

UCPs Transfer Partners Search Requests

6th May 2025



Co-funded by
the European Union



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BE.SHARE – REQUEST SUMMARY	3
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	3
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	3
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	3
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	4
3. CONTACT DETAILS.....	4
ZERO – REQUEST SUMMARY	5
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	5
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	5
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	5
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	6
3. CONTACT DETAILS.....	6
TRUST – REQUEST SUMMARY	7
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	7
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	7
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	9
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	9
3. CONTACT DETAILS.....	10
ALLOCATE – REQUEST SUMMARY.....	11
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	11
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	11
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	13
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	13
3. CONTACT DETAILS	14
CUSTOM – REQUEST SUMMARY	15
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	15
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	15
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	15
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	16
3. CONTACT DETAILS	16
MOVES-IT – REQUEST SUMMARY	17
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	17
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	17
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	18
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	19
3. CONTACT DETAILS	19
ZEROIT – REQUEST SUMMARY	20
1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.....	20
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	20
3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY	20
3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE	20
3. CONTACT DETAILS	21

BE.SHARE – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-016
Project acronym	Be.SHARE
Project title	Brussels Sustainable Heating and Renewable Energy community
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Brussels Capital Region
Country	Belgium
Topic	Energy Transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
Be.SHARE tackles the difficult decarbonisation of existing dens neighbourhoods, like Brussels North District, where individual solutions and private initiative will not be sufficient to reach goals by 2050. Be.SHARE evolves from the current European practices on heat networks by testing a local, low temperature Carbon Neutral Heating and Cooling Network (CNHCN) providing a palette of end users (from offices to social housing) with heat and cold in an efficient way, allowing them to exchange directly when needs are complementary (daily, seasonally). Be.SHARE harvests energy from local renewable sources in the public domain, tackling legal and economic barriers these solutions encounter elsewhere in Europe: Geothermal energy units will be placed under the district's park and roads, and a patented riothermal technology for sewage collectors will be upscaled for the project, resulting in a total reduction of the district's GHG emissions of 1569 tCO₂e/year. BCR-BE scales energy transition to a city-lead initiative via a Public-Private-Community governance model (PPC): Public utilities operators SIB and VVQ enter the domain of energy transition, collaborate with private expert KRN, with output critically assessed by academic partner VUB. Grassroot actor CNV will collaborate on engaging 331 (low-income) households in CNHCN's design, supporting them to understand Be.SHARE's solution and empowering them to become actor of their own energy transition, including behavioural change.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
Brussels Capital Region (BCR) is an urban authority of 2nd category: An organised agglomeration of 19 municipalities, a.o. City of Brussels (BXL), Sint Joost ten Node, Schaarbeek and Molenbeek, the 4 communes involved in preparing Be.SHARE. Bruxelles Environnement/Leefmilieu Brussel (BCR-BE) will act as MUA according to the delegation by the Government of BCR for this project from 23/05/2024. BCR-BE is competent in the field of the Reduction of Direct and Indirect GHG Emissions with missions ranging from: • the general planning of the decarbonization (strategies, targets, transposition EU rules, via the Task Force Decarbonization 2050, in collaboration with SIB and Brugel) • supporting place-based energy transition projects initiated by third parties (with expertise or financial) • supporting associations active in the field of energy poverty and involvement of citizens in the energy transition (via subsidy) • environmental permitting of equipment necessary for the energy transition, e.a. geothermal sourcing- drafting of legal frameworks for energy transition activities.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
Be.SHARE is looking for transfer partners in a less developed or in a transition region, and with a degree of urbanization 1 or 2. We are looking for partners that are interested in expanding their heat network experience within the domain of local decentralized low temperature networks, local carbon neutral sourcing underneath the public domain and the implication of precarious citizens within a project of energy transition.
Favourable conditions for transfer
Assets but not strict conditions: • Having identified a neighbourhood where a local decentralized thermal network could be an opportunity for decarbonization, where other solutions are less evident (high temperature, centralized solution) • Having identified a site where local carbon neutral sources can be harvested under public domain, but eventually face juridical blockages • Having identified a need to expand knowledge on implicating precarious citizens in energy transition projects

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Main Urban Authority
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EUI Permanent Secretariat
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ZERO – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-017
Project acronym	ZERO
Project title	citiZen-centric Energy gRid Optimization
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Municipality of Arnhem
Country	Netherlands
Topic	Energy transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
As the demand for energy continues to rise and renewable energy sources are increasingly integrated into the energy system, countries at the forefront of the energy transition—such as the Netherlands—are facing the challenge of grid congestion. Grid congestion occurs when the electricity grid reaches its capacity limits, leading to connection delays, higher societal costs, and the curtailment of renewable energy production. Cities that are currently in the early stages of their energy transition will soon face similar challenges. The municipality of Arnhem is developing innovative solutions to alleviate grid congestion and ensure the sustainable growth of cities while meeting future energy demands. The solution being designed and piloted in this project integrates social, technological, and organizational perspectives. It empowers citizens to collaboratively create an urban energy plan for their neighbourhood, resulting in a fair, sustainable, and future-proof energy grid. The project will begin with a series of in-depth analyses, followed by the implementation of various solutions—such as smart energy management systems, peer-to-peer energy trading, and a reward program. These and other components will be brought together in the ZERO tool: a platform that enables citizens to co-design an urban energy covenant for their neighbourhood. This initiative is driven by a multidisciplinary consortium consisting of the grid operator, knowledge institutions, technical SMEs, creative and social organizations—with the municipality of Arnhem at its core. We are seeking European cities to join us as transfer partners in this project, enabling us to share knowledge, strategies, and best practices that can be adapted and applied in diverse urban contexts. Grid congestion is a challenge that other cities will inevitably encounter as their energy transition progresses.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
Arnhem is a mid-sized city located in the eastern Netherlands, with approximately 165,000 inhabitants. Within the Netherlands, Arnhem is particularly known for its strong focus on the creative industries and the energy transition. The municipality aims to be both innovative and a front-runner in energy-related challenges. It strives to create an environment where (knowledge) institutions, companies, SME's, the grid operator and the local government work together on future-proof energy solutions, with a strong emphasis on a fair and just transition. It has collaborated with other European cities in the past to achieve

common climate goals.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

What we expect from transfer partners:

- Engage in the learning process by participating in online/offline workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions, and on-site visits (minimum of 3 visits).
- Capitalise on learnings coming from the transfer exchange and prepare for future adaptation and replication of the innovative solution
- Maintain communication with the lead partner (Arnhem), providing feedback and insights that contribute to the project's overall success.
- For transfer partners, the EUI provides a budget in a form of a lump sum, amounting to €120.000 per partner, with the obligation to arrange own contribution of €30.000. This budget covers e.g. travel-, staff and preparation expenses.

Timeframe:

The project will last +/- 4 years and will officially start in October. As of now till the end of September, preparations are made together with the European Urban Initiative, in order to ensure smooth implementation. We aim to onboard three transfer partners. To ensure smooth coordination and compliance to the EUI regulations, we kindly ask for a letter of intent before October, or —ideally—the partnership agreement signed prior to the official launch of the project in October.

Transfer Partner(s) Profile – criteria:

- 2 cities in less developed regions or transition regions, 1 city in a more developed region
- Urban authority size: since Arnhem itself has 165.000 inhabitants, preferably a city where this amount is either significantly higher or smaller
- Geographical location: European Union, since Arnhem itself is located in Western Europe, preferably a country from Northern/Southern/Eastern Europe. It's not a hard criterium, since energy challenges highly differ from country to country and not only per region

Favourable conditions for transfer

- Cities where developments such as electric mobility and renewable energy generation are expected to grow significantly in the coming years—or are already emerging—making grid congestion a likely future challenge.
- Cities that are committed to or interested in adopting participatory approaches to their energy transition, actively involving citizens in planning and decision-making processes.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Main Urban Authority

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TRUST – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-225
Project acronym	TRUST
Project title	Technological Response for Unified Sociocare Transformation
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Salamanca City Council
Country	Spain
Topic	Technology in Cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved

Salamanca aims to deploy advanced technology tools to transform its local care and support system for dependent individuals and their families, addressing key issues such as delays, errors, long waiting times, and poor coordination between the different authorities participating in the dependency recognition process.

TRUST proposes to streamline Dependency Care Services (DCS) by integrating AI-driven voice recognition, IoT for real-time monitoring, and predictive analytics. This will enable the automatization of administrative tasks, the reduction of bureaucratic delays and the provision of a more personalized care by social workers. In parallel, TRUST project also tackles the emotional and logistical burdens faced by informal caregivers, providing a comprehensive support system for informal caregivers: the Caregiver Support Program.

All these innovations and new approaches will be consolidated within the Innovation & Care Centre (ICC Salamanca), a renovated municipal building that will serve both as a demonstration site for the deployed technologies—showcasing the solutions in action—and as the central hub for the Caregiver Support Program.

Challenge to be addressed

Salamanca, the fourth-oldest city in Spain, faces significant demographic challenges, with an aging index of 235 and 23.8% of its residents over 65. This aged population and the **associated increasing number of dependent people place heavy pressure on both municipal services and caregivers**. Despite the improvements of recent years, some situations persist, such as delays in the dependency recognition processes, errors in the recognition, inaccuracies between reality and the reports and insufficient coordination between the City Council (in charge of the direct assistance and social aspect of the process) and regional authorities (health and legal jurisdiction).

Applicants face **long waiting periods** before receiving official recognition and support, during which time their physical or cognitive conditions may deteriorate. The lack of timely assistance increases the risk of isolation, untreated health issues, loss of autonomy, and in some cases, institutionalisation that could have been avoided with earlier intervention. Moreover, applicants and their families advance considerable expenses related to care long before they are eligible to receive any financial or material support. **The system's complexity and slowness contradict the urgent nature of their needs**, compromising their well-being and quality of life.

For social workers, the current situation results in excessive administrative burdens. Much of their time is consumed by bureaucracy, preventing them to focus on people's care and support. This not only leads to professional frustration and burnout but also reduces the effectiveness of interventions, as

their capacity to address the emotional, psychological, and practical needs of vulnerable individuals is significantly limited.

Regarding **non-professional caregivers**, they endure **emotional stress, social isolation, and a persistent lack of recognition** or formal support. Their work, generally held by **women within the family**, often constitutes an invisible form of labour that remains largely unaddressed by public policies. These caregivers are frequently forced to navigate a complex system on behalf of their relatives while receiving minimal support in terms of financial aid, training and opportunities for rest and relief. This results in a cumulative toll on their health, employment opportunities, and well-being.

Proposed innovative solution

TRUST builds **advanced technological tools** to directly address the identified challenges in Salamanca's dependency care system. Key activities will include:

1. **Voice recognition technology and AI-driven integration of data:** Social workers will use voice-to-text tools during home visits to complete the required administrative reports, reducing errors and eliminating the need for manual data entry.
2. **Remote monitoring via IoT sensors:** Sensors will be installed in 200 homes of dependent individuals to monitor health and activity, allowing for real-time tracking. Alerts will be sent to caregivers in case of emergencies, helping reduce stress and providing immediate responses to critical issues. The information provided by the sensors will be shared with the social workers, enabling them to support their work with further information, upgrading their assessment and clarifying possible inconsistencies.
3. **Predictive analytics for future dependency risks:** Using AI, the platform will analyse existing data to identify risks of dependents and predict future increases in dependency levels, providing social workers and caregivers with early warning indicators of potential deterioration in a dependent's condition.
4. **Caregiver Support Program:** The solution includes a comprehensive program for informal caregivers, providing emotional support, resources, group sessions, training and real-time updates on the well-being of their dependents. This will help alleviate the isolation and emotional burden faced by many non-professional caregivers.
5. **Innovation & Care Centre (ICC Salamanca):** TRUST will establish a demonstrator centre that will serve as the hub for technology testing, training, and community engagement. This space will showcase the new tools and serve as a venue for workshops with caregivers, social workers, and other stakeholders. It will also focus on the interpretation of language through AI for dependency evaluations, real-time alerts, and predictive analytics.

The project goes beyond solving short-term administrative inefficiencies. By improving workflows, reducing wait times, and increasing data accuracy, the system will enable social workers to focus more on personal interactions, improving the overall quality of care. In the long term, it will establish a **more sustainable local care system**, increasing dependants' life quality, reducing burnout among social workers and offering stronger support to informal caregivers.

Change to be achieved

TRUST will transform Salamanca's local dependency care system, making it **more efficient and human centred**. Through digital technologies, the project will streamline procedures, reduce delays, and improve coordination between local and regional authorities. As a result, **services will become more responsive and accessible**, significantly improving the well-being of dependent individuals, caregivers, and social workers. TRUST also aims to **shift the system from a reactive to a preventive model**, capable of anticipating dependency and health deterioration through predictive analytics and early intervention.

Dependency assessments will be accelerated and enhanced with AI-based voice recognition tools that

automate reporting during home visits, reducing errors and processing times. Real-time data from IoT sensors will improve the accuracy of evaluations and ensure timely alerts in critical situations.

Social workers will benefit from improved working conditions, as repetitive tasks are reduced. These digital tools will also provide better case insights, enabling a stronger focus on the human dimension and increasing professional satisfaction.

For non-professional caregivers, a comprehensive support program will provide psychological counselling, training, and social activation activities. This will reduce stress, mitigate loneliness, and strengthen their capacity to provide care, improving not only caregivers' well-being, but also the quality of life and overall care of dependent people.

All these innovations will be demonstrated in a **renovated municipal facility** —the Innovation & Care Centre (ICC Salamanca)— which will serve as a hub for training, technology demonstration, and community engagement.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description

Salamanca is a medium-sized city located in the west of Spain, in Castilla y León (ERDF & ESF+ category: **transition region**). With 144,866 inhabitants (2024), it serves as the capital of its province, holding administrative, educational, and social care competencies, among others. The City Council leads local social services, including dependency care and support programs, in close collaboration with regional government (healthcare system, funding, investments, etc.).

A total of six departments from the Salamanca City Council will be initially linked or participate in the implementation of the project:

- **Budget Office Service:** Project management, general coordination and coordination with stakeholders and other administrations
- **Procurement Service:** Procurement and tendering processes
- **ICT Service:** Technological deployment (showcase of ICC Salamanca, IoT server, technological tools for social workers and home sensors)
- **Social Welfare Service:** Social assistance for dependents, social workers and implementation of Caregivers Support Program
- **Internal Affairs Service:** Data protection Compliance
- **Maintenance Service:** Construction works linked to ICC Salamanca and follow-up

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

Criteria that a candidate should meet for the inclusion in TRUST as Transfer Partner:

- Since Salamanca is classified as a transition region, we need **at least another city from a less developed region or transition region**. In the same terms, maximum two cities from a more developed region.
- Due to the topic of the project and its strong technological component, we consider that **2 of the Transfer Partners should be cities with a larger population than Salamanca** (144,866 inhabitants). This will ensure that the city has the necessary capacity to implement some of the technological approaches and test aspects of the innovative solution across a sufficiently broad population. The **3rd Transfer Partner may be a smaller city**, allowing for insights into how the solution can be adapted to more limited urban contexts.
- Candidate cities should have a **relatively high aging index or high rates of dependant population**. This demographic context would allow the relevance and usefulness of the solution

proposed by TRSUT. Cities and City Councils should have some competencies in terms of social care and dependency assessments.
Favourable conditions for transfer
Regarding other favourable characteristics that will ensure a meaningful partnership and collaboration, we consider that it will be interesting if potential cities meet some of the following non-exclusive list of preferences: - Prioritisation will be given to cities where social care and healthcare responsibilities are not too distributed between different administrations (local, regional and national). - Cities that have already experimented with digital tools or innovative approaches in public service delivery may be better prepared to implement and scale TRUST solutions. - Cities with an active network of informal caregivers' associations, NGOs, etc. and strong civil society engagement will be more likely to provide valuable feedback and ensure community involvement. Their participation will help the adaptation of the solution to real needs and improve its acceptance and impact. - Strong political and administrative support in the City Council will ensure alignment across departments, smoother coordination, and long-term sustainability of the transferred solution.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Main Urban Authority
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ALLOCATE – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-173
Project acronym	ALLOCATE
Project title	Accelerating Local Leadership by Open Computing and AI Technological Empowerment
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Municipality of A Coruña
Country	Spain
Topic	Technology in Cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
Challenge to be addressed Cities represent a major opportunity to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to respond to urban challenges. However, they face significant barriers that limit the adoption of AI solutions tailored to local needs and aligned with sustainability and resilience goals. The ALLOCATE project specifically addresses the gap between the strong AI potential existing in local ICT ecosystems and the limited practical application of AI in tackling real urban challenges. Despite the growing ICT ecosystem in A Coruña, there are critical obstacles to avoiding effective AI integration. Firstly, the environmental impact of AI technologies — notably their high energy consumption and carbon footprint — poses a major challenge to cities aiming to achieve climate neutrality (Green in AI). Secondly, AI technologies often require access to expensive computational resources, which many local SMEs cannot afford, hindering their competitiveness. Thirdly, the evolving European regulatory framework on AI (AI Act) introduces legal complexities that small businesses and local governments must navigate, creating additional barriers to AI adoption. Finally, there is a high dependency on centralized IT infrastructures, often controlled by external providers, which limits cities' sovereignty and control over their digital transformation processes. Moreover, despite the strong academic and business presence in the ICT field, A Coruña, like many other European cities, faces a significant shortage of specialized AI skills, which directly impacts the capacity of SMEs to innovate. These skills gap also limits the ability of local authorities to apply AI in public services in ways that are ethically sound and environmentally sustainable. Consequently, these barriers reduce the economic competitiveness of local businesses and hinder the capacity of cities to deliver smarter, greener, and more efficient urban services. In addition, without local experimentation ecosystems, SMEs cannot easily develop, test, and validate AI solutions adapted to real-world municipal challenges. The lack of practical, scalable urban AI applications restricts the broader societal benefits that AI could provide, such as better mobility management, more efficient waste collection, or improved citizen engagement services. Thus, the core challenge that ALLOCATE addresses is how to transform the latent potential of AI at the local level into a real driver of urban innovation, economic competitiveness, and sustainable development, overcoming the interrelated barriers of infrastructure access, environmental costs, regulatory compliance, and skills shortages, while ensuring that the AI transition is inclusive, ethical, and environmentally responsible.

Proposed innovative solution

ALLOCATE proposes an innovative, place-based solution that builds a new model for deploying AI in urban environments by establishing a **Local Computing Community (LCC)** in A Coruña. The LCC acts as a collaborative ecosystem where public authorities, SMEs, academia, and urban stakeholders co-create, test, and implement AI solutions that are adapted to local challenges and grounded in Green and Ethical AI principles.

At the core of ALLOCATE's solution is the creation of a **sustainable and decentralized AI infrastructure**, utilizing underused municipal ICT assets combined with enhanced computational capacities. This infrastructure will offer SMEs access to advanced, local AI computational resources, avoiding the dependence on centralized, high-cost cloud solutions. By optimizing the city's existing digital assets, ALLOCATE also reduces the environmental impact of AI experimentation (Green in AI) and supports circular economy practices by extending the life of existing hardware.

In parallel, ALLOCATE develops a **novel auditing methodology** that monitors energy consumption and verifies compliance with ethical and legal AI standards throughout the AI development lifecycle. This methodology ensures that AI solutions are not only technologically advanced but also energy-efficient, transparent, and aligned with the forthcoming European AI regulations.

Additionally, ALLOCATE will enhance AI-related skills by designing a **comprehensive capacity-building programme** aimed at SMEs and municipal staff. Training activities will focus on technical competencies in sustainable AI development, legal and ethical AI principles, and agile methodologies for the rapid deployment of urban-focused AI solutions.

The project will deliver urban use cases that enable SMEs to test and refine their solutions in real-life environments, strengthening their competitiveness and supporting local talent retention. These cases will serve as practical testbeds where SMEs and city departments co-develop AI applications using the LCC infrastructure and resources.

By combining infrastructure, governance, skills development, and regulatory compliance, ALLOCATE offers a unique model for locally-driven AI innovation. It transforms cities into active hubs of AI experimentation and application, rather than passive consumers of external digital solutions

Change to be achieved

ALLOCATE aims to foster a significant transformation in A Coruña by establishing a Local Computing Community (LCC) that will democratize access to advanced computational infrastructure for SMEs and other local stakeholders. The project seeks to strengthen the local AI ecosystem by enabling the development of Green and Ethical AI (G&E AI) solutions aligned with European values and regulations, such as the AI Act.

The creation of the LCC will address key barriers identified at the local level, including limited access to affordable computing resources, skills shortages in AI development, and the challenges arising from new regulatory frameworks. By optimizing existing ICT municipal resources and integrating obsolete equipment, the LCC will offer a cost-effective, sustainable infrastructure based on Green-in AI principles.

Through ALLOCATE, SMEs will be empowered to create AI solutions that address urban challenges — particularly in mobility, waste management, and citizen services— while reducing environmental impact and ensuring ethical standards. Training programs will improve technical and legal AI competencies among SMEs and municipal staff, facilitating the adoption of AI in urban governance.

Additionally, ALLOCATE will promote agile methodologies for the co-creation and testing of green and ethical algorithms, supported by urban datasets and real-life use cases. As a result, A Coruña will enhance its economic competitiveness, foster digital sovereignty, and strengthen its resilience in the transition towards a greener, more inclusive, and sustainable urban future.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
A Coruña is a medium-sized coastal city in the northwest of Spain, located in the region of Galicia. It has a population of approximately 250,000 inhabitants and serves as an important economic and administrative center in the area. A Coruña's city council is determined to make the city an innovation hub in the field of AI. In the last years, the city of A Coruña (AC) has followed a city strategy (AC Urban Agenda, Cidade das TIC, Strategic Local Action Plan 2030) that has led the city to gather elements that have positioned AC as a mature smart city (9th Spanish Smart Index) and suitable place to further develop opportunities in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The technological transformation is accompanied by a favourable environment that holds an extensive ICT sector, a university (CITIC) with a high level of recognition in Green Algorithm, and the establishment of the Spanish AI Supervisory Agency (AESIA). The city has experience managing European programmes co-financed with Cohesion policy funds (EDRF), the most relevant being Conecta Coruña (216 public buildings connected through IoT devices) and Coruña Smart (SmartCity platform and Open data portal – 46 urban datasets). It also has participated in URBACT (RU: Urban), INTERREG (Iberic Global), HORIZON (Connecting Nature) and EDUSI (Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy). A Coruña leads Open Government & Smart Economy Working Group in the Spanish SmartCity Network (RECI). More information can be found at the following link: https://www.coruna.gal/web/es

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
Criteria that a candidate should meet for the inclusion in ALLOCATE as Transfer Partner: • Medium or large-sized cities: Candidate cities should have a sufficient urban scale (starting from 100,000 inhabitants) to realistically replicate the Local Computing Community (LCC) model and generate a meaningful local impact. • Critical mass of local ICT companies, research environments or universities: (e.g., degree programs or research centers specialized in digitalization and AI). The existence of a local innovation ecosystem is essential to rapidly activating public-private collaboration processes. • Cities with sufficient municipal IT infrastructure: ◦ Urban open data platforms or portals, providing accessible, quality datasets for external use. ◦ Deployed IoT devices (mobility sensors, environmental sensors, waste management sensors, etc.). These infrastructures are necessary to effectively implement the local green AI infrastructure and to access relevant datasets for the development of locally based algorithms. • Sufficient maturity level in the field of Smart Cities and/or Digital Twins: Cities with experience in projects related to urban digital transformation, smart mobility, smart waste management, urban governance platforms, etc., based on data-driven approaches. Participation in Smart City projects, pilot initiatives, or digital urban platforms would be considered an advantage to ensure readiness for AI-based innovation scaling. • Since A Coruña is classified as a transition region, we need at least another city from a less developed region or transition region. In the same terms, maximum two cities from a more developed region.
Favourable conditions for transfer

For an effective transfer of ALLOCATE's Local Computing Community (LCC) model and green AI innovation framework, Transfer Partners (TPs) should present the following favorable characteristics:

- **Motivation to advance in digital and AI-driven urban transformation:** Cities that have already diagnosed challenges in areas such as sustainable mobility, waste management, or citizen services — and seek to address them through innovative technologies — will be in an ideal position to adopt ALLOCATE's tested AI solutions and tailor them to their specific needs.
- **Cities open to process innovation and cross-sector collaboration:** Internal administrative structures that are capable of supporting innovative initiatives (e.g., Smart City departments, innovation offices) and be willing to adapt existing procedures to incorporate AI-based methodologies).
- **Need for skills development in sustainable and ethical AI:** Cities where local SMEs and municipal staff require training in sustainable, green, and ethical AI practices will particularly benefit from ALLOCATE's structured capacity-building programmes.
- It will be highly valued if the candidate city hosts a national-level AI Supervisory Agency or a similar institution, demonstrating leadership in AI governance and regulatory development.
- Cities with previous experience and competencies in EU programmes and city networks, focused on digitalization, technological innovation, and smart urban development (such as URBACT, Eurocities, Intelligent Cities Challenge, or similar initiatives). This will ensure that they are committed to knowledge exchange, collaborative practices, and dynamic participation within international innovation ecosystems.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Main Urban Authority
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CUSTOM – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-134
Project acronym	CUSTOM
Project title	Customizable, User-Centric, and Innovation-Driven Mobility Assistance System Em-powering Diverse Impaired Users Groups to Access Public Transportation Seamlessly Cross-Modal and -Regional in Hamburg's Metropolitan Area and beyond
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Authority for Traffic and Mobility Transition, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
Country	Germany
Topic	Technology in cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
The CUSTOM project addresses the mobility challenges faced by over 100 million Europeans, including 250,000 individuals in Hamburg, who experience disabilities that limit their access to public transport and social inclusion. Currently, impaired users in Hamburg struggle with a fragmented transport system, with no cost-free digital assistance tools available to support seamless travel across buses, trains, and ferries. CUSTOM proposes an innovative solution by developing a comprehensive accessibility app that enables visually, hearing, cognitively, and physically impaired individuals to easily navigate all public transport modes. Through co-design workshops with impaired user groups, the project ensures the system meets the specific needs of these individuals. The app integrates across the transport network, promoting greater autonomy and reducing social exclusion. The project aims to create a fully accessible transport network, facilitating 250 million independent trips annually for impaired users in Hamburg. By leveraging a holistic approach and the Two-Senses Principle, CUSTOM enhances existing transport systems and is scalable across regions and modes. Additionally, the project will generate a policy framework to encourage adoption in other European regions, advancing inclusive mobility across the continent.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
The MUA is the City of Hamburg represented by the Behörde für Verkehr und Mobilitätswende (Authority for Traffic and Mobility Transition). This authority manages the city's public transport system, which includes six suburban railway lines, four metro lines, over 200 bus routes, and eight ferry lines. The CUSTOM project is being coordinated by the Division for Public Transport (VM1), which is part of the Department for Public Mobility (VM) within the Authority.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

Given that Hamburg is considered a more developed region, the MUA seeks to establish a balanced and meaningful partnership by engaging at least two cities from less developed regions or regions in transition, with the possibility of including one city from a more developed region. As Hamburg is a large city, we are particularly interested in partnering with at least two cities with populations under 200,000 inhabitants, ensuring a range of city sizes within the collaboration.

Favourable conditions for transfer

The Transfer Partner should demonstrate an interest and motivation in fostering inclusion—especially by involving more people with special needs. Ideally, the Transfer Partner has already gained experience with inclusion-focused initiatives at a city-wide level, reflecting a commitment to accessibility and participation.

The Transfer Partner should have a sufficiently developed public transport system that includes different modes of public transportation. The EUI aims to bring together transfer partners of various sizes, which is why the complexity of the public transport system does not need to be comparable to that of a larger city like Hamburg. However, a certain degree of structural diversity (e.g. multiple providers or service types) is desirable to ensure that the findings and solutions developed in the CUSTOM project remain transferable. It is explicitly emphasized that this requirement also applies to smaller cities, where public transportation systems are typically less extensive.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

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MOVES-IT – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-197
Project acronym	MOVES-IT
Project title	Moving On Valorization and Engagement towards Sustainability through IntelligenceTools
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Municipality of Matosinhos
Country	Portugal
Topic	Technology in Cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
Challenges to be addressed Matosinhos proposes an innovative solution exploring technological data collection and community methods, for increasing participatory governance in urban areas. By joining the need of digitalising public services with the proven benefits of citizens participation, MOVES-IT will connect 3 objectives: citizens will own digital tools for collaborative city planning (Inclusive Matosinhos); data collection from green/blue areas will be enhanced through digital tools (Green/blue Matosinhos); and the potential of the Cultural and Creative Industry (CCI) in collaborative city planning will be enhanced (Vibrant Matosinhos). Proposed Innovative Solution An “Urban Intelligence Centre” (UIC) will serve as an interoperability centre to connect different types of data, while a “Digital Neighbourhood Competition” (DNC) will represent a creative and gamified example of enhancing collaborative city planning processes. A key feature of the DNC will be tracking and contributing data from selected households and public spaces. Furthermore, an educational component will ensure the ownership of new digital tools by the project’s stakeholders, while the scaling up of the existing LABIC (Citizens’ Lab for Climate Transition) will provide citizens with a space for drafting participatory solutions - in collaboration with the CCI. By establishing a revolving fund as self-sustaining mechanism of the scaled-up LABIC, MOVES-IT will lead to the drafting of community-led projects. Change to be achieved <i>In the long term</i>, increased societal commitment will result in projects joining social, cultural, and environmental needs, for a more resilient Matosinhos. By the end of the project, the societal commitment of the inhabitants of Matosinhos will be enhanced, leading to the ideation of transformative community-led innovative solutions for sustainable urban areas, supported by the data collected through the UIC, and while enhancing the potentiality of CCI actors in the participatory process. Transferability of the main elements of the solution The transferable element is the Digital Neighbourhood Competition (DNC): each transfer partner will

test the DNC in a pilot neighbourhood, following the methods developed through the MOVES-IT project. This will lead to a European network of urban areas participating in a digital competition for turning into more resilient cities and sharing results and optimization strategies.

More in detail, **the following activities** will be included in the transfer:

- Identification of a pilot neighbourhood: a case study is conducted, to identify households, 1 green/blue area, and a network of local actors from the CCI, to be included in the pilot. A 1st meeting is also held with the identified stakeholders
- An Urban Intelligence Centre would be established, defined as an equipped room from where different data related to the DNC can be collected.
- The officers to run and maintain the UIC will be trained
- The selected households will be equipped with house screens and the green/blue area with specific sensors. These data will be then interconnected to the UIC
- The households will also be trained on the use of the installed tools, by “voluntary technological mediators” – to be identified - and in collaboration with the CCI actors
- The DNC will follow the method developed by MOVES-IT, adjusted to the transfer city's neighbourhood specificities, conducted, and the actors awarded
- Finally, a Working Group similar to the “DNC & Participatory Matosinhos” will be established (either from the scaling up of an existing project, or as a new concept): several meetings will be conducted, and the Working Group inaugurated.
- The self-sustaining mechanism will also be transferred, following the MOVES-IT solution
- Community-led proposals will be drafted by the Working Group
- A platform for the exchange of results, performances and challenges will be established by the partnership. The follow-up of the inter-EU DNC will also be ensured by the partnership.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description

Matosinhos is a forefront urban area in the experimentation of digital solutions (i.e. the first city in Portugal to develop a Technology Free Zone) and looks at the combined digital transition and decarbonisation agenda as both a challenge and an opportunity to lead the process towards more resilient urban areas. The municipality has the ambitious goal of reaching 85% of CO2 emissions reduction by 2030, for the main goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The MUA believes that the environmental challenge can be better tackled with an increased societal commitment, supported in MOVES-IT also by technology tools, to strengthen the municipality's effort in enhancing participatory processes and environmental awareness.

Regarding participatory processes, the municipality has already implemented various projects and initiatives bringing citizens closer to the governance level - i.e. the LABIC (“Citizenship Lab for the Climate Transition of Matosinhos); and actions as the “Orçamento Participativo” (“participatory budget”). The initiative Bolsa de Artistas de Matosinhos e Leça da Palmeira, instead, aims at sharing knowledge on existing artists, therefore a digital platform where artists can share their work with the community.

Matosinhos is part of different European networks of cities, among these Eurocities, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability global network), Energy Cities, the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI), and NetZeroCities.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

Matosinhos is searching for three Transfer Partners.

Urban authority size

Regarding the size of the transfer partners, cities of different sizes will be favoured. This would allow to test the DNC solution in different contexts and provide the partnership with different case studies to further be replicated.

Geographical location

The transfer partners will be located in different countries (but not Portugal), while one of the transfer partners will be located in a less developed or transition region (as Matosinhos is).

Favourable conditions for transfer

The urban areas should face similar challenges as Matosinhos and therefore expressing a concrete need for more participatory urban governance; the need of improving and digitalising their data collection system, and the interest in exploring the CCI role. It is therefore understood how urban areas representing the above-mentioned case are being prioritised by the MUA. One important requirement refers to participation, looking for partner cities that have already implemented participatory methods and/or projects in their contexts.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Main Urban Authority

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ZEROIT – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-080
Project acronym	ZEROit
Project title	Holistic portfolio planning tool and rapid zero-emission renovations to advance the energy transition of buildings and achieve urban climate goal targets
Name of the Main Urban Authority	City of Nuremberg
Country	Germany
Topic	Energy transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
ZEROit project aims to help the City of Nuremberg to meet climate targets by reducing emissions from buildings, particularly focusing on small and medium-sized buildings, which are often overlooked in traditional retrofitting methods. The project proposes three integrated solutions. The Holistic Portfolio Planning Tool (HPP-Tool) will help to make smart, sustainable investment decisions by analysing the impact of various renovation measures across the city's building stock. The Rapid Zero-Emission Renovation Approach targets small and medium-sized buildings using cost-effective, off-the-shelf technologies, such as heat pumps. These technologies are more efficient than fossil fuel heating systems and help reduce emissions while preparing buildings for future improvements. Moreover, the project plans to engage local stakeholders, construction sectors and citizens to build their capacity and encourage participation in emission-reducing renovations. This includes providing access to the HPP-Tool, creating a simplified version of the tool for use in one-stop shops and developing Renovation Passports for building owners.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
Nuremberg is an independent city in the Middle Franconia administrative region of the Free State of Bavaria. With 530,000 inhabitants, it is by far the largest city in Franconia and the second largest in the state of Bavaria. NUREMBERG is a member of EUROCIITIES and a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. It also heads the network of smaller regional cities in the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg. Through project participation, the city is involved in the Public Buyer Platform and the Smart City Marketplace. The city of Nuremberg is committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2040, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per capita by 65% by 2030. A key challenge in the energy transition is the decarbonization of heat supply. To tackle this, Nuremberg has launched a municipal heat planning initiative ahead of national requirements, positioning itself as a leader in this area.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
<u>Geographical location</u>: less developed region, region in transition or more developed region <u>Preferred Countries</u>: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Romania

Preferred size: More relevant than the population is the size of the building stock (see below). A population of more than about 50,000 may be an indication that the building stock is large enough for the purpose of this project. A maximum population is not applicable because the project's subject is scalable.

Favourable conditions for transfer

- City with relevant heating demand during the cold season, an old building stock in terms of renovation requirements and a relatively low amount of installed heat pumps or other regenerative heat sources.
- A reasonable number of buildings that are owned, used and managed by the urban authority (i.e. a relevant building portfolio to apply the Holistic Portfolio Planning tool).
- The City Council should have decided on a path to zero emissions of the building stock and a budget to invest in respective renovation measures.
- The possibility to assign an English or German speaking practitioner for a valuable exchange.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

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