

Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing

Update on the work of the U4SSC Thematic Groups

Presented by:

Okan Geray, Leader of the Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing

31 October 2025



Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing



Thematic Group Leaders

Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)



Thematic Group Scope

The Thematic Group on Digital Wellbeing aims to research and benchmark existing digital wellbeing frameworks, approaches, and interventions. Preliminary analysis indicates fragmented approaches to digital wellbeing.



Thematic Group Topic Areas

The Thematic Group will then create a digital wellbeing framework encompassing factors that contribute to it at the individual level (e.g. skills, devices, connectivity, digital services experiences, security and safety, digital environment, etc). The framework will be established to acknowledge the subjective nature of digital wellbeing.



Completed Working Group and Deliverables

Working Group 1

1

Digital Wellbeing

Leader: Okan Geray
(Digital Dubai)

Completed

NEW



Thematic Group on Digital transformation for people-centred cities

Update on the work of the U4SSC Thematic Groups

Presented by:

Okan Geray, Co-Leader of the Thematic Group on Digital transformation for people-centred cities

31 October 2025



Thematic Group on Digital transformation for people-centred cities



Thematic Group Leaders

Cristina Bueti (ITU), Barbara Kolm (Austrian Economics Center), Okan Geray (Digital Dubai) and Isabel Shirin Enyonam Wetzel (UN-Habitat)



Thematic Group Scope

The Thematic Group aims to guide cities in leveraging emerging technologies and fostering inclusive digital economies to build smarter, more sustainable, and equitable urban and rural environments. The group will examine the role of technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, digital twins, and cloud computing in enabling digital transformation across sectors, while promoting policies that ensure no one is left behind. It will document best practices, develop policy guidelines, and produce foresight studies to support cities in adopting ethical, equitable, and sustainable approaches to digitalization. The group also will examine how digital transformation in cities can advance the digital economy and support the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, fostering inclusive innovation and equitable access to digital opportunities for all, particularly for underserved communities.



Thematic Group Topic Areas

This thematic group touches on digital transformation in an urban context as well as smart and sustainable city governance.

Completed Working Groups and Deliverables

Working Group 1

1

Setting the Context:
Digital
Transformation for
People-Centred
Cities

Co-leaders: Okan
Geray (Digital Dubai)
and Victoria Papp
(BOMA)

Completed

NEW



Will be launched during the Webinar on
Empowering lives through people-centred
smart cities (Virtual, 31 October 2025)

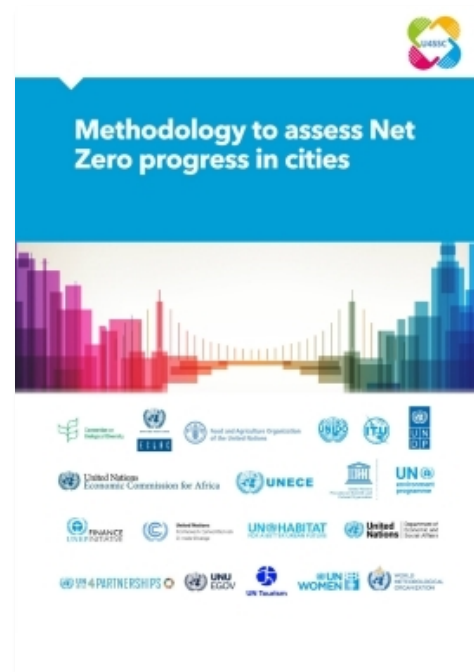
Working Group 4

4

Guidelines for
Unlocking Net Zero
in Cities Through
Sustainable Digital
Transformation

Leader: Leonidas
Anthopoulos
(Greece)

Completed



Ongoing Working Groups and Deliverables

Working Group 2

2

Policy Benchmarks
for Digital
Transformation of
People-Centred
Cities

Leader: Bettina Tratz
-Ryan (Gartner)

Ongoing



Working Group 3

3

Performance, impact
and maturity
assessment of digital
transformation in
people-centred cities

Co-leaders: John
Smiciklas (Morguard)
and Gamze Geray
(Adjunct Faculty at
Middlesex University
Dubai)

Ongoing

Working Group 5

5

Intergenerational
Procurement for
People-Centred Cities

Co-leaders: Warren
Smith (Dangersmith
SARL & Posterity
Global) and John
Davies (Department
for Business and
Trade, United
Kingdom Government)

Ongoing

Working Group 6

6

Digital Development
Goals

Co-leaders: Bas
Boorsma (Urban
Innovators Global &
Thunderbird School of
Global Management,
The Netherlands) and
Teppo Rantanen (City
of Tampere, Finland)

To be kicked off

Thematic Group on Future Foresight for Cities

Update on the work of the U4SSC Thematic Groups

Presented by:

Okan Geray, Leader of the Thematic Group on Future Foresight for Cities

31 October 2025



Thematic Group on Future Foresight for Cities



Thematic Group Leaders

Okan Geray (Digital Dubai)



Thematic Group Scope

Future foresight for cities encompasses anticipating and preparing for urban challenges and opportunities. It entails a forward-looking approach to envision potential futures and develop strategies to shape them. By understanding potential future scenarios, cities can make informed decisions, invest wisely, and build resilience.



Thematic Group Topic Areas

The Thematic Group will then create a future foresight framework encompassing analysis of existing future foresight methods, synthesis of a proposed future foresight approach for cities to support sustainability, resilience, strategic investment planning and to help navigate uncertainties and complexities. .



Ongoing Working Groups and Deliverables

Working Group 1

1

Building Future Foresight
Capability

Leader: Okan Geray
(Digital Dubai)

Ongoing

Activities

Analysis of existing future foresight methods
A framework for future foresight for cities
Institutionalizing future foresight in cities
Call to Action for cities
Case studies (real world applications of future foresight)

Expected deliverables

A Guide to Future Foresight for Cities
Maturity Assessment Toolkit for Cities (tentative)

Upcoming Meetings in 2025 and 2026

- 11 December 2025, 14:00 – 15:00, Geneva time
- 22 January 2026, 14:00 – 15:00, Geneva time
- 26 February 2026, 14:00 – 15:00, Geneva time
- 2 April 2026, 14:00 – 15:00, Geneva time

For more information, please contact:

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Thank you!

