



# Public consultation on the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative

Directorate-General  
for Energy



- **Executive summary of contributions**

Consultation period  
from 18/03/2011 to 13/05/2011

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

The very large majority of the respondents who have replied to the consultation recognise the importance of fostering the development of a low-carbon economy and to improve the use of scarce energy resources in European urban areas and cities.

The vast majority of respondents also strongly supports most of actions, areas, measures, instruments and indicators proposed by the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative.

### **Key areas and actions for the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative**

All thematic areas proposed for the Smart Cities & Communities Initiative are considered relevant by at least half of all respondents. There is nonetheless some variation in the degree of support with the most preferred areas being as follows:

- Buildings (78% of all respondents) with a preference for retrofitting the existing buildings and for focusing on public buildings;
- Public transport and urban mobility actions (74% of all respondents);
- Energy grids (73% of all respondents) with an equal ranking between electricity grids and heating and cooling networks;
- Information and communication technologies (68% of all respondents);
- Local supply technologies (63% of all respondents) with a strong preference for solar energy;
- Clean fuel solutions (62% of all respondents).

Other areas are less preferred, possibly also due to smaller degree of participation of representatives of the respective sectors, such as for example from the waste and water sector.

### **Characteristics of cities and preferred approach to cooperation**

The majority of respondents agrees with the various criteria to facilitate cooperation between cities and to enhance the EU replication potential of projects developed in the Smart Cities and Communities Initiatives. However a preference is shown for the economic and climatic similarities:

- Similarities in the economic morphology (64%);
- Degree of economic development (62,6%);
- Competition and innovation strength (62%);
- Climatic conditions (62%).

### **Indicators and targets for Smart Cities and Communities Initiative**

The vast majority of respondents (87%) agree to the use of quantitative indicators to measure the efforts of the cities towards increased efficiency and sustainability. These indicators should preferably be defined at the EU level but with an option for cities to determine the precise level of ambition according to their possibilities and local particularities.

## **Market uptake measures**

According to the majority of respondents (75%), innovative low carbon products and services should be supported by all mentioned market uptake measures. The highest priority is given to innovative financial schemes and facilities (76%) and to the development of new innovative business models (74%). The standardisation and labelling of products and services (67%) and public procurement (72%) receive only marginally less support. An interesting proposal is the idea of 'collective procurement' between different cooperating cities to use their funds more efficiently.

The majority of respondents underlined the necessity to conduct an integrated approach across all actions, instruments and measures combining a bottom-up approach with a top-down approach. Notably, some respondents pointed out that the technological efforts by cities should be accompanied by significant behavioural changes which should involve more concretely the citizens of each specific urban community.