DS4SSCC Welcomes Four New Pilots in Round 2 of the Open Call

Brussels, April 1st, 2025 – The European Data Space for Smart Communities (DS4SSCC-DEP) is expanding once again! As part of our second Open Call for Pilots, four new pilots have been selected to bring innovative data- driven solutions to communities across Europe. These pilots will contribute to a smarter, greener, and more interconnected future by leveraging cross-sector data sharing to tackle some of the most pressing urban challenges.

Following a rigorous selection process, four applications were chosen for funding. Over the next 18 months, these pilots will implement real-world data space solutions across sectors such as mobility, energy management, pollution control, and climate adaptation.

Meet the New Pilots

Szeged & Timişoara Data Space (STiDS) – Hungary & Romania

Bridging historical ties with a forward-looking approach, this cross-border initiative between Szeged (Hungary) and Timişoara (Romania) will create a shared data space to enhance mobility and pollution management. With real-time data integration, the project aims to optimise traffic flows and improve air quality monitoring—delivering tangible benefits for citizens in both cities.

BeatTheHeat – Spain & Italy

With heatwaves becoming more frequent and severe, the cities of Cartagena (Spain), Naples (Italy), and Taranto (Italy) are taking action. The BeatTheHeat Data Space will harness urban climate data, satellite imagery, and IoT sensors to monitor and mitigate the effects of extreme temperatures. By integrating predictive analytics and Green Deal-aligned strategies, this project will help cities adapt to a warming world while enhancing public health and urban resilience.

Data Spaces for Positive Energy Districts (DS4PED) – Spain & Bulgaria

This pilot, led by GATE Institute (Sofia University), is focused on energy transition and urban sustainability. The cities of Rubí (Spain) and Sofia (Bulgaria) will use data-driven strategies to develop Positive Energy Districts (PEDs)—neighbourhoods that produce more energy than they consume. By leveraging energy tokenisation, smart grids, and climate impact modelling, this initiative aims to set a new standard for sustainable urban development.

CitizenCity – Netherlands, Finland & Spain

CitizenCity is all about empowering communities through data. Eindhoven (Netherlands), Oulu (Finland), and Álava (Spain) are joining forces to create participatory digital environments where citizens can actively engage with urban planning and services. From AI-driven chatbots for public participation to smart mobility labs improving road safety, this pilot will enhance the relationship between cities and their people.

Scaling Innovation, One Pilot at a Time

These pilots represent another step in the European Data Space for Smart Communities' mission to transform communities through secure and sovereign data sharing. By connecting data across sectors and geographies, the initiative continues to build a federated, interoperable ecosystem where cities can work together to solve shared challenges.

With the second round of pilots officially launched, attention now shifts to implementation. Over the coming months, the selected pilots will receive expert guidance, funding support, and access to the wider DS4SSCC network—ensuring that their solutions not only succeed locally but can be replicated across Europe.

Building the Federation: From Pilots to a United Data Ecosystem

As more pilots come on board, the focus is shifting towards federation—bringing individual data spaces together into a unified, cross-sectoral(?) ecosystem. The goal is to ensure seamless interoperability, scalability, and governance, making the European Data Space for Smart Communities a true collaborative engine for smarter communities. Work is now beginning on strengthening the federated structure, ensuring that local data spaces are not isolated but integrated into a larger, EU-wide framework that benefits all participants.

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