

In this newsletter:

- [Join the conference in Florence](#)
- [Sessions' topics and speakers](#)
- [The top 5 reasons to join the conference](#)
- [How to reach Florence](#)
- [News from EU projects](#)
- [Keep up to date](#)

Join the conference in Florence



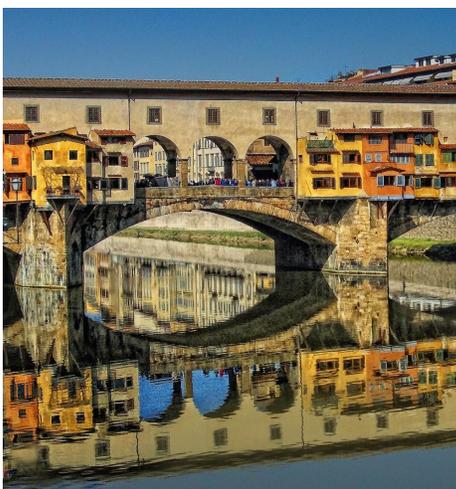
Invitation: The **City of Florence and Major Cities of Europe** have great pleasure in inviting you to the **2016 Major Cities of Europe Conference** from May 30th to June 1st. Florence, one of the most renowned worldwide destinations, is delighted to be organizing this event and to host delegates from all over Europe and from further afield. As one of the leading cities in Italy in leveraging information and communication technologies Florence is a frontrunner in the Digital Age. Situated at the centre of Tuscany, Florence will also offer the opportunity to enjoy its unique artistic and cultural heritage. [Here](#) you can download some apps to get more information on the city of Florence.

Objective of the conference: The 2016 conference will be a journey of discovery to determine what City Renaissance means in the Digital Age. It will start by exploring current experiences which are at the leading edge of developments. It will move on to consider actual pilots and implementations, and it will conclude with a look into what the future may hold. As always, this annual event will host distinguished speakers from European cities alongside worldwide experts from ICT providers and academia. Thanks to the friendly and open atmosphere of the Major Cities of Europe conferences all delegates can take advantage of the Q&As and roundtables at the end of each session and participate in informal discussions during the conference breaks, lunches and dinners to share ideas, initiatives, experiences and learn from each other.

Registration and programme: the registration fees are published [here](#). The registration fee includes the conference participation and features, including the lunches, the social events and the coffee breaks. The conference overview, the programme, the logistic information and the registration facilities can be accessed at <http://www.majorcities.eu/conferences/2016-florence/>.

Member cities are entitled to one free registration. For enquiries about joining Major Cities of Europe contact info@majorcities.eu

A video clip of the previous conference in Hamburg: if you wish to have an impression about how our conferences look like please [click here](#)



On Monday at midday the conference starts with a session dedicated to Florence, Tuscany and Italy: speakers from the Italian National Agency for Digitalisation of the Public Administration, the city of Florence and the Cities of Prato and Empoli will present their strategies, projects and achievements to deploy new services and to develop the economy.



The sessions on **Tuesday** will cover topics about **e-government and digital transformation, platforms and innovative approaches for citizens' participation, services from Young to Old Age** and views on **What does the Future Hold**. The sessions will include, amongst others, speakers from the cities of Hamburg, Vienna, Prato, Leeds, Tel Aviv, Derby, Barcelona and Issy-Les-Moulineaux and from universities and schools from Bologna, Berlin, Salerno and Keflavik and Imperial College, London.

Wednesday morning will be dedicated to a stimulating session called **The Devil's Debate** in which many national city organisations, a university and cities will be challenged by the Devil about **Has e-government, Digital Transformation and Smart Cities implementations been worthwhile?** A session about **citizens' participation** will bring the experiences of Zurich, Bristol and Valencia

Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated to **presentations, workshops and dissemination meetings of EU projects of relevant interest**

The top 5 reasons to join the conference

- Learn from practical experiences
- Discuss current and future key evolutions
- Extend your network and meet your peers from Europe and from all over the world
- Share ideas, strategies visions and experiences
- Enjoy Florence and its atmosphere

How to reach Florence

Florence can be reached by train, by car and by air. For those participants that wish to fly to Florence these are possible alternatives

1. The [Florence airport](#) is well connected to many European destinations
2. The [Pisa airport](#) is a possible alternative. It is well connected to Florence by bus or by train
3. The [Bologna airport](#). Bologna is well connected to Florence by high speed trains
4. Rome with airports of [Fiumicino](#) and [Ciampino](#) and with high speed trains to Florence from the Rome Termini or Tiburtina stations

News from EU projects

Route-to-PA is launching the new version of SPOD platform and TET portal

The new version of the Social Platform for Open Data (SPOD) is now online. The SPOD allows easy discussions and social interactions around Open Data. Major features are the **Open Wall**, showing an initial presentation of the social platform, the number of the users online and recent social activities and the **"Agorà"**, the place where each user can create an open **Public room** to start a new discussion. A new version of Transparency-Enhancing Toolset (TET) is also available. TET is the next-generation open data portal containing set of tools that facilitate a better understanding of the data by providing connections and links to related data sets, information about data provenance, personalized search and recommendations based on users' profile.

More at <http://routetopa.eu/category/news/>

City.Risks is now designing a theft detection sensor based on Bluetooth Low Energy technology

The device will be used to identify stolen objects within an urban range through the participatory sensing system built by the project. The involved hardware components are a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) module and a Wi-Fi based Wake Up Radio module to be used for triggering the BLE device to report alarm message. The BLE beacon device can act either as observer or advertiser, a BLE2WiFi gateway enables communication with the authorities while the City Risks Mobile app allows to communicate with BLE devices and report asset's position to the City.Risks platform. More at (www.cityrisks.eu)

CLIPS, now into phase 2 of the 4 pilots, is delivering innovative public services using the cloud

CLIPS, which has the principal aim of developing a new approach to delivering innovative public services using the cloud, is now into phase 2 of the 4 pilots. Bremerhaven is currently running registration services and a kindergarten application service, which was previously run successfully by the Lecce pilot. Novi Sad's services include myNS, myOdzaci and myBac, whilst Santander has 2 new services running for Transport Analysis and Cultural Analysis. More at <http://www.clips-project.eu/>

Keep up to date

Join the Major Cities of Europe LinkedIn group at <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4880775> or the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/MajorCitiesofEurope/> or the Twitter group at <https://twitter.com/majorcitiessuro>.