Programme overview

This blended training programme combines **online sessions** and a **two-day in-person component** to equip cities with the knowledge and tools to develop and apply Urban Digital Twins (UDTs) for evidence-based decision-making.

The **online sessions** (September–October 2025) will introduce core concepts, showcase city experiences, and guide participants in defining the challenges and use cases for their Action Plans.

The **in-person training** will take place on **6–7 November 2025** at the **Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Plaça Eusebi Güell, 1–3, Barcelona)**. It will include expert-led discussions, practical exchanges, and dedicated lab sessions to refine each city's Action Plan.

Online sessions

The online component of the training is designed to **lay the foundation for the in-person sessions** and support the development of each city's Action Plan. Sessions marked in **bold with an asterisk (*)** are **core sessions** and attendance is mandatory. These focus on presenting your city's challenge, preparing the Action Plan, and ensuring all participants are ready for the collaborative work in Barcelona. The remaining sessions offer **valuable learning opportunities** on governance, technical aspects, and people-centred approaches to smart cities.

Online sessions	Date and time	Description
From vision to practice: Munich's UDT journey	16 September, 16:00-17:00h (TBC)	Munich is developing one of the most advanced urban digital twins in Europe, with applications in mobility, energy, and infrastructure. This session will showcase how a long-term vision has been translated into concrete use cases, and how governance, data, and organisational challenges have been addressed along the way.
Peer-learning: from challenge to use case*	25 September, 16:00-17:30h	In this peer exchange session, participants will present the urban challenge or strategic priority they want to address through a digital twin. The session will provide a space for mutual feedback, help identify the most promising directions for each Action Plan, and inform how the in-person training can best support each city. It will also address some technical aspects of UDT development with a focus on data collection challenges.
Digital Twins with purpose: Eurocities' Digital Lab guidelines for UDT deployment	7 October, 16:00-17:00h (TBC)	Based on the 2025 Eurocities Digital Forum Lab, this session will present a new set of practical, city-authored guidelines to help public administrations frame, assess, and deploy digital twins. Covering maturity levels, use case prioritisation, governance, ethics, and data infrastructure, the session will provide a strategic lens to help participants align their digital twin initiatives with local capacities and policy goals.
Preparing for the in-person meeting*	16 October, 16:00-17:30h	This preparatory session will walk participants through the in-person training in Barcelona, including the final programme, expected outputs, logistics, and how to make the most of the peer exchange. It will also offer space to clarify doubts and ensure each participant is ready to further work on its Action Plan.

| Smart cities for people: UN-Habitat's principles in practice | 28 October, 16:00-17:00h (TBC) | Digital tools must serve urban communities. This session introduces the UN-Habitat approach to people-centred smart cities, with a focus on participation, inclusiveness, and ethical digital governance. Participants will explore how to embed these principles into their own digital twin strategies. |
| **Action Plan presentation** | December (TBC) | In this closing session, participating cities will present their Action Plans and reflect on lessons learned during the training. It will be an opportunity to exchange feedback, identify future collaboration opportunities, and consolidate the community of practice around urban digital twins. |

In-person training (Barcelona, 6-7 November 2025)

The two-day in-person training will take place on **6–7 November 2025** at the **Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Plaça Eusebi Güell, 1–3, Barcelona)**. It will combine **expert insights**, **peer learning**, and **hands-on lab work**. Participants will deepen their understanding of governance and technical dimensions of UDT development, address legal and procurement challenges, and work intensively on their Action Plans.

In addition to the formal programme, participants are invited to join **two sessions on digital twins** co-organised by Eurocities and BSC on **5 November** as part of the **Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC)**. All training participants will receive a **full complimentary pass** to SCEWC, giving access to the entire event and its networking opportunities.

Tentative schedule

	Thursday, 6 November 2024		Friday, 7 November 2024
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration		Arrival and registration
09:00-09:30	Welcome and setting the scene		Setting the scene for the day
09:30-11:00	Introduction: UDTs, what are we talking about?		Working with data: legal considerations for UDTs
11:00-11:30	Visit to MareNostrum 5 + coffee break		Coffee break
11:30-13:00	**Governance track**	**Technical track**	UDT Action Plan Lab
	Co-designing digital twins: insights from multi-stakeholder collaboration	Working with data: data infrastructure for UDTs	
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:30	Evidence-informed decision-making: putting UDT insights at work	Working with UDT providers: city	UDT Action Plan Lab

	procurement and digital twins	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:30	UDT Action Plan Lab	
17:30-18:00	Day's wrap-up	

Sessions' description

Title	Session description
Welcome and setting the scene	A brief welcome to participants by BSC and Eurocities Academy. The session will introduce the objectives of the in-person training, recap the programme structure, and set expectations for the two days of collaborative learning.
Introduction: UDTs - what are we talking about?	This opening session will provide a common reference point for participants to begin the in-person training. BSC will introduce its approach to Urban Digital Twins, sharing technical insights and key lessons from recent projects. A city from the 2024 cohort will then reflect on their experience in developing a UDT use case, followed by a Q&A. Finally, participants will take part in a brief exchange exercise to recap the challenges and use cases they are each working on, setting the stage for peer learning throughout the training.
Governance track: Co-designing Digital Twins: insights from multi-stakeholder collaboration	Drawing from BSC's hands-on work with cities through the vCity project, this session will share key insights from multi-stakeholder collaboration in co-designing urban digital twins that align with real policy needs. Participants will explore practical examples of participatory design, cross-departmental collaboration, and iterative development processes. The session will highlight how early engagement with users and stakeholders improves both the relevance and the usability of digital twin applications.
Technical track: Working with data: data infrastructure for UDTs	A deep dive into the technical backbone of digital twins. The session will cover data integration, quality, architecture, and real-time vs. batch processing—highlighting practical approaches cities can adopt based on their current systems and ambitions.
Governance track: Evidence-informed decision-making: putting UDT insights at work	How can cities translate UDT insights into actual policy decisions? This session will explore the political and institutional realities of policymaking, and offer strategies to advocate for evidence-based alternatives within city administrations. It will also facilitate exchange and peer-learning among participants.
Technical track: Working with providers: city procurement and digital twins	Most cities need external partners to develop their digital twins. This session will help participants understand how to define requirements, manage procurement processes, and protect long-term public interest—covering key issues such as data ownership, technology lock-in, and contract design.

Working with data: legal considerations for UDTs	This session will unpack key legal and ethical considerations for digital twin projects, including GDPR compliance, data-sharing agreements, ethical AI, and citizen rights. It will provide practical examples and offer tools to manage risk while ensuring trust.
UDT Action Plan Lab	This hands-on working session will support each city in refining its Action Plan. Through peer exchange and expert facilitation, participants will identify next steps, adjust objectives, and troubleshoot key challenges—ensuring their plan is both ambitious and realistic.