

SMACITE

Boosting the technical
and non-technical skills
and competences
of smart cities technicians
and engineers

WP7: Impact, Dissemination and Exploitation

D7.4: National project workshops, European-wide workshops, and final conference

Final Version



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DELIVERABLE FACTSHEET

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DELIVERABLE HISTORY

Version	Name	Partner	Date	Comments
1.0	Jon Mitxelena	GAIA	21/05/2025	Final version with inputs from all partners

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The project addresses the skills gap of Smart Cities technicians and engineers, by designing and testing a vocational education and training program that is based on a novel and multi-disciplinary curriculum combining digital skills on Smart Cities enabling technologies, with soft, entrepreneurship and green skills.

The project outputs are:

- A Smart Cities competences map and ESCO-compliant Smart Cities job profiles.
- A Smart Cities curriculum combining both technical and non-technical skills and competences and promoting personalized learning pathways.
- Learning resources for Smart Cities enabling technologies and for building the soft, entrepreneurship and green skills of Smart Cities technicians and Engineers.
- A diagnostic tool to identify personalized learning pathways.
- A MOOC for Smart Cities enabling technologies.
- Virtual Worlds for building the soft, green and entrepreneurship skills of Smart Cities technicians and engineers.

The main project beneficiaries are Smart Cities technicians and engineers either from the public sector (i.e. municipalities) or enterprises providing Smart Cities solutions, as well as HEI and VET students interested in Smart Cities.

The curriculum is being tested in 4 national pilots in Greece, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy with more than 160 trainees. The certification of the skills and competences follows a two-fold approach: (a) using micro-credentials to recognize the knowledge and skills gained through the successful completion of each online training module at the MOOC and Virtual Worlds and (b) designing the “Smart Cities Specialization Certification” that will be awarded to those passing online certifications exams with e-proctoring after the completion of the training modules.

The project will create an ecosystem for the co-design and co-development of an innovative curriculum and technology-enhanced learning tools for the upskilling/reskilling of Smart Cities technicians and engineers.

1 Introduction

This document aims to showcase which have been the performance of the workshops and the final event that has been organized within the SMACITE project. These workshops were aligned with the dissemination strategy of the project, as one of the objectives was to increase the visibility of the project.

1.1 Dissemination

Dissemination deals with making the results of a project visible to others, i.e. main target groups, key stakeholders and especially end-users who are going to use the project results. This is achieved via a process of promotion and awareness raising that continues throughout a project and even its end. An effective dissemination process must be planned and organized in the beginning of the project through a methodological document, which is this communication and dissemination plan. Therefore, the aims of the dissemination plan are:

- Knowledge circulation and the promotion of project results towards the target audience to engage proper stakeholders
- Enable the value of results to go beyond the project results and obtain further and more sustainable results
- To be an essential element of all good research practice and vital part of project plan
- Strengthen and promote the project, partners and the consortium as a whole

To achieve those aims, several materials and dissemination channels are needed to be able to reach the target audience and the organization of dedicated events is also helpful to reach a bigger audience in the different regions.

1.2 Report on the Workshops and Final Conference

This document aims to present the report and description of the workshops and final conference carried out during the SMACITE project and as promised in the project proposal. In this document the reader will find:

- The performance regarding the national workshop that different partners had to organize within their regions
- The performance of the three European Workshops that had to be organized by Digital SME
- The report of the final event organized by UNIWA and UNICERT jointly as a finalization of the SMACITE project.
- Information about the evaluation that participants to these events did.
- Status of the Key Performance Indicators related to this specific project task

2 Strategy for the workshops

2.1. Objectives

The organization of the workshop and dissemination events indicated in this document are aligned with the communication strategy set-up in the project. Therefore, the objective is to identify and organize the activities to be performed to promote the widest dissemination of knowledge from the project, engagement from the target audiences and relevant stakeholders. The objectives set-up for dissemination of SMACITE project have been the following:

- To make project results visible to the main target groups, key stakeholders and especially the end-users who are going to exploit the project results. This will be achieved by the process of promotion and awareness raising that will run through the entire life cycle of the project and even after its end. It includes the workshops and final conference.
- To convince key stakeholders to exploit the main project results and if possible, transfer them at other domains and/or sectors. To meet this objective, two separate activities will have taken place:
 - a) mainstreaming, aiming to introduce the project results at stakeholders operating at higher level, i.e., policy makers and
 - b) multiplication, aiming to convince relevant target groups and end-users to exploit the project results.
- To take actions ensuring that after the project ends, the project results will be kept alive and will be exploited by relevant stakeholders. The project will be considered sustainable, if its results are maintained and/or developed further after the end of the Erasmus+ funding.

To perform this, a whole work package (WP7) was set up to ensure these aspects. The main objective of this WP was to disseminate SMACITE's results, convince stakeholders to participate in project activities and to take actions to ensure that project results will keep alive.

Project partners have engaged in several dissemination activities to inform the outcomes and their potential benefits to all stakeholders. In this scenario is where workshops and the final conference are of great importance and these are the main objectives that these organized events had:

- Increase the visibility of the project among target groups in all the partner regions and at European level.
- involve the target groups on live discussions, ensuring more ownership and support the exploitation of the project.

2.2. Guiding principles

In the project plan some guiding principles were identified for the project that partners had to follow in all communication and dissemination actions.

These are the Guiding Principles that project had to follow during the implementation of SMACITE:

- Communication strategy must be clear and known to all project partners. The main points addressed had to be followed by partners when organizing and communicating them
- Fulfil the communication and dissemination objectives. These had to be considered when organizing any event, including the workshops.
- Communication and dissemination must be effective and timely. The workshops had to be communicated in advance and addressed to the target audience.
- Communication and dissemination must be open and honest
- Communication is a two-way process. It is not just a matter of messages being passed down from SMACITE to target groups. Upward and horizontal communications are equally important and for that, workshops are a great opportunity to perform this and get feedback from stakeholders.
- The contribution of all project partners is important to reach the target audience and their involvement to organize successful workshops is key.

2.3. Target Audience

Structuring the target audiences has been fundamental to maximize the impact of the communication and dissemination strategy. The target audience will have a view to raising awareness of the project. In the case of the workshops the target audience was the same as the SMACITE project as the main objective was to raise awareness about the developments and have exchanges with stakeholders. Therefore, these are the identified target audience that were aimed to be involved in the workshops:

- ICT professionals/ HEIs students/ VET students:
- HEIs / VET Providers
- IT enterprises / Public Organizations
- Research organizations
- Certification Bodies
- Policy Makers

2.4. Methodology

GAIA has been the coordinator of the work package and therefore has been the coordination of the workshop tasks even if each of them had to be organized by different project partners. The methodology of working was that GAIA was updating the situation and asking all partners responsible for organizing it to perform it and monitoring the status. Also, as communication leader, GAIA provided the materials needed by the different partners (presentations, leaflets...) for proper communication and dissemination.

Some additional materials were provided to partners for its organization, such as templates for the produced documents and creation of agendas, content that had to cover each of the workshops asking the other tasks leaders about the project outputs, evaluation formula that each of the partner could adapt to their countries and the reporting file that each of the partner had to provide after each of the workshop. A resume of all information can be found in the next sections of this deliverable.

2.5. Schedule

The following schedule was developed from the beginning of the project so that each of the partners had it clear when they had to organize the workshop and where. On some occasions to involve more target audience, the location changed in relation to the scheduled ones, but it resulted as better options than expected as a great number of participants were achieved.

EXPECTED: MONTH 16 Objective: Present the project, Curriculum, MOOC and target groups		EXPECTED: MONTH 32 Objective: Project outputs	
Place	Partner Leader of Action	Place	Partner Leader of Action
PATRAS (GREECE)	OTC, UPATRAS	ATHENS (GREECE)	UNIWA, UNICERT
SOFIA (BULGARIA)	ESI CEE, BASSCOM	SOFIA (BULGARIA)	ESI CEE, BASSCOM
BILBAO (SPAIN)	TXORIERRI, GAIA	MADRID (SPAIN)	UAH, CADM
ALBA (ITALY)	APRO	ALBA (ITALY)	APRO

Table 1: Schedule of the national workshops at the beginning of the project

In the case of European Workshops, these were yearly planned for the project months M12, M24, M36. These had to be organized by Digital SME as a key partner for its dissemination at the European level.

The final conference was scheduled for the last month of the project, and was organized by UNIWA and UNICERT.

2.6. Dissemination of workshops

The organization of the workshops was considered a good success in terms of content, interaction and participants within the project team and that is why an extra communication action was taken, and a press release was developed. It can be found in different media, project partner websites and other communication channels like the EFVET website.



Figure 1: Workshop result press release

Some publication links:

<https://efvet.org/smacite-project-empowers-smart-communities-through-11-national-and-european-workshops/>

<https://gaia.es/blog/noticias-gaia-1/smacite-project-empowers-smart-communities-through-11-national-and-european-workshops-1425>

At project level there was a Milestone (MS14) which consisted in the organization of the final event which was achieved on the 8th of May.

3 National workshops reporting

At the project proposal level, 8 national workshops were foreseen and had to be organized in the different countries involved in the project, being these Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain. In each of the countries, 2 workshops were organized, one in the middle of the project (about month 16) and the other in the month 32. In the table attached can be found the distribution of these which will individually explained later:

MID-PROJECT PHASE Present the project, Curriculum, MOOC and target groups			FINAL PROJECT PHASE Project outputs		
Place	Partner Leader of Action	Date	Place	Partner Leader of Action	Date
PATRAS	OTC, UPATRAS	23/11/2023	ATHENS	UNIWA, UNICERT	26/02/2025
STARA ZAGORA	ESI CEE, BASSCOM	28/10/2023	PAMPOROVO	ESI CEE, BASSCOM	16/11/2024
DERIO/BILBAO	TXORIERRI, GAIA	05/10/2023	MADRID	UAH, CADM	18/02/2025
ALBA	APRO	26/10/2023	ALBA	APRO	05/03/2025

Table 2: SMACITE national workshop schedule

In the next sections all the workshops are discussed:

3.1 National Workshop in Greece #1

Organizer:	University of Patras, Olympic Training and Consulting	Date	23/11/2023
Place:	Patras	Format	In-person and online

• Invitation



ΠΟΛΕΙΣ & ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΕΤΟΙΜΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΕΛΛΟΝ

Έξυπνη ανάπτυξη μέσα από νέες δεξιότητες για μηχανικούς και τεχνικούς
Έξυπνων Πόλεων

- 15:00-15:15 Έναρξη Ημερίδας, Δρ. Η. Αντωνοπούλου, Καθηγήτρια, Πρόεδρος Τμ. Διοικητικής Επιστήμης και Τεχνολογίας Παν/μίου Πατρών
- 15:15-15:30 Παρουσίαση έργου SMACITE, Δρ. Μ. Ρήγκου, Επ. Καθηγ. Παν/μίου Πατρών
- 15:30-15:45 Metacities : Χρήση των Digital Twins για τη δημιουργία έξυπνων πόλεων, Δρ. Ε. Φαλιάγκα, Μηχανικός Ηλεκτρονικών Υπολογιστών και Πληροφορικής, Postdoc Researcher Παν/μίου Πελοποννήσου
- 15:45-16:00 Δράσεις προώθησης πράσινων χώρων διαβίωσης για την αποτελεσματική συνεργασία στην περιοχή της Μεσογείου, Α. Κωστοπούλου, Ειδ. Συνεργάτης Αντιπεριφερειάρχη Επιχειρ., Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας, Περιφ. Αυτ. Ελλάδα
- 16:00-16:15 Εφαρμογές έξυπνων πόλεων στον Δήμο Καλαμάτας: Ανάπτυξη και εγκατάσταση διαδραστικών πολυμεσικών συστημάτων πληροφόρησης πολιτών & επισκεπτών, Ν. Γιαννακόπουλος, Αρχιτέκτονας, Προϊστάμενος Τμ. Τουρισμού Δ. Καλαμάτας
- 16:15-16:30 Διάλειμμα
- 16:30-16:45 Παρουσίαση δράσεων Δήμου Τρικκαίων για την δημιουργία Έξυπνων Πόλεων, Δρ. Κ. Α. Αβδελίδης, Ηλεκτρολόγος Μηχανικός και Μηχανικός Υπολογιστών, Ειδ. Συνεργάτης Δημάρχου Τρικκαίων
- 16:45-17:00 Skills matching για re/upskilling για Μηχανικούς και Τεχνικούς Έξυπνων Πόλεων, Δρ. Σ. Συρμακέσης, Καθηγητής Παν/μίου Πελοποννήσου
- 17:00-17:15 Μαζικά Ανοικτά Διαδικτυακά Μαθήματα για Μηχανικούς και Τεχνικούς Έξυπνων Πόλεων, Δρ. Β. Γκάμας, Ερευνητής Παν/μιο Πατρών
- 17:15-17:30 Εικονικοί κόσμοι για εκπαίδευση σε οριζόντιες δεξιότητες τεχνικών και μηχανικών Έξυπνων Πόλεων, Χ. Θεοδωρακόπουλος, Μηχ. Η/Υ και Πληροφ., Παν/μιο Πατρών
- 17:30-18:00 Συζήτηση, Ερωτήσεις, Αξιολόγηση ημερίδας



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



UNIVERSITY OF
PATRAS
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS



Με τη χρηματοδότηση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Οι απόψεις και οι γνώμες που διατυπώνονται, εκφράζουν αποκλειστικά τις απόψεις των συντακτών και δεν αντιπροσωπεύουν κατ' ανάγκη τις απόψεις της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης ή του Ευρωπαϊκού Εκπαιδευτικού Οργανισμού Εκπαίδευσης και Πολιτισμού (EACEA). Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και η EACEA δεν μπορούν να θεωρηθούν υπεύθυνοι για τις κειφαλόμενες απόψεις.

Figure 2: National Workshop in Patras Agenda

• Description:

The first Greek national workshop was co-organized by University of Patras and Olympic Training and Consulting in the city of Patras as it was scheduled in the project plan.

During the workshop the SMACITE Erasmus+ project (University of Patras) was presented, and the following topics were also discussed:

- Actions to promote green living spaces for effective cooperation in the Mediterranean region (Region of Western Greece).
- Smart City applications in the Municipality of Kalamata
- Initiatives of the Municipality of Trikala for the creation of Smart Cities (Municipality of Trikala).

In relation to the SMACITE project, a demo of the beta version of the MOOC and Virtual Worlds was introduced to raise awareness between the participants.

Furthermore, the University of Patras, coordinator of the SMACITE project announced the start of the registration to the free SMACITE training program for smart city technicians and engineers, students and other interested parties related to the industry.

• Pictures:





Figure 3: National Workshop in Patras

- **Attendance:** 53 participants,
- **Evaluation:**

Participants gave very positive evaluations across all categories. Below are the average ratings:

Evaluation Category	Average Score (out of 5)
Event organization (logistics, structure, venue)	4.41
Quality and clarity of presentations	4.37
Clarity of the language used by speakers	4.41
Relevance and adequacy of the content	4.22
Overall satisfaction	4.78

Table 3: Evaluation of Workshop in Greece #1

The event was highly satisfactory for attendees, who highlighted:

- Excellent organization and structure.
- The quality of the speakers and the clarity of the presentations.
- The relevance and usefulness of the content and training tools presented

Moreover, a significant increase in knowledge was observed, and participants expressed strong interest in continuing to use and promote the SMACITE project content in their professional or academic contexts.

Minor Recommendations:

- Consider offering more in-depth content for advanced participants.
- Provide pre-event materials to help level the knowledge base among diverse audiences.
- Include more time for interaction and Q&A in future editions.

The feedback confirms that the SMACITE conference workshop achieved its goals in knowledge transfer, engagement, and inspiring ongoing learning.

• **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/index.php/en/dissemination/posts/127-smacite-workshop-in-greece-patras>

<https://basscom.org/news/the-greek-national-workshop-on-the-smacite-project-will-take-place-on-23-november-in-patras>

3.2 National Workshop in Bulgaria #1

Organizer:	BASSCOM, ESI Center Eastern Europe	Date	28/10/2023
Place:	Stara Zagora	Format	In-person

▪ Comments:

According to the plan, this event was supposed to happen in Sofia, but due to the organization of an event with a big number of participants it was finally organized during the BASSCOM autumn retreat in Stara Zagora, which was a good decision when checking the participant number and engagement.

▪ Agenda:

- Welcome and opening remarks by BASSCOM, ESI Center Eastern Europe, and representatives from the municipality of Stara Zagora
- Presentation of the SMACITE project: goals, current activities, expected outcomes, and project partners
- Introduction to the SMACITE training platform and its structure
- Overview of technical training modules:
 - Data Analytics and Visualization
 - Machine Learning
 - Internet of Things (IoT)
 - Cybersecurity
 - Blockchain
 - Drones and Autonomous Vehicles
- Overview of non-technical training modules:
 - Soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving)
 - Entrepreneurship skills
 - Green skills and sustainability practices
- Demonstration of the SMACITE MOOC and virtual learning tools
- Interactive discussion with participants: lessons learned, feedback, and interest in pilot training sessions
- Networking opportunities among Smart Cities professionals, educators, and public officials

- **Description:**

The national workshop on the SMACITE project in Bulgaria took place during the BASSCOM autumn retreat in the city of Stara Zagora between October 27-29

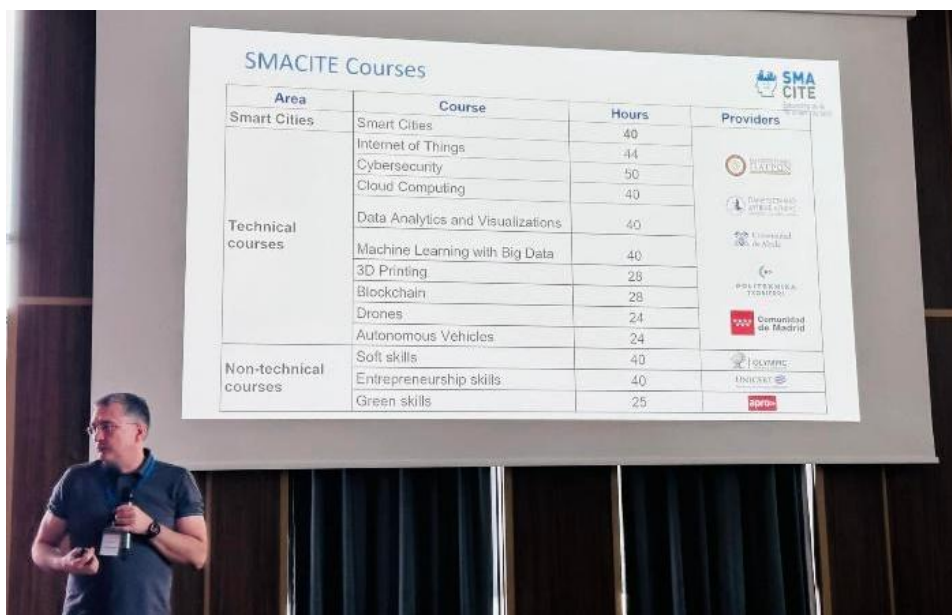
The event was attended by the leaders of BASSCOM member companies, as well as representatives from educational institutions, NGOs - regional partners of two Bulgarian organizations in Stara Zagora and officials from Stara Zagora municipality.

The SMACITE project was presented as an opportunity for those looking to go deeper into the rapidly evolving topic of Smart Cities. The participants were informed about the project objectives, current activities and expected results. BASSCOM and ESI Center Eastern Europe also presented the SMACITE platform for training to increase the qualifications of technical specialists and engineers operating in the field of Smart Cities.

The feedback received from the participants was very positive and some of the attendees expressed their interest in participating in the upcoming pilot training.

- **Pictures:**


















Area	Course	Hours	Providers
Smart Cities	Smart Cities	40	            
	Internet of Things	44	
	Cybersecurity	50	
	Cloud Computing	40	
	Data Analytics and Visualizations	40	
Technical courses	Machine Learning with Big Data	40	
	3D Printing	28	
	Blockchain	28	
	Drones	24	
	Autonomous Vehicles	24	
	Soft skills	40	
Non-technical courses	Entrepreneurship skills	40	
	Green skills	25	

Figure 4: National Workshop in Stara Zagora

- **Attendance:** 76 participants
- **Publication link:**
<https://smacite.eu/index.php/en/dissemination/posts/127-smacite-workshop-in-greece-patras>
<https://basscom.org/news/the-smacite-project-national-workshop-hosted-by-basscom-and-european-software-institute-center-eastern-europe-took-place-in-pamporovo>

3.3 National Workshop in Italy #1

Organizer:	Apro Formazione	Date	26/10/2023
Place:	Alba	Format	In-person

▪ **Agenda:**

Opening Session

- Welcome remarks by APRO Formazione
- Introduction to the SMACITE Project

Project Overview and Structure

- Project objectives and needs addressed
- Work Packages

Expected Outcomes

Presentation of Curriculum and Modules

- Enabling Technologies for Smart Cities:
- Soft Skills:
- Entrepreneurial Skills:
- Green Skills:

Pilot Phase Overview

Closing Session

- Summary of workshop discussions
- Opportunities for participant engagement in future training
- Final Q&A and networking

▪ **Description:**

The first national workshop of the SMACITE project in Italy allowed companies, H/VET providers and public bodies to meet and let them know the latest news about the SMACITE project, the partnership, the project objectives and expected results.

The Italian SMACITE project team met teachers from the Liceo Scientifico Cocito in Alba and representatives of the municipality of guarene, which is currently implementing with other municipalities a cultural and social regeneration project financed by the NextGenerationEU programme at their premises. On the corporate front, the SMACITE

project was presented in APRO Formazione to some local companies active in the energy and tech sector and finally in Genoa at the ETT SpA. headquarters.

During the meetings, it was possible to exchange views with teachers, trainers, technicians and human resource managers on the implementation and management of extra-curricular online learning activities, gathering important feedback on the training needs of companies and public bodies and experiences in the use of technological tools for training and daily activities. The feedback received from the participants was very positive and some of the attendees expressed their interest in participating in the upcoming pilot training and in further events related to the project.

- **Pictures:**



Figure 5: National Workshop in Alba

- **Attendance:** 47 participants
- **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score (out of 10)
Workshop organisation	9.25
Appropriateness of the premises	9.25
Quality of presentations and materials	9.50
Speakers' knowledge and expertise	9.50
Clarity of the language used by the speakers	9.50
Structure and timing of the agenda	9.25
Level of interest and engagement	9.25
Knowledge before the workshop (scale 1–5)	3.50
Knowledge after the workshop (scale 1–5)	4.50
Usefulness of the SMACITE Virtual Worlds	9.00
MOOC effectiveness	9.00
Overall satisfaction with the workshop	9.50

Table 4: Evaluation of Workshop in Italy #1

The feedback from Italian participants paints a clear picture: the SMACITE workshop was extremely well received. It exceeded expectations in almost every area—organization, content, trainers, and tools.

This suggests that the delivery and contextualization of the workshop content resonated strongly with the Italian audience, who are likely to remain engaged with the project resources in the future.

- Overall satisfaction is excellent (9.50/10): Italian participants showed strong enthusiasm about the event.
- Content delivery was highly praised: Presentation quality, speaker expertise, and language clarity all reached 9.50, the highest scores across all categories.
- Training materials and structure were also very well rated, with consistent 9+ scores in agenda, premises, and organization.
- Strong engagement and interest: The workshop successfully held the attention and interest of Italian attendees.

- High evaluation of SMACITE tools: The Virtual Worlds and MOOC were both seen as highly functional and valuable learning resources (9.00)

- **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/index.php/en/dissemination/posts/135-smacite-workshop-in-italy>

3.4 National Workshop in Spain #1

Organizer:	Politeknika Txorierri + GAIA	Date	05/10/2023
Place:	Bilbao	Format	In-person

▪ Agenda



Figure 6: Smacite workshop invitation Spain #1

09.00	Registration and welcome
09.15	Tomás Iriondo, President of GAIA - Digital Transformation and Data Economy
09.35	Karmele Fernández, Sarenet - Digital Transformation, case studies
09.55	Anabel Menica, Director of Strategy and Innovation at Politeknika Txorierri - Presentation of the DTAM project: Transformation In Advanced Manufacturing
10.05	Jokin Goioaga, Coordinador of the Electronics Department at Politeknika Txorierri - Online Training Course on Digital Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Mitxelena, GAIA - Online Tool for Competence Self-Assessment • Zoe Batsi, IDEC - Transversal Competences • Stefano Antona, APRO - Introduction to the Course • Peter Snoek, Da Vinci - Sensorica • Vasileios Gkamas, University of Patras - Big Data • Ioanna Matouli, Atlantis - Machine Learning • Jokin Goioaga, Politeknika Txorierri - Cybersecurity
10.45	Jon Mitxelena, GAIA - Model for the creation and exploitation of an IoT lab.
11.00	COFFEE-BREAK
11.15	Vasileios Gkamas & Jokin Goioaga - Digital Transformation in Cities, SMACITE Project
11.35	Itxone Soroa, Invest in Bilbao - La ISLA DE BILBAO. An island to live, a place to invest. Bilbao Ekintza
11.45	Questions and closing

Figure 7: SMACITE workshop in Spain #1 agenda

- **Description:**

The first national workshop of the SMACITE project in Spain took place at Politeknika Txorierra on October 5th. Representatives from companies, H/VET providers and students got to know the latest news about the SMACITE project: the partnership, the project objectives and expected results.

A representative from Bilbao Ekintza, the Bilbao City Council, joined the workshop and shared with the participants information about the evolution of Bilbao, specifically their plans to transform the island of Zorrozaurre from an old industrial peninsula to a smart innovative urban district.

- **Pictures:**



Figure 8: National Workshop in Spain

- **Attendance:** 132 participants

▪ **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score (out of 10)
Workshop organisation	8.01
Appropriateness of the venue	8.06
Quality of presentations and materials	7.51
Speakers' knowledge and preparation	8.39
Clarity of the language used	7.81
Structure of the agenda	7.84
Level of interest in the workshop content	8.06
Knowledge before the workshop (scale 1-5)	3.23
Knowledge after the workshop (scale 1-5)	4.32
Usefulness of the SMACITE Virtual Worlds	7.55
Usefulness of the MOOC	8.10
Overall satisfaction with the workshop	8.13

Table 5: Evaluation of Workshop in Spain #1

The SMACITE workshop was highly successful among non-Italian participants. It offered:

- A well-structured and engaging experience
- Valuable knowledge transfer
- Innovative training tools (MOOC and Virtual Worlds)
- Strong overall satisfaction

These results confirm that the event effectively met the expectations of an international audience and left participants better informed and motivated to continue engaging with the SMACITE project and its resources.

Interpretation of other evaluation results:

- Highly rated speakers (8.39): Participants consistently praised the expertise and delivery of the workshop facilitators.
- Solid organization and venue (≈ 8): Logistical aspects and the appropriateness of the space were positively evaluated.

- High overall satisfaction (8.13): The experience was perceived as valuable and enjoyable by most attendees.
- MOOC and Virtual Worlds well received (8.10 and 7.55): These resources were considered useful and relevant, especially for continued learning after the workshop.

Publication link:

<https://smacite.eu/index.php/en/dissemination/posts/124-smacite-workshop-in-spain>

3.5 National Workshop in Greece #2

Organizer:	UNIWA	Date	26/02/2025
Place:	Athens	Format	In-person

• **Invitation:**

SMA CITE
<https://smacite.eu>

UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ

26 Φεβρουαρίου, 15:00
Κτίριο Κ31
Αίθουσα Κ16.231
Πανεπιστημιακόπουλο
Άλυσος Αργίδας

**ΠΟΛΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΕΣ
ΕΤΟΙΜΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΕΛΛΟΝ**
ΕΞΥΓΝΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΣΑ ΑΠΟ ΝΕΕΣ ΔΕΞΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ
ΓΙΑ ΜΗΧΑΝΙΚΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΕΧΝΙΚΟΥΣ ΕΞΥΓΝΩΝ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ

AGENDA

15:00-15:15	Χαιρετισμοί
15:15-15:30	Παρουσίαση έργου SMACITE Αν. Καθηγήτρια Μαρία Ρήγκου, Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών
15:30-15:45	Έξυπνες πόλεις: Οικονομικά στοιχεία και περιβαλλοντικός αντίκτυπος Καθ. Ιωάννης Βαγιατζής, Πανεπιστήμιο Δυτικής Αττικής
15:45-16:10	Εφαρμογές Έξυπνων πόλεων - Συστήματα έξυπνης διαχείρισης απορριμμάτων Διευθύντρια Κωστάκης, CEO VirtualMet
16:10-16:30	Εφαρμογές Έξυπνων πόλεων - Συστήματα έξυπνης διαχείρισης στάθμευσης Δρ. Στέλιος Βασιλειάδης, VirtualMet
16:30-17:00	Διάλειμμα - Καφές
17:00-17:15	Ανοιχτά Μαθητικά Διαδραστικά Μαθήματα για Έξυπνες Πόλεις Δρ. Βασίλειος Γκάρας, Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών
17:15-17:30	Εικονικοί κόσμοι στην Εκπαίδευση: Η εμπειρία από το έργο SMACITE Γεωργία Γρίβα, Unicert Certification Solutions
17:30-17:45	Συζήτηση - Ερωτήσεις
17:45-18:00	Αξιολόγηση και κλείσιμο ημερίδας
18:00	Networking Apéritif

Για τη συμμετοχή στην ημερίδα απαιτείται προεγγραφή [εδώ](#).

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

Η παρούσα πρόσκληση για συμμετοχή στην ημερίδα αποτελεί μέρος του έργου SMACITE, που χρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ) και το Εθνικό Ταμείο Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΑ) μέσω του προγράμματος για την ανάπτυξη της οικονομίας και της κοινωνίας. Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και η ΕΤΠΑ δεν φέρουν ευθύνη για τις πληροφορίες που περιλαμβάνονται στην παρούσα πρόσκληση.

Figure 9: Invitation national workshop in Greece #2

- **Description:**

On February 26th, the University of West Attica hosted the second SMACITE National workshop in Greece. The event, held at the Alsos Egaleo Campus, gathered academics, industry experts, and technology leaders to explore the essential skills needed for engineers and technicians in Smart Cities.

The primary focus of the workshop was developing new skills that align with the demands of modern urban environments, highlighting the critical intersection of technology and professional competencies.

The workshop concluded with a round table, where attendees shared perspectives on the challenges and opportunities within the smart city sector, reaffirming that the future of urban spaces relies on the combination of digital skills and innovative applications. As cities evolve, fostering talent that can lead this transformation remains a priority.

- **Pictures:**





Figure 10: National Workshop in Greece #2

- **Attendance:** 42 participants
- **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score (out of 5)
Workshop organization	9.15
Appropriateness of the premises	8.70
Quality of presentations and materials	9.18
Speakers' knowledge and expertise	9.10
Clarity of the language used	9.10
Structure and timing of the agenda	9.05
Interest and engagement in workshop content	9.18
Usefulness of the SMACITE Virtual Worlds	8.95
MOOC usefulness	9.05
Overall satisfaction	9.15

Table 6: Evaluation of Workshop in Greece #2

The Athens workshop received outstanding scores across all categories, with every metric scoring above 9.1 out of 10. Participants described the experience as exceptionally well-organized, educational and inspiring.

- Speakers were rated the highest (9.30) a sign of both strong expertise and communication skills.
- The venue and logistics were also highly appreciated, indicating that attendees felt comfortable and supported throughout the sessions.
- The structure and flow of the event contributed to a sense of clarity, rhythm, and engagement.

The Athens edition of the SMACITE workshop was a great success. Participants left the event with:

- A deepened understanding of the workshop themes
- Strong motivation to apply the knowledge
- Appreciation for the digital resources made available

These results indicate that the SMACITE approach is highly effective across different European contexts and cultures—and that the tools and methodologies used are adaptable, impactful, and scalable.

• **Publication link:**

<https://www.smacite.eu/en/dissemination/posts/186-2nd-smacite-national-workshop-in-greece>

3.6 National Workshop in Bulgaria #2

Organizer:	ESI-CEE	Date	16/11/2024
Place:	Pamporovo	Format	In-person

• Comments:

According to the plan, this event was supposed to happen in Sofia, but due to the organization of an event with a big number of participants it was finally organized in Pamporovo, which was a good decision considering the participants' number and engagement.

• Description:

The SMACITE Project National Workshop, hosted by Bulgarian Association of Software Companies and ESI Center Eastern Europe, took place in Pamporovo, Bulgaria, on November 15-17, 2024, during the BASSCOM Autumn Retreat. The event brought together over 65 key stakeholders from the Bulgarian IT ecosystem, including industry leaders, academics, and public sector representatives.

The workshop focused on sharing SMACITE Project achievements, discussing lessons learned, and gathering valuable feedback from the target groups of the project: IT professionals, students, and public sector officials.

• Pictures:





Figure 11: National Workshop in Pomporovo

- **Attendance:** 75 participants
- **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score
Workshop Organisation	9.17
Workshop Premises	8.04
Presentation Quality	9.08
Speakers Knowledge	9.38
Clarity of Language	9.38
Agenda Structure	9.33
Interest in Workshop	9.12
Knowledge Before (1-5)	3.83
Knowledge After (1-5)	4.54
Usefulness of Virtual Worlds	8.67
MOOC Usefulness	8.82
Overall Satisfaction	9.12

Table 7: Evaluation of Workshop in Bulgaria #2

Bulgarian participants rated the SMACITE workshop exceptionally well, with nearly all metrics scoring above 9. The workshop was seen as:

- Expertly delivered
- Well organized
- Educationally impactful

The feedback confirms that the workshop successfully met the expectations of a Bulgarian audience, providing both a valuable learning experience and effective digital tools for further training.

The main conclusions were:

- Extremely high satisfaction across all metrics: most categories scored well above 9.
- Speakers received outstanding feedback (9.18), especially for their clarity and expertise.
- The structure, agenda, and content relevance were also highly praised.
- The knowledge improvement was significant: participants increased their self-assessed understanding by an average of +1.54 points on a 5-point scale.

• **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/en/dissemination/posts/175-2nd-smacite-workshop-in-bulgaria>

<https://basscom.org/news/the-smacite-project-national-workshop-hosted-by-basscom-and-european-software-institute-center-eastern-europe-took-place-in-pamporovo>

3.7 National Workshop in Italy #2

Organizer:	APRO Formazione	Date	05/03/2025
Place:	Alba	Format	In-person

▪ **Agenda (in English):**

9:30 Welcome and registration of participants

9:45 Welcoming remarks by the Mayor of Alba and the President of APRO Formazione

10:00 Presentation of the results of the SMACITE project by Annalisa Rizzo and Stefano Antona (APRO)

10:30 Roundtable discussion “Smart Cities in action: Innovation for a sustainable future” with participation from climate and environmental sustainability experts, public administrators, and entrepreneurs

INVITO

Smart Cities in azione Innovazione per un futuro sostenibile

Mercoledì, 5 marzo 2025 ore 9:30

Presso il **Palazzo Mostre e Congressi, Piazza Medford 3, Alba**

- Presentazione dei risultati del progetto **SMACITE**
- **Tavola rotonda con:**
 - Luca Mercalli:** Presidente Società Meteorologica Italiana, Direttore di Nimbus e giornalista scientifico
 - Franco Borgogno:** Giornalista, divulgatore scientifico ambientale e accompagnatore naturalistico
 - Roberto Cavallo:** Agronomo, saggista e Assessore all'Ambiente al Comune di Alba
 - Modera **Giancarlo Scarzello:** Imprenditore nel settore delle energie rinnovabili (Gemini Project)

Conferenza finale progetto **SMACITE** - www.smacite.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union



apro >>

Figure 12: National Workshop in Pomporovo

▪ **Description:**

The workshop entitled “Smart Cities in action: Innovation for a sustainable future” was organized at the Palazzo Mostre e Congressi Giacomo Morra in Alba in collaboration with the Municipality of Alba, associate partner of the project.

The event was attended by about 200 people, including 143 students and teachers from the schools of Alba “Luigi Einaudi” (CAT courses - Construction, Environment and Territory and Computer Science and Telecommunications - 2 class groups), “Piera Cillario Ferrero” (Water Management and Environmental Sanitation - 1 class) and “Leonardo Cocito” (scientific high school - 2 classes) and about 80 students and teachers from APRO Formazione, including some of the students who participated in the pilot.

After the welcome by the Mayor of Alba Alberto Gatto and the President of Apro Formazione Paolo Zoccola, the APRO Formazione team presented the results of the work carried out with the partners of the SMACITE project.

The following round table saw the participation of the guests Luca Mercalli, a climatologist and science writer of national renown, Roberto Cavallo, European Climate Pact Ambassador and Councilor for the Environment of the Municipality of Alba, Franco Borgogno, journalist and science writer co-author of various scientific publications about microplastics contamination and Giancarlo Scarzello, local entrepreneur in the renewable energy sector.

Panelists dialogued with members of APRO's SMACITE team and the audience on present and future perspectives in the use of technological tools and conscious behaviors to increase the sustainability of cities, clarifying key concepts, presenting best practices and data on various aspects of city management, from waste cycle to building consumption reduction and sustainable mobility.

▪ **Pictures:**





Figure 13: National Workshop in Alba

- **Attendance:** 200 participants
- **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score
Workshop Organisation	8,34
Workshop Premises	8,44
Presentation Quality	8,29
Speakers Knowledge	8,81
Clarity of Language	8,41
Agenda Structure	8,22
Interest in Workshop	8,15
Knowledge Before (1-5)	3,35
Knowledge After (1-5)	4,24
Usefulness of Virtual Worlds	8,13
MOOC Usefulness	8,13
Overall Satisfaction	8,34

Table 8: Evaluation of Workshop in Italy #2

All workshop aspects now have more than 8 in punctuation, indicating that the Italian participants had a generally very positive experience:

- The speakers' expertise remains a standout feature (8.81), showing that participants greatly appreciated the professionals leading the sessions.
- Content delivery—across clarity, interest, and presentation quality—is also highly rated.
- The agenda and organization were well regarded, making the event feel structured and efficient.
- Educational Tools
- The MOOC and Virtual Worlds are now considered highly useful, both scoring above 8. These tools effectively supported the workshop goals by offering accessible and engaging learning formats.

The Italian audience shows strong overall satisfaction with the SMACITE workshop. All categories are rated favorably, suggesting that the training environment, content, and delivery aligned well with expectations.

These insights confirm that:

- The workshop successfully delivered valuable knowledge.
- It maintained participant engagement.
- And it introduced practical tools for further learning

• **Publication link:**

Web media coverage

<https://www.lavocedialba.it/2025/03/06/leggi-notizia/argomenti/attualita-14/articolo/con-il-progetto-smacite-di-apro-formazione-ad-alba-arriva-il-futuro-sostenibile-delle-smart-cities-1.html>

<https://www.targatocn.it/2025/03/06/amp/argomenti/attualita/articolo/con-il-progetto-smacite-di-apro-formazione-ad-alba-arriva-il-futuro-sostenibile-delle-smart-cities.html>

https://ilcorriere.net/progetto-smacite-di-apro-formazione-ad-alba-il-futuro-sostenibile-delle-smart-cities/?feed_id=11162&_unique_id=67c9b66fe79a4&fbclid=IwY2xjawl31-VleHRuA2FibQIxmQABHWi0QBuvFME3zX3nR3rrGH5yu9fochhC2EShQAvrcOWHqNfRY1q_VzAfnw_aem_Dcmlfebes1NVCTJhHBWfKw

3.8 National Workshop in Spain #2

Organizer:	UAH + CADM	Date	18/02/2025
Place:	Madrid	Format	Hybrid

• Invitation:

National workshop: Mirando hacia las Smart Cities

Conoce el **proyecto Erasmus+ SMACITE**
Potenciando las habilidades de técnicos e ingenieros de Ciudades Inteligentes

Agenda

- 10:00 Recepción
- 10:15 Presentación del proyecto SMACITE
- 10:35 Perfiles profesionales y competencias demandadas
- 11:00 Ciudades y territorios inteligentes. Experiencias innovadoras en España
- 11:20 Café y networking
- 11:50 Presentación del MOOC
- 12:20 Retos ante nuevas tecnologías
- 12:40 Q&A, sorteo y clausura del evento

Cuando
Martes 18 de febrero

Donde
CRN de Desarrollo Informático y Comunicaciones
Av. de las Arcas del Agua, 2,
28905 Getafe, Madrid

National workshop: Mirando hacia las Smart Cities

Conoce el **proyecto Erasmus+ SMACITE**
Potenciando las habilidades de técnicos e ingenieros de Ciudades Inteligentes

Martes 18 de febrero de 2025 a las 10h. CRN de Desarrollo Informático y Comunicaciones

¿Te has preguntado qué habilidades se necesitan para desarrollar Ciudades Inteligentes?

SMACITE tiene como objetivo abordar la carencia de habilidades de los técnicos e ingenieros de Ciudades Inteligentes, mediante el diseño y testeo de un programa de educación y formación profesional. Se basa en un plan de estudios novedoso y multidisciplinar que combina habilidades digitales en las tecnologías habilitadoras de Ciudades Inteligentes con habilidades blandas, de emprendimiento y relativas al medio ambiente.

Potenciando las habilidades de técnicos e ingenieros de las ciudades inteligentes

Tomando como punto de partida el ámbito de la formación, el próximo **martes 18 de febrero de 2025, de 10 a 13h** se celebra un **evento gratuito** que reunirá a **diferentes perfiles** (profesionales, empresas, asociaciones, docentes y estudiantes) con interés en la **innovación educativa** en el **ámbito de la tecnología**.

Tendrá lugar en el **Centro de Referencia Nacional de Getafe**, donde se expondrá su experiencia con **SMACITE**, uno de los últimos **proyectos europeos** en los que ha participado, junto con el **Centro de Referencia Nacional de Fuencarral** y la **Universidad de Alcalá de Henares**, en el desarrollo de habilidades técnicas y no técnicas en el campo de las ciudades inteligentes.

En el evento contaremos con la participación de la Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (**FEEMP**), que nos hablará sobre diversas acciones municipales para la creación de ciudades inteligentes; y con la colaboración de la Asociación de Técnicos de Informática (**ATI**).

Este evento forma parte de una **serie de encuentros organizados por la Red de Centros de Referencia Nacional de la DG de Formación de la Comunidad de Madrid**, con el objetivo de consolidar una comunidad activa de intercambio de conocimientos en torno a formación, inserción laboral y tendencias actuales del mercado. Por eso tendremos oportunidad para el networking.

Las plazas para la jornada son limitadas, y puedes reservar la tuya en menos de un minuto en [este formulario](#). Si tienes interés en venir en grupo o tienes cualquier duda respecto al evento, por favor escribe un correo a cm-madrid@oicteam.com.

El proyecto SMACITE está financiado por el Programa Erasmus+ de la Unión Europea. Los opiniones expresadas en los documentos de trabajo, los resultados y los informes son de la exclusiva responsabilidad del proyecto. Estas opiniones no representan ni están respaldadas por la Comisión o por la Comisión Europea ni representan la posición de los países incluidos en los documentos de trabajo e informes, ni se hace responsable del uso que se haga de ellos.

Figure 14: Agenda and invitation of SMACITE Spain Workshop #2

▪ Description:

On February 18th, Madrid hosted one of SMACITE's national workshops, a key event addressing the challenges and opportunities in the evolution of Smart Cities. The workshop was a training event aimed at professionals and students interested in *Smart Cities*, combining theoretical presentations, practical demonstrations (including a MOOC and Virtual Worlds) and discussion spaces.

During the session, participants discussed how emerging technologies, such as AI, cybersecurity, and IoT, are transforming urban planning and public services. The workshop also addressed the most in-demand professional profiles and training strategies to bridge the skills gap in the sector.

The key highlights of the event were the following:

- Presentation of the SMACITE project, emphasizing its impact on developing talent for Smart Cities.
- Exploration of professional profiles and key competencies required for urban digitalization.
- Panel on innovative experiences in Spain, showcasing successful case studies in implementing smart city technologies.
- Introduction of the SMACITE MOOC, designed to equip professionals with essential digital transformation skills.
- Discussion on challenges posed by emerging technologies, analyzing the obstacles faced by professionals and public administrations.

In a nutshell, the transformation of cities does not depend solely on technology, but on the talent capable of implementing it with vision and efficiency. SMACITE is a key step in training the professionals who will lead this evolution.

▪ Pictures:





Figure 15: National Workshop in Madrid

- **Attendance:** 55 participants
- **Evaluation:**

At the end of the event, a satisfaction survey was conducted to evaluate various aspects of the workshop. This report analyzes the results in detail, focusing on overall participant satisfaction, average ratings per evaluation category, differences by participant profile, perceived knowledge improvement, usefulness of the provided tools (MOOC and Virtual Worlds), and interest in integrating the content into educational or training activities.

Overall Satisfaction and Ratings by Category

Overall, satisfaction with the workshop was very high. The average overall satisfaction rating was 4.6 out of 5, showing that participants were very pleased with the workshop experience. Breaking down by specific categories, all received high scores, close to the maximum of the scale. The following table summarizes the average rating for each survey category:

Evaluation Category	Average Score
Workshop organisation	9.91
Appropriateness of the premises	9.95
Quality of presentations and materials	9.95
Speakers' knowledge and expertise	9.77
Clarity of the language used	9.82
Structure and timing of the agenda	9.91
Interest in workshop content	9.86
Usefulness of the SMACITE Virtual Worlds	9.68
MOOC usefulness	9.64
Overall satisfaction	9.82

Table 9: Evaluation of Workshop in Spain #2

Participants gave the workshop outstanding scores, with nearly all categories approaching or exceeding 9.8 out of 10. The venue even reached a perfect 10+ adjusted score.

This reflects a deep appreciation of the experience in terms of:

- Organization
- Speaker quality
- Relevance of content

Both the Virtual Worlds and the MOOC scored very highly (9.6+), suggesting that these tools were:

- Easy to use
- Seen as relevant to real-world applications
- Considered highly effective for ongoing learning

Spanish participants expressed the highest overall satisfaction. Every workshop element—from logistics to educational content—was praised almost unanimously.

- These results confirm that:
- The SMACITE workshop delivery in Spain was a model of success.
- The training was not only enjoyable but also educationally effective.
- Participants are highly likely to remain engaged with the project's tools and content.

• **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/en/dissemination/posts/181-2nd-smacite-workshop-in-spain>
 National Workshop Mirando hacia las SmartCities | cftic | EducaMadrid

4 European workshops

At the project level, apart from the national workshops, 3 European ones were considered as relevant to increase the impact and reach an external audience from the project partner regions. These were aligned with other initiatives with synergies to SMACITE. In the next sections these three workshops are described.

TITLE	DATE	ORGANIZER
Smart Development: Unleashing Skills for Future-Ready Cities & Communities	20/09/2023	Digital SME
Fostering rural regeneration through local talent: a skill set for the smart communities' workforce	08/10/2024	Digital SME
Skills for Smart Communities – Empowering the Workforce for a Digital and Sustainable Future	20/02/2025	Digital SME

Table 10: SMACITE Dissemination activities: Clustering Activities

4.1 European Workshop #1

Organizer:	Digital SME	Date	20/09/2023
Place:	Online	Format	Online

▪ Agenda:



SMACITE - AURORAL - International Workshop #1

Title: Smart Development: Unleashing Skills for Future-Ready Cities & Communities

Date: 20 September 2023, 10.30 – 12.15 CET, Online

Link to connect: [this link](#)

Objectives:

- Presenting the concept, rationale and objectives behind the European Union's approach to the development of Smart Cities and Communities;
- Understanding the various skill sets needed to operate in a Smart City environment – technical, digital, soft- and green skills - and how [SMACITE](#) is actively contributing to their development.
- Enhancing cooperation among different EU funding programmes and projects in the field of Smart Cities and Communities.
- Strengthening community building capacity of the various stakeholders – training providers, public administrations, research organisations, businesses.
- Providing a space for discussion on challenges and future areas of cooperation (breakout sessions - see below).

Target audience

The **primary audience** for this workshop is partners and pilots from the [SMACITE](#) and [AURORAL](#) EU projects, as well education providers, VET, public authorities and businesses (solutions' providers) in the smart cities domain.

The **secondary audience** is the general audience involved in smart cities and smart communities.

Description / event rationale:

In an era of rapid urbanisation and technological progress, smart cities and communities are emerging as hubs for innovation and technology-enabled efficiency, where digital solutions benefit its inhabitants and businesses. However, the success of such transformation depends not only on cutting-edge technologies but also on the engagement and empowerment of relevant stakeholders through a blend of technical, green and soft skills.

This workshop aims to present latest findings on the pivotal skills needed to enhance the development of European smart cities and communities, by harmonising and interlinking outputs from different initiatives at EU level. The breakout sessions will then provide a collaborative room to exchange each other's practices and experiences on provision of training in the smart

Figure 16: 1st European Workshop invitation

10:30 Welcome and introduction to the workshop

Alessandra Zini, European DIGITAL SME Alliance

10:35 The [Living-in EU](#) initiative: presentation of current activities and launch of LORDIMAS assessment tool

Marek Bobis, Policy Officer at European Committee of the Regions

10:45 The SMACITE project: new curricula for smart cities technicians and operators

Maria Rigkou, Vasileios Gkamas, University of Patras

What are the technical and non-technical skills of the future smart city expert?

Dr. Luis Fernández-Sanz, University of Alcalá

11:05 Explanation of the breakout sessions – *Scroll down for the details*

11:10 Project workshop to enhance cooperation and partnership at European and local level – *Scroll down for the details of the breakout sessions*

11:50 Back to plenary and wrap-up

- **Description:**

The event, organized by the project partner DIGITAL SME, gathered more than 60 stakeholders in the smart cities sector. Representatives of EU institutions, education providers, VET, public authorities and businesses (solutions' providers) joined the event and participated in the breakout sessions to facilitate connections among peers around Europe. SMACITE project's findings on technical and soft skills for smart cities engineers and technicians were concretely presented by the project partners Universidad de Alcalà and University of Patras.

The essential skills for both roles have already been identified. As a result, it has been highlighted that designing and developing specifications and solutions for infrastructure with optimization is an essential skill for smart city engineers, while installing and maintaining automation systems, connected and smart devices, but also acting as user educator and service recommender is crucial for smart city technicians. In general, the project confirmed the higher relevance of knowledge over skills in the profile of engineers while the profile of the technicians shows the opposite focus on practice and skills over knowledge.

The engineer and technician profiles were drafted with reference to the e-Competence framework for ICT related jobs and are mapped to ESCO labor classification. The data collected until now show that both of them mainly require a mix of technical and green skills, but an engineer needs stronger business and management skills, together with soft skills. As next steps, SMACITE project will launch open calls to pilot the MOOCs developed based on the project findings on pivotal skills for smart cities engineers and technicians.

Mariana Furtado (Communication Officer - DG CNECT) gave an overview of the policy framework towards sustainable smart cities and communities, focusing on the Living-in EU initiative. Her presentation was complemented by Marek Bobis (Policy officer - European Committee of the Regions), that presented the LORDIMAS tool, a local digital maturity assessment instrument that could support EU cities in their digital transition. The tool launch event LORDIMAS: your digital maturity check will be held within the EU week of Regions on October 11th, from 10:30 to 10:45 in The Square (room Agora 1).

The breakout sessions created synergies with other EU funded projects, through the presentation of AURORAL Project Pilots in Penedès (ES), Southern Burgenland (AT) and Halogaland (NO) and of the Auroral Academy. Training providers, businesses and municipalities, including SMACITE partners, also had the chance to enhance new partnerships by presenting their organizations in the pitching session.

▪ **Pictures:**

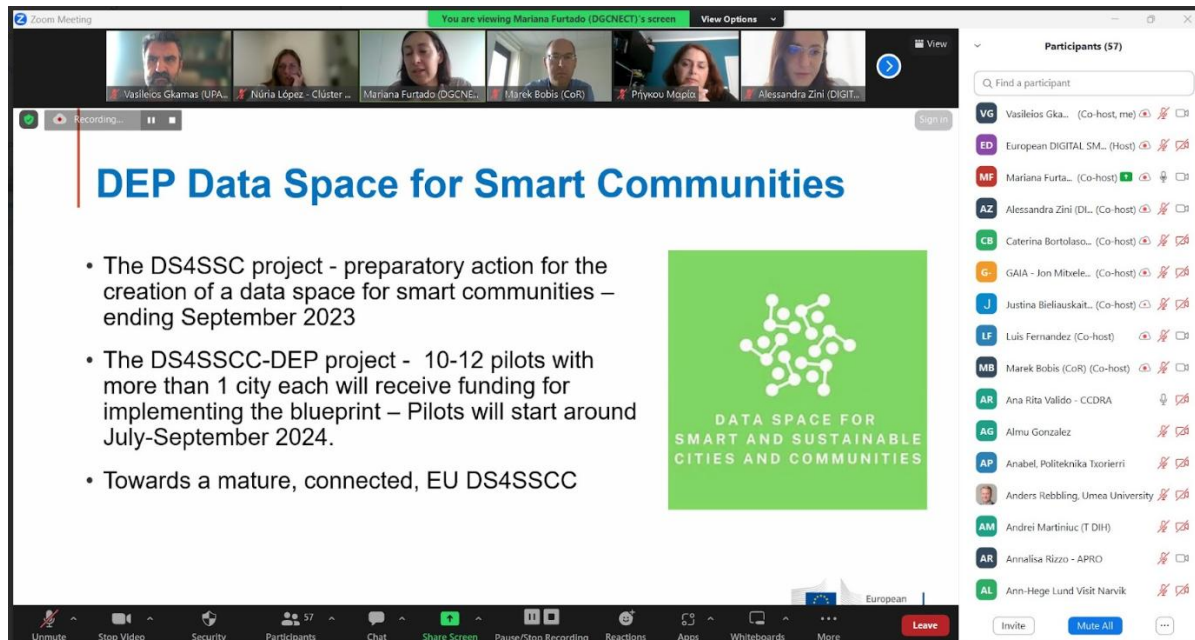


Figure 17: 1st European Workshop

- **Attendance:** 65 participants

▪ **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score (1-5)
Overall Interest	3.97
EU Concept Clarity	4.0
Understanding Skill Sets	4.07
Breakout Session Usefulness	3.69
EU Cooperation	3.59
Acquainted with SMACITE	3.93
Future Participation Interest	4.14

Table 11: Evaluation of European Workshop #1

Participants rated the workshop as very interesting (3.97/5), reflecting a high level of engagement with the topics presented. The core objective of presenting the EU rationale for Smart Cities was well achieved (4.00), indicating that the audience understood the strategic vision behind the initiative.

The workshop helped participants understand the required technical, digital, soft, and green skills to work in a Smart City environment. This was the highest-rated category (4.07), confirming that the content contributed directly to participant learning.

The European Workshop successfully fulfilled its educational and awareness-raising goals, with participants leaving the event better informed about:

- The SMACITE project
- The Smart Cities concept
- The required multidisciplinary skills

While content delivery and conceptual clarity were strong points, future workshops could enhance the interactivity and networking opportunities to further boost collaboration and participation in future SMACITE activities.

• **Publication link:**

- <https://smacite.eu/index.php/en/dissemination/posts/103-smacites-first-workshop-smart-development-unleashing-skills-for-future-ready-cities-communities>
- <https://living-in.eu/events/smart-development-unleashing-skills-future-ready-cities-communities>
- <https://www.digitalsme.eu/events/smart-development-unleashing-skills-for-future-ready-cities-communities/>
- <https://basscom.org/news/workshop-smart-development-unleashing-skills-for-future-ready-cities-and-communities>
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/smacite_smart-development-unleashing-skills-for-activity-7106892279851696128-4ZdF/?trk=public_profile_like_view

4.2 European Workshop #2

Organizer:	Digital SME	Date	08/10/2024
Place:	Belgium	Format	In-person + online

▪ Agenda:

Fostering rural regeneration through local talent: a skill set for the smart communities' workforce.

9.30 am to 10.30am, Tuesday 8th October 2024

Room Albert Borschette Conference Centre, AB-3A

Guest speakers

Valerie Rousselin Somerville, *EU Partnerships and Projects Manager, Skillnet Ireland*

Christoph Hrdinka, *CEO, LuxActive KG - Coordinator of Horizon 2020 Project AURORAL*

Vasileios Gkamas, *ICT Researcher, University of Patras - Coordinator of Erasmus+ alliance for innovation project SMACITE*



Figure 18: 2nd European Workshop #2 Week of Regions

- **Description:**

On the 08th of October of 2024 and during the event EU Regions Week SMACITE organized a workshop titled *Fostering Rural Regeneration through Local Talent*. This session aimed to present best practices for the development of European smart communities, with a particular focus on digital skills. The session shared the results of EU-funded projects and public-private partnerships aiming at fostering rural regeneration by enhancing the skills of the local workforce.

Our project partner Vasileios Gkamas as project coordinator presented the project in this session moderated by Caterina Bortolaso from DIGITAL SME Alliance. They were accompanied by Valérie Rousselin Somerville from Skillnet Ireland and Christoph Hrdinka from the Auroral Project.

Through this initiative, we aim to establish a skilled workforce ready to drive rural regeneration and foster smart communities across Europe, ensuring that local talent becomes a vital foundation for sustainable development.

- **Pictures:**

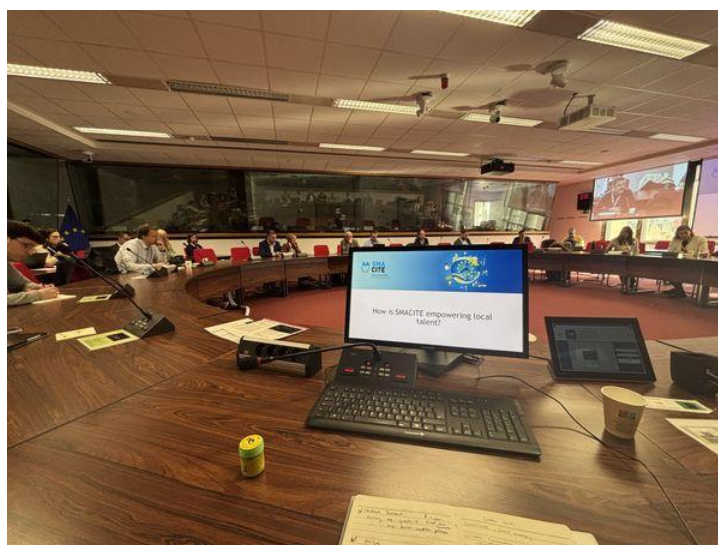


Figure 19: European Workshop #2

- **Attendance:** 60 participants

▪ **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score
Workshop organisation	7.8
Appropriateness of the premises	7.5
Quality of presentations and materials	7.4
Speakers' knowledge and expertise	8.1
Clarity of the language used	7.6
Structure and timing of the agenda	7.2
Relevance of workshop content	7.9
Usefulness of the SMACITE insights	8
Overall satisfaction	7.8

Table 12: Evaluation of European Workshop #2

The evaluation was good with the next areas mentioned:

- Speaker quality and project relevance stood out as the strongest points of the session.
- SMACITE's emphasis on combining digital and transversal skills was praised as forward-thinking and essential for rural areas.
- Participants appreciated the diversity of examples and EU collaboration, especially how different initiatives support local employment and training systems.

The session "Fostering Rural Regeneration through Local Talent" received moderately high satisfaction ratings, reflecting:

- Strong interest in the theme of local skills and smart rural development
- Appreciation for the SMACITE approach to bridging digital and soft skills
- A desire for deeper interaction and hands-on examples in future sessions

This evaluation indicates that the SMACITE project is well aligned with regional development needs, and future editions of this workshop could build on this success with more interactivity and local stakeholder engagement.

▪ **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/en/dissemination/posts/171-smacite-at-eu-week-of-regions-2024>

<https://basscom.org/news/european-workshop-fostering-rural-regeneration-through-local-talent-a-skill-set-for-the-smart-communities-workforce>

https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/events/fostering-rural-regeneration-through-local-talent-skill-set-smart-communities-workforce_en

4.3 European Workshop #3

Organizer:	Digital SME	Date	20/02/2025
Place:	Belgium	Format	Hybrid

▪ **Agenda:**

13.45 – 13.50	Welcome & Opening Remarks Caterina Bortolaso, Project Manager, European DIGITAL SME Alliance (<i>Moderator</i>)
13:50 – 14:00	Preliminary presentation SMACITE Training courses and MOOC – Jokin Goioaga, Politeknika Txorierri – SMACITE Project
14:00 – 15:00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oscar Huerta Melchor, Policy Analyst on Urban Development and Governance, OECD • Martina Desole, Director at ENOLL – Living-in EU Education and Capacity Building • Anabel Menica, Director of Strategy and Innovation at Politeknika Txorierri – SMACITE Project • Silvia Assalini, Expert in Sustainable Energy Systems at ICLEI – Covenant of Mayors • Sophie Meszaros, Project Manager at OASC – European Data Space for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities (DS4SSCC) • Justina Bieliauskaite, Innovation Director at European DIGITAL SME Alliance – SMARCO Project
15:00 – 15:10	Q&A session Open floor for audience questions (both in-person and online participants)
15:10 – 15:15	Closing Remarks Caterina Bortolaso, Project Manager, European DIGITAL SME Alliance (<i>Moderator</i>)

Panel Discussion

Skills for Smart Communities – Empowering the Workforce for a Digital and Sustainable Future

Date: February 20th, at 13:45 – 15:15 CET

Duration: 1h30 minutes

Location: Comet Meetings, Place Stéphanie 20, 1050 Bruxelles or online

The transition toward smart communities requires more than just technological innovation. It demands a workforce equipped with the necessary digital and transversal skills to design, implement, and manage these advanced systems. Public authorities play a pivotal role in this transformation, not only as policymakers but also as facilitators of digital adoption within their jurisdictions. However, many public administrations face significant skill gaps that hinder their ability to fully embrace smart technologies and foster sustainable, inclusive development.

Within the kick-off of SMART Communities' Skills Development in Europe (SMARCO) blueprint project, this panel discussion seeks to address the urgent need for upskilling and reskilling the workforce, with a particular focus on public procurers and smart engineers. Developing the necessary competences is critical for ensuring that smart community initiatives are both innovative and equitable.

By bringing together experts, policymakers, and practitioners, this event aims to foster a collaborative exchange of ideas and solutions, ensuring that public authorities are not just participants but leaders in the smart community revolution. The contributions will provide real-world examples of collaborative approaches and frameworks that empower local authorities to implement and scale smart community initiatives effectively. The session will focus on:

- **Core Competencies for Smart Communities:** Exploring the technical, digital, and transversal skills needed to align with the green and digital transitions.
- **Bridging the Skills Gap:** Strategies to address disparities in skills between urban and rural areas, ensuring no one is left behind in the digital revolution.
- **Best Practices and Initiatives:** Showcasing successful workforce development programs and tools, which provide actionable solutions for public authorities.

Speakers:

- Marek Bobis, Policy Officer at the European Committee of the Regions
- Oscar Huerta Melchor, Policy Analyst on Urban Development and Governance, OECD
- Martina Desio, Director at ENoLL - Living-in EU Education and Capacity Building
- Anabel Menica, Director of Strategy and Innovation at Politeknika Txorierri – SMACITE Project
- Silvia Assalin, Expert in Sustainable Energy Systems at ICLEI – Covenant of Mayors
- Sophie Meszaros, Project Manager at OASC - European Data Space for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities (DS4SSCC)
- Justina Bieliauskaitė, Innovation Director at European DIGITAL SME Alliance – SMARCO Project

Moderator: Caterina Bortolaso, Project Manager at European DIGITAL SME Alliance and Coordinator of SMARCO Project



Figure 20: 3rd European Workshop invitation

• Description:

The session *"Skills for Smart Communities – Empowering the Workforce for a Digital and Sustainable Future"* was held on February 20, 2025. This high-level panel brought together leading experts, practitioners and policymakers to address the critical challenge of workforce development in the context of smart and sustainable communities.

This panel discussion focused on strategies to upskill and reskill professionals—particularly public procurers and smart engineers—to ensure that smart community initiatives are both effective and inclusive. The session highlighted how building the right skills framework is essential to empower public institutions to design, implement and manage digital transformation at the local and regional levels.

The session was opened by Caterina Bortolaso, Project Manager at the European DIGITAL SME Alliance, who also moderated the discussion. Jokin Goioaga from Politeknika Txorierri presented the SMACITE training courses and MOOC, introducing key tools and resources being developed to support smart community skills development.

Then a panel of experts were created to discuss some key topics. During the session, **Oscar Huerta Melchor** (OECD) emphasized current trends in urban development and the

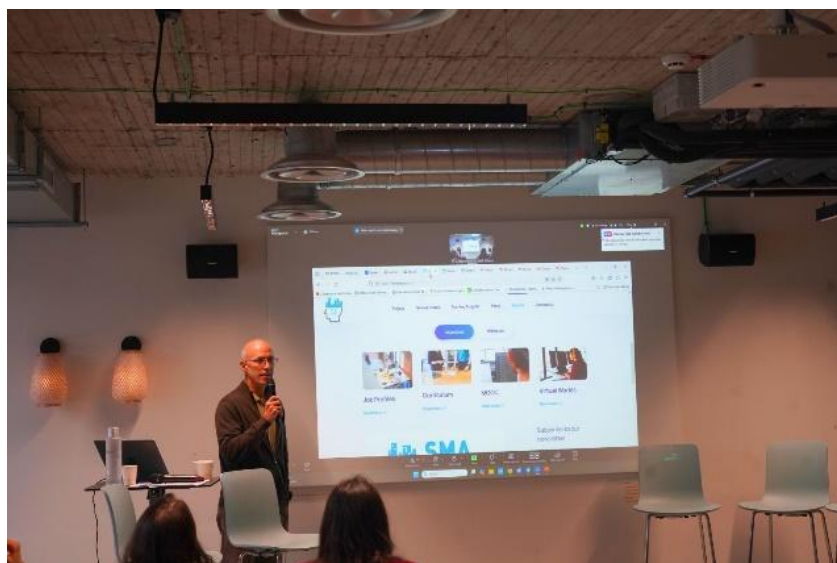
evolving governance frameworks that call for new and diverse skillsets. Martina Desole (ENoLL) highlighted the role of educational and capacity-building initiatives within the Living-in.EU movement, stressing their importance for local innovation. Representing the SMACITE project, Anabel Menica (Politeknika Txorierri) shared valuable insights on how to bridge the gap between technical education and the real needs of smart communities. Silvia Assalini (ICLEI) focused on sustainable energy systems and explained how skill development is closely tied to the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors. Meanwhile, Sophie Meszaros (OASC) addressed the European Data Space for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities, pointing to data literacy as a key emerging competency. Lastly, Justina Bieliauskaite (European DIGITAL SME Alliance) contributed perspectives from the SMARCO project, underlining the need for coordinated efforts across EU-level initiatives.

Key Themes Discussed:

- Core Competencies for Smart Communities: Integration of technical, green, digital, and soft skills.
- Bridging Urban-Rural Gaps: Ensuring equitable access to training and opportunities.
- Best Practices: Examples of successful workforce development programs and scalable models for public authorities.

The session concluded with a lively Q&A segment, allowing participants—both in-person and online—to raise questions and exchange views. Final remarks by Caterina Bortolaso emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration and innovation in training systems to future-proof Europe's communities.

• Pictures:





INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

 **FEBRUARY 20**

 **52 participants**

The transition toward **smart communities** is not just about **technology**—it's about **people**.

Public authorities can lead the charge by equipping themselves with digital and transversal competences to build, implement, and sustain smart, inclusive, and green local development.

KEY THEMES



Core competencies needed for the digital and green transitions



Strategies to bridge skills gaps across urban and rural areas



Best practices in upskilling and workforce development for public procurers and smart engineers

SPEAKERS

Marek Bobis, European Committee of the Regions
Oscar Huerta Melchor, OECD
Martina Desole, ENoLL - Living-in EU
Anabel Menica, Politeknika Txorierri - SMACITE E Project
Silvia Assalin, ICLEI - Covenant of Mayors
Sophie Meszaros, OASC – DS4SSC
Justina Bieliauskaite, European DIGITAL SMEE Alliance – SMARCO Project

Moderator: **Caterina Bortolaso**, Project Manager

Figure 21: 3rd European Workshop

- **Attendance:** 52 participants
- **Publication link:**
<https://smacite.eu/en/dissemination/posts/185-smacite-european-workshop-smart-communities-skills-development-in-europe-workshop>

5 Project Final Conference

Organizer:	UNIWA + UNICERT	Date	08/05/2025
Place:	Athens	Format	In-person

▪ Comments:

It was the last action organized within the project. It was organized by UNIWA and UNICERT

▪ Agenda (in English):

9:30-10:00	Welcome Coffee (Participants arrival and registration)
10:00-10:10	Welcome by Host Institutions
10:10-10:30	Digital skills development in the EU Paolo Zancanella, Project Adviser, EC European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
10:30-10:50	Digital transformation in City of Athens Lazaros Karaoulis, CEO, DAEM, City of Athens
10:50-11:10	Building the digital and horizontal skills for Smart Cities professionals: SMACITE project Maria Rigou, Associate Professor, University of Patras
11:10-11:30	Professional profiles and sources of talent for Smart Cities projects Luis Fernandez Sanz, Full Professor, University of Alcala
11:30-12:00	Massive Open Online Courses and Virtual Worlds for Smart Cities professionals training: The experience from the SMACITE project Vasileios Gkamas, Researcher, University of Patras and Polina Kontodiakou, Project Manager, Olympic Training and Consulting
12:00-12:30	Coffee Break
12:30-12:45	Keynote Speech Dimitris Papastergiou, Minister of Digital Governance of the Hellenic Republic
12:45-13:00	JustReDI: Resilience, Inclusion and Growth - Towards a Just Green and Digital Transition of Greek Regions Ioannis Voyiatzis, Professor, University of West Attica
13:00-13:15	SMARCO: SMART Communities Skills Development in Europe Caterina Bortolaso, Project Manager, DIGITAL SME Alliance
13:15-13:30	Smart Cities for Everyone: Digital Twins, AI, and Assistive Technologies for Inclusive Innovation Dr. Katerina Lamprakopoulou, Postdoc researcher & communication officer, ESDA LAB, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Peloponnese
13:30-13:45	Digital Twin on Smart Manufacturing Annalisa Rizzo, Project Manager, Apro Formazione
13:45-14:45	Lunch break
14:45-15:45	Round Table: AI-Driven Governance, Public-Private Collaborations & Talent Development for Smart Cities
15:45-16:00	Closing Discussion Maria Rigou, Associate Professor, University of Patras and Vasileios Gkamas, Researcher, University of Patras

▪ Promotion:

In this case, for the final event, some additional materials for the promotion of the action were developed to promote the event. More information can be found in “D.7.3 Project Promotional Material”.

SMACITE PROJECT FINAL EVENT 08.05.2025	
	
SMACITE: Empowering Cities for the digital age 08th of May 2025 (University of West Attica, Conference Center in Athens Campus)	
EVENT AGENDA	
9:30-10:00	Welcome <u>Coffee</u> (Participants arrival and registration)
10:00-10:10	Welcome by Host Institutions
10:10-10:30	Keynote speech Senior Representative from the Greek Ministry of Digital Governance
10:30-10:50	Digital skills development in the EU Paolo Zancanella, Project Adviser, EC, European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
10:50-11:10	Building the digital and horizontal skills for Smart Cities professionals: SMACITE project Maria Rigou, Associate Professor, University of Patras
11:10-11:30	Professional profiles and sources of talent for Smart Cities projects Luis Fernandez Sanz, Full Professor, University of Alcala
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12:00-12:30	Coffee Break
12:30-12:45	Just Just Resilience, Inclusion and Growth - Towards a Just Green and Digital Transition of Greek Regions Ioannis Βασιλείου Vassiliou
12:45-13:00	SMARCO: SMARCO Communities Skills Development in Europe Caterina Bortolasso, Project Manager, DIGITAL SME Alliance
13:00-13:15	Smart Cities for Everyone: Digital Twins, AI, and Assistive Technologies for Inclusive Innovation Dr. Katerina Λαμπροπούλου Lampropoulou , Postdoc researcher & communication officer, ESDA LAB, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Πατρών Patras
13:15-13:30	Digital Twin on Smart Manufacturing Annalisa Rizzo, Project Manager, Διασ. Εταιρείας Dis. Etaireas
13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:30	Round Table: AI-Driven Governance, Public-Private Collaborations & Talent Development for Smart Cities
15:30-16:00	Closing Discussion Maria Rigou, Associate Professor, University of Patras and Vasileios Gkamas, Researcher, University of Patras University of Patras
 An Erasmus+ project www.smacite.eu  Co-funded by the European Union	



**SMA
CITE**
Enhancing skills
for smart city tech

SMACITE PROJECT FINAL EVENT

Smart Skills: Empowering Cities for the digital age

 **08.05.2024 (9:30-16.00h)**

 University of West Attica, Conference Center in Athens Campus.

Learn more and Register here!



In this event you will: Explore digital skills training through MOOCs and Virtual Worlds, discover EU policy actions, and learn about collaboration models for talent development across sectors.

 <https://smacite.eu/en/>

 Co-funded by the European Union

Figure 22: Event Agenda and invitation flyer

▪ Description:

The final conference of SMACITE happening on the 08th of May titled: "Smart Skills: Empowering Cities for the Digital Age" represented the ending of the year funded activities in which partners contributed and were working together to develop the results of the SMACITE project.

The event took place at the University of West Attica Conference Center in Athens. This event brought together experts from academia and VET, policymakers and industry professionals to discuss digital skills development for the cities of the future. Highlights include:

- Recent updates on EC funding programmes for digital skills development, such as Erasmus+ and Digital Europe programmes and presentation of EU agenda on digital skills.
- Smart city related initiatives being performed in the city of Athens.
- Key outcomes from the SMACITE project and other relevant projects such as [JustRedi](#), Digital Twin Project, SMARCO Project and MetaCities Excellence Hub in South-Eastern Europe.
- Insights into smart city innovation and initiatives.
- Roundtable discussion on AI-driven governance, public-private collaborations, and digital skills development for Smart Cities.

The Final Conference: Smart Skills – Empowering Cities for the Digital Age concluded with a strong sense of momentum and shared commitment toward shaping digitally competent, resilient, and inclusive urban environments. Participants left inspired by the concrete examples of collaboration between public institutions, academia, industry, and EU-funded projects. The exchange of best practices, strategic insights and innovative approaches showed the vital role of skills development in enabling cities to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital era.

▪ Pictures:







Figure 23: Pictures of the SMACITE Final Conference

- **Attendance:** 67 participants
- **Evaluation:**

Evaluation Category	Average Score
Event organisation	9.43
Appropriateness of the premises	9.57
Quality of presentations and materials	9.19
Speakers' knowledge and expertise	9.38
Clarity of the language used	9.05
Structure and timing of the agenda	9.24
Interest in workshop content	9.43
Knowledge previous the event (1-5)	9.68
Knowledge after the event (1-5)	3.29
Overall satisfaction	4.24

Table 13: Evaluation of Final Conference

The conference received excellent feedback regarding its overall organisation (9.43), indicating that participants felt welcomed and that the event was managed in a highly professional and efficient manner. The venue itself received the highest score (9.57), confirming that the physical environment, facilities, and logistics contributed positively to the overall experience.

The quality of the presentations and materials was also rated very positively (9.19), showing that attendees found the content to be well-prepared, relevant, and clearly aligned with the goals of the conference. This strong rating affirms that the event was not only well run but also substantively enriching.

The final SMACITE conference was perceived as a high-quality event in both organisation and content. Participants appreciated the structure, the materials, and the environment, suggesting that the conference successfully delivered a valuable and impactful experience.

- **Publication link:**

<https://smacite.eu/en/dissemination/final-conference>

6 Action Results

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of established communication objectives, parameters were defined to help to evaluate the different project actions and were thus labeled as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the SMACITE project.

In the next table the indicators related to the workshops have been established:

6.1 Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Target	Archived
Number of participants in the national workshops	320	680
Number of participants in the final conference	60-80	67
Number of participants in the European workshops	150	166
Participants satisfied or very satisfied with the workshops (national and European)	At least 80%	OK (93%)

Table 14: SMACITE KPIs related to the Dissemination Activities

The participation data reveals a strong and growing engagement across the project's key events. National workshops saw a significant increase in attendance, rising from 320 to 636 participants—nearly doubling the initial figure, which reflects the project's expanding outreach and relevance at the local level. The final conference hosted 67 participants, slightly above the previous indication of 60-80 which indicates a good interest in a focused event. European workshops experienced an increase in attendance, from 150 to 166 participants, highlighting consistent and increasing engagement at the cross-border level.

Most notably, participant satisfaction across both national and European workshops was exceptionally high: 93% of attendees reported being satisfied or very satisfied, surpassing the target threshold of 80%. These results underscore the effectiveness of the project's activities in delivering valuable and impactful experiences to stakeholders.



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