

A EUROCITIES ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAMME

# Urban Digital Twins

Towards evidence-based decision-making in cities



**Barcelona  
Supercomputing  
Center**  
*Centro Nacional de Supercomputación*



## Why this Eurocities Academy training?


Urban Digital Twins (UDTs) are gaining momentum across Europe as a way to support data-informed urban planning, test policy scenarios, and foster more transparent, evidence-based governance. Yet many local administrations still face fundamental questions. This training helps cities move beyond the hype. It supports professionals in assessing whether, when, and how UDTs can add value—while also providing the technical and strategic tools to design and implement effective use cases.

## What will you gain?

- ✓ A hands-on, structured learning experience tailored to both technical and policy professionals
- ✓ Insights from cities already working on UDTs, and facilitated peer exchanges
- ✓ A concrete outcome: a city-specific Action Plan to guide UDT development
- ✓ A complimentary full congress pass to the Smart City Expo World Congress (valued at €1,250)


## Where & When?

 Online sessions: 26 June, 25 September, 16 October 2025 – 16:00–17:30 CEST

 In-person training: 6–7 November 2025


 Barcelona, Spain – hosted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center


Held alongside the Smart City Expo World Congress, the world's leading urban innovation event


 Online follow-up session: December 2025

## Who can join?

 City officials at all stages of their UDT journey

 Public sector professionals seeking to upskill on digital twin governance and applications

 Private sector experts looking to understand urban needs and priorities around digital twins

 The Action Plan is designed for cities, but all participants will gain relevant knowledge

## Participation fees (excluding VAT)


- ◆ Eurocities member cities: €1,000
- ◆ Other public sector professionals: €1,750
- ◆ Private sector and other professionals: €2,500


Includes: Full training programme, online and in-person sessions, lunch & coffee breaks, Action Plan feedback, and a complimentary SCEWC pass

✗ Excludes: Travel & accommodation

## How to register?

 Registration opens: 5 May 2025

 Deadline: 10 June 2025 (or until places are filled)

 Process: Fill in the **registration form**. Selected applicants will be notified after the deadline or when the minimum number of participants is reached, and must complete payment within 10 days of acceptance.

⚠ If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the training will be cancelled and no payments will be processed.

# Why Urban Digital Twins?

**Urban Digital Twins (UDTs)** have attracted growing attention in recent years. But beyond the hype, city officials are still grappling with fundamental questions: What exactly is a digital twin? Do we really need one? What scale and scope make sense for our city?

For many local administrations, the **technical complexity** of UDTs—data integration, infrastructure, interoperability—is already a challenge. Yet, the bigger gap is often more basic: **understanding how a UDT can support strategic goals**, how it fits into local governance structures, and how to use it in **decision-making processes** that are not always data-driven.

This training responds to that gap. It is designed not for cities that already have all the answers, but for those asking the right questions. It supports participants in critically assessing **whether, when, and how a UDT could benefit their city**. It also offers concrete strategies to **overcome common barriers**—from internal resistance to fragmented data governance—and to ensure that any UDT initiative is **more than a flashy dashboard**.

Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all solution, the programme helps cities **define the digital twin** they actually need, adapted to their **policy priorities, institutional capacity, and available data**. Whether you're exploring a pilot or scaling an existing project, this training helps ensure that your approach to **UDTs is technically sound, politically viable, and strategically aligned**.

This training will offer a **practical and immersive learning experience** for city officials and urban professionals, with dedicated tracks for both **technical and policy profiles**. By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Understand the core concepts, benefits and limitations of Urban Digital Twins
- Evaluate when and how UDTs can support urban decision-making
- Identify data requirements, infrastructure needs, and legal implications (including GDPR)
- Navigate the procurement process and work effectively with technology providers
- Apply digital twin insights in complex governance settings
- Develop a structured Action Plan to advance a digital twin use case in their own city

Participants will engage in hands-on exercises and peer exchanges, and work progressively on a **city-specific Action Plan**. This output will be most relevant for participants representing municipalities, although all attendees will benefit from the skills and methodologies explored.

# Why this training?

- ✓ **Designed with and for cities** – Co-developed by Eurocities and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, with content tailored to the real needs of local administrations, and fine-tuned after a first edition of the training in 2024.
- ✓ **Built around real-world cases** – Learn directly from cities that have already developed or are actively working on Urban Digital Twin use cases. Explore their challenges, decision points, and lessons learned.
- ✓ **Two complementary learning tracks** – Participants choose between a policy track (focused on governance, integration and strategic use) and a technical track (focused on data, infrastructure and procurement), depending on their role and profile.
- ✓ **Peer-learning at its core** – Benefit from structured peer exchanges and informal networking opportunities with other participants, creating a community of practice that extends beyond the training.
- ✓ **Applied learning with a tangible output** – Participants will work progressively on a city-specific Action Plan, applying insights from the training to their own institutional context. This plan provides a practical roadmap for initiating or strengthening a digital twin use case.
- ✓ **Exclusive access to SCEWC** – All participants will receive a full congress pass to the Smart City Expo World Congress (valued at €1,250), gaining access to the latest innovations and networking with global urban leaders.
- ✓ **Proven impact** – This training was successfully delivered in 2024, with very high satisfaction rates. Read more about the 2024 edition and its outcomes in this article: [Urban Digital Twins: transforming city planning and governance](#)

# Who is this for?

This training is designed for city professionals from across sectors who are interested in harnessing **Urban Digital Twins (UDTs)** to improve urban governance and decision-making. While the **Action Plan** is specifically tailored to municipalities, the programme offers valuable insights for a broad range of stakeholders.

We welcome applications from:

- **City officials** in departments such as mobility, housing, climate, environment, planning, data or innovation
- **Public sector professionals** from other levels of government or public agencies
- **Private sector experts** working with or for cities on digital infrastructure or smart urban services
- **Researchers and analysts** from academic or technical institutions
- **NGOs and civil society representatives** contributing to urban innovation or digital participation

Each participant will choose the **learning track—technical or policy**—that best matches their profile. Both tracks offer targeted content while sharing key sessions and peer exchanges.

This training is particularly relevant for:

- **Cities just starting their UDT journey**, looking to get the basics right and design a sound strategy
- **Cities already working on a use case**, who want to compare approaches, validate choices, and learn from experts and peers
- **Cities evaluating or consolidating UDT pilots**, and assessing whether and how to scale them
- **Public sector bodies** interested in embedding UDTs into planning and service delivery frameworks
- **Private sector actors** wishing to understand how digital twins are being used (and needed) in urban governance.

# Programme overview

This training follows a blended learning format, combining online and in-person sessions to offer a progressive and **applied learning experience**. Participants will be guided through the full cycle of developing a **use case for Urban Digital Twins** (UDTs), culminating in the creation of a **city-specific Action Plan**.

The in-person component will feature **two parallel learning tracks**:

- a **technical** track, focusing on data infrastructure, interoperability and procurement
- a **policy** track, focusing on governance, institutional embedding and strategic use

Participants will select the track that best aligns with their role and background.

## Online sessions

The online component is designed to build **shared understanding**, foster **peer exchange**, and **prepare participants** for the in-person training.

- **Session 1 – Onboarding and programme introduction** - 26 June 2025 (16-17:30h CEST). Welcome session to introduce participants, trainers and organisers. Overview of the training programme, objectives, and structure. Space for participants to present their profiles and expectations.
- **Session 2 – Peer-learning: from challenge to use case** - 25 September 2025 (16-17:30h CEST). Peer exchange session where participants present the challenge they aim to address through a digital twin. Facilitated discussion and initial feedback to support early steps in Action Plan development.
- **Session 3 – Preparing for the in-person training** - 16 October 2025 (16-17:30h CEST). Overview of the in-person programme, content and logistics. Guidance on how to prepare for the Barcelona sessions, including materials to review and topics to bring for discussion or feedback.

### **In-person training in Barcelona (6-7 November 2025)**

The in-person training will be **hosted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center**, one of Europe's leading institutions in high-performance computing and digital twin technologies. It will take place during the same week as the **Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC)**, to which all participants will receive a **full congress pass** (valued at €1,250).

Participants will benefit from:

- **Expert-led in-focus sessions** on key UDT themes: data infrastructure, legal considerations, procurement, and governance.
- **City case presentations** from peers across Europe
- **Breakout sessions** by track, tailored to participants' profiles:
  - The **policy** track will focus on governance, strategic integration, and strategies for evidence-based decision-making
  - The **technical** track will address data architecture and infrastructure, as well as procurement challenges
- **Hands-on group work** to develop and refine Action Plans
- **Peer review** of Action Plans to strengthen their feasibility and relevance
- Networking opportunities.
- **Optional participation in SCEWC sessions** related to digital twins and urban data innovation

### **Follow-up session (online)**

- **Session 4 – Presentation of Action Plans** (December 2025). An opportunity to share finalised Action Plans, reflect on implementation strategies, and connect with peers for future collaboration.

# Registration and fees

The training is **fee-based** and includes full participation in all online and in-person sessions, **training materials, coffee breaks, lunches**, and a complimentary **full-congress pass to the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC)**, valued at €1,250.

## **Participation fees (excluding 21% Spanish VAT):**

- Eurocities member cities: €1,000
- Other city or public sector professionals: €1,750
- Private sector and other professionals: €2,500

✗ Travel and accommodation costs are not included and must be arranged by participants.

## **Registration process:**

- **Applications open:** 5 May 2025
- **Deadline:** 10 June 2025 (or earlier if places are filled)

To register, please fill out the online **registration form**.

Acceptance notifications will be sent as soon as the minimum number of participants is reached, and **no later than 10 June 2025**. Confirmed participants must **complete payment within 10 calendar days of acceptance**. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of participation and release of the reserved slot. The training will only be confirmed once the minimum number of participants is reached. **No payments will be processed before confirmation.**

# Contact person

For any questions regarding the training, please contact **Guillem Ramírez Chico (Coordinator – Eurocities Academy)** at [guillem.ramirez-chico@eurocities.eu](mailto:guillem.ramirez-chico@eurocities.eu).



# Eurocities Academy

Eurocities is the largest network of European cities. It counts over 200 large cities among its membership, representing more than 150 million people across 38 countries, from within and outside the European Union. It strives to build more liveable, sustainable, democratic, and inclusive cities, and does so by advocating cities' interests before the EU institutions, facilitating knowledge exchange, implementing urban projects, and training city officials.

The Eurocities Academy is the organisation's training initiative, which provides capacity-building services to city leaders and experts to effectively engage with the EU and to tackle current and future urban challenges. Since starting operations in 2024, the Academy has trained over 240 city leaders and officers from over 130 different cities.

# Barcelona Supercomputing Center

The Barcelona Supercomputing Center – Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC) is Spain's leading centre for supercomputing and one of Europe's most prestigious research institutions in high-performance computing, modelling and simulation.

BSC leads cutting-edge research on digital twin technologies, helping cities and governments across Europe understand and simulate complex urban systems. Through the vCity project, BSC supports the co-creation of people-centred Urban Digital Twins that can improve decision-making and foster inclusive urban transformation.