



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**IEMed.**  
European Institute of the Mediterranean

## **SMARTCITY** **EXPO WORLD CONGRESS** Side-Event

### **Smart Cities for Sustainability and Inclusiveness: Experiences from the Mediterranean**

15 November 2022 / 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Fira Barcelona Gran Via  
Av. Joan Carles I, 64 – Halls 1 & 2  
08908 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat  
**Zone CC1 - Room 1.3**

#### **Introduction**

Mediterranean urban territories are grappling with multiple and shared challenges likely to jeopardize both the sustainability of their development and the well-being of their citizens. The Mediterranean region has one of the fastest urbanisation rates worldwide while being confronted with the climate emergency like no other region of the world. Mediterranean cities are also at grips with increased socioeconomic inequalities that are especially translated into disparities in access to affordable and decent housing and other basic services.

To take up these challenges, it is essential to support the transformation of Mediterranean cities in a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient way. Putting digital technology at the service of urban territories to improve the quality of life, the use of resources and the delivery of public services constitutes a powerful solution to many urban challenges. In this sense, a number of Mediterranean cities have taken steps to transform themselves into Smart Cities and pioneer innovative solutions to address essential issues such as urban mobility, waste management, air quality, drinking water network management, economic attractiveness, etc.

With the aim to discuss the innovative solutions to the Mediterranean sustainability challenges provided by smart cities, this side-event co-organised by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) will bring together representatives of four Mediterranean cities that have taken the plunge to become “smarter”. They will share the lessons learnt from their journey towards greater sustainability and inclusiveness by harnessing the potential of the digital transformation, and highlight the best practices they have developed, as well as the challenges (governance, cybersecurity, digital divide) they have faced in this process.

## Programme

- 10:00 **Welcoming Remarks**
- Abdelkader El Khissassi**, Deputy Secretary General for Economic Development and Employment, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- 10:15 **Roundtable - Smart Cities for Sustainability and Inclusiveness: Experiences from the Mediterranean**
- Moderator
- Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- Speakers
- Barbara Pons**, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, City of Barcelona
- Ibtissam Azzaoui**, City Councillor, City of Rabat, Morocco
- Onur Eryüce**, Counsellor to the Mayor, City of Izmir, Turkey
- Eyad Ahmad Atieh Alhawari**, City Councillor, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan
- 11:20 **Open Discussion**
- 11:50 **Concluding Remarks**

- with English-French simultaneous translation -