

Ricardo Costa

Councillor, City of Guimarães

Intervention notes

Date 27/10/2016

Venue Guimarães - AVEPARK

Event InfoDay – presentation of the work program for the SmartCities project call (lighthouse) regarding the H2020 EU Framework Programme for science, research, technology, demonstration and innovation.

This event is organized by GPPQ (Support Office of Framework Programme - H2020) FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology), structure of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

The event has the participation of Mr. Eric Lacomte, policy officer of DG Energy of European Commission, who travelled to Portugal, and Guimarães, specifically for one of the most significant – and last – infodays.

H2020 is the largest research and development program on a global scale.

The European Commission's SmartCities program, funded by H2020, is one of the largest initiatives of the Commission and involves three DG - Energy, Mobility and Information Technology, with monitoring of other departments such as climate, regional policy, external action, strategic investment and research.

So it's an honour to Guimarães to host this event - and welcome Mr. Eric Laconte - and an opportunity to reinforce the city's European profile and future ambition.

Subjects **1000Smart project**
Guimarães journey
European Green Capital ambition

Speech *GREETINGS*

Hosting this event is a **very positive circumstance** for Guimarães.

Guimarães agrees with **European ambition** to integrate the Smart City model with the new Urban paradigms. From this perspective, as a city of future, Guimarães **identifies with the challenge launched**

by European Commission. And thus leads the European Consortium, candidate, 1000Smart.

In this consortium, 1000 Smart, are **cities, companies, universities and agencies** of most of the member states of the European Union.

I know that some of these partners have expressed interest in intervening in the debate this afternoon, by video conference, which we welcome as an expression of the interest that the **Guimarães' collaboration culture generates.**

It's notable that the 1000Smart partnership led by Guimarães continues to receive **expressions of interest from new European and national partners** (the number approaches 200).

The 1000Smart Consortium is candidate for the SmartCities program of the European Commission. The 1000Smart consortium is remarkable. Among the partners we have the most significant entities that **science, technology, academia, industry and European innovation have to offer to their cities:** for example the Fraunhofer Institute (Germany), CEA (France), the Gaia consortium or ITENE from Spain; Systematic Consortium sponsored by French state; POLIS European Association of sustainable mobility; Wuppertal (German institute) and, of course, our Minho University, among others as much or more significant.

It has been not only a privilege for Guimarães, but also a challenge, working with such important partners.

And we extend this challenge - **opening our city for innovation and demonstration** – to the most significant national companies, some of which honour us with their presence here, today. Also for science and future. We welcome with the same commitment the United Nations University - to share knowledge - as the latest start-up to share innovation for example in Electronic Governance.

And so, it's not a surprise that Guimarães has become **increasingly attractive** as a centre of innovation, creativity, projection and success.

That was how, recently in September, Guimarães hosted the Congress of European Business Network **focused on design and creativity**. That is how we continuously receive expressions of interest for participation in 1000Smart network. It will be like that that we'll when we achieve European 2030 targets - to reduce emissions with climate impact - with innovative and intelligent solutions. **Interconnected. Interoperable. Open. Safe. Oriented towards citizens.** Towards new urban services. And, so, towards employment and competitiveness – including, of course, the competitive differentiation of urban development strategies.

And it is through a strategy and a competent, consistent and continued practice that **Guimarães reached the European profile** that today – in this session – it confirms.

Guimarães - UNESCO city - was European Capital of Culture in 2012. European City of Sports in 2013. Committed with the European climate sustainability targets in 2013, focused its development strategy on innovation and sustainability in 2014, launched the 1000Smart network in 2015, the year that launched the eGovernment pole of the United Nations University, **the year it reached the CO₂ reduction targets set for 2020.**

This is the Guimarães journey. **And this is the starting point for new ambitions.** To be among the Smart Cities which govern for the people, for life quality, for new urban services, for employment and is certainly one of them. So this day is a happy day for Guimarães: working with European Commission, with Europe and with our partners - so many in this room - for the future of our citizens and the sustainability of our environment.

And it is because of **citizenship and environment** that Guimarães prepares to be European Green Capital in 2020.

European Green Capital is for Guimarães - more than any individual statement of its relevance as a city - in fact it founded one of the oldest and solid nations of the world - the symbol, the affirmation and confirmation of **its commitment to the European paradigm**.

To this European paradigm belong the greenest cities. Open cities – to creativity, to diversity and to innovation. Cities closer to citizens. **Smarter cities**.

And it's about smart cities, European, green, sustainable, human, that we will talk about, and **we will work on** this afternoon.

Good job. Welcome!
