



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# **A5 The resilience of digital cities – Cybersecurity, data protection and risk management in the digitalization era**

## **Panel**

**Date:** Thursday, 26 April, 2018

**Time:** 14:30-16:00

**Rooms:** S25-26

**Language:** English

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**Organized by:** ICLEI World Secretariat

## **OBJECTIVE**

Advances in digital technologies are increasingly transforming the way cities are operated and managed. They have altered physical (e.g. energy, water, waste, transportation) and social (e.g. governance, citizen participation, service provision) infrastructure systems. This brings new opportunities but also challenges and risks. From a resilience perspective, protecting critical infrastructure from cybersecurity threats and power outages will gain in importance as urban systems are becoming increasingly interconnected. In addition, sensitive data needs to be protected to prevent theft, unauthorized access or inappropriate use thereof.

This session started with a live-hacking demonstration and expert presentation to showcase how easily seemingly secure systems and data can be compromised. The ensuing panel discussion provided a critical reflection of urban digitalization and its resilience-related risks and challenges. City representatives and experts discussed what policies, strategies and concrete measures are needed to address them.

## **OUTCOMES**

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- The potential risks associated with the digitalization of municipal infrastructure systems and data;
- The policies, strategies and concrete measures cities can implement to safeguard their digitalized systems and data.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Time break down of the session (90 minutes total):

- Opening and speaker introduction by facilitator. **(10 minutes)**
- Live-hacking demonstration and presentation by IT-expert. **(20 minutes)**
- Panel discussion around the guiding questions. **(30 minutes)**
- Moderated Q&A with questions and comments from the audience. **(25 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by facilitator. **(5 minutes)**



**Guiding questions:**

1. What are the resilience-related risks and challenges of digital cities?
2. How can cities ensure the security and privacy of their sensitive data in an era of data breaches and cyber-attacks?
3. How can cities guarantee the continuity of ICT-enabled critical infrastructure systems in the face of shocks and stresses?
4. When are hi-tech ICT solutions preferable to low-tech solutions? And vice-versa?
5. Which municipal policies and strategies are needed when it comes to digitalization and resilience?

**CONTRIBUTORS**

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|-------------|---|
| Facilitator | <i>Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe, Freiburg, Germany</i>   |
| IT-Expert   | <i>Thomas Stasch, Head of IT-Security and Civitec-CERT, Civitec, Siegburg, Germany</i>  |
| Panelist    | <i>Ina Schieferdecker, Director, Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems, Berlin, Germany; Member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change</i> |
| Panelist    | <i>Roman Mendle, Smart Cities Program Manager, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany</i>   |
| Panelist    | <i>Paul Argyle, Multi-Agency Strategic Advisor to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester, UK</i>                           |

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**Further recommended reading**

ICLEI's approach to Smart Cities: <http://www.iclei.org/activities/agendas/smart-city.html>

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