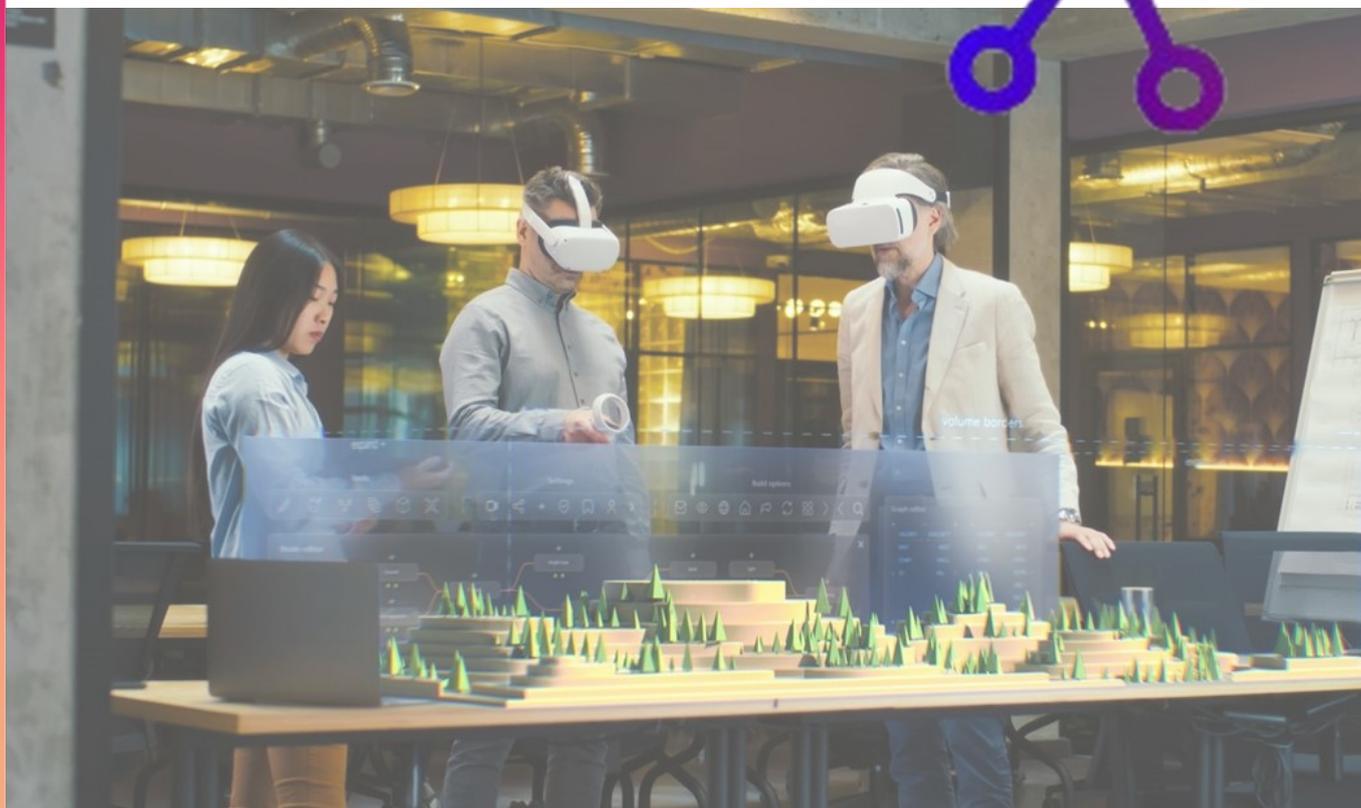
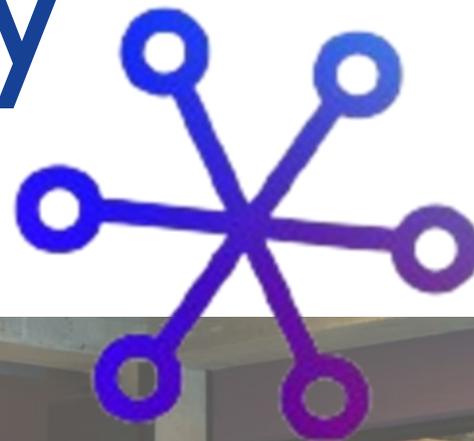


QUARTERLY REPORT #6

June 2025

metacity

Virtual solutions
for real people



URBACT



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VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE

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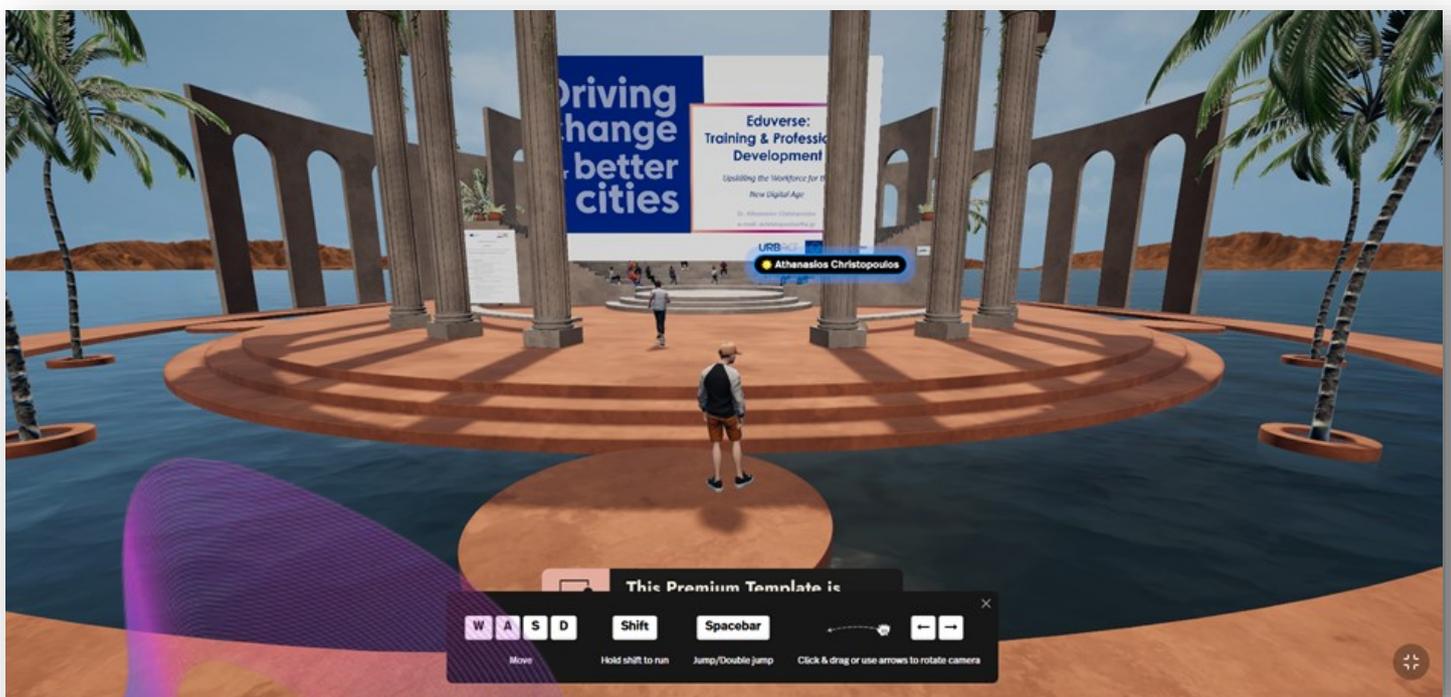


01

3RD MASTERCLASS HOSTED BY ISI PATRAS IMMERSIVE COLLABORATION IN A VIRTUAL FORUM

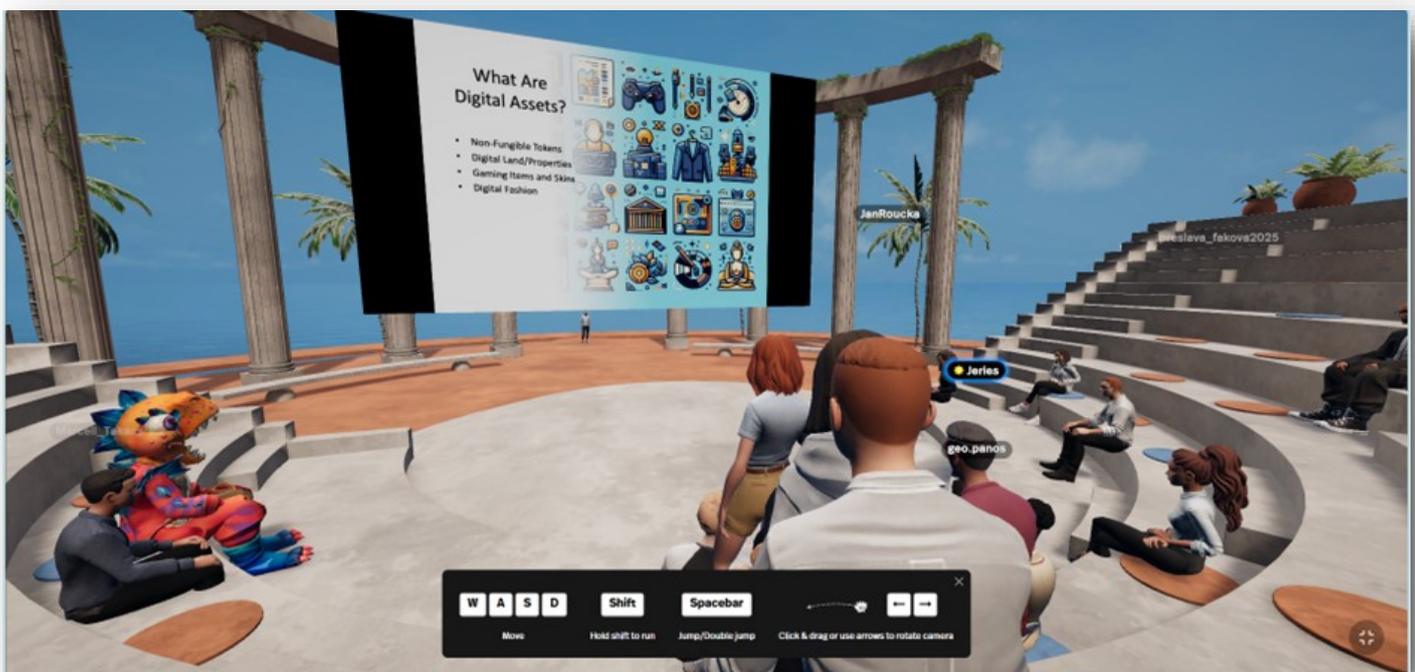
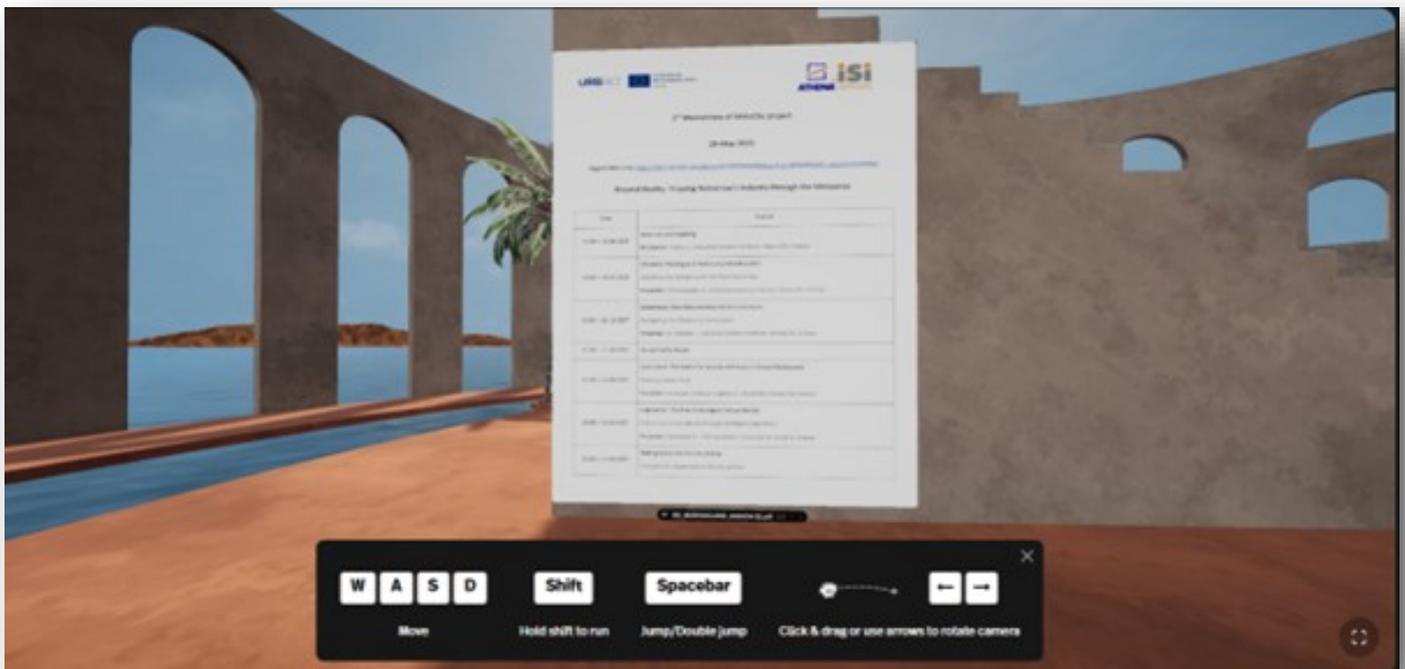
In a virtual greek forum, all the METACITY partners have met in a real metaverse context for the first time for the 3rd Masterclass of the network

As the “preparing for implementation” stage of the network continues through the second quarter of the year, all METACITY partners have virtually travelled to Greece for the 3rd, and last, Masterclass of the network, this time on the subject of “Beyond Reality: Shaping Tomorrow’s Industry through the Metaverse” and hosted by ISI Patras, one of the network’s academic partners. The masterclass and all its presentations have been hosted in Spatial.io, a metaverse environment, offering all partners – or their avatars – the first chance to meet and interact in the real metaverse, while attending lectures on the technological trends and resources for different industries such as education, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, tourism and workplaces.



1. 3RD MASTERCLASS HOSTED BY ISI PATRAS

Participants, virtually seated in a Greek forum, were guided through available tools and methods that can serve as inspiration for the actions being drafted in all 10 cities. And as the date for the completion of these Integrated Actions Plans is approaching fast, the second part of the event was used for a virtual round-the-table checkup on the status of the IAP development that confirmed that, while a lot of planning still needs to be done, all partners are in the right track for impactful action plans!





02

METACITY AT SIIVIM 2025 ENGAGING WITH EUROPEAN INNOVATION NETWORKS AT THE DUNKERQUE EDITION OF THE SIIVIM SUMMIT

Strengthening the Voice of Medium-Sized Cities: METACITY Partners Engage with SIIViM 2025

Nevers Agglomération has played a pivotal role in elevating the profile of medium-sized cities within the European innovation ecosystem. As the founding institution of SIIViM – the International Summit on Innovation in Medium-Sized Cities, launched in 2018 under the leadership of Mayor and President Denis Thuriot, Nevers envisioned a platform specifically designed for non-metropolitan territories to collaborate, share experiences and shape common responses to the digital and ecological transitions.

SIIViM was born from a cross-continental partnership between Nevers Agglomération and the City of Shawinigan in Québec (Canada), with the goal of fostering dialogue and cooperation between French and Canadian medium-sized cities. Since its creation, the summit has expanded into an internationally recognised event, gathering public authorities, entrepreneurs, researchers, and civil society actors to promote innovation on a human scale. Alongside its French and Canadian co-founders, the summit has attracted a growing number of partners and attendees from Belgium, Switzerland and across the European Union, making it a unique space for shared learning.

Now in its eighth edition, SIIViM 2025 was hosted in Dunkerque from 2 to 4 June, welcoming more than 500 participants and 75 exhibitors from across Europe. The event addressed critical topics such as digital transformation, smart mobility, circular economy, citizen engagement, data governance and climate adaptation, all explored through the lens of cities that prioritise proximity, participation, and territorial cohesion.



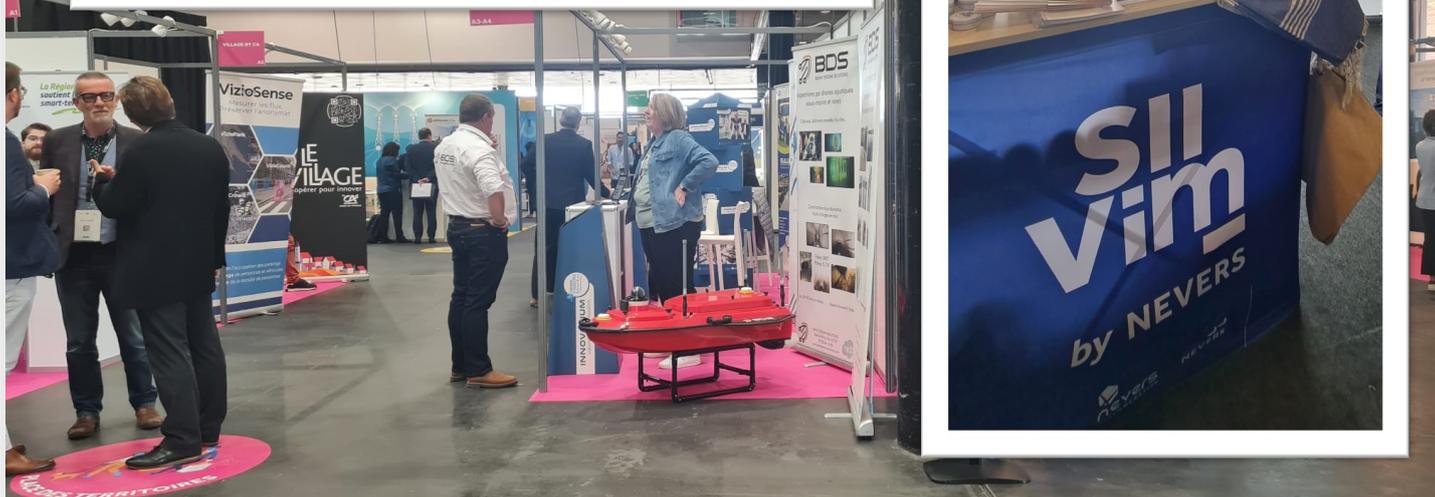
2. METACITY at SIIViM 2025

In parallel with its leadership role in SIIViM, Nevers Agglomération is also a partner in the Action Planning Network METACITY. This dual involvement reinforces Nevers' strategic commitment to scaling up innovation across borders and to promoting the leadership of medium-sized cities in Europe's urban transformation.

Representatives from Fundão and Újbuda (Hungary), both core partners in METACITY, attended SIIViM 2025 as observers. Their presence contributed to reinforcing synergies between the project and the broader SIIViM network. Through participation in thematic sessions, informal exchanges with exhibitors, and direct observation of local solutions, both municipalities gained valuable insights into emerging digital practices, community-led innovation models, and governance tools relevant to the challenges faced by cities of similar scale.

Although Fundão and Újbuda did not host a stand at the event, their attendance provided an important opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Nevers, as well as to connect with new stakeholders working on similar policy priorities. The event also allowed for informal dialogue on the transferability of good practices and possible future cooperation beyond METACITY.

This engagement underlines the shared commitment of Nevers, Fundão, Újbuda and other METACITY partners to building more resilient, inclusive and innovation-friendly territories, and to ensuring that medium-sized cities play a visible and influential role in the ongoing European and international dialogue on sustainable urban development.



23rd

EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

Shaping Tomorrow, Together

13-15
OCT
2025



03

EU REGIONS WEEK 2025

Confirmed: METACITY is going to the EU Regions Week 2025 to showcase its results and ambitions in front of an audience of thousands of regional policy practitioners from all around Europe!

Successful and impactful communication is one of the challenges and obligations of all the URBACT Action Planning Networks and the way to engage stakeholders in the project activities. With this in mind, METACITY partners have agreed, in their last Core Network Meeting in Härnösand, to apply for an active participation in the next EU Regions Week, to be held next October in Brussels, through either a workshop or a stand that would allow to communicate the outcomes and ambitions of the project directly to representatives from all the EU regions and EU institutions. Following the partners' mandate, the Lead Expert has developed the applications, and the good news arrived this June: the METACITY application for a stand at the heart of the event had been considered as one of the best received and selected, and the network gained its ticket for presenting the network to all of Europe.

The event in October will allow to present finalized results from all the cities, including from the Testing Actions, but also to speak about future plans and ambitions, targeting also funding programme managers in Brussels and in the different regions. Profiting from the presence of all partners in Brussels, also the 5th Core Network Meeting will be organized in Brussels during the Regions Week. Brussels, get ready as METACITY is coming!

RESULTS AND KEY FEATURES

462 applications	209 selected sessions	
42 workshops	42 political/policy debates	29 talks
	31 interactive sessions	55 stands
		10 tastings

Interact via Slido: code #EURegionsWeek

www.cor.europa.eu

Régiók Európai Bizottsága

Monika HENCSEY

Klarija ČERNILOGAR DWYER



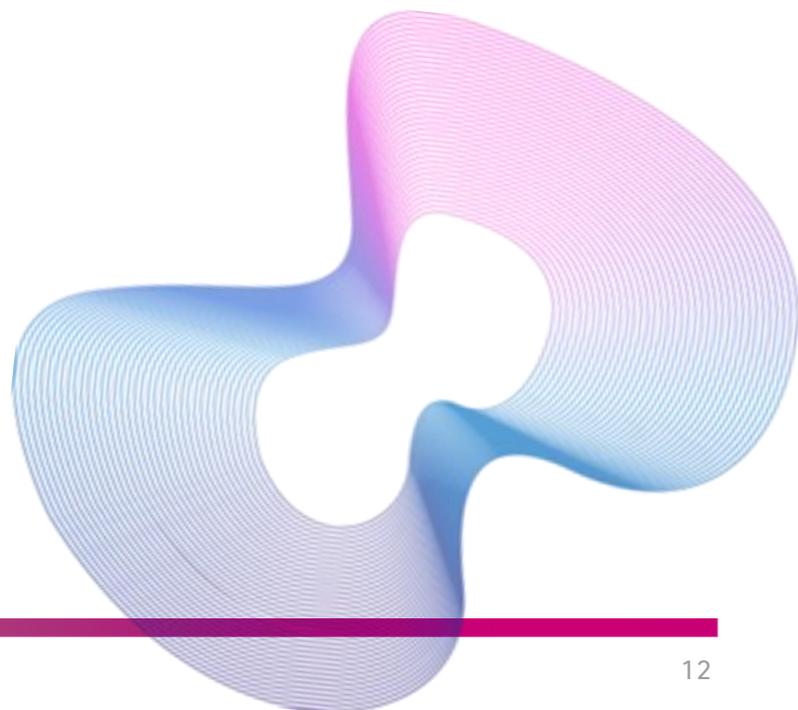
04

PROGRESS UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

The summer break will not be breaktime for METACITY partners as the co-creation of the IAPs continues in all 10 cities.

June marked the start of Summer in Europe, but neither this month nor the following ones, traditionally associated with summer break, will be break time for METACITY. Early June was time for the SIIViM summit – the International Innovation Summit for Small and Median Cities, that was founded by the partner city of Nevers together with a Canadian city – that this year took place in Dunkirk, France, dedicated to digital and green transition and that was attended by some METACITY partners.

And the next months will continue to see ULG meetings and city teams working meetings across the METACITY cities, as partners advance towards the final versions of their Integrated Action Plans and start planning for local dissemination actions. The IAPs should be nearly finalized when partners next meet in mid-October in Brussels for the 5th Core Network Meeting, during the EU Regions Week, and will be finally presented in the final format at the 6th and last CNM that will take place end of the year in Fundão, the lead partner city. Until then: meet, engage, communicate and plan, as the metaverse city is around the corner!



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

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