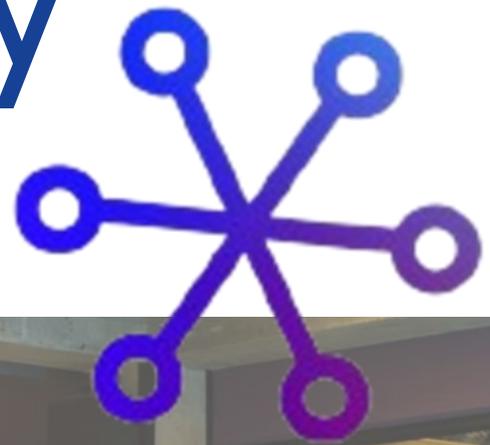


QUARTERLY REPORT #5

April 2025

metacity

Virtual solutions
for real people



URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE

metacity

quarterly report #4



Index

- 1. 4TH CNM IN HÄRNÖSAND—DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SERVICES...04
- 2. ULGS BOOST CO-CREATION OF DIGITAL ACTIONS..... 07
- 3. NEXT STOPS: PATRAS MASTERCLASS & BRUSSELS SHOWCASE09



4TH CNM IN HÄRNÖSAND DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SERVICES

How is Sweden doing in digitalization of public services? METACITY partners met at Härnösand in March to find out and advance their own plans for future development

After the end of year break and a start of the new year focused on the development of Testing Actions and co-creation of new planned activities with local support group members, late March was the time for all METACITY partners to gather once again, this time in the partner city of Härnösand in Sweden, where the 4th Core Network Meeting of the network took place.

Sweden is well known for the high digital literacy of its population and the sophisticated level of digitalization of its public services – aspects that have been positively highlighted as Härnösand assets in the baseline study – and the visits and demonstrations that took place during the meeting were yet another confirmation of just that. From the new Digidelcenter situated in the beautiful and central public library, a place for free digital learning based on the citizens' needs and where they can get free help with digital services (an initiative classified as a Good Practice in the European Commission's Jobs and Skills Platform), to the Virtual reality programmes for civil servants (such as firemen) on the job training at Technichus, a municipal company, Härnösand had plenty of inspiration to offer to all other METACITY partners for their future action plans.



1. 4TH CNM IN HÄRNÖSAND

And a first glimpse of what these Action Plans will be was another strong focus of this meeting, as it was the occasion for the first network Peer Review. In an effort articulated by the Ad-Hoc Expert Maria João Rauch and that started early in the year with the development of more complete and comprehensive versions of the IAPs by each city and continued with the assessment, prior to event, of each draft by two other cities, this meeting was the opportunity for partners to share progress and recommendations on their future plans. In the Peer Review session at the meeting, each city heard from two of its network peers and from the expert on the merits and gaps of their work so far, and gathered valuable input to improve the impact, attractiveness and readability of its IAPs. A lot is being planned and not too long from now, once funding is gathered and the roll-out of the IAPs starts, more digital services partly inspired by those of Härnösand will be deployed, from Fundão in the west to Razlog in the east, from Nykarleby in the north to Arta in the south, so that all their citizens can benefit from a more digital and inclusive Europe.



Härnösand reminded us that digital transformation is not just about technology, but about empowering people. The insights and energy shared during this meeting will echo across the METACITY network, guiding each city towards a more inclusive and connected future.



ULGS BOOST CO-CREATION OF DIGITAL ACTIONS

Co-creation of new digital actions continues to develop within the Urbact Local support Groups (ULGs) in all METACITY partners

As the METACITY network enters the stage of “preparing for implementation” and with the Integrated Action Plans in each city starting to take shape, the contributions of local stakeholders is becoming more tangible and activities intensify in the Local Support Groups created within the network in each city.

Stakeholders, organized in this support structures, have been helping partner cities to define the vision and focus for their digital paths, contributing to the deployment of the testing actions and suggesting and validating actions for the future action plans, thus becoming real co-owners and engaged parties in the future urban development. In Razlog, the big success of the testing action, with the creation of a Media Production Lab in a local secondary school – which will be followed by a planned expansion to all secondary schools within the IAP -has received wide national coverage, with news segments on the two major TV national channels, highlighting the URBACT support and the students and professors engagement



Razlog SSA - Euronews report (Bulgaria)

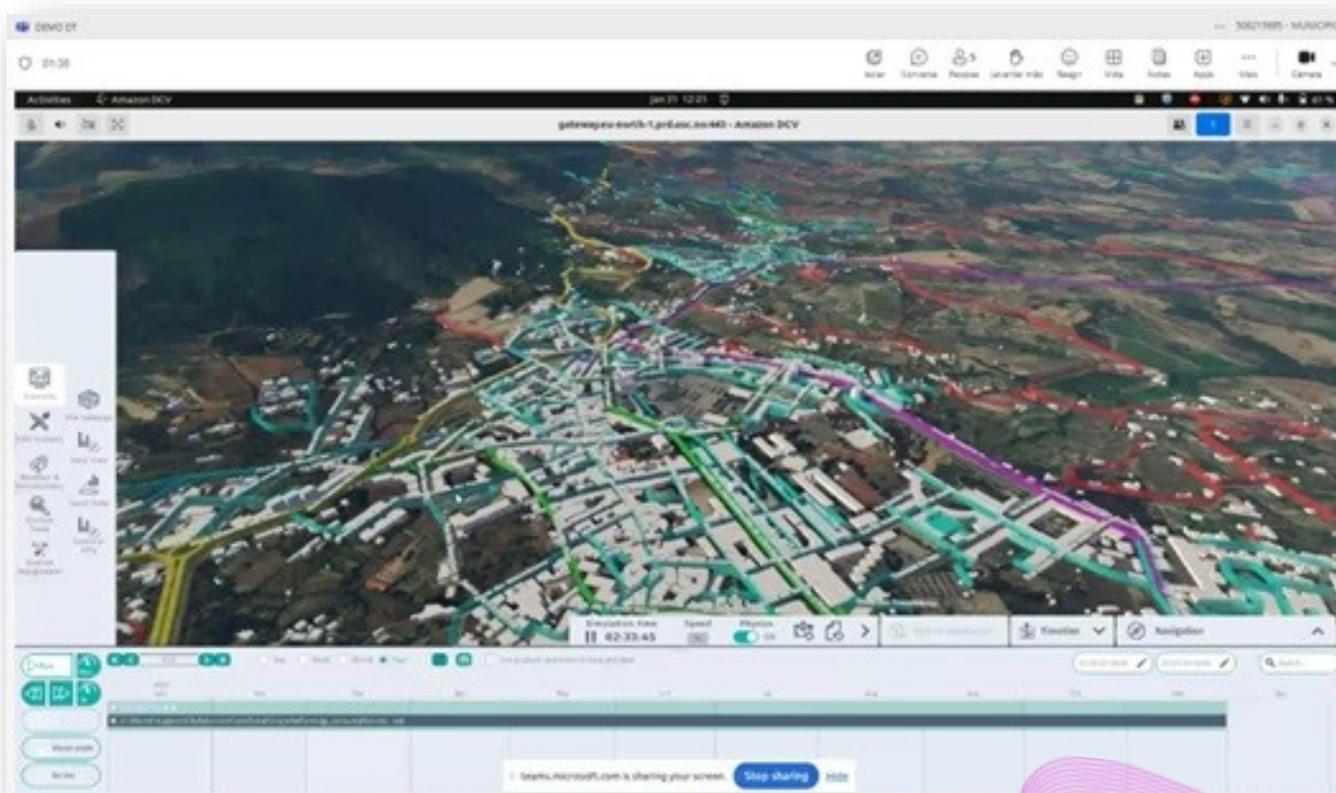


2. ULGS BOOST CO-CREATION OF DIGITAL ACTIONS

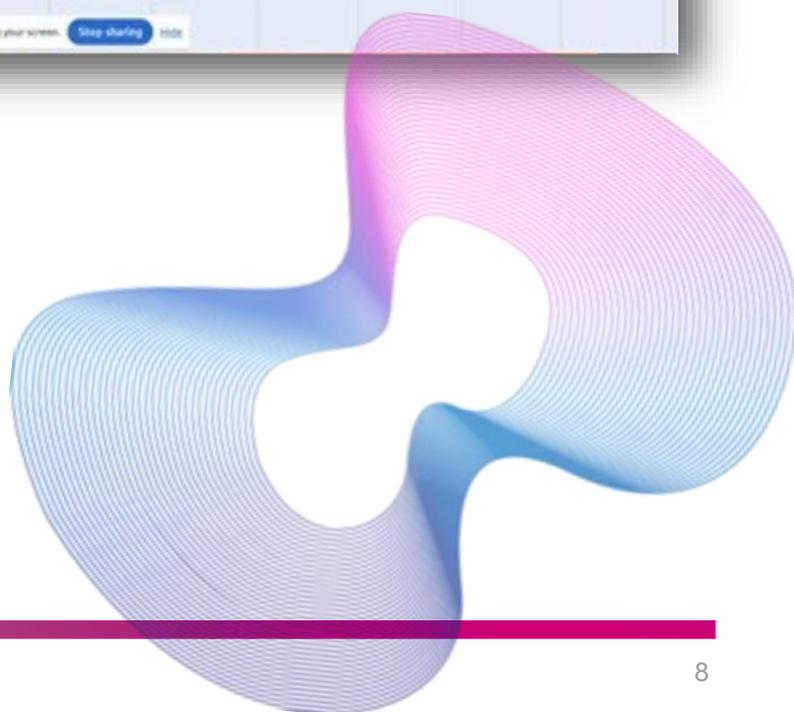
In other cities, and continuing his virtual tour of the local learning process across the network, the Lead Expert Eurico Neves has attended in this 1st quarter of 2025 two very relevant ULG meetings in two more partner cities. First in Campobasso, where the ULG is solidly anchored in the local MoliseCTE (House of New Technologies for Molise) project, counting with several companies, startups, technological parks and academic organisations active in the region and that are building on the technological resources and activities of the project to plan new enhanced digital urban services, especially in areas as mobility, health and ambient assisted living that are crucial for an ageing local population.

And afterwards in Fundão, where the ULG has incepted the testing action in the form of a first digital twin for the city, that will be deployed within the next months and serve as test for a major scale up planned within the IAP.

Things keep moving across the METACITY network, and soon all the outcomes from the different ULGs will be visible in the partners' action plans – and later felt in population lives.



Across the METACITY network, local stakeholders are co-driving bold digital experiments – from media labs to digital twins – turning collective vision into tangible urban innovation





03

NEXT STOPS PATRAS MASTERCLASS & BRUSSELS SHOWCASE

Next stops for the METACITY tour of Europe: ISI Patras for a masterclass and then Brussels for a first glimpse of final results

In the second quarter of 2025, the METACITY network will travel online for a 3rd Masterclass, this time to be hosted by the ISI Patras institute and focusing on the use of new digital tools – including Virtual and Augmented Reality, as well as the metaverse – for promotion of tourism and other public services, based on the experience of this partner with the city of Arta, for which the Integrated Action Plan is being developed.

Later in the year, and for the 5th Core Network Meeting, the partners have agreed to meet in Brussels during the EU Regions Week, the major event in Europe for regional policies. This will allow to showcase the first results of the network, including outcomes of the Testing Actions and previews of IAPs, in front of a large audience of cities and regions, and also to get in touch with the latest developments on regional funding programmes that will be crucial for the roll-out of the planned actions. Watch out for the final EU Regions Week programme and look out for METACITY!

Join us for the 23rd edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities!



More to follow on this on our next Quarterly Network Report, so stay tuned!

FOLLOW METACITY APN @

#APNmetacity

#URBACT



URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

