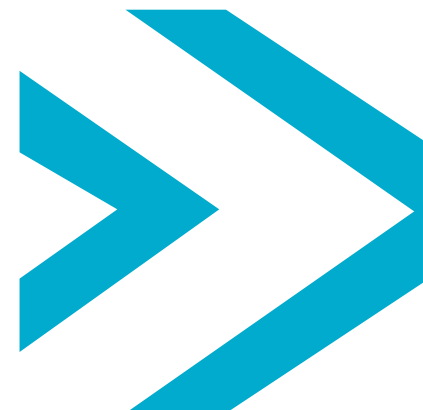
27,104 ATTENDEES



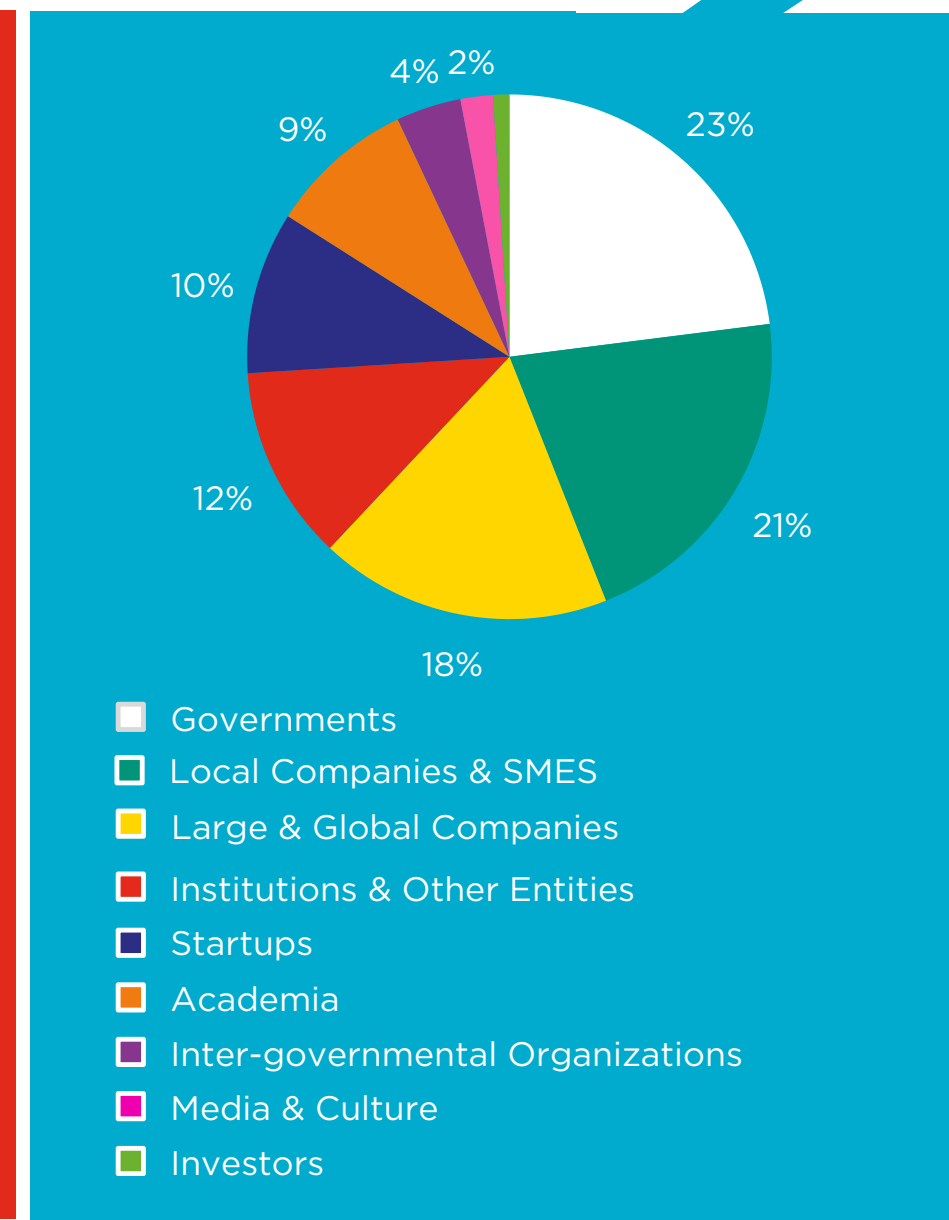
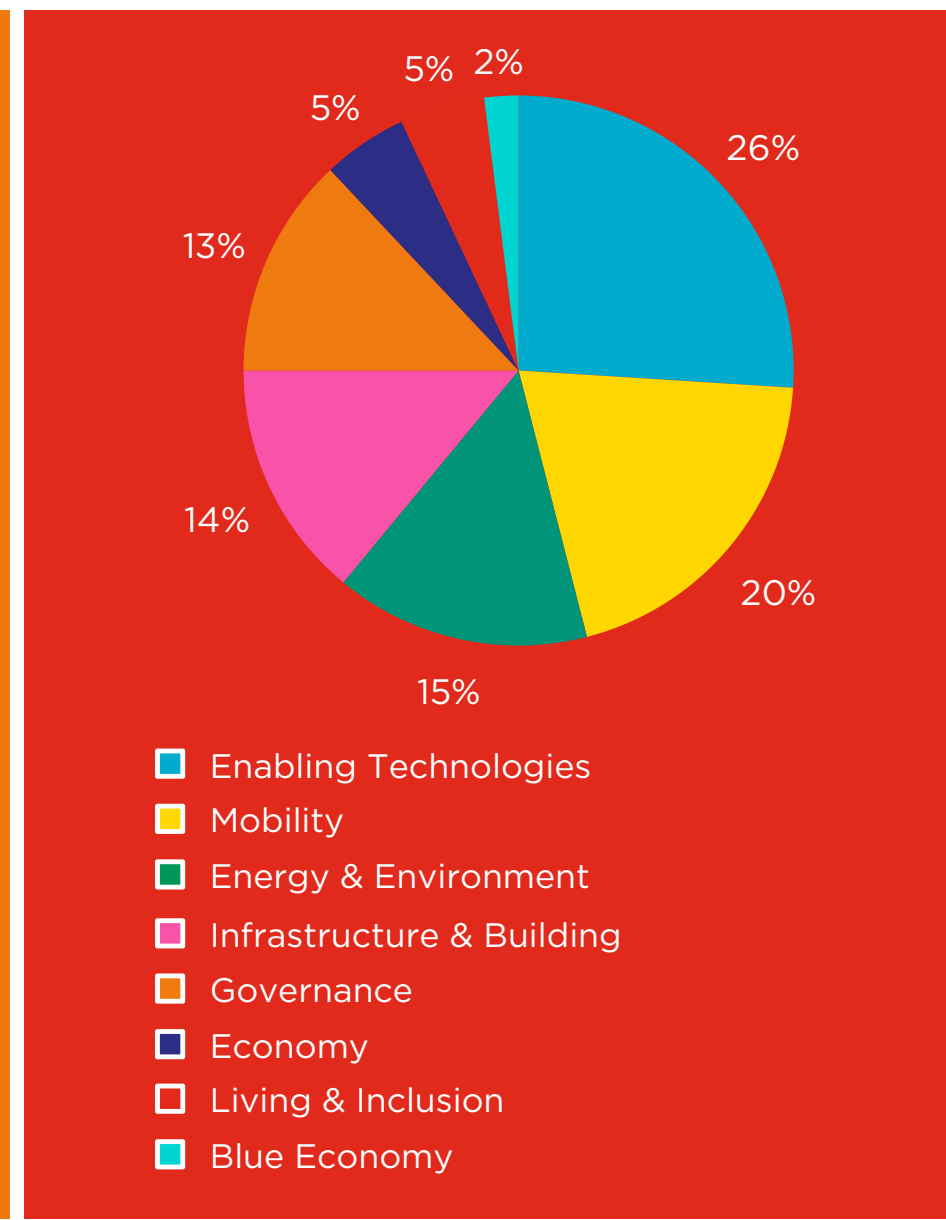
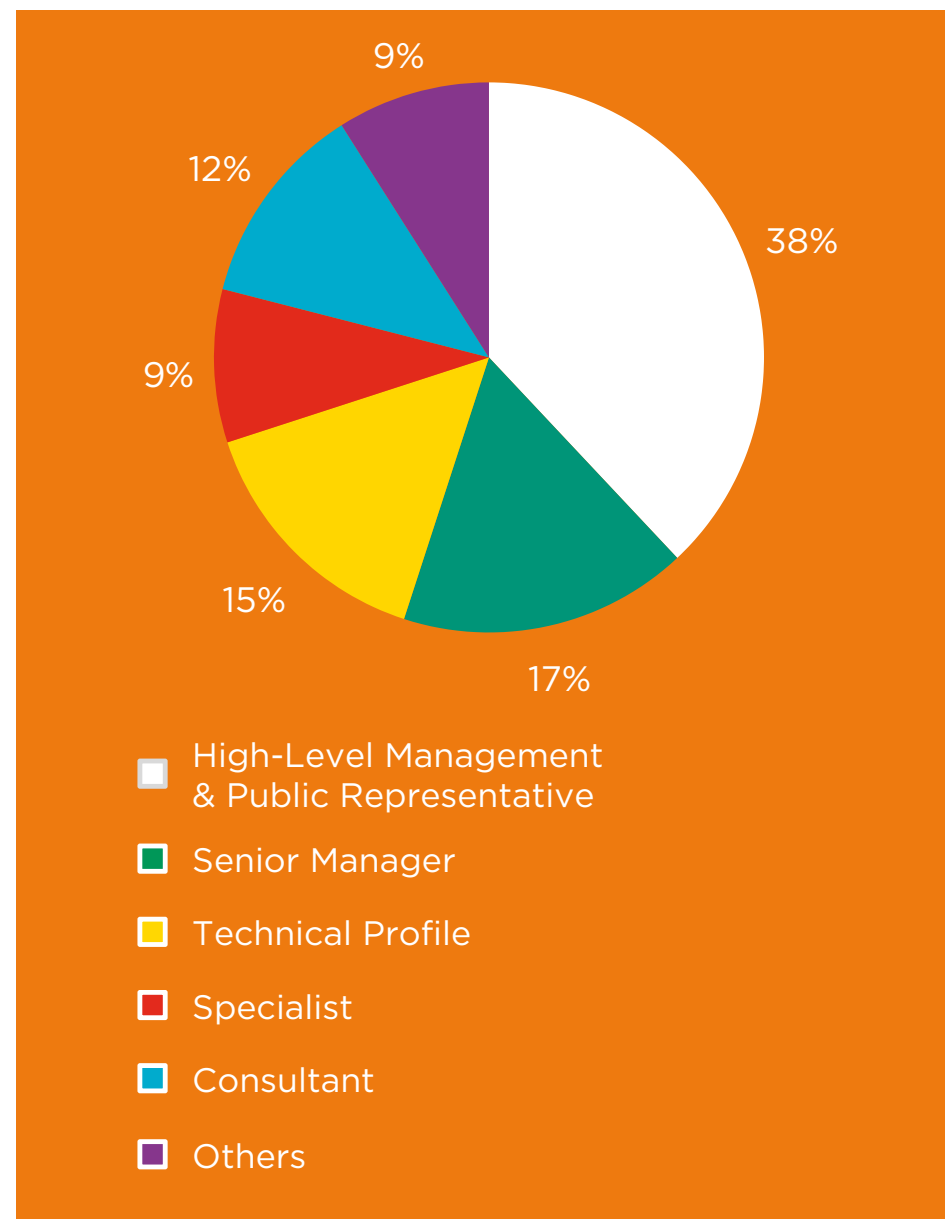
138 COUNTRIES

997 CITIES

A Rising Worldwide Interest



ATTENDEES' PROFILE



A Global Rendez-vous

TOP VISITING COUNTRIES

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Spain |  USA |
|  Italy |  Saudi Arabia |
|  Germany |  South Korea |
|  France |  Portugal |
|  Netherlands |  Czech Republic |
|  Brazil |  Poland |
|  United Kingdom |  Japan |
|  Belgium | |

A WIDE AND GLOBAL REACH



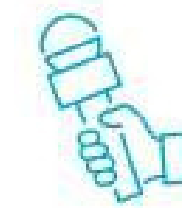
293K
WEB USERS



162K
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



1.13M
WEB VISITS



584
REGISTERED PRESS



112M
DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS



15.2K
MEDIA IMPACTS

An Unmissable Meeting Point For Leaders



The 2025 edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress gathered political representatives of national and regional governments worldwide, to share experiences and promote new initiatives on urban transformation.

- **Sofía María Galnares Giagnorio** | Deputy, Chamber of Deputies. Santa Fe, Argentina
- **Ulpiano Suarez** | Mayor. Mendoza, Argentina
- **Norma Fuentes** | Mayor. Santiago del Estero, Argentina
- **Ignacio Miguel Baistrocchi** | Ministry of Public Space and Urban Sanitation. City of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Andres Dachary** | Secretary of Malvinas, Antarctica and International Affairs. Tierra del Fuego, Argentina
- **Felix De Clerck** | Deputy Mayor Culture, Youth, Digital Transformation and Entrepreneurship. Kortrijk, Belgium
- **Eluide Miller** | Deputy Mayor. Belize, Belize
- **Adriano Silva** | Mayor. Joinville, Brazil
- **Anderson Farias Ferreira** | Mayor. Sao José dos Campos, Brazil
- **Gilvan Ferreira** | Mayor. Santo André, Brazil
- **Sandro Mabel** | Mayor. Goiânia, Brazil
- **Ivan Goychev** | Deputy Mayor, Digitalization, Innovation and Sofia Municipality Economic Development. Sofia, Bulgaria
- **Paula Camacho Solís** | Deputy Mayor. Curridabat, Costa Rica
- **Bohuslav Svoboda** | Mayor. Prague, Czech Republic
- **Mahamadou Ceesay** | Mayor. Basse Area Council, Gambia
- **Belit Nejat Onay** | Mayor. Hannover, Germany
- **Dirk Panter** | Saxony's Minister of Economic Affairs. Germany
- **Alfred Gaisie** | Municipal Chief Executive. Accra, Ghana
- **Vassilis Papaefstathiou** | Vice Mayor. Kalamata, Greece
- **Grigoris Konstantellos** | Vice Mayor and Board Member of KEDE. Vari Voula Vouliagmeni, Greece
- **Athanasios Mamakos** | Mayor. Larissa, Greece
- **Takis Papadopoulos** | Deputy Governor for Entrepreneurship, Research & Innovation. Region of the Western Greece
- **Ray McAdam** | Mayor. Dublin, Ireland
- **Matteo Marnati** | Councillor. Regione Piemonte, Italy
- **Federico Basile** | Mayor. Messina, Italy
- **Francis Thoya** | Deputy Governor. Mombasa, Kenya
- **Robert Duchnevič** | Mayor. Vilnius District, Lithuania
- **Lex Delles** | Ministry of the Economy, SME, Energy and Tourism. Luxembourg
- **Maimunah Binti Mohd Sharif** | Mayor. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Adam Azim** | Mayor. Male, Maldives
- **José Chedraui Budib** | Mayor. Puebla, Mexico
- **Viorica Beregoi** | Mayor. Truseni, Moldova
- **Ralph Geers** | Deputy Mayor and Key Alderman. 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
- **Ahmed Al Humaidi** | Chairman. Muscat, Oman
- **Katarzyna Łaziuk** | Deputy Mayor. Mińsk Mazowiecki, Poland
- **Radosław Witkowski** | Mayor. Radom, Poland
- **Piotr Borawski** | Deputy President for Mobility and Security. Gdansk, Poland
- **Katarzyna Kalinowska** | Deputy Mayor. Radom, Poland
- **Beata Górecka** | Deputy Mayor for Development. Koszalin, Poland
- **Tomasz Sobieraj** | Mayor. Koszalin, Poland
- **Lukasz Sek** | Deputy Mayor. Krakow, Poland
- **Adam Pustelnik** | Mayor. Łódź, Poland
- **Rafal Rosinski** | Vice-Minister. Poland
- **Luisa Salgueiro** | Mayor. Matosinhos, Portugal
- **Ramón Luis Rivera Cruz** | Mayor. Bayamón, Puerto Rico
- **Sebastián Negrón-Reichard** | Minister. Puerto Rico - USA
- **Mario de Mezzo** | Mayor. Slatina, Romania
- **Lucian Daniel Stanciu Viziteu** | Mayor. Bacau, Romania
- **Nael Alhegail** | Eastern Province Municipality. Saudi Arabia
- **Martin Kapitulik** | Vice Mayor. Zilina, Slovakia
- **Matjaz Rakovec** | Mayor. Kranj, Slovenia
- **Seogpil Kim** | Vice Mayor. Cheonan, South Korea
- **Alicia Izquierdo García** | Deputy Mayor for Innovation, Digitalization, Promotion and Investment Attraction. Malaga, Spain
- **José de la Uz Pardos** | Mayor. Las Rozas de Madrid, Spain
- **Miquel Comino Haro** | Mayor. Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Spain
- **Mireia González Sáez** | Mayor. Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Spain
- **Darío Moreno Lerga** | Mayor. Sagunto, Spain
- **Félix Larrosa i Piqué** | Mayor. Lleida, Spain
- **Jaume Collboni** | Mayor. Barcelona, Spain
- **Stefana Hoti** | Deputy Mayor. Malmö, Sweden
- **Ihor Polishchuk** | Mayor. Lutsk City Territorial Community, Ukraine
- **Jane Castor** | Mayor. Tampa, United States of America
- **Erin Mendenhall** | Mayor. Salt Lake City, United States of America
- **Steven Reed** | Mayor. Montgomery, United States of America
- **Bryan Barnett** | Mayor. Rochester Hills, United States of America





TOMORROW. MOBILITY

WORLD CONGRESS

The Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress focused on accelerating efficient and sustainable urban mobility, emphasizing community action and the capability “to challenge our own assumptions”, as highlighted by Mark Rozendal, CEO of EIT Urban Mobility.

The event, jointly organized by Fira de Barcelona and EIT Urban Mobility, featured more than 90 sessions revolving around 10 strategic enablers of sustainable mobility growth: Active and Micromobility, Sustainable Commuting, Improving Logistics, Shared Mobility Services, Autonomous Mobility, Mobility Data, Autonomous Driving Tech, Urban Mobility Planning, Safer Mobility and Zero Pollution Mobility.

It also included an exhibition area and an Innovation Playground including a Demo Zone for new vehicle demonstrations as well as a spot dedicated to innovative startups within the mobility industry.



TOMORROW. BUILDING

WORLD CONGRESS

Tomorrow.Building World Congress, the event connecting the industry and cities to empower the green and digital transition of buildings and urban infrastructures, explored the most critical challenges of the sector with a special focus on resilience.

Celebrated within the framework of Smart City Expo World Congress, the show explored how to better plan, build and operate urban infrastructures with leading figures from the building and construction sector who discussed innovative ideas and solutions through eight main tracks: Design Tech, Design Building Innovation, City Infrastructures, Decarbonized Building, Resilient City Planning, Retrofitting Urban Fabric, PropTech and Housing.

Furthermore, cutting-edge solutions from companies and startups were showcased on the Expo floor.



TOMORROW. BLUE ECONOMY

WORLD CONGRESS

A sustainable and resilient blue economy has never been more urgent. Tomorrow.Blue Economy World Congress is the global summit uniting entrepreneurs, corporates, investors, and experts to promote this transformation.

Held alongside the Smart City Expo World Congress, the show featured three flagship events —Global Blue Finance Summit (BlueFin), Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS), and Smart Ports: Piers of the Future—, plus an Ocean Innovation Hub with exhibiting startups. All focused on navigating market uncertainties and unlocking the power of coastal cities and the ocean economy of the future.

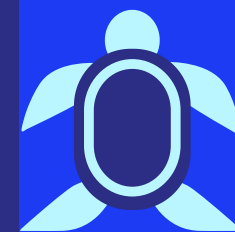
TBEWC is hosted by Barcelona City Council in partnership with the Port of Barcelona, Smart Ports: Piers of the Future, the World Ocean Council, and Oceanovation.

BARCELONA DEEPTECH SUMMIT

Barcelona Deep Tech Summit is the European Hub for breakthrough science and innovation connecting knowledge, entrepreneurship, industry, and funding to scale deep tech with a global impact.

Organized by Barcelona Activa and celebrated along with the Smart City Expo World Congress, the show convened 2,200 attendees —mostly entrepreneurs, investors, corporate representatives, and researchers— to discuss key global challenges such as The Future of Life and the Planet, Computing and Tech Sovereignty, and how to go From Lab to Market.

In addition, more than 100 startups and spin-offs displayed their solutions over the three-day event that also featured the presentation of two key reports positioning Barcelona as a leading hub for the deeptech ecosystem.



Partners



GLOBAL PARTNERS



“The biggest value of an event like Smart City Expo World Congress is people meet face-to-face. They discuss the same problems, realize how much they have in common, and create relationships that they can carry forward for the next year. It’s very beneficial to cities and to companies like ours to come to the event and learn, because it is all about learning.”

Paddy Flynn - Vice President Google Maps, Strategy, Execution and Operations | Google

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



“Participating in Smart City Expo World Congress is important to exchange knowledge and experience, engage with experts and explore innovative solutions that contribute to building smarter and more sustainable cities.”

Mansour Ibrahim Aljabr - Events and Communication Senior Specialist | RIPC



EVENT PARTNERS



“We like being at the Smart City Expo World Congress because we meet the different agents that contribute to the transformation of cities, and we also have the opportunity to explain and share our knowledge with all of them.”

Anna Garcia Sagués - Communications Director | Soriguē

SMARTCITY
EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

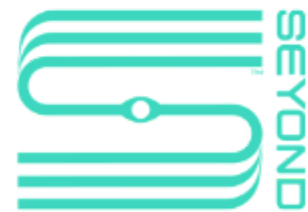
TOMORROW.
MOBILITY
WORLD CONGRESS

TOMORROW.
BUILDING
WORLD CONGRESS

TOMORROW.
BLUE ECONOMY
WORLD CONGRESS

 Corporate & Ecosystem Partners

SPONSORS



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EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

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MOBILITY**
WORLD CONGRESS

**TOMORROW.
BUILDING**
WORLD CONGRESS

**TOMORROW.
BLUE ECONOMY**
WORLD CONGRESS



Corporate & Ecosystem Partners

Hosted by

Barcelona 

Organised by



Fira Barcelona





SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

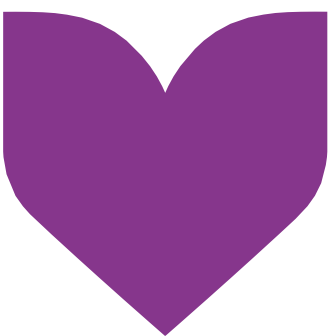


STRATEGIC ORGANIZATIONS

-  **AECOC**
-  **anci**
-  **Asociación Colombiana de Ciudades Capitales**
-  **Alamys**
Latin American Association of
Metros and Subways
-  **المعهد العربي لإنماء المدن**
Arab Urban Development Inst.
-  **CNCA**
-  **cideu**
Centro Iberoamericano de
Desarrollo Estratégico Urbano
-  **CIRCULAR BUILDINGS COALITION**
-  **Cities Coalition for Digital Rights**
-  **CATAPULT**
Connected Places
-  **Deutscher Städtetag**
-  **FAM**
Federación Argentina de Municipios
-  **FND** Federación Nacional de Departamentos
-  **FIA**
-  **FRANCE URBAINE**
MÉTROPOLIS, AGGLOS ET GRANDES VILLES
-  **FNP** FRENTE NACIONAL DE PREFEITOS
-  **Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy EUROPE**
-  **Global Parliament of Mayors**
-  **MedCités**
-  **MERCOCIUDADES**
-  **NET ZERO CITIES**
EQUISION PLATFORM
-  **OSGP ALLIANCE**
-  **OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES & COMMUNITIES**
-  **RACC**
-  **RECI SmartCities**
Red Española de Ciudades Inteligentes
-  **innpulso**
Red de ciudades Ciencia e Innovación
-  **RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK**
-  **ARSC**
ASOCIAȚIA ROMÂNĂ SMART CITY
-  **Smart Cities Marketplace**
-  **Smart City Institute Japan**
-  **MAYORAL ROUNDTABLE**
-  **Union for the Mediterranean**
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط
-  **URBACT**
-  **Co-funded by the European Union Interreg**
-  **WeGO**
World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization
-  **WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL**



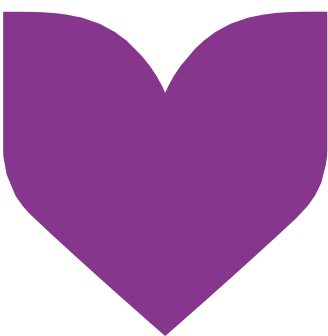
COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



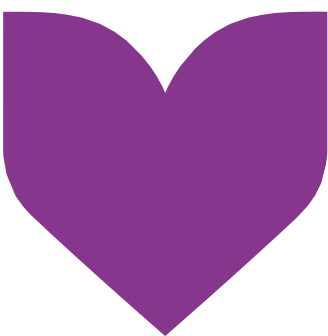
COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



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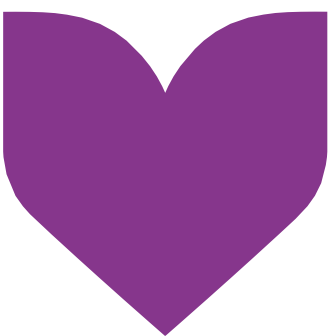


COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

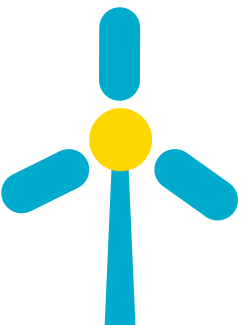
-  **PTEC**
Plataforma Tecnológica Española de Construcción
-  **PLATFORMA**
LOCAL & REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL ACTION
-  **PFR**
Polish Development Fund
-  **Proptech Collective**
-  **POLIS**
CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION
-  **in-move** by Railgrup
Cluster de Movilidad y Logística Multimodal
-  **RedBici.org**
-  **Red Federal de la Economía del Conocimiento**
-  **REFORMERS**
RENEWABLE ENERGY VALLEYS
-  **RICS**
-  **SIMUS**
-  **SHARED-USE MOBILITY CENTER**
-  **SmartCitiesCouncil**
-  **sta**
Smart Transportation Alliance
-  **SMART CITY Forum**
-  **SMARTECH CLUSTER**
-  **Transprime**
European Program Council
-  **STANDING CONFERENCE OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES**
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SERBIA
-  **techUK**
FOR WHAT COMES NEXT
-  **townsquare**TM
Plan • Secure • Connect
-  **tumi**
-  **TOA** | TRUSTED CONNECTIVITY ALLIANCE
-  **XRA**
XR ASSOCIATION
-  **URBAN LAB.net**
-  **PROPTech COUNCIL**
-  **UAMC**
UKRAINIAN AUTOMOTIVE MOBILITY CLUSTER
-  **UTA**
Urban Technology Alliance
-  **INSTITUT VEDECOM**
-  **wi3** Recognising and Supporting Women in BIM
-  **WNEB**
-  **WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL**
-  **Agendes Urbanes Locals**



RESEARCH & ACADEMIA



INNOVATION BOOSTERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



Expo Area



The Global Stage for Smart City Solutions

This year's Expo floor, truffled with thematic stages, provided the ideal setting for international companies to showcase their real-world projects and market-ready solutions to a global audience of professionals and decision-makers.

Meanwhile, local, regional, and national governments from around the globe presented strategies for building better cities, shared successful projects already making a difference, and gathered valuable feedback from stakeholders.

Over three dynamic days, the venue buzzed with activity as many companies, cities, and organizations hosted sessions and networking events designed to spark meaningful connections and foster new collaborations.



Congress



Beyond AI Hype



SCEWC25 explored seven key areas:

- Enabling Technologies
- Energy & Environment
- Mobility
- Infrastructure & Building
- Governance & Economy
- Living & Inclusion
- Blue Economy

These topics were examined through an innovative mix of roundtables, discussions, and dialogues that encouraged thoughtful reflection on important subjects.

“We have to care about each other’s wellbeing”



At first glance, defining what constitutes a truly smart city at the event’s 14th edition may appear redundant, yet the rise of AI and shifting geopolitical dynamics have reshaped the conversation.

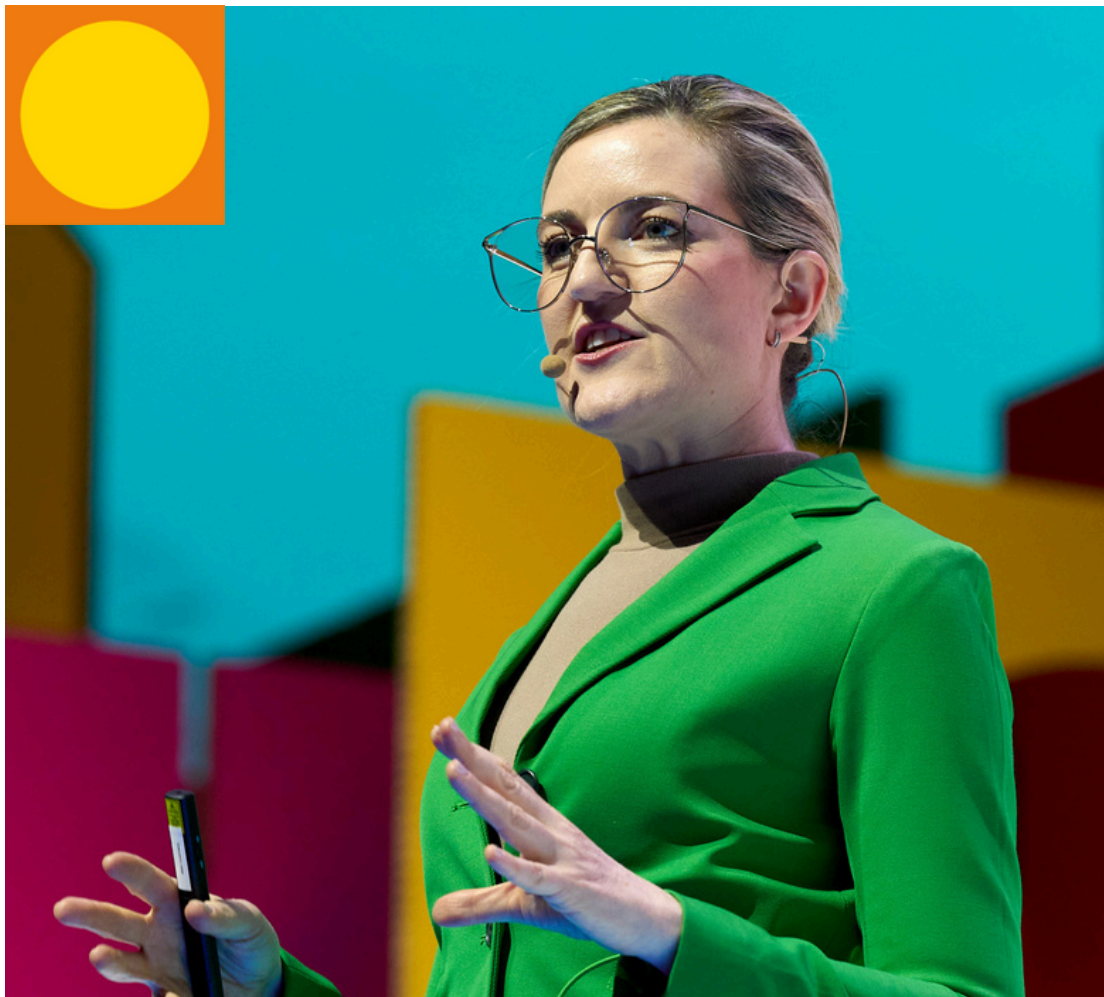
Almost 600 international experts and global city-changers, such as Nikki Greenberg, Founder and CIO of Real Estate of the Future; Senior Fellow at MIT Mobility Initiative David Zipper; Tech Humanist Kate O’Neill, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall, and Carlo Ratti, Director at CRA, agreed that people must be at the center. They emphasized the need to shift the conversation from algorithms to outcomes, because what truly matters is to “first and foremost care about each other’s well-being.”

The consensus view was that “we can’t be looking to solutions from the past to drive our future” but also that “imperfect solutions with good intentions” may deliver a better future for all.

A broad range of topics were addressed, including the ethical use of AI, autonomous and electric vehicles, solutions to the climate crisis, and innovative building development, but also how to tackle affordable housing and build more equitable cities.

As different experts noted, we have a shared responsibility in achieving these goals. Meanwhile, “we can learn a lot by just coming together and share good examples.”, as Anna König Jerlmyr, former Mayor of Stockholm, said.

Speakers Left No Doubt



“Technology does play a larger role in our lives, and we can’t be looking to solutions from the past to drive our future.”

**Nikki Greenberg - Founder and CIO,
Real Estate of the Future**



“Just as the emergence of the internal combustion engine car was a transformative innovation 110 years ago, the self-driving car could be just as transformative and disruptive to cities now.”

David Zipper - Senior Fellow, MIT Mobility Initiative



“We have to start with life. We have to think about the way that humans live in space before we can throw technology into the mix.”

Kate O’Neill - Tech Humanist, KO Insights

Speakers Left No Doubt



“Promoting the right to self-care is the only way to build truly inclusive and intelligent cities.”

Bibiana Aido - Regional Director, UN Women for The Americas and the Caribbean



“If we can create communities and places where we all are confident about our future, we feel empowered to make a difference. Then we can actually influence and drive a more positive future.”

Jeff Merritt - Head of Urban Transformation & Member of Executive Committee, WEF



“We have to care about each other’s wellbeing, first and foremost.”

Erin Mendenhall - Mayor of Salt Lake City

Five Key Takeaways

#1

Ethical use, privacy, and fairness in data and AI are crucial. Regulations like the EU AI Act are viewed as accelerators for trust and innovation, not barriers. Yet technology doesn't need to be perfect and the focus should remain on people.

#2

AI, Machine Learning, and Digital Twins are helping cities make smarter greening investments. We need to create awareness to regreen our cities. We can build a living city by starting small, at neighborhood level, to reach the whole community.

#3

Autonomous vehicles are going to either grow rapidly or fizzle. Resilience comes from multimodal choice, not reliance on any single mode. Cities can use disruptive moments to test transit-first strategies and reduce car dependence.

#4

Urban design is never neutral. Public-private collaboration helps cities adapt to fast-moving technology. Regulators, technologists, and governments must co-create frameworks that balance innovation and safety.

#5

Cities must invest in 'digital fluency' for both residents and public servants. Promoting cities that care means putting equity and security, especially for women and children, at the center. Mental health is the most underrated indicator.

ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES TAKEAWAYS

There Is No Going Back; The Genie Is Out Of The Bottle

Cities need to be proactive rather than reactive and use AI tools to their advantage. Asking the right questions is crucial for the urban ecosystem to be innovative.

#1

Data security and data transparency, paired with an AI strategy, are essential. Shifting from a surveillance model to a service-oriented approach while thinking about data in a dignity context is key.

#2

AI-generated deepfakes have surged from 500,000 in 2023 to 8M today. Meanwhile, global cybercrime caused \$9.5 trillion in damages in 2024 underscoring that security is more critical than ever.

#3

#4

By 2025, IoT predictive maintenance could save \$930 billion. So, the focus shouldn't be on more algorithms. It's on delivering clear outcomes.

#5

Digital twins help achieve smarter cities that are data-driven, paperless, and equitable with widespread digital assistants and twin simulations. The challenge is how to scale this technology.

#6

Technology is getting better at interacting with the human world but citizens also need to actually keep abreast of what's happening. The focus should remain on people, impact, and responsible innovation.

“I solve pothole problems and trash problems. And that really is the benefit and magic of artificial intelligence. There are practical ways to solve solutions that have been hard to fix for several decades.”

Cris Turner - Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT TAKEAWAYS

Building Resilience For People and With People

If we don't change anything, climate-related extreme weather events may cost the global economy at least half a trillion dollars annually by 2050. Investing in resilience delivers benefits that far outweigh the cost.

#1

AI doesn't change the fundamental definition of urban sustainability. It actually changes what's achievable by helping make greener investments.

#2

Many of the fastest-growing cities are in regions with high climate risk. A more holistic and nature-based urban planning is needed. The most powerful innovation doesn't come from fighting nature, but from thinking like it.

#3

It's not the lack of technical solutions that is holding cities back. It's the lack of capacity to govern the transition. It's crucial to connect global strategies to actionable programs and foster collaboration.

#4

There is still a long way to go in moving people from mere awareness to genuine engagement—where they not only want to be part of the transformation but also actively drive change together with the municipalities.

#5

Partnerships between technology and environmental expertise are essential to scale resilient, sustainable solutions while balancing innovation and ecological responsibility.

#6

“The most important thing is to foster collective intelligence, aligning public and private efforts towards a carbon-neutral future.”

Gwénaëlle Carfantan - CEO, Urban Think Platform

MOBILITY TAKEAWAYS

Mobile Public Transport Is Still The Backbone of Urban Mobility

The emergence of the internal combustion engine car was a transformative innovation 110 years ago. The self-driving car could be just as transformative and disruptive to cities now.

#1

Autonomous vehicles are not a silver bullet or the holy grail. They might create more urban sprawl. But autonomous public transport is a solution. Also, deploying shared mobility schemes can help serve suburban areas.

#2

Electromobility is an economic driver. But habits often beat infrastructure. To break patterns, we need to build capacity, create opportunity and spark motivation.

#3

#4

Safety is a priority, especially when dealing with vulnerable road users. Political commitment is essential for a long-term support toward Vision Zero.

#5

The real challenge isn't building more transport options, it's helping people choose differently. Nudges -these subtle changes in the way choices are presented- aren't enough. Sometimes we need a hammer.

#6

Multimodal vehicles and options are key to resilience. Cities need a resilient transportation system, not a resilient transportation choice of one single vehicle or option.

“If we open our city doors to the automated car as we did to the conventional car, we're not going to solve anything and we're going to make things even worse.”

Karen Vankluysen - Secretary General, POLIS

INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDING TAKEAWAYS

Cities Should Prioritize Clear Outcomes

AI is changing the building industry. Governments and planners can use Digital Twins for dynamic strategies and decision-making. But optimization and prediction are only part of the story.

#1

We are moving from urban planning to urban science. Design tech has the power to transform cities, but only if it is grounded in high-quality data, guided by clear purpose, and shaped by human values.

#2

Cities can truly bounce back from shocks by combining smart infrastructure with strong, prepared communities. Resilience is ultimately human-centered and rooted in governance, education, and collaboration.

#3

#4

Social inequalities persist, shaping who can access safe, sustainable urban future and who will not. Addressing these challenges requires more than incremental steps.

#5

There is no single silver bullet for tackling housing affordability in any city. Innovation is needed across the entire chain —from policy through to delivery, producing not just more homes, but a wider mix of housing types and price points.

#6

Technology is a means, not an end. Over-specifying tools risks rapid obsolescence; cities should instead prioritize clear outcomes, interoperability, and strong governance frameworks.

“The future of our cities will not be defined by how much data we collect, but by how much empathy we can code.”

Christina Kazeem - CEO, LINK Arkitektur

GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY TAKEAWAYS

When Technology, Transparency And Trust Come Together, Cities Thrive

We are entering an era where every government and citizen can be empowered by AI. But we need to create an environment in which innovation is embraced.

#1

While technology procurement may seem like a mundane administrative task, it is, fundamentally, a decision about public fairness. Flawed procurement processes directly risk creating or exacerbating systemic inequities.

#2

The digital social contract is built on three pillars: technology, transparency, and trust. Bringing these together is the foundation upon which resilient, thriving cities are built.

#3

The defining factor of urban equity will be the paradigm shift from the city as a mere service provider to a model of shared civic responsibility.

#4

Cities must confront the challenges of online disinformation. They need to rethink how to deliver public services in ways that build structural trust.

#5

Smart cities succeed when governance aligns technology with people's needs, builds trust through transparency and data stewardship, and designs solutions to scale sustainably over time.

#6

“AI isn't the answer to everything. We have to ensure that it's inclusive, that we're communicating very transparently with our citizens to let them know what value that's going to bring to them.”

Jane Castor - Mayor of Tampa, USA

LIVING & INCLUSION TAKEAWAYS

Promoting Cities That Care

A city that cares is one in which housing, infrastructure, and public policy work together so that all people can easily and equitably access services and resources. This vision goes far beyond technology or urban efficiency.

#1

AI doesn't have to pull us apart. It can help identify initiatives that can be seeds of change and tackle shared challenges for the common good.

#2

The promise of co-design, co-creation, and transparency falls flat if the public lacks the vocabulary to engage. Cities need to invest in digital literacy and fluency.

#3

It's really important that we get serious about reskilling and upskilling. Yet we have to think about the way that humans live before we can throw the technology into the mix.

#4

It's really important that we get serious about reskilling and upskilling. Yet we have to think about the way that humans live before we can throw technology into the mix.

#5

In these times of growing polarization, it's more important than ever to make it clear that diversity is an asset. We also need to make decisions that are more future-ready, and there's a real skill to doing that.

#6

“Thinking about power and power structures is a way to make things better.”
Linda Gustafsson - Gender Equality Officer, Municipality of Umea, Sweden

BLUE ECONOMY TAKEAWAYS

The Future Depends on Resilience, Innovation, and Decarbonization

The Blue Economy is one of the most exciting frontiers of transformation. Both traditional AI (for anomaly detection) and generative AI (for reporting, simulation, and testing) are essential for cyber resilience.

#1

As ports become hyper-connected digital ecosystems, resilience is about securing entire networks, not single systems. Cybersecurity now spans IT, OT, AI, satellites, regulation, and even civil-military cooperation.

#2

Around 80% of goods still move on diesel vessels. The goal of zero emissions is clear, but the path is uneven, with technologies, fuels, and costs still evolving.

#3

Data sharing is an infrastructure in its own right, as critical as terminals or cranes. Without it, disruptions cascade rapidly through global supply chains—and both too little data and too much can become liabilities.

#4

R&D and scenario planning play a crucial role in helping ports navigate uncertainties, allowing them to adapt to changing circumstances without interrupting daily activities. Research partnerships form the backbone of this approach.

#5

A successful Blue Economy requires long-term vision, diversified business models, strong data sharing, and the confidence to keep investing through uncertainty.

#6

“We know where we want to go. How we get there—that’s the hard part.”
Chris Chase - Assistant Director of Marketing, Port of Los Angeles



Innovation Playground & Breakout Sessions





Crafting What Comes Next

This edition, the Innovation Playground —purposely created to bring together the main players of the global innovation ecosystem— was carefully curated to foster meaningful connections and drive forward-thinking change.

A diverse program was offered, seamlessly blending insightful talks, a showcase of innovative startups, and hands-on, immersive demonstrations. The primary objective was to accelerate the adoption and implementation of groundbreaking solutions, such as urban furniture that purifies the air or technology that catches plastic pollution in waterways using bubbles.

Additionally, an investors program helped make opportunities flourish to advancing transformative ideas and technologies within the sector.



Learning Spotlights

Over 200 focused sessions, coordinated by prominent organizations and companies engaged in urban development, were held at SCEWC25. These sessions addressed critical urban issues in depth and drew a substantial number of participants. Noteworthy sessions included:

metropolis ●

Smart & Green Cities for All: The MICAD Vision

Launched in March 2025, MICAD is an EU-funded project supporting inclusive metropolitan planning for climate and digital transitions. This session presented its goals, approach, and main outputs and invited participants to share feedback to help refine and adapt the project.

Alliance of European Mayors – Alliance des Maires Européen

MAYORS
EUROPE ^{Of}

Democratic Innovation in European Cities

This session was about a documentary on innovation in European cities. Outstanding mayors from cities such as Stockholm, Bologna, and Lisbon participated in this story showing how local leadership is reshaping democracy from the ground up.





An urgent call for resilient and sustainable tourism in cities

This session explored how cities can manage tourism sustainably, using a resilience-based approach and data-driven tools to balance the influx of visitors and its economic benefits with the affordability and livability of their residents. UN-Habitat, UN-Tourism and partner experts presented a new global effort to help cities and territories assess tourism-related risks and their positive and undesirable impacts on the urban system.



GCoM Climate Projects Implementation and Impact Report

GCoM, the largest global alliance of cities fighting climate change, presented success stories of climate action worldwide, including smart mobility in Shimla (India), floating infrastructure for sea-level rise in Belize City, and waste-to-biogas projects in Basse and Sekondi-Takoradi (Ghana). It also launched its 2025 Impact Report highlighting implementation progress.





Redefining “Smart” in an Age of AI, Connected Systems & Data

Private Smart Cities - privately owned, tech-driven urban developments - offer unique potential to accelerate innovation and create inclusive digital infrastructure while bypassing bureaucratic constraints. This panel explored the legal, technical, and civic dynamics at play in shaping these new models for urban development. Co-developed by the Intelligent Community Forum and Dentons LLP.

Inclusive by Design: Co-Creating Smart City Solutions through Living Labs

This session dealt with how Living Labs enable cities to test and scale inclusive, citizen-centric, co-created digital solutions in real-life environments. Through a moderated panel discussion, participants gained insight into practical examples from city-led and city-based initiatives, highlighting the steps taken to ensure digital innovation supports, and doesn't overlook, the needs of communities, including those considered vulnerable.





Urban Digital Twins: what is at stake for European cities?

This stage session, co-organized by Eurocities and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, brought together city leaders and UDT practitioners to discuss practical examples from European cities, explore barriers such as data integration, skills, and governance, and discuss how UDTs can drive smarter, more inclusive, and accountable urban decision-making.



Mission in Motion: How Cities Are Governing the NetZero Transition

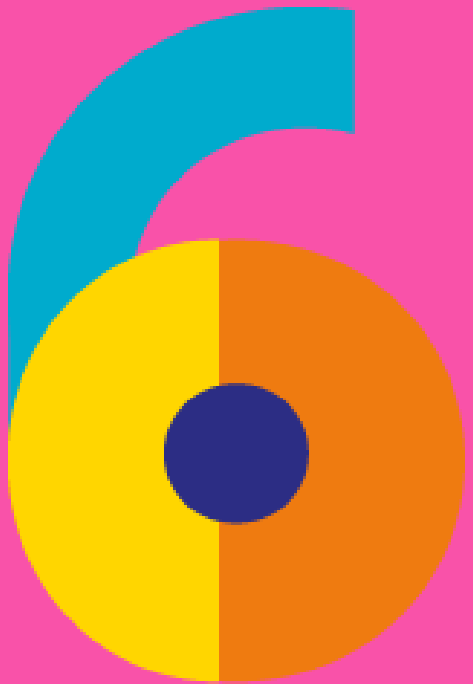
This panel explored how pioneering cities are turning ambition into action anchored by the Climate City Contract (CCC), the Mission's flagship instrument for aligning governance, finance, delivery, and public legitimacy, as well as helping cities collaboratively address their barriers to accelerate transformative action and reach climate neutrality by 2030.



Building an AI-enabled Smart City Toolkit

This session focused on use cases of AI specifically tailored to operational needs of cities. It began with an explanation of "Building an AI-enabled Smart City Toolkit", which demonstrated the practical use of AI for prioritizing investments as part of the Smart City Toolkit. Then, it delved deeper into how AI can be leveraged to enhance service delivery in cities.

World Smart City Awards



Celebrating Trailblazing Ideas

Innovation is the smart city's DNA. But amid today's uncertainty, leading meaningful change calls for courage and unwavering dedication, and that brave pursuit is worthy of recognition.

The 2025 World Smart City Awards honored outstanding urban projects that promote sustainability and inclusion.

With a record **462 entries from 65 countries**, this year's winners were announced at a gala on the second day of the event, and received a new statuette inspired by the event's iconic visual shapes, crafted from recycled materials, mainly fishing nets.

The competition featured 10 categories addressing major smart city topics and professional achievements:

- INNOVATION AWARD
- ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT AWARD
- MOBILITY AWARD
- GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY AWARD
- LIVING & INCLUSION AWARD
- INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDING AWARD
- ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES AWARD
- LEADERSHIP AWARD
- CITY AWARD
- GREEN EXHIBITOR AWARD



The winning projects

INNOVATION AWARD



This prize was awarded to two projects:

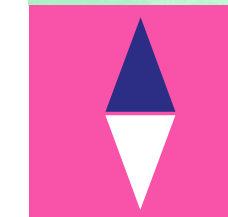
Community by Design - Together Center, Redmond, WA - USA

A program from Together Center that creates access to human services, so people can find help when they need it. What makes this place special is how often one warm hand-off turns into real change for someone who needs it.

Safer Cities-Haryana - Red Dot Foundation - Mumbai, India

A project using city-generated data to map unsafe areas, raise awareness against gender-based violence, and train police in empathetic response.

The representatives of both projects came up on stage to get the award and give their acceptance speech. The Awards were presented by Albert Tort, Secretary of Telecommunications and Digital Transformation, and Maria Galindo, Secretary for Digital Policy, both at Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government).



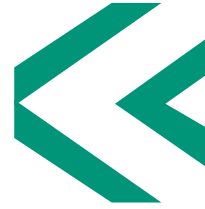
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT AWARD



Green Power Lights up Future - The People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality - China

Guangzhou harnesses electricity and green energy to revitalize its urban landscape. The award went to the renewable power generation capacity enabled by Guangzhou Carbon platform, which makes the city a global first-tier.

The Award was presented by Ramon Roca, President of the Smart City Expo World Congress.



MOBILITY AWARD



Human-Centered MaaS - Seongnam City - Republic of Korea

The project awarded is a citizen-centered MaaS (Mobility as a Service) platform, with eco-friendly services, to bridge transit gaps between old and new urban areas.

The Award was presented by Delphine Romeu, Director of Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress.



GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY AWARD



City Deal eInclusion by design - Kenniscentrum Vlaamse Steden, Brussels - Belgium

Guided by service designers and in co-creation with citizens and other stakeholders, 14 major Flemish cities in Belgium co-created 'e-inclusion by design' to redesign 28 public e-services and make them more user-friendly. They shifted from reactive helpdesks to user-friendly, accessible design built in from the start.

The award was presented by George Burciaga, US Mayoral Roundtable.



LIVING & INCLUSION AWARD



Resilient House in Favelas - TETO Brasil, Sao Paulo - Brazil

The project awarded is a climate-adaptive, low-cost transitional home co-designed with communities and using modular, sustainable materials as well as passive cooling. TETO is an organization formed by young volunteers who implement housing and habitat initiatives in precarious favelas alongside residents.

The award was presented by Bibiana Aido, Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean.



INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDING AWARD



Smarter Homes, Better Living - Housing & Development Board - Singapore

Singapore has developed smart and sustainable public housing precincts, meticulously planned from inception through an integrated multi-disciplinary approach to create a more liveable, efficient, and sustainable environment.

The award was presented by Pilar Conesa, Curator of Smart City Expo World Congress.



ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES AWARD



City Brain: Ahead of Issues - Aramco Smart Cities - Saudi Arabia

City Brain is a platform that seamlessly integrates the power of GenAI and Digital Twin to transform the way cities manage their facilities and services. A central hub for smart power, smart water or smart waste management.

The award was presented by Jeff Merritt, Head of Urban Transformation at the World Economic Forum.



LEADERSHIP AWARD



Maimunah Mohd Sharif - Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and Former Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Sharif was awarded for her leadership in integrating gender perspectives into governance and for championing the role of cities and local governments in advancing climate targets, both as Mayor and as former UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

The award was presented by Constantí Serrallonga, CEO of Fira Barcelona.



CITY AWARD



Rome, Italy

Rome's vision is to reimagine the Eternal City to meet the evolving needs of its people and its future. By leveraging data, 5G, and digital twins, it strengthens urban governance, enhances public services and sustainability, and builds resilience ahead of major challenges like the 2025 Jubilee.

The award was presented by Jordi Valls, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Lluís Gómez

This award recognized the career and achievements of Lluís Gómez for driving smart city initiatives throughout the world, and being the first SCEWC Director.

The award was presented by Ugo Valenti, Director of SCEWC and Pilar Conesa, Curator of SCEWC.



GREEN EXHIBITOR AWARD

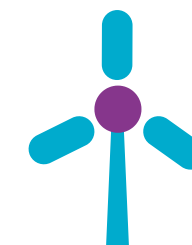
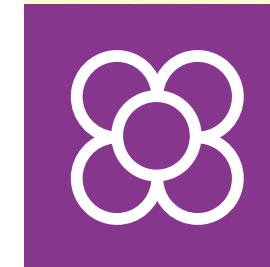


Czech Republic (Ministry of Industry and Trade)

The Green Exhibitor Award was presented for the first time as part of our gala celebration to recognize exhibitors who embrace environmentally friendly practices, in line with our Towards Zero Waste initiative.

The Czech Republic stand won the award for pushing sustainable exhibiting beyond recycling —applying circular-economy principles that deliver genuine impact.

The award was presented by Álvaro Fernández, SCEWC Deputy Director, and Vanessa Carvalho, Head of Sustainability & CSR at Fira de Barcelona.





Sustainability & Diversity



Our Values In Action

At the Smart City Expo World Congress, our 14-year journey has been focused on creating equitable, sustainable urban environments. To embody this vision, we launched the Towards Zero Waste Initiative in 2016: we want to lead by example, and our commitment to sustainability is further evidenced by the ISO 14001 certification obtained by Fira Barcelona. This edition, our events have set new standards for eco-friendly practices. We've taken significant steps to minimize our environmental footprint, foster diversity, and inspire green action.

Here are some of our key initiatives:



CIRCULARITY

- All venue decorations were made from honeycomb kraft cardboard produced with post-consumer recycled fiber, and are fully recycled and recyclable.
- 2,000 kg of materials were given a second life.
- 3,500 kg were recycled.



A GREEN-POWERED VENUE

- The venue and the offices were powered only by renewable sources.
- 5.86 GWh of electricity generated per year.



FULL ACCESSIBILITY ENSURED

- Electric scooters and reserved places for people with reduced mobility.
- Accessibility and guidance for the visually impaired.



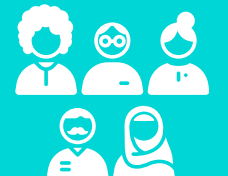
FOCUS ON INCLUSIVITY

- Vegan, halal and kosher menus available.
- Convenient prayer rooms.



HELPING THE PLANET BREATHE

- Money from merch went to a reforestation project of Doñana Park.
- 1,152 trees were planted.
- All emissions generated by the event were offset.
- 346 tons of CO2 compensated.



A CONGRESS CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

- Equal gender representation within our 592 speaker roster.
- Conference program with specific sessions about gender inclusivity, equality, accessibility and barrier-free design.



2025 Green Exhibitor Award

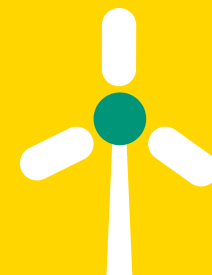


The Czech Republic pavilion was the winner of the 2025 **Green Exhibitor Award**, which is part of our **Towards Zero Waste** Initiative.

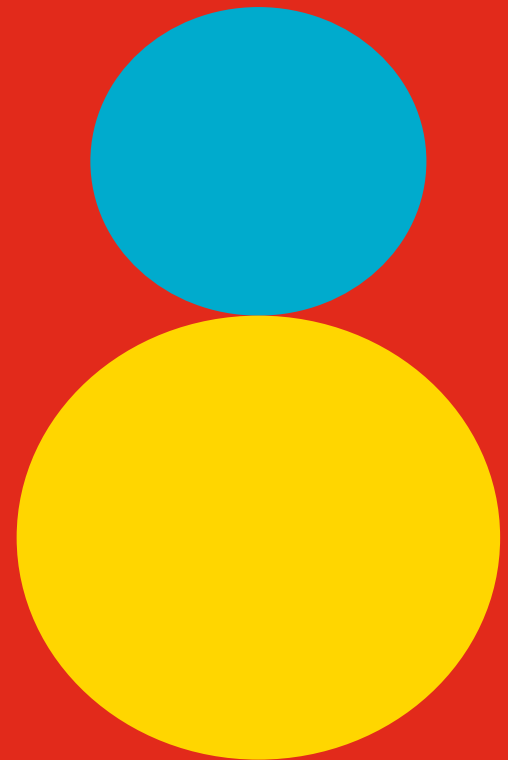
The stand concept went far beyond mere respecting of sustainable principles. It embodied a truly circular approach to booth design and assembling as it reduced the use of materials and energy consumption.

Furthermore, the presentation area was open to the entire exposition, minimizing the utilization of partition walls and graphic panels. Eventually, the supporting structures were made of reused materials to prevent unnecessary waste.

A landmark for ephemeral architecture!



Editions Abroad





Innovation without borders

Since 2013, the Smart City Expo has expanded from its home base in Barcelona to cities all around the world, with local editions adapted to the specific needs and interests of their host regions. And the movement keeps growing!

In 2025, Smart City Expo World Congress was held in Curitiba (Brazil), Puebla (Mexico), New York (US), Santiago de Chile, Santiago del Estero (Argentina), Shanghai (China), Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Doha (Qatar), along with a Tomorrow.Blue Economy edition in Niterói (Brazil).



SMARTCITY
EXPO **USA**

SMARTCITY
EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

SMARTCITY
EXPO **LATAM CONGRESS**

SMARTCITY
EXPO **CARTAGENA DE INDIAS**

SMARTCITY
EXPO **DOHA**

**TOMORROW.
CITY** **SHANGHAI**

SMARTCITY
EXPO **CURITIBA**

SMARTCITY
EXPO **KUALA LUMPUR**

SMARTCITY
EXPO **SANTIAGO DE CHILE**

**TOMORROW.
BLUE ECONOMY**
NITERÓI

SMARTCITY
EXPO **SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO**

What's Said About Us





What's Said About Us



The great benefit of this event is bringing leaders and decision makers from all around the world to share their visions, their ideas, their actionable insights that other city leaders can learn from their example and create a better place for everyone across the world.

**Nikki Greenberg | Founder and CIO,
Real Estate of the Future**

The Smart City Expo World Congress is a place where we can all come together and think together, see all the different data types around us and what different cities are doing and pick and choose the ideas that are best for your city. It's the place to make all those decisions.

Kristina Vuletic | Product Manager, TomTom

We come to Smart City Expo World Congress every year because this is truly important for us as a city and for our companies. We meet a lot of our colleagues, our friends, different partners we work together with here, and also find new partners and new friends.

**Teppo Rantanen | Executive Director
Economic Policy, Competitiveness and
Innovation, City of Tampere**

At the Smart City Expo World Congress, we get the chance to meet other cities. We learn from them. A lot of cities come to our booth and have an amazing experience and ask us to share knowledge with them

**Mohammed Dhaifallah Binhijna | Head of
Smart Cities, Eastern Province Municipality**

Smart City Expo World Congress is where we all come, we learn, we talk, we see experiences, what's good, what's bad, and learn.

**Michael Flynn | Global Infrastructure
Transport and Regional Government
Leader, Deloitte Global**

As a group of companies we are all contributing to the same goal which is the goal of SCEWC: not just imagining cities, better cities, but actually putting these better cities up and creating them. So, I think we're all going in the same direction.

**Claudia Barosso | Marketing Manager, Axis
Communications**

The Smart City Expo World Congress is a key platform for us to showcase proven smart city solutions that are already improving community life today, learn from global best practices to accelerate our journey towards smarter and more sustainable operations, and build a new partnership that helps us expand and scale our success.

**Salman Bakhsh | CS Integration Office
Manager, Aramco**

We consider Smart City Expo World Congress as the most relevant event in the world for allowing us to be in touch with our stakeholders and showing them our news, how we see the smart cities world.

**Felipe Urbano de Saleta | Head of Business
Development, Communications and External
Affairs, FCC Medio Ambiente**





SEE YOU IN 2026

3 - 5 NOVEMBER

Don't forget you can watch all the congress sessions at [Tomorrow.City](https://tomorrow.city) to get more insights as well as to catch up on all the action on our website and social media channels.

#SCEWC25



[See 2025 Aftermovie](#)




Fira Barcelona