



# A preview to the Finnish EU Presidency: Digital Cities as a tentative theme

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# Smart city as background

Energy-efficient  
and durable

Built on local  
strengths

ICT boosts  
functionality

Testing new  
solutions

Vibrant  
business-  
climate

Users  
actively  
involved

Cozy

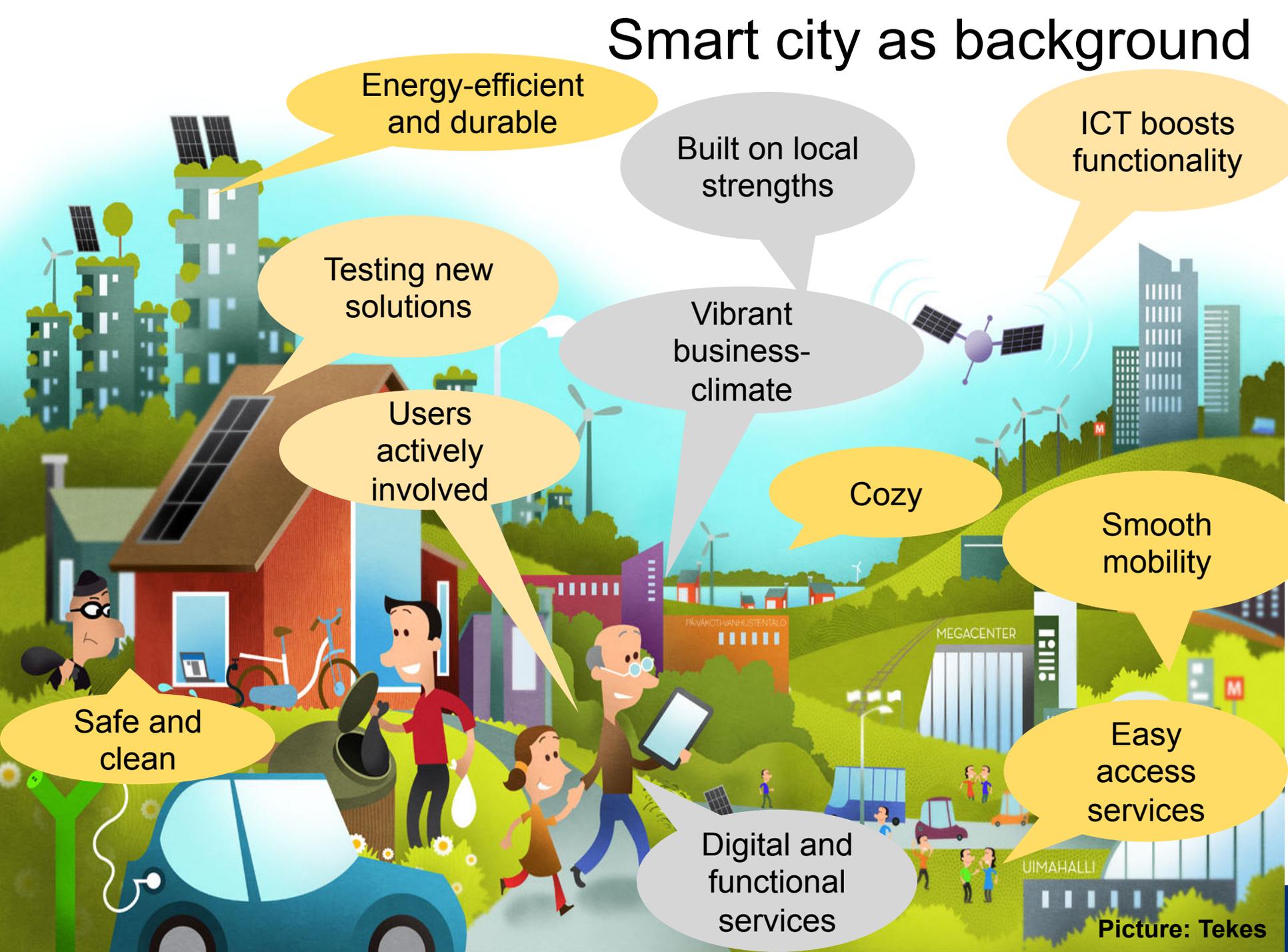
Smooth  
mobility

Safe and  
clean

Easy  
access  
services

Digital and  
functional  
services

Picture: Tekes



# Challenge of being smart

- ***“Smart city” is for people, for daily use***
- ***Smart and digital city is also by people***
- ***A major task of developing smart cities lies in being visionary (anticipating the future potentials) but creating things which can be used in everyday life – and can be used or sold as solutions which make difference in the liveability of cities.***
- ***Smart city means that cities seize the opportunities of digitalization in a holistic and integrated way instead of separate solutions. Smart city should be perceived as an ecosystem in which the city, its citizens and companies are interdependent and symbiotically benefit from each other.***



# **Digital cities at the heart of urban policy in the EU**

- ❖ Urban Agenda for the EU**
- ❖ Altogether 14 Thematic Partnerships bringing together cities, member states and the EU**
- ❖ Several Thematic Partnerships linked to the digitalization: e.g. Digital Transition, Urban Mobility, Energy Transition and Circular Economy**

# **A preview to the Presidency**

## **Finland is willing to:**

- 1) Support the successful implementation of the EU Urban Agenda (in co-operation with the RO-FI-CR Trio)**
- 2) Highlight a specific theme: Digital innovation in urban environments - solutions for sustainable and fluently working cities**

# Major question:

**Which new solutions based on digitalization can increase quality of life in cities and green development while accelerating economic growth?**

# Preliminary questions

- How do various forms of digital participation change the game?
- How do cities transform into platforms of innovation, by utilizing digital solutions?
- What is the role of openness and collaborative creation?
- How cities connect separate and incremental 'smart' solutions to coherent strategies?
- Focus on innovation creation rather than digital services (FI specific theme builds on the EE Presidency)

***=> A few case examples on pioneering cities/  
interesting national policy approaches across  
Europe to be collected***

# **Aiming at taking small steps in the following:**

- **Highlight what are frontrunners or promising cities that make the best out of digitalization**
- **Interconnect the EU Urban Agenda Themes in a cross-thematic manner under the umbrella of digitalization**
- **At the EU community level, to recognize the potential of digital innovations for comprehensive urban development and to support related initiatives**



# Thank You

**Further information:  
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