the Lisbon council
think tank for the 21st century

'The European democracy action plan is full of concrete actions that should be implemented by different actors so that we fulfil the promise that democracy is protected actively. Democracy will not survive without active protection and nurturing.'

— Věra Jourová, vice-president for values and transparency at the European Commission, at the **High-Level Roundtable on the European Democracy Action Plan: A One-Year Bilan**

UserCentriCities: The Cities of the Future Platform

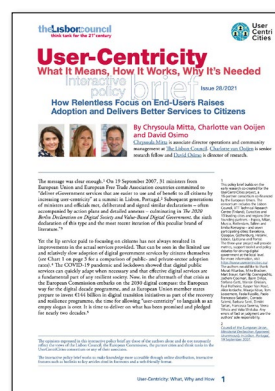Boštjan Koritnik   Lorena Boix-Alonso   Matteo Lai   Roberta Cocco

What do Barcelona, Milan, Rotterdam and Tallinn have in common? They're all leading cities when it comes to innovative public administration. And they're all partners in **UserCentriCities**, the fast-growing network of 14 leading cities and regions committed to putting citizens at the heart of government-service delivery. At **The 2021 UserCentriCities Summit: Delivering Digital Government**, innovation leaders exchanged best practice and planned new initiatives with leading universities, think tanks, researchers and policymakers. Among the high-level speakers: Boštjan Koritnik, minister for public administration, Slovenia; Lorena Boix-Alonso, director of digital society, trust and cybersecurity, directorate-general for communications networks, content and technology, European Commission; Roberta Cocco, co-chair, advisory committee on digital public administration, ministry of technological innovation and digital transition, Italy; Arian Debeljak, head of information technologies, Municipality of Ljubljana City; and Matteo Lai, chief executive, Empatica Inc, an Italian-led MIT Media Lab spinoff company. Director of Research David Osimo presented **User-Centricity: What It Means, How It Works, Why It's Needed**, a new policy brief detailing progress in six European cities and mapping key trends in European public-sector innovation. UserCentriCities is an 18-partner consortium, co-financed

by the European Union. It includes Eurocities, IE University (Spain), the Lisbon Council, VTT Technical Research Centre (Finland) and 14 cities and regions (Espoo, Milan, Murcia, Rotterdam, Tallinn and Emilia-Romagna Region founded the project; Barcelona, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Madrid and Porto joined in 2021). Over a three-year period, researchers and public administrators will explore the heart of public-sector innovation at the local level, producing a plethora of webinars, policy briefs, case studies, toolkits and dynamic benchmarking. Visit www.usercentricities.eu.

UserCentriCities Summit

> '*Ultimately the deeper conversation is going to be about what kind of society do we want to live in.*'
>
> — Rahaf Harfoush, digital anthropologist, at the **High-Level Roundtable on European Democracy Action Plan: A One-Year Bilan**

European Democracy Action Plan: A One-Year Bilan
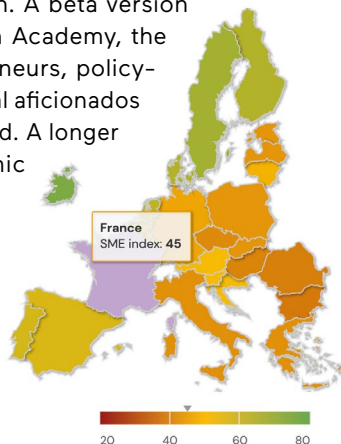
Rahaf Harfoush | Claire Mellier | Marissa Jiménez | Jonáš Syrovátka

On the eve of U.S. President Joseph R. Biden's Summit for Democracy, the Lisbon Council convened the **High-Level Roundtable on the European Democracy Action Plan: A One-Year Bilan**. Věra Jourová, vice-president for values and transparency at the European Commission, kicked off, outlining the key challenges ahead in a wide-ranging address. Rahaf Harfoush, digital anthropologist and member of the *Conseil national du numérique* (France); Marisa Jiménez Martín, director of public policy and deputy head of EU affairs, Meta Platforms, Inc.; Claire Mellier, core delivery team, Global Assembly; and Renate Nikolay, head of cabinet for Vice-President Jourová, chimed in. Later, Anton'Maria Battesti, head of public policy France, Meta Platforms, Inc, and Jonáš Syrovátka, programme manager, Prague Security Studies Institute, described their experience with disinformation in French and Czech elections. Watch the <u>High-Level Roundtable on the European Democracy Action Plan</u>.

Green, Digital and Competitive: New SME Benchmark

Europe's 22 million small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of the economy, accounting for 53% of gross domestic product and 65% of jobs. So how can SMEs help deliver on Europe's ambitious climate and digital adoption targets? Based on 30 publicly available data points brought together in a single composite indicator, **The Green, Digital and Competitive SME Index** takes a close look at SME performance around three pillars: green transition, digital adoption and company growth. A beta version was launched, live, at Amazon Academy, the flagship gathering of entrepreneurs, policy-makers, think tankers and digital aficionados from around Europe and beyond. A longer study – including a dynamic dashboard, detailed country profiles and interactive charts – will launch in March 2022. Visit <u>www.gdc.lisboncouncil.net</u> to contribute and follow the work in progress.

Green, Digital and Competitive Index

France
SME index: 45

20 40 60 80

Rank	Country	Green Digital Competitive Index	Digital Transition Ranking	Green Transition Ranking	SME Competitiveness Ranking
	EU	48.65			
1	Ireland	75.57	1	2	5
2	Sweden	67.78	6	3	6
3	Denmark	65.28	2	23	2
4	Finland	64.83	3	7	7
5	Netherlands	62.27	7	11	1
6	Luxembourg	60.92	17	4	3
7	Malta	60.87	4	9	8
8	Portugal	57.53	14	1	18
9	Spain	57.35	13	5	9
10	Belgium	57.00	5	15	10
11	Slovenia	51.18	20	13	4
12	Croatia	51.15	10	8	22
13	Austria	50.80	9	17	13
14	Lithuania	48.18	8	21	20
15	Germany	46.25	12	22	16
16	France	45.47	16	14	19
17	Estonia	43.23	15	25	11
18	Poland	43.12	22	10	24
19	Latvia	42.73	25	19	12
20	Slovakia	42.64	21	18	17
21	Greece	42.34	26	12	15
22	Italy	42.27	23	20	14
23	Czechia	40.52	11	26	25
24	Hungary	39.94	19	24	21
25	Romania	38.67	24	6	27
26	Bulgaria	37.67	27	18	23
27	Cyprus	34.37	18	27	26

Pillar	Subpillar	AT BE BG CY CZ DE DK EE EL ES FI FR HR HU IE IT LT LU LV MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK
Digital Transition	SMEs Digitalisation	
	E-commerce	
	Digital Skills	
Green Transition	Recycling and Reuse	
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
	Other Actions	
SME Competitiveness	High-Growth Enterprises	
	SMEs Trade	
	Labour Productivity	

Schools as Living Labs: Rethinking Science Education

Michael Teutsch | Tuija Hirvikoski

SALL SCHOOLS AS LIVING LABS

The Lisbon Council and Ecsite: the European Network of Science Centres and Museums, convened the **High-Level Roundtable on Science and Education: How Innovation and Collaboration Can Deliver Better Science Education in an Age of Misinformation**. Cassie Hague, analyst at the centre for educational research and innovation, OECD; Tuija Hirvikoski, director, Laurea University of Applied Sciences and former president of the European Network of Living Labs; and Michael Teutsch, head of unit for schools and multiligualism, directorate-general for education, youth, sport and culture, European Commission, presented evidence and case studies. The results will feed directly into **Roadmap to European Policies for Open Schooling**, a policy brief in 2022. The roundtable forms part of <u>Schools as Living Labs</u>, a 13-organisation consortium co-creating innovative science-education programmes. Watch <u>Rethinking Policies for Innovating European Science Education</u>.

Digital Government: Co-Creation with the Presidency of the Council of the EU

Néjia
Lanouar

Kieran
McCarthy

Charlotte
Van Ooijen

David
Osimo

The Lisbon Council took center stage at the **E-Government Conference on Human-Centric Digital Transformation of the Public Sector**, Europe's minister-level summit on digital government. David Osimo led a critical reflection on new theories of "service design" in public administration, proposing breakthrough ideas and a "third way" for bringing co-creation and user-centricity to scale in Europe. Charlotte van Ooijen, senior research fellow, chaired a debate with leading local-government administrators, including City of Paris CIO Néjia Lanouar, Cork City Councillor Kieran McCarthy and Department of Digital Transformation (Italy) CTO Paolo de Rosa. Paul Hofheinz, president and co-founder of the Lisbon Council, spoke about the road ahead in the closing plenary. The summit was convened by the Slovenia Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Watch **Video Highlights of the Slovenia Presidency E-Government Conference**.

Measuring Progress: Pointing the Way for the Digital Decade

Europe has earmarked €150 billion for digital projects through its recovery and resilience facility and digital Europe plan. How can we make sure that money is well utilised and effectively spent? In **Open Adoption Data: How to Make the Digital Compass a Success**, Director of Research David Osimo calls for governments to incentivise delivery by requiring that publicly-funded digital programmes publish regular adoption metrics. Elsewhere, in collaboration with Public Digital, the leading consulting firm for digital transformation, the Lisbon Council produced **eGovernment Benchmark Usability Pilots**, a study that tests and defines a new generation of eGovernment usability indicators for the European Commission.

Data Economy: Thought Leadership and Cutting-Edge Research

The Lisbon Council continues to serve as a go-to institution on major data-economy research. Together with International Data Corporation (IDC), the world's leading data-market researcher, the Lisbon Council co-produced **Data4Green: Why Data-Driven Innovation is Key to Delivering the EU Green Deal**, a report on the role that high-end data analytics can play in delivering the European green deal. In collaboration with Dealroom, the leading provider of startup and tech ecosystem data, the Lisbon Council co-produced **EU Data Landscape**, an overview of the fastest growing data startups in Europe. Both reports emerged out of the *EU Data Market Study 2021-2023*, a multiyear study led by the European Commission, in which the Lisbon Council has served as a key knowledge partner.

'You can't do it alone. If you do it alone, you are only interoperable with yourself.'

— Maximilian Strotmann, acting head of unit, interoperability, directorate-general for informatics, European Commission, speaking at the **E-Government Conference on Human-Centric Digital Transformation of the Public Sector**

News and Outreach

| Olaf Scholz | Paul Hofheinz | Enrico Letta | Pedro Sanchez | Francesco Mureddu |

In the margins of the G20 Summit in Rome, Paul Hofheinz, president and co-founder of the Lisbon Council, spoke in person at Rome Summit 2021 hosted by Global Progress. Olaf Scholz, chancellor of Germany; Pedro Sanchez, prime minister of Spain; and Enrico Letta, secretary of the Democratic Party (PD) of Italy, led fascinating discussions on the role of progressive politics in safe-guarding democracy and the rule of law. Elsewhere,

President Hofheinz briefed the digital policy expert group of the European People's Party in the European Parliament on key challenges ahead and delivered the closing keynote at *EUDataViz*, the European Commission's flagship summit on open data and data visualisation. David Osimo, director of research, spoke at high-level seminars hosted by the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Centre for Data Innovation. Senior Research Fellow Charlotte van Ooijen and Director Francesco Mureddu presented recent research at the *DAMA EMEA Conference*, the top gathering of data-management professionals from Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Coming Up

High-Level Roundtable on GovTech and Public-Sector Innovation

Through case studies and roundtables, the Lisbon Council dives deep with the dynamic community forming around digital technology and public-service delivery. How can citizens, startups, service providers and governments work together to make digital government a quadruple win? Experts meet, discuss, dream – and work together.

Artificial Intelligence: The Regulatory Path Ahead

As Europe moves forward with the artificial intelligence act, the Lisbon Council examines the do's and don'ts of effective AI legislation. Special guest Axel Voss, member of the European Parliament (EPP-Germany), chair of the special committee on artificial intelligence in a digital age and EPP negotiator on AI in the legal affairs and civil liberties committees, discusses the debate in the European Parliament and the scope for legislation that protects citizens and boosts innovation.

Transatlantic Relations: Better Bridges, Better Homes

President Paul Hofheinz looks at the evolving role and growing importance of multi-lateral dialogue and shows how talks taking place at the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council could save democracy and drive better domestic agendas. The policy brief will feed into **Next Steps for Transatlantic Collaboration**, a high-level roundtable.

www.lisboncouncil.net

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