

## Information on the

# International Smart Cities Network

## ISCN Data at a Glance

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, representatives from the municipal level as well as representatives of science. The current core member countries of the ISCN are Brazil, Germany, India, Mexico and Peru.



## 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.

As response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the ISCN initiated an international, digital ideas competition #SolutionsForCities at the end of 2020, to support its partner cities in their search for innovative, digital solutions to their current local challenges. As a result of the competition, the ISCN currently supports the implementation of a digital solution for local economic recovery in the partner country Mexico. The resulting knowledge products for the transfer of the open source solution will enable cities worldwide to scale and adapt the digital solution to their local context.

## ISCN Work Formats

### Knowledge Transfer

The Online Advisory Programme of the ISCN comprises on-demand formats such as international studies, video- 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. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these are currently compensated by high-level online symposia which capture the pulse of the international smart city discourse.

