SMART CITY STRATEGY

Brussels Smart City

In its 2014-2019 regional policy statement, the government expressed the wish to make Brussels a digital capital and undertook to establish digitalisation as a major axis of its development programme.

As a forerunner in this field, the BRIC has supported this global strategy for a Smart Region since the publication of its white Paper in 2014. This founding vision has since taken practical shape in achieving KPI targets as well as the organisation of a Smart City Summit, a Smart City Event, participatory Smart breakfasts, etc. What is more, at the heart of the Smart City lies the collection, aggregation and use of data in order to improve the lives of the general public. Whether for video images, open data or personal data, the BRIC is the institution chosen to fulfil the role of exchange platform for all these data. A Smart City Manager has been appointed and a portal, www.smartcity.brussels, has been launched to bring players and information together around the Smart City in the Brussels region.

Digital.brussels

In terms of strategy, intensive collaboration has taken place among the parties involved in the digitalisation process and in February 2017 an ‘umbrella’ brand, Digital.brussels, was put in place to consolidate and coordinate the various digital plans in Brussels. The first of these concerns the Smart City (Minister Debaets – BRIC), the second involves work and education (Minister Gosuin - Impulse), and last one covers innovation (Minister Laanan – Innoviris). At the same time, an initial document setting out the principles of the Brussels Smart City has been submitted and approved by the government.

This ‘Digital Brussels’ plan will be overseen by a coordination committee that aims to guarantee the pooling, complementarity and coherence of the various political initiatives in this area. This Coordination Committee will meet at least twice a year. Its purpose is to draw up a plan of actions with budgets to specify the types of projects and collaborations being considered. From 2018 onwards, it will launch a joint call for projects to back up the complementarity of digital policies in Brussels. Finally, various themed working groups may be set up within this committee, bringing together other participants, public or private, to deal with particular issues.

Europe uses the ‘Digital Economy & Society Index’ (DESI) to assess the member states every year in terms of the progress made with their digital competitiveness. The digital plans being implemented in Brussels are intended to contribute towards the five pillars defined by this index (Connectivity – Human Capital – Internet Use – Integration of digital technologies – Digital public services).

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1 Video protection platform http://cirb.brussels/fr/quoi-de-neuf/publications/cahiers/nr-35-4-proje
2 www.opendatastore.brussels
3 Regional Service Integrator (RSI – Fidus) http://cirb.brussels/fr/quoi-de-neuf/publications/cahiers/brussels
Smart City Brussels – Vision Statement

The Smart City statement establishes the paths to be followed for the digital and Smart City priorities in the Region. In this respect, it is based on the priorities linked to the European digital agenda (DESI index) and determines other priorities linked to the Smart City context (transversality, pooling and reuse, digital inclusion, European dimension, governance and performance measurement).

It defines the role of the Region and the role of the BRIC, its key partner in the implementation of smart city projects. The Region’s mission is to manage at least part of the physical infrastructure, develop a data strategy, collaborate with the ecosystem of companies operating in the Smart City and establish new means of interacting with the general public (such as the ‘living labs’, for example). The BRIC will continue to pool the regional infrastructures and solutions, to fulfil its role as a data exchange hub and to set up the Smart City Program Office.

I. The 2017 projects

The first part of the statement puts forward a series of practical projects for 2017 which have been identified on the basis of the priorities and axes adopted in the overall statement on the Smart City and the use of elements from the DESI index. At least one specific project is planned for each of these pillars so as to ensure that Brussels can position itself as a ‘Smart Region’ and digital capital.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Economy &amp; Society Index (DESI)</th>
<th>Connectivity</th>
<th>Pilot project involving sensors in a pooled infrastructure and publication of data on the portal <a href="http://www.opendatastore.brussels">www.opendatastore.brussels</a></th>
<th>Portal function and home page for geolocalised information for Wifi.brussels</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human capital</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call for projects for Brussels to become a living lab, in particular with regard to increasing awareness among children and digital literacy</td>
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<td>Internet use</td>
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<td>Launch of action to increase awareness of on-line harassment with partners</td>
<td>Investment in support for teachers</td>
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<td>Integration of digital technology</td>
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<td>Fluidisation of data management via the identification of authentic sources, the regional open data strategy and the future Urban Platform</td>
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<td>Digital administration</td>
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<td>Digital administration pilot project at the Brussels regional public service</td>
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<td>Transversality</td>
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<td>Implementation of a consultation model between Innoviris, Impulse and the BRIC via digital.brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pooling and reuse</td>
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<td>Pooling and reuse of data via the future Urban Platform</td>
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<td>Digital inclusion</td>
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<td>Support and development of Digital Public Spaces towards version 2.0</td>
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<td>Proposal for new types of training within the Digital Public Spaces</td>
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<td>Linking Digital Public Spaces with the regional fablab policy</td>
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<td>European dimension</td>
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<td>Monitoring and participation in European projects such as biTope (Horizon 2020 project on the Internet of Things)</td>
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</table>
2. **The role of the Smart City Ambassador**

The function of Smart City Ambassador is given to a recognised individual who exerts an influence on the Smart City theme and has an affinity with Brussels. This individual will share his knowledge with the political leaders in Brussels and his expertise will be regularly consulted by the Brussels smart city players. His role is also to promote Brussels in Belgium and internationally as a Smart City. This role is not remunerated.

The Smart City Manager appointed and paid by the Region fulfils a very different role. She is the contact point for the Brussels Region for tangible Smart City projects. She works on preparing the Smart City policy in practice, bringing in her expertise and her network and putting forward concrete proposals based on opportunities detected.

3. **Governance and performance measurements**

The Secretary of State in charge of digitalisation has to provide a coherent framework for operationalisation and coordination among the various Smart City initiatives in the Brussels Region. To this end, the BRIC is to draw up a proposal for the establishment of a **Smart City Program Office**. The **Smart City Program Office** will undertake the following tasks:

   a. Identification of internal and external stakeholders
      i. Public authorities: Smart Governance consultation structure (each member of the Government will have to put in place a Smart City project in one of their areas of competence over the coming year)
      ii. General public: the smartcity.brussels portal
      iii. Businesses: in consultation with ministers Gosuin and Laalan
      iv. Academic world: via the Smart City chair at the VUB (Flemish university of Brussels)

   b. Definition of critical success factors
      i. KPIs based on DESI
      ii. Dashboard of Smart City projects in Brussels: a management tool accompanied by key indicators.

   c. Drafting of a general roadmap

   d. Preparation of the architecture and technical infrastructure

   e. Design and implementation of a technical architecture adapted to the Region, in line with the regional IT strategy approved by the Government on 20/07/2016.

*Open and Agile Smart Cities* [http://www.oascities.org/]
*European Innovation Partnership group on Smart Cities* [http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartercities/index_en.htm]