



REPORT 2024



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Diversity

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About Us





Better Means Together

Doing better and striving for constant improvement is always demanding but it becomes even more challenging when unforeseen events disrupt the norm. The tragic floods in Valencia and the need for resilient, future-proof cities marked the 2024 edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress (Barcelona, 5-7 November 2024).

And yet, once more, attendees made it clear that sharing best practices is the best way to make better cities. "Together we can create a better world", as Ugo Valenti, Director of the event, put.

Together with Tomorrow. Mobility World Congress, Tomorrow. Building World Congress and Tomorrow. Blue Economy World Congress, the 2024 edition ended up registering record-breaking figures.

Over 25,771 attendees from more than 850 cities and 130 countries, 1,150 exhibitors, and 632 speakers shared the strategies being deployed worldwide to tackle the most important challenges cities are facing. And they not only offered practical solutions, fully focusing on the importance of implementation, but also instilled a sense of hope and "the need to reclaim our ability to change the future."

The layout of the event, which was divided into two main areas -the Congress and the Expo where Agoras and a new Innovation Playground were setcertainly contributed to this goal along with multiple side events. Additionally, exhibitors showcased innovative solutions within a market whose volume is anticipated to reach <u>US\$115.30bn by 2029</u>.

The idea that we're all in this together, that no action is not an option, that what matters is people, that the future depends on what we do today and, of course, that technology plays a crucial role in making cities more sustainable and livable pervaded the conversations in the Congress Area and the different spots all over the Expo floor.

Moreover, the World Smart City Awards, with a record-breaking 429 entries sent in from 64 countries worldwide, was again a huge celebration of transformative urban projects. Shenzhen, the Chinese fishing village which has turned into an international metropolis, was recognized with the City Award for her outstanding transformation privileging sustainability and quality of life. The gala also prized cutting-edge projects from Ireland, India, Italy, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The show also saw Barcelona promote its vision of a city moving towards climate neutrality and guaranteeing access to housing through urban solutions. The Agora space at the <u>city council's stand</u> was a showcase for presenting and debating Barcelona's most innovative projects with those attending. It also included a spot for ten companies selected by Barcelona Activa to present their projects. Additionally, the city council participated in Tomorrow. Mobility World Congress and introduced two challenges to be launched in 2025.

Overall, Smart City Expo World Congress 2024 was our best yet edition where attendees felt great energy and could made valuable connections for a better urban living. The event will return to the Gran Via venue in Barcelona for its 14th edition on 4-6 November 2025.





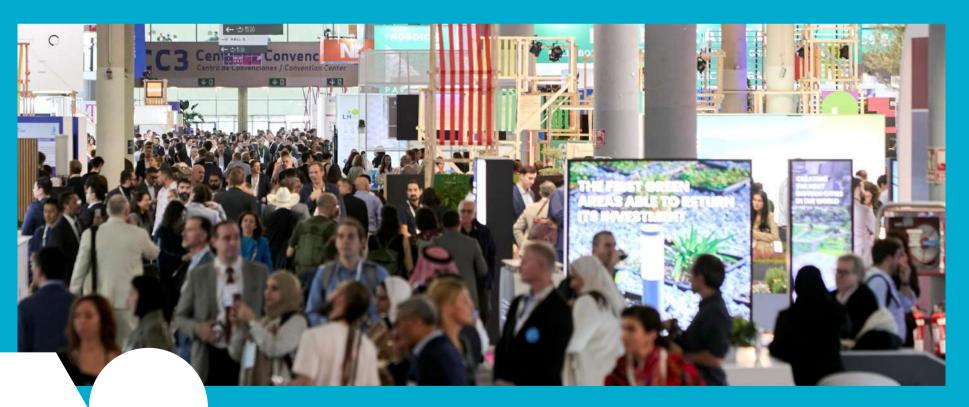














Our Best Yet Edition

1,150 EXHIBITORS

19% NATIONAL

81% INTERNATIONAL

25,771 ATTENDEES

46% NATIONAL

54% INTERNATIONAL





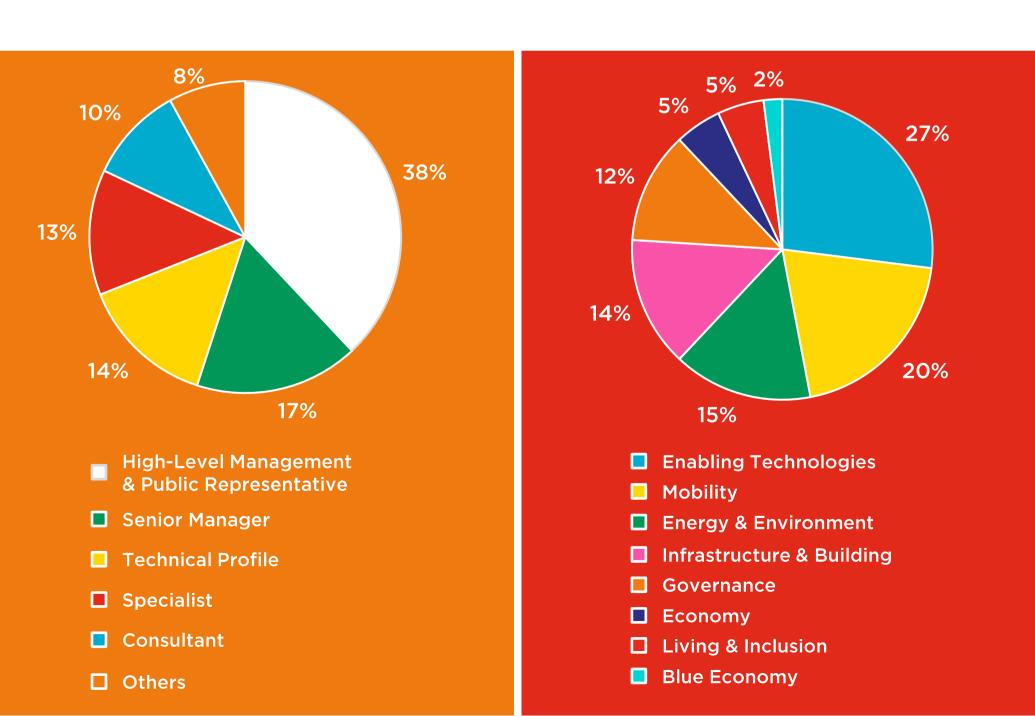


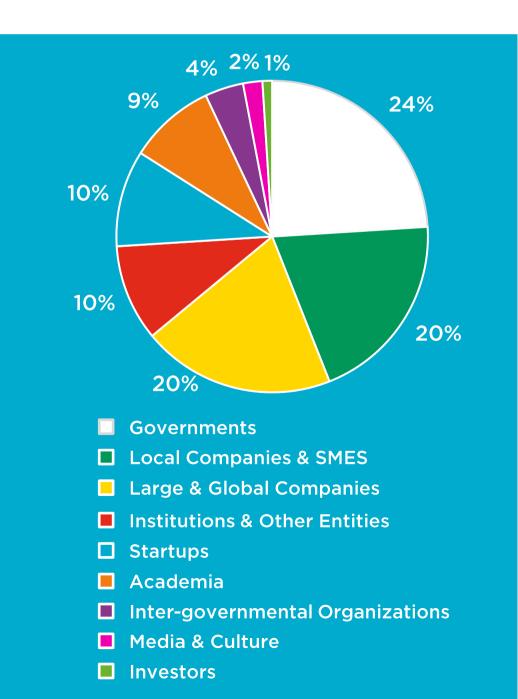


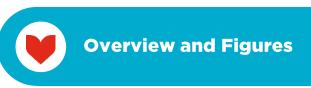


A Burgeoning International Interest









A Global Rendez-vous

TOP VISITING COUNTRIES

















South Korea



Saudi Arabia



Brazil



Belgium



Portugal



Israel



Japan

A WIDE AND **GLOBAL REACH**















TOMORROW. TOMORROW. MOBILITY

BUILDING

TOMORROW. **BLUE ECONOMY**





TOMORROW. **MOBILITY**

WORLD CONGRESS

The Tomorrow. Mobility World Congress outlined the route to speed up the adoption of new sustainable urban mobility schemes enabling to move and live better, because as Maria Tsavachidis, CEO of EIT Urban Mobility, put: "It's more important than ever that we come together as a community to take action."

The event, jointly organized by Fira de Barcelona and EIT Urban Mobility, featured 50 sessions revolving around 10 topics that are key to achieve a mobility paradigm shift: New Mobility Services, Public Transport, Autonomous Mobility, Last Mile Logistics, Data For Mobility, Mobility Infrastructure For Liveable Spaces, Zero and Low-Emission Mobility, Active Mobility, Road Safety, and Inclusive Mobility.

It also displayed an exhibition floor and an Innovation Playground including a Demo Area for new vehicle demonstrations as well as a zone dedicated to innovative startups within the mobility industry.







TOMORROW. BUILDING

WORLD CONGRESS

This edition, Tomorrow.Building World Congress, the event for a better building environment, gave special prominence to the voices of women with the most disruptive vision in the industry. Celebrated within the framework of Smart City Expo World Congress, the event focused on how to speed up the sustainable transformation of the construction sector through new technologies.

Over 100 renowned international experts discussed innovative ideas and solutions through five main tracks: urban planning and landscaping, construction technology, design technology, decarbonized building and sustainable transformation of buildings.



In addition, ground-breaking solutions from companies and startups were showcased on the Expo floor.





TOMORROW. TOMORROW. MOBILITY

BUILDING

BLUE ECONOMY





TOMORROW. **BLUE ECONOMY**

WORLD CONGRESS

Tomorrow.Blue Economy World Congress is the global summit dedicated to promoting and developing the potential of the Blue Economy.

Held together with the Smart City Expo World Congress, the event brought together international experts from industries including renewable energies, tourism, fisheries and maritime transport to highlight the importance of a responsible use of ocean resources for economic growth - and its huge potential for coastal cities- focusing on the stateof-the-art solutions and initiatives on blue tech, as well as smart ports and blue finances

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

BARCELONA DEEPTECH SUMMIT

Barcelona Deep Tech Summit aims at empowering science and techdriven entrepreneurship in an ever-evolving industry.

Organized by Barcelona Activa and celebrated along with the Smart City Expo World Congress, the show touched key global challenges such as Energy & Sustainability, Industry 4.0 & Mobility, Digital Health and Space Tech.



Partners







Corporate Partners

























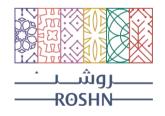






















"The Smart City Expo World Congress enables us to connect with a vibrant ecosystem and share ideas, best practices, and support so that cities become future-ready. If you are a city, if you are a public stakeholder, this is the place to be to learn more, to adopt these kind of solutions and improve the quality of life of your people."



Industry Partners

















































Event Partners































"The Smart City Expo World Congress is big event we always consider as it enables us to meet people from around the world. Our booth is bigger and bigger every year as we need more space for our visits."







Sponsors













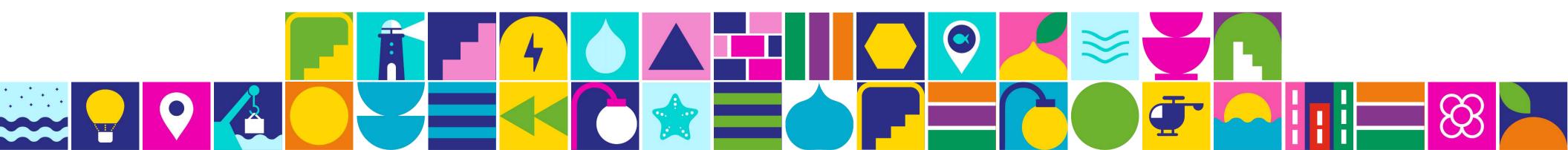














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Supporting Institutions



















































Strategic Organizations



































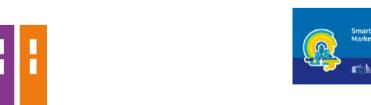








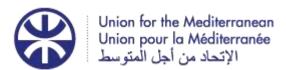




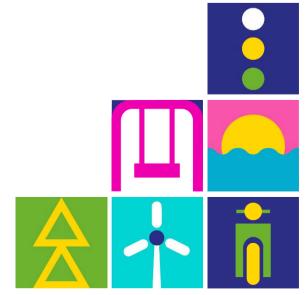


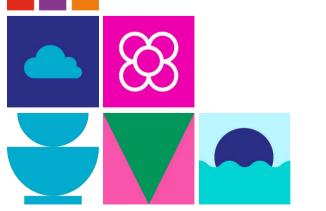








































































































































































































































































































































Innovation Boosters

VILLO







🛣 Urban Impact



Partner Kit Digital











Partners Intellectual Propoerty











Media Partners









































































Media Partners



































THE EXCLUSIVE







urbanNext





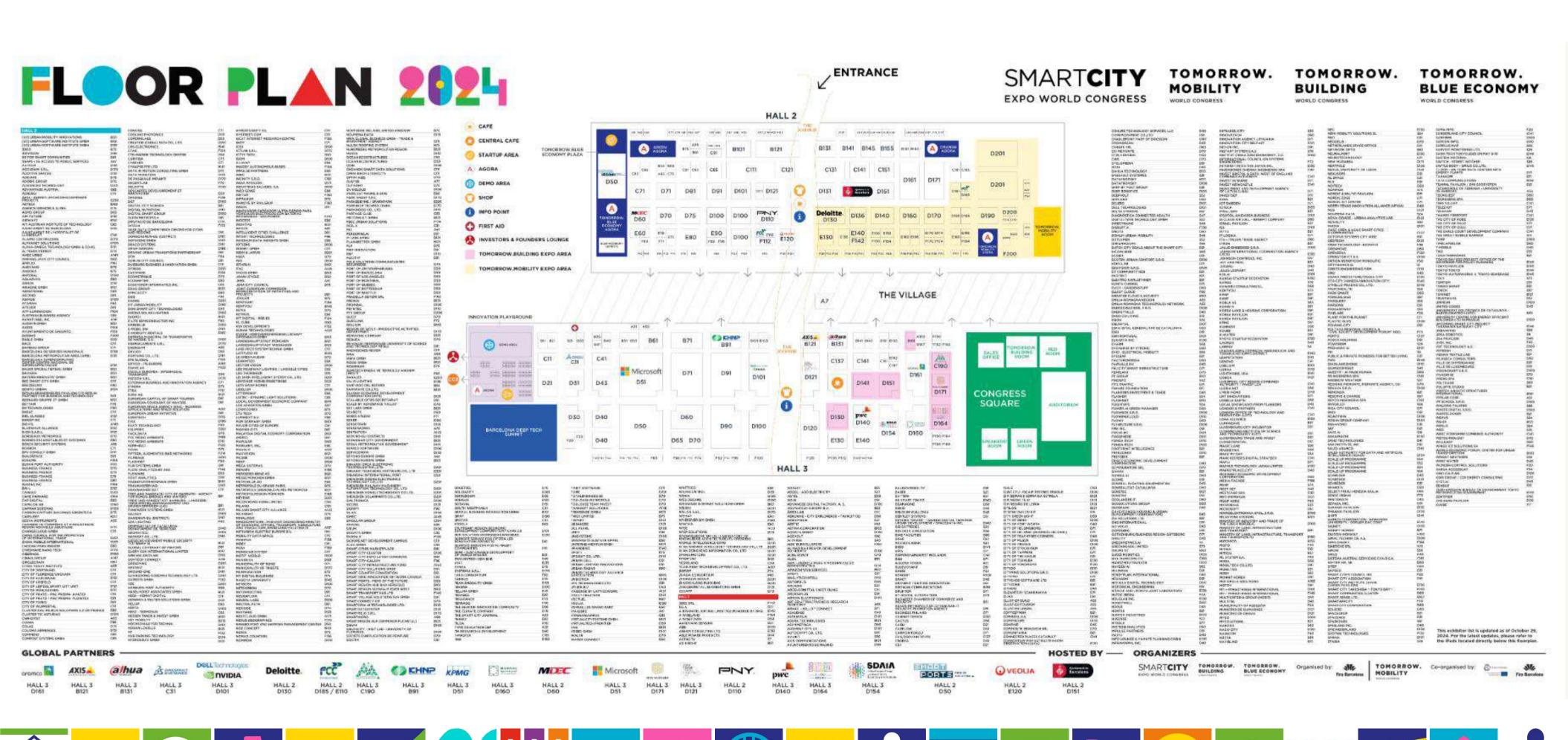


Expo Area











The World's Stage for the Smart City Market

Representatives of over 850 cities and dozens of government pavilions displayed their vision on implementing effective solutions for better cities, while collecting insights from various stakeholders. Delegates arranged a number of activities targeted at developing significant connections and diversified collaborations with global businesses and institutions.

In this year's extended Expo floor, a number of local, regional and national governments from all around the world stood out from the crowd hosting their own projects in their booths and showing their implemented solutions to the world.











Congress



BUILDING



Issues That Matter on the Global Urban Map







SCEWC24 delved into seven main tracks: Enabling Technologies, Energy & Environment, Mobility, Governance & Economy, Living & Inclusion, Infrastructure & Building, and Blue Economy. A creative approach, featuring roundtables, discussions, dialogues, and interviews, was employed to reflect on essential themes.



"Beyond Dystopias, the Future is Us"



It was our largest and most comprehensive program to date. More than 630 international experts and global citychangers such as Majora Carter, Urban Revitalization Strategist; professor of African American Studies at Princeton University Ruha Benjamin; author broadcaster and researcher Stephanie Hare; the Mayor of Rome, Roberto Gualtieri, and the founder of Bye Bye Plastic Bags Melati Wijsen reflected on viable solutions to design a better tomorrow at the Congress.

The prevailing opinion was that technology can empower a greener future and that an imperfect solution is far better than waiting another decade for the perfect scenario, that even in the worst situations, such as war and weather disasters, there is a way out if we, as humans, are "back into the game to encode the public good."

A diverse array of topics were explored, including climate crisis solutions, innovative public-private partnerships for sustainable mobility, urban planning and infrastructure development, as well as sustainable ocean management.







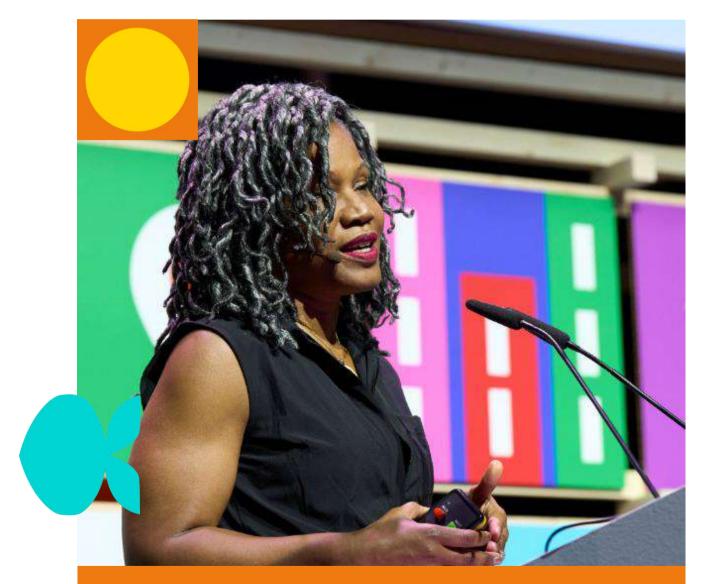








Speakers Made it Clear



"Talent retention strategies like those used to grow successful companies can also be used to build great neighborhoods for the people born and raised in them."



"Technology works when you don't see it. It just works. And this is just what a Smart City is all about."



"We have to put the humans back into the game to encode the public good."



Five Key Takeaways



Technology plays a crucial role in making cities more sustainable and livable. Yet citizens deserve transparency in dealing with it, especially with Generative Al, which has great environmental costs.

#2

We need to revive collective wisdom and be more deliberated to reclaim our ability to change the future. Because "beyond dystopias, the future is us."

#3

The more complex the world becomes the more we need empathy and emotional intelligence at the core. We have to be human-centric with urban planning but also with technology development.

#4

No action is not an option to curb the climate emergency. It's better to have an imperfect solution today than wait a decade for the perfect scenario. The future doesn't depend on what we dream but on what we do today.



Technology really works when you don't see it. And this is what a smart city is all about. The integration of shared autonomous vehicles into the public transportation system may advance net-zero cities.









Innovation
Playground & Breakout Session







The place where tomorrow takes shape

This year, the event created a new Innovation Playground to connect key players in the global innovation ecosystem. The goal was to develop synergies, attract international talent, and connect emerging projects with targeted investment players.

Combining talks, exhibiting startups and immersive demos, the Innovation Playground also leveraged the entrepreneurial capacity of cities and regions, built a diverse innovation network, and supported women-led initiatives.













TOMORROW BUILDING WORLD CONGRESS TOMORROW.
BLUE ECONOMY



More than 200 dedicated sessions organized by leading organizations and companies actively involved in urban development took place during the SCEWC24. They all delved into the core of significant urban challenges and attracted lots of attendees. Standout sessions included:

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Big Bets in Cities: How Philanthropy Can De-Risk Innovation

In this session three city leaders explained how they used \$1M to address their most pressing challenges and how powerful student engagement, local food production and the provision of dignified jobs are. On the other hand, Bloomberg Philanthropies talked about the Mayors Challenge and how to win \$1M to bring bold ideas to life.



Making Energy Communities Successful in Metropolitan Areas

Energy communities often struggle to take off. This sessions introduced the COMANAGE project, which aims at tackling and counteracting the main governance and management barriers faced by citizen-led and public-participated energy communities' projects.













Youth Reinventing Cities: How are youth ideas reshaping cities?

C40's Youth Reinventing Cities competitions empower young people, from schools to universities, to collaborate with city leaders and share their vision. In dialogue with cities, young leaders, and other partners, this session unpacked solutions that are truly inspiring and changing urban areas into more green and thriving neighbourhoods.



Power of Communities: co-creating pathways to climate neutrality

The biggest roadblock to climateneutral and positive energy districts isn't technology -it's the disconnection between stakeholders. This session presented ways stakeholder engagement can unite citizens, leaders, businesses, and financiers to create districts and cities as vibrant as they are sustainable.









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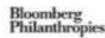
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BLUE ECONOMY



Talents for Tomorrow: How Local Governments Can Address Emerging Challenges?

What is at stake for local and regional governments and their associations when trying to address emerging challenges? This session discussed the role of human potential in meeting the current and future challenges that all local and regional governments must face.







GCoM and Partners: Business to Cities Matchmaking and Climate Finance

This session provided examples of private sector and businesses cooperation with cities, supporting the implementation of climate action plans. Additionally, it gave insights into how cities can align local needs with business expertise and funding sources. Eventually, it highlighted GCoM's initiative, which helps cities accelerate the development of climate projects at the pre-feasibility stage.













Mercedes-Benz

How Can Public-Private Partnerships Leverage Vehicle Data to Improve Mobility?

This presentation focused on the collaboration of Mercedes-Benz with public entities, like the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, to leverage vehicle data for enhanced road safety and sustainability. It explored the dynamics of public-private partnerships, highlighting successful projects, sharing a Live Demo, and showcasing how public entities can be empowered with actionable insights from car data.



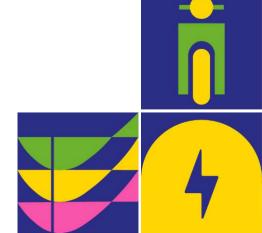
Urban Transformation: Inclusive and Sustainable Neighbourhoods

This panel about the New European Bauhaus LAB project reflected on inclusive and sustainable neighbourhoods. The LAB project represents a collaboration between the international company Drees & Sommer, the German Sustainable Business Council (DGNB), the organization Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Climate PositiveEurope Alliance (CPEA) and Bable Smart Cities.



Cádiz Investment Hub: An Opportunity

Cadiz stands as a geographically strategic and significant hub as it's a gateway to the Mediterranean, Europe and Africa. The session highlighted the advantages of the province as an investment destination, focusing on the strategic sectors with the greatest presence in the event.



World Smart City Awards

World Smart City Awards 2024











The desire for a better world fuels innovation. But in this age of uncertainty, pioneering change requires boldness and dedication, and this courageous pursuit deserves recognition.

The 2024 edition of the World Smart City Awards wanted to recognize the most innovative ideas and projects that are fostering sustainable and inclusive development in urban areas worldwide.

After another highly competitive process, with a record-breaking 429 entries sent in from 64 countries worldwide, this year's winners were announced at a gala held the second day of the event in a packed Auditorium.

Nine distinct categories covering key smart cities issues and significant contributions of living professionals were considered for the competition:

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







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The winning projects

INNOVATION AWARD



This prize was awarded to two projects:

 MyCommunity: Sinergize & Enjoy - Aramco Dhahran Smart City, Saudi Arabia

A platform including more than 400 community activities and facilities for the residents creating a connected ecosystem that enriches and empowers over 100 different ethnicities across 14 communities.

• aProCh - The Riverside Education Foundation - Ahmedabad, India

A project to make cities child-friendly. By reclaiming and reimaging public spaces, the aProCh aims at empowering children to be active participants in the city, fostering physical, mental, and social development, therefore creating a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The representatives of both projects came up on stage to get the award and give their acceptance speech. The Awards were presented by Ugo Valenti, Director of the event, and Pilar Conesa, Curator of the event.











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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT AWARD



Urban Service H2-Cell Chassis - FCC Medio Ambiente - Madrid, Spain

FCC's Hydrogen-fuelcell truck, which was showcased on the Expo floor, is an innovative heavy-duty vehicle suitable to various urban service purposes, 100% electric, affordable and versatile. The first application of this new platform was carried out on a 21m3 side-loading compactor collector.

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

MOBILITY AWARD



Dublin Active Travel Dashboard - Smart Dublin - Dublin City Council, Ireland

This project was awarded because it involves restoring old trams and making them available exclusively for cyclists, with the aim of increasing bicycle awareness in the city and developing a new transportation model for cyclists.

The Award was presented by Júlia López, Regional Director Europe at C40.









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GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY AWARD



Get Online London (GOL) - London Office of Technology and Education - London, UK

Get Online London (GOL) is the UK and London's first pan-city sustainable digital inclusion service, created to improve access to digital devices, connectivity and digital skills for London residents, so that they can get the most of being online, while the service addresses the deepening inequalities resulting from the digital society.

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

LIVING & INCLUSION AWARD



Data Analysis Platform COMPAS - Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH)

COMPAS enables to collect big data from different sources, analyze it and find the optimal solution to solve urban problems, which can be later reflected in policies.

The award was presented by Sandra Ruiz, General Director of Economy and Digital Society, Government of Catalonia.







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WORLD CONGRESS



INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDING AWARD





Glass to Concrete - Envision Charlotte, USA

Many cities struggle with glass. For Charlotte, it costed more to ship it to Atlanta than it is worth. Glas to concrete is a new circular way to manage glass and the city's response to an environmental issue which benefits the community.

The award was presented by Meredith Hodgman, Policy Lead, Internet of Things Alliance Australia.





ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES AWARD



Madrid Capital Digital - Madrid City Council, Spain

Madrid Capital Digital is the digital strategy designed to facilitate and accelerate the digital transformation of the capital of Spain. It's based on European, national and municipal strategic guidelines.

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







LEADERSHIP AWARD



Giuseppe Sala - Mayor of Milan, Italy

Sala assumed the Mayor's Office in June 2016. Beyond his climate change leadership, he has championed international initiatives for safe and legal human mobility. He has also co-founded the Mayors Migration Council and committed to the dialogue between African and European mayors.

The award was presented by Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor at the Barcelona City Council.

CITY AWARD



Shenzhen, China

Once a small fishing village in Southern China, Shenzhen is a city boosting innovation that has been designated as 'City of Design' by the UNESCO. A city of the future. The prize recognized its innovative policies and technologies, which have improved governance, transportation, sustainability, and the digital economy, all enhancing urban management and quality of life.

The award was presented by Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor at the Barcelona City Council.















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.

Therefore, this edition, our four events have set new standards for eco-friendly practices. We've taken significant steps to minimize our environmental footprint, foster equity, and inspire green thinking. Here are some of our key initiatives:



CIRCULARITY: EVERYTHING GOT A SECOND LIVE

- 5.110 kg of material reused
- 11,131 kg of carpet 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 quidance for the visually impaired
- Vegan, halal and kosher menus available
- Convenient prayer rooms



NO SINGLE-USE **PLASTICS**

- 1,780 kg of plastic saved
- 1,620 kg of selective waste collection



HELPING THE **PLANET BREATHE**

- Money from merch went to a reforestation project of Doñana Park
- 1.388 trees were planted
- All emissions generated by the event were offset
- 149.94 tons of CO2 compensated



A CONGRESS CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

- Equal gender representation within our +600 speaker roster
- Conference program with specific sessions about gender inclusivity, equality, accessibility and barrier-free design.



2024 Green **Exhibitor Award**





The Czech Republic pavilion turned into the winner of the 2024 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





Relentless Innova

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 2024, Smart City Expo World Congress was held in Curitiba (Brazil), LATAM, USA, Santiago de Chile, Bogota, Santiago del Estero (Argentina), Riyadh and Hangzhou (China). In 2025, our spin-off events will expand to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).



What's Said About Us







TOMORROW. TOMORROW. BUILDING

TOMORROW. **BLUE ECONOMY**





What's Said About Us





We need to have events like the Smart City Expo World Congress to tackle global challenges. We have one planet, so we're all sitting on the same boat. And to be honest, there's nothing like the Smart City Expo anywhere else in the world.

Sascha Pallenberg | Tech Blogger and **Mobility Consultant**

At the end of the day, we all work in the same ecosystem, so we can help each other. The Smart City Expo World Congress is a great place to get connected, understand and explore possibilities for the future.

Kristina Madolova | Architect and **Engineering Manager, Axis Communications**

The Smart City Expo World Congress brings together countries, industries, and people from all backgrounds, fostering innovation and collaboration. The common idea is that we all work together and learn from each other. And this is the kind of event that makes it possible.

Gobind Singh Deo | Minister of Digital, **Government of Malaysia**

Cities are essential in addressing the climate crisis. That is why it's so important for me to be at the Smart City World Expo. I'm particularly excited that all the event merch sales allow us to plant trees in the incredibly beautiful Doñana National Park.

Felix Finkbeiner | Fouder, Plant-For-The-Planet

The Smart City Expo World Congress fosters essential dialogue, showcases available solutions, and enables meaningful connections. It's this exchange that drives innovation and collaboration.

Kostas Loukas | EMEA Regional General Manager - Government, Microsoft

The Smart City Expo World Congress is crucial for us to build trust in our brand and connect with stakeholders across both the public and private sectors.

John Li | General Manager of Global Government Business Department, Dahua Technology

This event provides a valuable platform to benchmark our initiatives against international smart cities, learn from global expertise, and refine our digital transformation efforts.

Maram Hammad | CSIO Manager, Aramco

The Smart City Expo World Congress is value for us because it allows us to be in direct touch with our stakeholders and showcase the innovations driving smarter, more sustainable cities.

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







TOMORROW.
MOBILITY

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WORLD CONGRESS

TOMORROW.
BLUE ECONOMY





Don't forget you can watch all the congress sessions at <u>Tomorrow.City</u> to get more insights as well as to catch up on all the action on our website and social media channels.





See 2024 Aftermovie

