



Smart City Expo World Congress

Call for Speakers 2026 – 15th edition

Terms and Conditions

Entering the Call for Speakers implies full acceptance of its rules

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1. Smart City Expo World Congress

Smart City Expo World Congress is committed to leveraging the implementation and follow-up of all **global agendas** at the local and national levels. The event aims to be the place to **collectivize urban power**, increase the strength of cities, **identify business opportunities**, establish partnerships and contribute to enacting common policies. A place to share research, best practices and potential common solutions, achieved through effective collaboration.

As the **leading event for cities**, we understand the need to give cities a powerful global voice and an innovative platform for common urban action. Since its first edition in 2011, it has succeeded to become the meeting point for governments, companies, entrepreneurs, startups, research centers, and citizen's initiatives, where cities meet other cities, showcase their projects and find new solutions, and where companies do business. It has turned out to be an exceptional networking platform to connect people working in and with cities worldwide who are tackling similar challenges and generating opportunities for action.

The **Congress gathers the most relevant experts and leaders** of the world's most innovative cities, companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups, research centers, initiatives and solutions, with strategies for a smarter and more sustainable urban world. At the Exhibition Area, participants showcase their latest developments, real solutions and products, with technologies making tangible and lasting positive impacts on the lives of millions of people.

Be part of this global community, an ecosystem committed to creating powerful solutions, the ones that will help to develop a more plural economy, improve our quality of life and promote a healthier future. The challenges we face are immense and only by working together will we be able to tackle them.

In 2026, the event will continue to bet on increasing the presence of organizations, exhibitors, and visitors worldwide to keep on generating synergies, sharing knowledge, provoking discussion, reflection, and inspiring new actions. Here you have the opportunity to participate as a speaker of the World Congress through this **Call for Speakers** process.

2. Purpose of the Call for Speakers

This **Call for Speakers** is looking for the most relevant contributions, innovative initiatives, and solutions within the framework of sustainable, inclusive, equitable, safe,



healthy, and collaborative cities. All authors are cordially invited to submit their proposals to the Smart City Expo World Congress held on November 3 – 5, 2026, in Barcelona.

3. Topics covered

Please find the **covered topics** in the 2026 edition and guidance of **main keywords** that will be considered to participate in the Congress. You will need to prioritize and select only one topic that your proposal mostly refers to. Submissions should deal with **one or several keywords** of this list. Do not hesitate to contact the organization in case of doubt.

If you would like to present a proposal related to the topic of Urban Mobility, please apply to **Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress' Call for Speakers**, available at the following link: [**Call for Speakers Platform**](#) (After registering as a user you will be able to choose the Tomorrow.Mobility World Congress Call for Speakers and submit your proposal).

Topics 2026	Main keywords
Enabling Technologies	Algorithm Ethics, Algorithms, APP Solutions, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Big Data, Blockchain, City Platforms, Cloud Computing, Cloud Storage, Cognitive Cities, Connectivity, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Data Integration, Data Lake, Data Management, Data Protection, Data Protection, Data Security and Safety, Data Storage, Deep Learning, Digital Modelling, Digital Rights, Digital Twins, Edge Computing, Facial Recognition, Fraud Detection, Identity Management, Implementation Challenges, IOT, Latency, Machine to Machine Communication, Metaverse, Networked Devices, PaaS, Phishing, Platform as Service, Privacy, Robotics, Safety & Security, Sensoring, Simulated Environments, Smart Devices, Smart Environments, Smart Networks, Universal Broadband, Urban Tech, Virtual Reality, WiFi 6, 5G.



Energy & Environment	Adaptation, Air Quality, Circularity, Clean Energy, Clean Water, Cleantech, Climate Change, Climate Emergency, Climate Tech, Cogeneration, Cooling Systems, Cradle-to-cradle, Decarbonisation, Decentralized Energy, Dietary Footprint, Disaster Risk Management, Ecology, Electrification, Emergency Response, Energy Efficiency, Energy Infrastructure, Energy Investment, Energy Security, Energy Storage, Energy Transition, Financing Funding, Food Policies, Food Safety, Food Systems, Food Waste, GHG Emissions, Green Cities, Green Deal, Green Districts, Green Spaces, Heating Systems, Hydrogen-powered, Integrated Management Systems, Landscaping, Low Emissions Tech, Mitigation, Net Zero Emissions, New Energy Models, Parks, Public Space, Rainwater systems, Recycling, Regenerative by design, Renewables, Resources, Smart Grids, Smart Infrastructures, Smart Street Lighting, Smart Utilities, Sponge Cities, Sustainable Garbage Processing, Sustainable Tech, Urban Agriculture, Urban Farming, Urban Forests, Urban Furniture, Urban Management, Urban Planning, Urban Resilience, Urban Services, Urban-rural Linkages, Waste Management, Water Management, Zero Waste.
Governance & Economy	Accountability, Alliances, Best Practices, Business Models, Centre-periphery, Citizen Engagement, Circular Economy, City Diplomacy, City-to-city Cooperation, Co-creation, Collaboration, Creative Cities, Cross-sector Governance, Culture, Data Strategies, Economic Models, Financing Schemes, Global Cities, Global Funds, GovTech, Indicators, Innovation Ecosystems, International Projection, Internationalisation Strategies, Investment Models, Legislation, Local Economic Development, Metropolitan Governance, Model Performance Monitoring, Multilateral Institutions, Multilevel Governance, Multi-stakeholder, Open Data, Open Government, Philanthropies, Policies, Policy-making, PPP, Public Procurement, Regional Development, Regional Investment Banks, Regulations, Rural-Urban, Sharing Economy, Standards, Standardization, Start-ups, Talent Attraction, Urban Global Agendas.
Living & Inclusion	Affordability, Ageing Populations, Cities for All, Climate Justice, Co-housing, Co-working, Cross-district Equity, Digital Equality, Digital Rights, Diseases, Education, Ethnic Inclusion, Future of Education, Future of Work, Future Skills, Gender Equality, Gentrification, Health, Healthcare, Housing, Informal Housing, Innovative Housing Models, Labour Platforms, Leisure, Migration, Minorities, New Work Spaces, Physical Inclusion, Physical Security, Public Health, Racial Justice, Religious Inclusion, Right to Housing, Right to the City, Smart Destination, Social Impact, Social Inclusion, Social Inequality, Sustainable Destination, Tourism, Tourist-resident Balance, Universal Income, Urban safety, Utopia, Wellbeing, Wellness.



Infrastructure & Building	Asset Management, BIM, Building Automation, Building Simulation, Built Environment, Community Facilities, Construction Tech, Co-housing, Co-working, Critical Infrastructures, Decarbonisation, Design Services, Digital Construction, Digital Tools, Digital Twins, Drones, Electrification, Energy Efficiency, Extended Reality, Facility Management, Green Building, Housing, Immersive Technologies, Innovative Building Technology, Intelligent Security Systems, Metaverse, Mixed Reality, Modular Construction, Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB), Off-site Fabrication, Property Management, PropTech, Refurbishing, Renewable Energy, Retrofitting, Roads, Smart Airports, Smart Buildings, Smart Infrastructures, Smart Ports, Street Design, Street Furniture, Urban Design, Urban Facility Management, Urban Infrastructure, Urban Management, Urban Planning, Virtual Reality, Workplace Management, Zero Emission Buildings, 3D Modelling, 3D Printing.
Blue Economy	Aquaculture, Biodiversity, Blue Growth, Blue Tech, Climate Change, Coastal Development, Coastal Protection, Coastal Tourism and Recreation, Desalination, Extractive Industries, Fisheries Management, Marine Biotechnology, Marine Conservation, Marine Ecosystem Services, Marine Pollution Control, Marine Protected Areas, Maritime Spatial Planning, Maritime Transport, Ocean Energy, Ocean Governance, Ocean Monitoring, Plastic Pollution, Ports, Protected Areas, Related Services, Renewable Energy, Sailing, Sustainable Tourism, Waste Management Smart Ports.

4. Organizer of the call

This call for speakers is organized by Smart City Expo World Congress.

5. Who can participate?

Smart City Expo World Congress is aimed at cities, businesses, entrepreneurs, social innovators, research centers, universities, public or non-governmental organizations, consortiums (public-private), social activists, and individuals with innovative ideas, research, analyses, studies, visions and solutions for our cities.

6. Presentation of proposals

To enter in the running call for speakers, please fill in the form [available online](#).



Proposals must be submitted electronically via this website and must conform to the terms and conditions here included.

The form and all complementary information will **have to be filled out entirely in English**.

No proposals in any other languages will be accepted.

The organization reserves the right to ask for any clarification or additional information about the submitted entries.

No additional documents to the web form will be accepted, unless requested by the organization.

The web form to be fulfilled will require, among other details:

- **Short speaker's bio** (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **Mission of the organization** (max 200 characters including spaces)
- **Topics** (selecting from the list)
- **Submission title** (max 50 characters including spaces)
- **Brief description of the proposal** (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **Abstract** (max 1000 characters including spaces) - You may include the context of implementation, the added value of the proposal, methodology of resolution, solutions/conclusions, and any other information helpful to understanding the main ideas of your proposal.
- **Current state of implementation** (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **Innovative characteristics** of the proposal (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **(Expected) Results / Impact** of the proposal (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **Partners involved:** Name/Job Title/Organization/City/Country (max 300 characters including spaces)
- **Reference website** of the proposal

The uploaded document should be **no longer than 10 slides or pages**, in both PDF and editable format.

There is no limit to the number of submissions by author. However, please note that **only one proposal per company, institution, or speaker may be selected**, and only if it stands out as a strong fit for the program. We therefore encourage you to submit proposals that are highly aligned with your expertise and the core themes of the event. As a guideline, we recommend no more than three submissions per author, company, or organization.

7. Entry deadline

The Call for Speakers will be open until **April 16th, 2026, 23:59:59 CET (Central European Time)**



8. Evaluation Criteria

The quality of each proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria described below. Each submission will be evaluated based on twelve aspects, divided in 4 categories:

Group 1 - Innovation, Relevance.

Group 2 - Impact, Scope of Implementation, Citizen Engagement and Co-creation, Inclusivity.

Group 3 - Feasibility, Replicability, Multi-stakeholder Collaboration.

Group 4 - Soundness, Organization, Speaker Expertise and Experience.

For each aspect, a score will be assigned based on the degree to which the submission demonstrably fulfills each listed criterion.

Evaluation Aspects:

Use cases and specific and successfully implemented urban solutions will be highly valued.

Aspects	Criteria considered
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The subject addressed is relevant and original, and demonstrates an innovative approach. Additionally, the proposal includes some explanations of why the submission is innovative.The proposal includes innovative concepts, processes, tools OR governance models as a test-bed for innovation.
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Defines a need(s) or unresolved problem(s) being addressed in its context.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstration of clear, significant, and tangible impacts (or potential impacts)Includes quantification of the scope of the impacts (or potential impacts)In case of research or comparative analysis, demonstration of clear contribution to future action plans and to decision making processes.
Scope of Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The target group is reached effectively and a significant number of people have been positively affected.Project capable of being scaled up to benefit hundreds of thousands (or perhaps even millions).
Citizen Engagement and Co-creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Embraces considerations of citizen engagement and how to ensure the uptake of their ideas; AND/OR includes innovative methods and tools such as co-design or co-creation.



Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines inclusion targets in terms of gender, ethnicity, class and poverty, and/or age.
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly makes a persuasive case for feasibility. <p>If <u>implemented</u>, the proposal has an established record of success, AND/OR includes some information on the development cycle, the current status of implementation, and questions of financial and logistical feasibility.</p> <p>If it is a <u>proposed project, initiative or idea</u>, it includes some information for developing, piloting, and scaling the idea; and addresses questions of financial and logistical feasibility.</p> <p>Does not apply to research and comparative analysis or to a more analytical and theoretical proposal.</p>
Replicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal with the potential to be transferred onto other contexts different than those where they were originally conceived for; that is, that could be replicated in other sectors, regions, countries, or even different modes.
Multi-stakeholder Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of People-Public-Private-Social/Citizens partnerships or other forms of multi-stakeholder collaboration aspects.
Soundness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data being presented is reliable and sound.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization that presents the proposal has a well-established reputation in its field.
Speaker Expertise, Gender Parity and Geographic Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed speaker who will deliver the presentation in the Congress is the highest representative of the organization AND has excellent communication skills. As we are fully committed with gender equality and try to promote gender parity in our sessions, the proposal of female speakers will be positively appraised. Geographic diversity of speakers will also be positively valued.

9. Evaluation process

The evaluation process is divided into two phases:

1) Regulation compliance

The organization will conduct a first evaluation to check whether the proposal complies with the requirements. Proposals could be subject to additional request of information or clarification.

2) Proposal selection



The Expert Evaluation Committee will evaluate the proposals by topic and whether each proposal is selected for a participation at the congress or whether it is declined.

The number of proposals per category and topic is subject to consideration by the technical committee of experts and the organizing committee.

Please bear in mind that only the main author of the submitted proposal will be eligible for presenting the proposal as a speaker at the Congress.

The selection process is carried out considering the content of the proposal and the speaker profile who will deliver a presentation at the Congress. **The organization reserves the right to accept or reject any substitution of the speaker.**

10. Congress participation if selected

Any speaker proposal accepted through the Call for Speakers will be assigned to a session within the congress program, **participating alongside other speakers**. These sessions will take place in one of the event's congress stages located throughout the Exhibition Area. **The organization deserves the right to allocate** the participation of the selected speaker in **any specific session and format** decided by the technical committee. Please note that, while some sessions allow for a PowerPoint presentation, others consist of a roundtable discussion without allowed presentations. Selected speakers will be notified of the session format in advance.

Every speaker in this category will be given a **three-day pass** for the World Congress, and one additional pass for an accompanying person. Also, we provide the opportunity to purchase additional passes with a 25% discount rate. Please note that the organization **does not provide financial support for selected speakers' travel, accommodation, or visa procedures**. A speaker fee is also not provided to speakers entering through the Call for Speakers.

11. Selection communication

The speakers of selected proposals will be informed starting on **June 15th 2026**.

12. Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights

The participant is responsible for the authorship of the submitted proposal; he/she is the owner of the intellectual and, where applicable, industrial property rights thereof.



The participant is accountable for the proposal submitted, not violating intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, copyright and/or image rights and assumes complete responsibility with regard to third parties; the Organization is free of all liability.

Once the proposal has been selected, the organizers may make public any details considered as public (author, company / organization, title, brief, abstract, website, and topic).

13. Data Protection

Due to the sensitive nature of the information supplied, the World Congress organizers, the coordinator, and the members of the technical committee guarantee to keep the identity of participants and the content of their proposals confidential outside the sphere of the **Smart City Expo World Congress**.

This also includes any information about its current state of use or development.

Once the proposal has been selected, the organizers may make public any details considered as public (author, company / organization, title, brief, abstract, website, and topic).

14. Queries and suggestions

If you have any queries or suggestions, please email to:
scewc.technicaloffice@firabarccelona.com

If you are interested in commercial opportunities to enhance your organization's profile at the Smart City Expo World Congress, please contact
smartcityexpo.sales@firabarccelona.com

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