

Franco-German Exchange on Smart Cities and Regions

AI for Urban Practitioners

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Context from two perspectives

01 October 2025
15:00 – 17:30 CEST
Hub27, Gamma 9 (γ 9)
Messe Berlin

SUMMARY

Join us for an inspiring international exchange on how AI is shaping the future of smart cities and urban development in a common good-oriented manner – with insights drawn from Germany’s “Model Projects Smart City” programme and other initiatives, as well as projects on urban AI in France. This interactive session offers dynamic use case pitches and discussions from German and French practitioners focused on real-world applications of AI in urban contexts. Participants will gain fresh perspectives on transnational collaboration, pragmatic approaches to implementation, and scalable concepts ready for adaptation. It’s a unique opportunity to connect with peers, explore cooperation potentials, and contribute to use cases that may shape future joint funding proposals. Let’s translate ideas into impact—together.

Guiding Questions

1. What are AI potentials that can be used?
2. What are challenges and what is the added value of using AI in urban contexts?
3. What can international cooperation in urban AI look like?

Potential Output opportunities

- a. Structured mapping of relevant actors and projects of urban AI for both FR and DE, qualified for collaboration potentials
- b. Structured mapping for needs in datasets and training data for urban AI projects, Matchings for data sharing agreements for training data
- c. EoIs for joint applications to funding calls
- d. Joint use case developments

AGENDA Session 15:00 – 17:30

#	Time (CET)	Item	Speakers / Content
01	15:00 – 15:10 10'	Welcome Address “Why bilateral exchanges for urban AI matter”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renate Mitterhuber, Head of Division Smart Cities and Regions, Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB), Berlin, Germany
Part 1: Sharing use cases, mapping projects			
02	15:10 – 15:20 10'	Setting the scene – urban AI landscapes in Germany and France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marlene Damerau, Head of Smart City Unit and project lead of Urban.KI, City of Gelsenkirchen, Germany
03	15:20 – 15:30 10'	Input: Urban AI use case in a German Smart City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prof. Dr. Christian Kuhlmann, Westfälische Hochschule / Recklinghausen: Unlocking the Treasure of Aerial Imagery: A Framework and AI Models for Processing TrueDOP Data
04	15:30 – 15:40 10'	Input: Urban AI use case in the City of Nantes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marie Bernard, Head of Project Innovation and the Digital, Nantes Métropole: Nantes Métropole’s AI framework and governance
05	15:40 – 15:50 10'	Input: Civil society projects for urban AI in Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Julian Stubbe & Sarah Langnese, Civic Coding, a project to foster AI solutions developed by civil society in Germany
06	15:50 – 16:15 25'	Working block: Collaboration Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint mapping of common good-oriented actors for urban AI in France and Germany, incl. qualification of collaboration potentials (ISCN Lead) [Output a.]
07	16:15 – 16:30	BREAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Networking, Coffee
Part 2: Data ecosystems for urban AI			
08	16:30 – 16:40 10'	Input: Subnational Open Data and AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter, Buenos Aires, Argentina
09	16:40 – 16:50 10'	Input: An example of French-German collaboration for urban AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Jonas Bostelmann, Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landesvermessung Niedersachsen (LGLN): GeoAI-as-a-Service - AI trained in France and finetuned in Germany
10	16:50 – 17:00 10'	Input: Public-private Data Sharing, a view from business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Björn Schwarze, Addix GmbH and CAPTN project: Urban AI in Action: Public-Private Partnerships for Data Sharing and Model Development
11	17:00 – 17:15 15'	Working block: Training sets wish list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint mapping and sketching of training sets that would advance common good-oriented urban AI use (ISCN Lead) [Output b.]
12	17:15 – 17:30 15'	Collecting results and closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peter Sailer, Head of Project, International Smart Cities Network, GIZ

MODERATION

Peter Sailer, Head of Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn, Germany

LANGUAGE

The event will be held in English.

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