

Information on the

International Smart Cities Network

ISCN Data at a Glance

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| Project Name | International Smart Cities Network (ISCN) |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building |
| In Cooperation with | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH |
| Core Member Countries | Brazil, Germany, India, Mexico, Peru (current status) |

Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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More Information on the ISCN

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About the ISCN

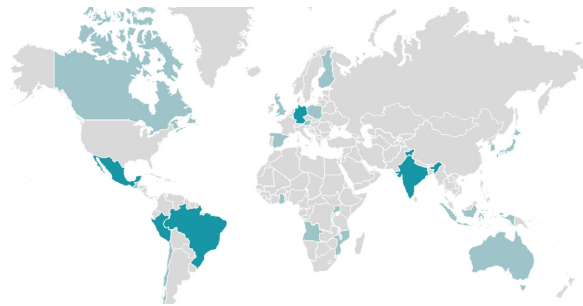
Cities and municipalities should play an active role in the design of their own 'Smart City' in order to shape the digital transformation together with the citizens, for the benefit of the public interest and common good. Essentially, the question is how the digital transformation of cities can be designed in a socially, economically, ecologically sustainable and responsible manner to prevent undesirable developments and secure benefits for citizens.

Despite different contexts, cities worldwide face similar challenges of sustainable digital transformation. The Division Smart Cities of the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building therefore initiated the International Smart Cities Network (ISCN), in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The ISCN is dedicated to promoting international exchange and knowledge transfer at national and local level. The exchange between cities, ministries of urban development and science broadens the discussion, promotes a common understanding and strengthens common learning processes, as well as the position of cities in the international framework. Through international dialogue, the network promotes the shaping of urban digital transformation in the sense of sustainable and integrated urban development. It supports the integration of digital solutions in citizen-centred development processes and facilitates the exchange of best practices and lessons learned between cities and urban actors worldwide.

ISCN Partners

Currently the network comprises five partner countries, each assigning national representatives from the responsible ministry for urban development, from the municipal level as well as from science. The current core member countries of the ISCN are Brazil, Germany, India, Mexico and Peru. In addition, there is a growing number of knowledge-sharing countries participating in the network.



ISCN Key Topics

The ISCN activities are geared towards current key topics and demands of the participating network partners such as digital participation for resilient cities, social innovation or data strategies for a common good-oriented urban development.

Like for many other actors, the COVID-19 Pandemic became an additional catalyst for the ISCN to foster and integrate digital approaches. A notable example of that was the launching of the international digital ideas competition #SolutionsForCities which resulted, among others, in the implementation of a digital solution for local economic recovery in the partner country Mexico.

ISCN Work Formats

Knowledge Transfer

The Online Advisory Programme of the ISCN comprises on-demand formats such as international studies, videos and podcasts, as well as live streaming events and online meetings with contributions from the international smart city expert community.



Peer-to-Peer Learning

Based on the existing and provided knowledge within the ISCN, the members can benefit from peer consultations on concrete projects. They can support each other in their strategic planning, incorporate various experiences in the processes and continuously obtain feedback.



Meetings of the ISCN

To consolidate partnerships within the ISCN, semi-annual network meetings are held in Germany and the ISCN partner countries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, these were compensated by high-level online symposia which capture the pulse of the international smart city discourse.

