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HELIX
The Inclusive European University

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Q-Helix International Conference

26-27 October 2026

PLACE: WSB University, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland

FORMULA: Hybrid

MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESILIENCE OF SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES - A SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE



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Q-Helix European University Alliance



Q-Helix – The Inclusive European University is a European University Alliance coordinated by WSB University (Akademia WSB), Poland. The Alliance brings together 11 higher education institutions from 10 European countries, creating a diverse academic community that combines different institutional profiles, regional perspectives and areas of expertise.

The Q-Helix Alliance consists of WSB University (Poland), Reutlingen University of Applied Sciences (Germany), University of Prešov (Slovakia), Public International Business College Mitrovica – IBCM (Kosovo), Titu Maiorescu University (Romania), EPHEC University College (Belgium), European Humanities University (Lithuania), University of Artois (France), Dnipro University of Technology (Ukraine), Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design – KNUTD (Ukraine), and Instituto Superior Politécnico Gaya – ISPGAYA (Portugal).

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The identity of Q-Helix is built around the Quintuple Helix Model, which places cooperation between academia, business, public administration, civil society and the natural environment at the centre of innovation and sustainable development. The Alliance is based on the conviction that universities should not operate as isolated institutions, but rather as active connectors within their regions and across Europe. By bringing together education, research, innovation, mobility and cooperation with external stakeholders, Q-Helix aims to develop solutions that respond to contemporary social, technological, economic and environmental challenges.

The Alliance promotes an inclusive, internationally connected and socially responsible model of European higher education. Its activities include joint educational initiatives, research cooperation, student and staff mobility, international thematic schools and conferences, collaborative projects, COIL activities, quality assurance initiatives and the development of innovative learning pathways. Through these actions, Q-Helix creates opportunities for students, academics, researchers, administrative staff and external stakeholders to learn from one another and to develop solutions with tangible impact on local and regional communities.

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Introduction

The International Conference “Multidimensional Resilience of Smart Cities and Communities – A Scientific and Practical Perspective”, held on 26-27 October 2026 at WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland, brings together researchers and practitioners to explore how cities and communities can strengthen their capacity to anticipate disruption, adapt to changing conditions, and sustain the well-being of their residents. Organised in a hybrid format, the event provides an opportunity for international dialogue and the exchange of scientific knowledge and practical experience.

Contemporary cities face interconnected challenges arising from climate change, the energy transition, digital transformation, demographic shifts, and social inequalities. While advanced technologies offer new possibilities for improving urban services and responding to crises, their growing integration also raises questions about cybersecurity, public accountability, technological dependence, and equitable access. The Conference therefore approaches resilience as a multidimensional capacity shaped by the relationships between technological systems, public institutions, organisations, communities, and the natural environment.

The contributions collected in this Book of Abstracts reflect this interdisciplinary perspective. They examine the opportunities and vulnerabilities associated with artificial intelligence, AI agents, digital twins, next-generation communication networks, and data-driven decision-making. Environmental monitoring, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and the regeneration of industrial infrastructure illustrate how technological and organisational innovation can support urban adaptation. These discussions are complemented by critical perspectives on data governance, technological sovereignty, ethical responsibility, and the institutional conditions necessary for trustworthy digital transformation.

An equally important theme is the social dimension of smart cities and communities. Presentations address digital inclusion, civic belonging among young urban newcomers, active ageing, intergenerational cooperation, and the development of community-based social services. Together, these contributions emphasise that resilience depends on residents’ opportunities to participate in urban life, access essential services, develop capabilities, and build supportive relationships. They also draw attention to the importance of local initiatives and everyday practices through which communities respond to change.

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The Conference further explores the role of universities and cross-sectoral partnerships in connecting research with societal needs. Contributions on international engagement, university social responsibility, and collaborative innovation highlight the value of cooperation among academia, public authorities, businesses, civil society, and residents. Frameworks such as the Quintuple Helix and 4T+ offer complementary perspectives on the interdependencies that underpin adaptive urban systems and long-term community development.

By bringing together conceptual approaches, empirical research, and practical initiatives from diverse national and local contexts, the Conference aims to encourage constructive debate, strengthen international research networks, and support future joint projects and publications. This Book of Abstracts provides a starting point for that exchange and an invitation to consider how scientific insights can inform responsible and inclusive urban development.

We warmly welcome all participants, both on-site and online, and hope that the discussions initiated at WSB University will inspire lasting cooperation in building more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive cities and communities.

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESILIENCE OF SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES - A SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF Q-HELIX EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

DATE: 26-27 October 2026

VENUE: WSB University, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland

FORMULA: Hybrid

The conference aims to initiate an interdisciplinary discussion on building holistic, sustainable, and resilient metropolitan and smart-city ecosystems, drawing on the Quintuple Helix Model, which is based on cross-sectoral collaboration among science, business, public administration, civil society, and environmental-related actors. The conference addresses contemporary challenges faced by cities, metropolitan and other urban areas, primarily related to the following topics:

1. **Climate changes** (strengthening environmental resilience, adapting to climate change, and mitigating the effects of climate change in cities, as well as implementing nature-based solutions in modern urban architecture, etc.);

2. **Public safety** (ensuring adequate infrastructure protection and cybersecurity, as well as securing critical infrastructure and developing dual-use infrastructure, and additionally developing proactive crisis management, etc.);

3. **Digital technologies and AI in smart governance** (balancing transparency with privacy; secure, and uniform data architecture, digital exclusion, designing inclusive technologies, transforming traditional administration into a participatory system incorporating data-driven governance and urban policy, using AI in public decision-making, and civic and collaborative engagement through the implementation of digital, intuitive participatory platforms that actively engage citizens in urban governance processes, etc.);

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4. **Smart mobility and sustainable transport** (an integration of distributed transport services within a single shared ecosystem, the dynamic development of electromobility and charging infrastructure, the decarbonization of public transport, and ensuring the continuity and resilience of urban supply chains, etc.);

5. **Energy transition** and its impact on socio-economic and environmental transformations in cities (efficient resource management, the development of a circular economy, a safe energy transition based on renewable energy sources, the construction of smart grids and microgrids, and the implementation of advanced systems for the optimal management of critical urban resources, etc.);

6. **Smart communities** (civic engagement and smart community management, tools for engaging residents in public affairs; transforming residents into prosumers of urban services, co-creating of public services in cross-sectoral cooperation, technologies for social inclusion and counteracting digital exclusion, accessibility of communication spaces, social resilience, residents networking, bottom-up crisis management, privacy policy and open citizen data, civic and collaborative engagement, etc.).

The conference covers the six above-mentioned fields, addressed through keynote speeches, sessions, debates, a case study presentation, and networking within the International Research Group Urban&Resilience.

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Keynote Speakers

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Damiano Fuschi
University of Insubria, Italy

Prof. Damiano Fuschi works at the University of Insubria. Formerly a researcher at the University of Milan, he works on comparative constitutional law, environmental and digital regulation, and science diplomacy. He is the author of, among other works, a 2026 monograph on the hybridisation of environmental law beyond the public–private divide. He leads Working Group 1 of COST Action CA24169 (SiDnet) and has been a visiting researcher at UCLA and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Who Governs the Smart City? Urban Data, Technological Sovereignty and Environmental Health Monitoring

Abstract: *Smart cities are often described as a technological project. This keynote argues that they are first of all a question of public law and governance. Urban sensor networks, data platforms, cloud services and AI-based tools increasingly shape how cities monitor the environment, manage services and protect public health, yet they are frequently designed, supplied and operated by a small number of private providers, many of them based outside the European Union. Who controls these infrastructures, where urban data are stored and processed, and under which rules they may be shared are therefore questions of technological sovereignty, not merely of efficiency. The keynote addresses these questions in three steps. First, it outlines the EU legal framework that now governs data-driven urban governance: the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Act (Regulation (EU) 2023/2854) and the Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689), including the limits the latter places on remote biometric identification in publicly accessible spaces.*

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Second, it examines the experience of the Lombardy Region (Italy), focusing on how environmental and health-related parameters collected through monitoring systems are translated into binding public measures, and on the safeguards of transparency, accountability and proportionality that such decisions require. Third, it places this experience in a national and comparative European perspective, identifying challenges shared by municipalities and regions, including those of Central and Eastern Europe. The keynote concludes that a smart city is legitimate only if its data infrastructures remain under effective public control and if scientific evidence enters public decisions through transparent and contestable procedures. In this sense, smart city governance is a laboratory for the broader European debate on technological sovereignty and governance pursued by Working Group 1 of COST Action CA24169 – SiDnet (Science in Diplomacy Network).

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János Balázs Kocsis
Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

János B. Kocsis is an urban sociologist and Associate Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, and Vice President of the Hungarian Society for Urban Planning. His research focuses on urban development, metropolitan transformation, sustainability and smart cities, with particular attention to how technological innovation, energy efficiency and new forms of urban governance interact with social processes and residents' everyday lives. He has contributed to European research and development projects on energy-efficient urban neighbourhoods, sustainable urban planning and nature-based solutions, and has published on smart-city concepts, smart-meter data and the social dimensions of urban technological transformation. His international experience includes a ten-month Fulbright Visiting Scholarship at Arizona State University's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning in 2024–25, as well as an earlier academic year as Visiting Professor at Indiana University in 2015-14. His work combines academic research with extensive experience in urban policy, strategic planning and consultancy for municipalities and metropolitan regions.

Beyond Techno-Utopia and Techno-Scepticism: Smart Cities, AI and the Logic of Urban Development

Abstract: *Smart-city debates have repeatedly oscillated between two extremes. Technological optimism assumes that increasingly sophisticated data, digital infrastructure and, more recently, artificial intelligence can make urban problems measurable, manageable and ultimately solvable.*

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At the opposite pole, critical approaches sometimes treat technology as secondary to social processes or as an essentially neutral instrument that can simply be reshaped to meet societal demands. This keynote argues that neither position adequately explains how cities develop. Building on earlier research into the evolution of the smart-city paradigm, the lecture examines what this relationship means in the emerging age of AI and big data. Technology is neither an autonomous solution to urban problems nor a passive tool. Cities themselves illustrate this duality: density, interaction, and concentrations of talent can generate disproportionate gains in productivity, innovation, and creativity, while at the same time intensifying congestion, inequality, and pressures on resources and liveability. Technological innovation is therefore best understood as part of these broader urban dynamics rather than as an external force acting upon the city. New technologies are developed, adopted and used within existing institutions, markets, infrastructures, inequalities, professional cultures and political choices, while simultaneously transforming these very conditions. Theodore Roszak's assertion that an abundance of information does not inherently yield knowledge, discernment, or socially desirable outcomes remains highly pertinent. Nevertheless, concurrent technological and economic advancements have facilitated unprecedented levels of productive capacity and material prosperity. Consequently, the wholesale rejection of technological progress is as theoretically untenable as the deterministic assumption that technology alone can resolve complex social phenomena. Drawing on research and practical experience in urban and metropolitan development, sustainability, energy transition and data-driven urban systems, the keynote proposes a socio-technical understanding of the smart city. Urban innovations should be assessed simultaneously in terms of technological performance, economic viability, environmental sustainability, governance capacity, social consequences and everyday liveability.

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Marcin Kraśniewski
European Federation of Energy Law Associations, University of Pavia, Italy

Dr Marcin Kraśniewski is a lawyer, academic and energy sector expert specialising in energy law, energy transition, infrastructure regulation and international energy governance. He serves as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Energy Transition at the University of Economics in Katowice and is also a Visiting Scholar at the University of Pavia in Italy. He currently serves as a Board Member of the European Federation of Energy Law Associations (EFELA). Dr Kraśniewski is the Project Leader of ETA.UP – "Energy Transition Beyond Borders", an international project bringing together seven universities across three continents and funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA). The project focuses on international cooperation in energy transition, research, education and academic mobility. His professional experience combines academia, public governance and the energy industry. Dr Kraśniewski has participated in numerous international conferences and expert initiatives related to energy transition, climate governance and nuclear energy, including COP28, the World Economic Forum in Davos and the IAEE Paris Conference. He has also acted as an expert cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on issues related to information security and nuclear technologies. Mniej

CITTASLOW: Rethinking Smart Cities through Human Needs and Quality of Life

Abstract: *The growing challenges of climate change, urbanisation and socio-economic inequalities have intensified the search for alternative models of urban governance capable of reconciling technological innovation and economic development with environmental sustainability, social justice and human well-being.*

Against this background, the Cittaslow movement offers a distinctive perspective on the concept of smart cities, challenging approaches that prioritise technological efficiency and economic growth over the everyday needs and quality of life of local communities.

Established in Italy in 1999 and inspired by the principles of the Slow Food movement, Cittaslow has developed into an international network promoting a more balanced, inclusive and community-oriented model of urban development. This paper examines Cittaslow as an alternative and complementary framework for rethinking smart cities through a human-centred approach to urban governance. Particular attention is devoted to its five foundational principles: positive slowness, circular economy, resilience, social justice, and sustainability and culture. The analysis also considers the six policy areas underpinning the Cittaslow model, including energy and environmental policies, urban quality, infrastructure, agriculture and tourism, hospitality, and social cohesion.

The paper further explores the significance of the Mayor's Covenant for 2030, which emphasises accessibility, the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, social inclusion, local entrepreneurship and participatory governance. From a legal and institutional perspective, it considers how these commitments may contribute to more inclusive, environmentally responsible and socially responsive local decision-making.

The central argument is that a genuinely smart city should not be defined primarily by the extent of its technological advancement, digital infrastructure or economic competitiveness, but rather by its ability to respond effectively to human needs, strengthen social relationships and improve the quality of everyday life. In this context, Cittaslow provides a valuable conceptual framework for integrating technological progress with environmental responsibility, local identity and community participation.

The paper contributes to the broader academic debate on sustainable urban transformation by proposing a shift from technology-centred smart city models towards human-centred urban governance, in which innovation serves society rather than becoming an end in itself.

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Moderators

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The abstracts of the conference presentations

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AKINYEMI, Isiaka Adeniran

Lagos State University, Nigeria

Government Digital Inclusion Policy Adoption and the Digital Divide Index in Smart Cities: Evidence from Lagos State, Nigeria

Abstract: *Digital inclusion has become a major component of contemporary public policy as governments increasingly rely on digital technologies to deliver public services, strengthen economic participation, and improve access to information. However, the expansion of digital technologies does not necessarily guarantee equitable access to their benefits, particularly where disparities exist in terms of access, affordability, digital skills, patterns of use, and the quality of connectivity. This study examines the relationship between government digital inclusion policy adoption and the digital divide in smart cities, using Lagos State, Nigeria, as an empirical context. The study was grounded in the Technology Acceptance Model and the Digital Divide Perspective and employed a cross-sectional correlational research design. The study population comprised adult residents of Lagos State, from whom a sample of 600 respondents was selected using a multistage sampling approach. Data were collected using the validated Digital Inclusion Policy Adoption and Digital Divide Index Questionnaire (Cronbach's α = .86). The data were analysed using Pearson's product–moment correlation and multiple regression analysis at a significance level of 0.05. The findings indicate a significant relationship between government digital inclusion policy adoption and the digital divide index in smart cities. The results also demonstrate both the combined and relative contributions of specific dimensions of digital inclusion policy. The study concludes that government digital inclusion policies constitute an important determinant of digital inequality in smart urban environments. It therefore recommends strengthening digital inclusion strategies in Lagos State and adapting relevant policy solutions in other Nigerian states facing similar disparities.*

AKINYEMI, Lateef Adesola

University of South Africa, South Africa; Lagos State University, Nigeria

Building Green Smart Cities with 6G Technology

Abstract: *Sixth-generation (6G) technology represents a significant advancement in wireless communication systems, offering ultra-high data rates, ultra-low latency, and enhanced reliability that may play an important role in the development of sustainable smart cities. This study examines the potential of 6G technologies to support energy-efficient and resilient urban network systems through the integration of advanced solutions such as terahertz communications, massive machine-type connectivity, and AI-driven network management. By optimising spectrum utilisation and incorporating green technologies, 6G networks may support a wide range of smart-city applications, from intelligent transportation systems to real-time monitoring, while reducing overall energy consumption and carbon emissions. The study highlights the potential of 6G to facilitate connected urban infrastructures that promote sustainable development, enhance the delivery of public services, and improve quality of life. Particular attention is also given to the technical and regulatory challenges associated with the implementation of 6G technologies. On this basis, strategic directions for their future development and deployment are proposed in order to maximise the contribution of 6G-enabled solutions to sustainable and resilient smart-city environments.*

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AZIZOV, Aykhan

WSB University, Poland

The Smart City Paradox: Building Cities That Can Handle the Unexpected

Abstract: *Artificial intelligence and smart technologies are transforming contemporary cities by improving the efficiency, accessibility, and quality of urban services. At the same time, increasing dependence on highly interconnected digital systems creates new vulnerabilities, including exposure to cyberattacks, technological failures, infrastructure disruptions, and natural disasters. This presentation examines the paradox inherent in the smart-city model: the same technological integration that enhances urban efficiency may also increase systemic risks. Particular attention is given to practical approaches to strengthening urban resilience, including the development of redundant systems, the maintenance of effective human oversight, and the improvement of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms. Drawing on practical examples, the presentation outlines recommendations for reducing technological and organisational risks and improving cities' capacity to respond to and recover from disruptive events. The central argument is that artificial intelligence should be used not only to optimise urban systems but also to strengthen their resilience, safety, and capacity to adapt to future challenges.*

BORKOWSKA, Joanna

English Education Foundation, Poland

Becoming Urban Residents: Digital Resilience and Civic Belonging Among Young Student-Migrants in a Smart City Ecosystem

Abstract: *University students who relocate over considerable distances to pursue higher education constitute a demographically significant yet analytically under-examined category of urban newcomers. This paper draws on a constructivist grounded theory analysis, following Charmaz, of 82 autobiographical narratives written by first-year students at a university in Nanjing, China. It examines how these students navigate their integration into urban life after leaving secondary education. The analysis identifies a consistent pattern: in the near-total absence of formal onboarding provided by universities or municipal institutions, students independently develop bottom-up digital coping practices. These practices involve the use of AI-based assistants, social-media forums, and informal mobile applications to navigate unfamiliar administrative, social, and spatial environments. A second finding indicates that the strength of civic belonging, as opposed to experiences of social exclusion, is associated with regional origin, dialect, and language competence, resulting in systematic differences in the ease with which otherwise comparable newcomers integrate into urban communities. These findings are discussed in relation to debates on smart communities, digital exclusion, bottom-up resilience, and civic engagement. The self-organised coping practices identified in the study position young student-migrants as an empirically grounded yet under-recognised group within participatory, cross-sectoral Quintuple Helix approaches to digital civic onboarding. The paper concludes by distinguishing between those elements of such an approach that are directly supported by the empirical findings and those that require further multi-actor research.*

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BULANA, Tetiana & MOLODETS, Bohdan

Dnipro University, Ukraine

Air Quality Monitoring System as a Tool for Strengthening Climate Resilience of Smart Cities

Abstract: *Air pollution and climate change have become critical challenges affecting the sustainability and resilience of contemporary cities. This paper presents an intelligent air-quality monitoring system designed to support climate adaptation and strengthen environmental resilience in smart urban environments. The proposed system integrates data from ground-based monitoring stations, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and satellite observations in order to provide real-time information on atmospheric pollution. Automated data collection, processing, spatial analysis, and visualisation enable the identification of pollution hotspots and facilitate the assessment of changes in air quality over time. The proposed approach may contribute to strengthening urban climate resilience by reducing environmental risks, improving the protection of public health, and supporting evidence-based decision-making and sustainable urban development.*

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CELEJ-JEMIOŁO, Kinga

WSB University, Poland

From Point Cloud to Function: Staged Digital Documentation of Legacy Industrial Infrastructure in Industrial Regeneration and Investment-Support Areas

Abstract: *More and more municipalities use digital data to plan and manage industrial areas. Parcel boundaries, general plans and zoning information are usually available in digital form, while building records are often outdated, incomplete and two-dimensional. As a result, although a building's surroundings may be well documented, the building itself may not be adequately represented digitally. I call this the digital exclusion of the built fabric. Although digital exclusion is not a new concept, I propose applying it to buildings rather than people or organisations. Without reliable digital information, assessing a building's condition, remaining capacity, and potential for adaptation becomes more difficult. The paper proposes staged digital documentation instead of producing a complete model from the beginning. A preliminary 3D survey is followed by a verified as-built information model, supplemented with conservation, design and safety data. Only when connected to operational data and kept up to date is the model regarded as a digital twin. This approach can also improve occupational safety. Terrestrial and aerial scanning can reduce the need for scaffolding, rope access, or climbing solely to obtain measurements. In contrast, direct access can be limited to locations requiring sampling or validation. Detailed digital documentation may also contain sensitive information. I therefore propose separating the model into public and restricted engineering layers. This discussion draws on two documented industrial sites in the Silesian–Lesser Poland corridor at different stages of redevelopment. The study is conceptual and comparative, examining the relationship between digital documentation, industrial regeneration, and safety.*

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DOMAŃSKA, Jolanta & TKACZ, Beata

WSB University, Poland

DomFit: A Community Initiative for Active Ageing and Social Resilience

Abstract: *Population ageing highlights the importance of local opportunities for physical activity, social participation and intergenerational cooperation. This presentation introduces DomFit, a family-based community initiative promoting physical activity among older adults and across generations in Poland. DomFit was created by siblings Jerzy Domański and Jolanta Domańska to help maintain strength, independence and social engagement throughout later life. The presentation draws on Jolanta Domańska's practical experience of organising exercise sessions, educational workshops and community sporting events, as well as on the co-authors' shared observations and cooperation with older adults. Beata Tkacz contributes the perspective of a younger generation and reflects on the intergenerational and community dimensions of the initiative. The activities have been developed in cooperation with local cultural centres, senior facilities, the University of the Third Age at WSB University and other community partners. The initiative has also cooperated with Głos Seniora (Senior Voice), a nationwide initiative promoting the participation, visibility and active engagement of older adults in Poland. Activities include strength and mobility exercises, health education and intergenerational sporting initiatives adapted to participants' age and functional abilities. Guided by the World Health Organization's healthy ageing framework, the presentation explores how local partnerships can support older adults in maintaining the ability to do what matters to them. Particular attention is paid to the role of regular physical activity, relationships, mutual encouragement and a sense of belonging. Older adults are presented not only as recipients of support, but also as active contributors who motivate others, share experience and help create community life. DomFit illustrates how a small, family-inspired initiative can develop into a wider network of local cooperation. The presentation considers shared physical activity and community relationships as potential resources for social resilience, while longevity remains its overarching aspiration, expressed through the message: "Longevity needs strength".*

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GANIEK, Agnieszka

WSB University, Poland

Deinstitutionalisation of Social Services as a Smart Community Strategy: Between Public Administration, NGOs and Residents

Abstract: *The aim of this presentation is to examine the deinstitutionalisation of social services as a strategy for building smart communities and strengthening local social resilience. The starting point is the assumption that deinstitutionalisation should not be understood solely as the transfer of services outside traditional institutions, but rather as a broader management process based on cooperation between public administration, non-governmental organisations and residents. The presentation draws on the assumptions of an implementation doctorate concerning the management of social service deinstitutionalisation and the development of Social Services Centres in Poland. Particular attention will be paid to the role of local government in creating an integrated system of services, the role of NGOs as partners and sources of knowledge about residents' needs, and the role of citizens as co-creators of services. The paper is situated within the Polish context of the transformation of social policy towards community-based, accessible and coordinated services. It also draws on the example of Mikołów as a case study of a municipality developing a Social Services Centre and cooperation with social-sector organisations. The main argument is that a smart community is created not only through digital technologies, but also through the relational, organisational and institutional capacities of the local community. The presentation will conclude with practical recommendations for local governments.*

GULIYEV, Rajab

WSB University, Poland

AI-Driven Decision-Making and Organiational Performance: Building Resilience through AI Agents in Smart Cities

Abstract: *The development of smart cities increasingly depends on organisations' ability to make effective, timely, and adaptive decisions in complex and uncertain environments. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI agents are emerging as important technological capabilities that can transform organisational decision-making through advanced data analysis, predictive analytics, automation, autonomous task execution, and real-time information processing. AI agents can increasingly support decision-making and operational processes across areas such as transportation, energy management, public services, healthcare, finance, infrastructure, and emergency response. This paper examines the relationship between AI-driven decision-making, AI agents, and organisational performance, with particular attention to their role in building resilient smart cities. It explores how AI agents can support organisations by processing large volumes of information, identifying patterns, coordinating activities, recommending or executing actions, and enabling faster responses to changing conditions. These capabilities may contribute to improved decision quality, operational efficiency, resource allocation, responsiveness, and organisational adaptability. From a smart-city perspective, organisations form interconnected components of a broader urban ecosystem. The integration of AI agents across different organisational and public-service environments creates opportunities for more adaptive and responsive urban systems. At the same time, effective implementation requires appropriate organisational capabilities, high-quality data, human oversight, interoperability, cybersecurity, transparency, and responsible AI governance. The paper proposes a conceptual perspective connecting AI capabilities and AI agents, decision-making effectiveness, organisational performance, and organisational resilience within smart-city environments.*

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HO, Long Ngoc

The University of Danang, Vietnam

Building a Sustainable Quintuple Helix Partnership Ecosystem through Global Engagement: Lessons from the University of Danang

Abstract: *Universities cannot independently drive innovation, develop the talent required by contemporary societies, or advance sustainable development. Achieving these objectives requires strong partnerships connecting universities with government, industry, civil society, and the wider global community. This paper draws on the experience of the University of Danang (UD) to examine how global engagement can contribute to the development of a sustainable partnership ecosystem based on the Quintuple Helix model. The paper demonstrates how UD has used international partnerships and Erasmus+ initiatives, including capacity building, academic mobility, knowledge exchange, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, to strengthen institutional capacity and create new opportunities for cooperation. Particular attention is given to the partnership between UD and WSB University in Poland within the HEIsCITI project, which has evolved from project-based cooperation into a broader platform for institutional learning, stakeholder engagement, and long-term collaboration. The experience analysed suggests that sustainable partnerships depend on a shared vision, mutual trust, committed individuals, institutional support, and continuous co-creation. More broadly, the paper argues that Erasmus+ can function not only as a funding mechanism but also as a catalyst for enduring international partnerships and wider institutional and societal impact.*

KINELSKI, Grzegorz

WSB University, Poland

Smart-City Resilience: Integrating Digital Technologies and Adaptive Urban Governance through the 4T+ Framework

Abstract: *Smart-city resilience refers to the capacity of contemporary urban systems to anticipate, adapt to, and recover rapidly from disruptive events and crises. It combines advanced technological solutions with flexible and responsive models of urban governance. Whereas traditional urban systems may be vulnerable to single points of failure, smart cities can use digital technologies to strengthen their capacity to respond to climate-related threats, infrastructure failures, and cyberattacks. A key component of such resilience is the multidimensional integration of urban systems. Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and 5G networks enable cities to monitor changing conditions in real time, while artificial intelligence algorithms can analyse these data to forecast urban flooding, optimise traffic flows during evacuations, or dynamically reroute electricity during grid failures. Digital twins can further enhance resilience by enabling planners to simulate disruptive events and test emergency-response strategies in secure virtual environments. Smart-city resilience, however, extends beyond technology to encompass social resilience and decentralised infrastructure. Smart applications can facilitate two-way communication with citizens, disseminate warnings, and support locally coordinated responses. By continuously learning from data and adapting to changing circumstances, a resilient smart city can function as an evolving urban system capable of protecting its population against unpredictable environmental, technological, and social disruptions. The System 4T+ framework provides a broader perspective from which these interdependencies can be examined.*

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KIRÁLY, Róbert & LAČNÝ, Martin

University of Prešov, Slovakia

The Environmental Dimension of the Smart City Concept: An Analysis of the Implementation Capacities of Selected District Towns in Eastern Slovakia

Abstract: *The Smart City concept is no longer limited exclusively to the use of modern technologies and the digitalisation of the urban environment but increasingly encompasses environmental sustainability, quality of governance, and the capacity of cities to respond to climate-related and other environmental challenges. The aim of this paper is to analyse the environmental dimension of the Smart City concept, with particular emphasis on the implementation capacities of selected district towns in Eastern Slovakia. The empirical analysis draws on data collected through a structured questionnaire survey conducted among local-government officials responsible for environmental issues. Particular attention is paid to the strategic anchoring of environmental policy, the integration of environmental considerations into decision-making processes, the implementation of environmental projects, the use of external funding, cooperation with other stakeholders, and public participation. The collected data are subsequently interpreted through the conceptual frameworks of Smart Environment and Smart Governance. The findings reveal differences in the implementation capacities of the towns examined that are relevant to the environmental dimension of the Smart City concept. They also highlight the importance of institutional, human, and financial capacities for the development of sustainable and smart urban governance.*

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KOSHNAREV, Daniel

Regional Superintendent for Ukraine, Ukraine

From Cyber Resilience to AI-Powered Smart Cities: Strategic Lessons from Microsoft's Digital Transformation Ecosystem

Abstract: *Artificial intelligence is redefining the ways in which cities operate; however, AI can deliver sustainable value only when it is built upon resilient and trusted digital foundations. This presentation argues that cyber resilience has become a strategic prerequisite for the development of AI-powered smart cities. Drawing on Microsoft's digital transformation ecosystem, the presentation explores how Zero Trust principles, cyber hygiene, cloud platforms, and AI-driven security solutions can establish the governance and resilience required for large-scale digital innovation. It further examines the transition from protecting digital infrastructure to enabling intelligent and interconnected urban services supported by artificial intelligence and digital twins. The presentation discusses the Digital Twin initiative for the Irpin House of Culture as a practical example of how digital technologies can accelerate post-war recovery, support the preservation of cultural heritage, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making. Additional international examples demonstrate how governments and institutions are using AI and cloud technologies to strengthen resilience, sustainability, and citizen engagement. The presentation offers a strategic perspective on leadership, governance, and cross-sectoral collaboration, highlighting how public institutions, academia, and industry can work together to develop secure, AI-ready, and resilient communities capable of responding to increasingly complex challenges.*

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KUNIKOWSKI, Grzegorz

Warsaw University of Technology, Poland

From Resilience to Systemic Risk: A Framework for Scenario-Based Modelling

Abstract: *This article presents the evolution of an approach to modelling the resilience of district heating systems, shifting toward the analysis of systemic risk within urban energy infrastructure. The starting point involves research into the diversification and redundancy of district heating systems, extended by a disruption scenario generator integrated with the OSeMOSYS model. The proposed methodological framework provides a foundation for studying the propagation of disruptions and intersectoral dependencies.*

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MIRZAYEV, Elchin

WSB University, Poland

Data-Driven Assessment of Smart City Resilience: A Comparative Study of Selected Cities

Abstract: *This study explores a data-driven approach to assessing the resilience of selected smart cities. Publicly available data will be used to compare cities across key dimensions, including infrastructure, the environment, digitalisation, mobility, and socio-economic conditions. The study aims to identify the principal factors contributing to urban resilience and to develop a practical framework for the comparative assessment of smart-city resilience. By integrating indicators from multiple dimensions of urban development, the proposed approach seeks to support evidence-based comparisons between cities and contribute to a better understanding of the factors that influence their capacity to anticipate, respond to, and recover from disruptive events.*

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OMOGBEMI, Solomon Kunle

WSB University, Poland

Universities as Anchor Institutions for Multidimensional Smart-Community Resilience: Ethical AI Governance and Social Responsibility in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland

Abstract: *Smart-city resilience is frequently approached primarily in terms of technological infrastructure, data integration, emergency preparedness, and administrative efficiency. Such a perspective, however, gives insufficient attention to the institutions that produce knowledge, develop human capabilities, facilitate stakeholder participation, and scrutinise the social consequences of digital transformation. This conceptual paper examines universities as anchor institutions in the governance of resilient smart cities and communities. Drawing on university social responsibility, stakeholder theory, institutional legitimacy, responsible innovation, and ethical AI governance, it develops a University–Smart Community Resilience Framework. The framework identifies five interconnected areas in which universities may contribute to urban resilience: ethical and digital governance, stakeholder participation, knowledge and innovation, human and social capabilities, and environmental responsibility. It argues that universities can strengthen community resilience by providing independent assessments of AI-enabled systems, supporting inclusive public participation, developing digital literacy, facilitating responsible innovation, and connecting technological decisions with wider social and environmental priorities. The paper further proposes a collaborative governance cycle through which universities, municipalities, businesses, civil-society organisations, and citizens can identify needs, assess risks, design interventions, monitor outcomes, provide remedies, and facilitate institutional learning. It contributes to smart-city research by conceptualising resilience as a social and institutional capacity rather than solely as a technological property. It also extends the concept of university social responsibility by positioning universities as active governance partners within smart-city ecosystems.*

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SZCZEPANKIEWICZ, Edyta

WSB University, Poland

The Role of Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles in Sustainable Mobility and Smart City Resilience: A Case Study of the OMODA 9 Super Hybrid

Abstract: *Sustainable urban mobility and the resilience of transport systems are important challenges in the development of contemporary smart cities. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) offer an alternative to conventional vehicles by combining electric propulsion with the flexibility of an internal combustion engine. The aim of this paper is to examine the potential of PHEVs to support sustainable urban mobility, focusing on energy efficiency, operating costs, charging accessibility and everyday usability. The research adopts a case study approach based on the OMODA 9 Super Hybrid (2026), supplemented by a comparative analysis of scientific literature, European Union reports and manufacturer specifications. Particular attention is given to home charging and real-world electric driving range, preliminarily observed at approximately 130 kilometres. The analysis is designed to assess the relationship between charging practices, energy consumption, economic efficiency and the potential reduction of direct transport emissions. It also considers the limitations of PHEVs and their relevance to urban transport resilience. The study aims to formulate practical recommendations for vehicle users and local authorities developing sustainable mobility strategies.*

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ZANGHI, Eric

ISPGAYA, Portugal

Smart Cities and the Nexus between Digital Inclusion, Energy Transition and Efficiency

Abstract: *Growing urban energy demand requires significant adaptability in both public management and citizens' behaviour. The pursuit of sustainable development requires the development of a culture of energy efficiency, the integration of innovative energy sources, and the promotion of more sustainable patterns of consumption. Although the widespread digitisation of processes improves resource monitoring and control, enhances the efficiency of smart-city management, and enables real-time performance analysis, its long-term effectiveness depends substantially on the active digital inclusion of diverse societal stakeholders. This presentation is based on a published academic study examining how inclusive and widespread digital transformation can influence education and contribute to greater public awareness of sustainable and energy-efficient practices. Although the integration of digital inclusion, energy transition, and energy efficiency creates complex technical and social challenges, the combination of these domains may substantially enhance technological literacy and educational opportunities across different social groups. The study concludes with a critical analysis of digital transformation in smart cities, focusing specifically on the interrelationships between sustainability, energy efficiency, and social inclusion.*

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Conference Programme

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESILIENCE OF SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES - A SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

International Conference Under The Umbrella
of Q-Helix European University Alliance

HELIX
The Inclusive European University

26-27 October 2026 • **WSB University, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland** • **Auditorium D**

Live Streaming: FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE HERE

This conference is organised within the framework of the project "Support for the European University Alliance Q-Helix – Inclusive European University Based on the Quintuple Helix Model" (Project No. BPI/WUE/2025/1/00016), implemented by WSB University under the NAWA Programme "Support for European Universities".

26 October 2026 - Monday

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 09:45 **Opening**
Katarzyna Szczepańska-Woszczyna, Vice-Rector for Science and Education of WSB University
Grzegorz Kinelski, Moderator of the Q-Helix International Research Group Urban&Resilience, WSB University

09:45 - 10:15 **Keynote Speech**
Damiano Fuschi, University of Insurbia, Italy
"*Governs the Smart City? Urban Data, Technological Sovereignty and Environmental Health Monitoring*"

10:15 - 12:30 **Plenary Session (onsite)**

Moderator: **Grzegorz Kinelski**, WSB University

10:15 - 10:30 **Eric Zanghi**, ISPGAYA, Portugal
"Smart Cities and the Nexus between Digital Inclusion, Energy Transition and Efficiency"

10:30 - 10:45 **Solomon Kunle Omogbemi**, WSB University
"Universities as Anchor Institutions for Multidimensional Smart-Community Resilience: Ethical AI Governance and Social Responsibility in Dąbrowa Górnicza"

10:45 - 11:00 **Bohdan Molodets& Tetiana Bulana**, Dnipro University, Ukraine
"Air Quality Monitoring System as a Tool for Strengthening Climate Resilience of Smart Cities"

11:00 - 11:15 **Aykhan Azizov**, WSB University
"The Smart City Paradox: Building Cities That Can Handle the Unexpected"

11:15 - 11:30 **Elchin Mirzayev**, WSB University
"*Data-Driven Assessment of Smart City Resilience: A Comparative Study of Selected Cities"*

11:30 - 11:45 **Edyta Szczepankiewicz**, WSB University
"*The Role of Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles in Sustainable Mobility and Smart City Resilience: A Case Study of the OMODA 9 Super Hybrid"*

11:45 - 12:00 **Long Ngoc Ho & Thi Hong Oanh Le**, The University of Danang,
"Building a Sustainable Quintuple Helix Partnership Ecosystem through Global Engagement: Lessons from the University of Danang" - Vietnam

12:00 - 12:15 **Robert Kiraly**, University of Presov, Slovakia
"*The Environmental Dimension of the Smart City Concept: An Analysis of the Implementation Capacities of Selected District Towns in Eastern Slovakia"*

12:15 - 12:30 **Grzegorz Kunikowski**, Warsaw University of Technology
"From Resilience to Systemic Risk: A Framework for Scenario-Based Modelling"

12:30 - 13:00 Scientific discussion

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch (Main Hall on the First Floor)

14:00 - 14:30 **Keynote Speech**

Marcin Kraśniewski, University of Pavia, Italy
"CITTASLOW: Rethinking Smart Cities through Human Needs and Quality of Life"

14:30 - 17:00 **Plenary Session (online)**

Moderator: **Joanna Wójcik-Chodorowska**, WSB University

Zoom meeting link: **https://tiny.pl/f8vhsjkqk**

14:30 - 14:45 **Daniel Koshnarev**, Regional Superintendent for Ukraine, Ukraine
"From Cyber Resilience to AI-Powered Smart Cities: Strategic Lessons from Microsoft's Digital Transformation Ecosystem"

14:45 - 15:00 **Lateef Adesola Akinyemi**, University of South Africa, South Africa and Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria
"Building Green Smart Cities with 6G Technology"

15:00 - 15:15 **Isiaka Adeniran Akinyemi**, Lagos State University, Nigeria
"Government Digital Inclusion Policy Adoption and the Digital Divide Index in Smart Cities: Evidence from Lagos State, Nigeria"

15:15 - 15:30 **Kinga Celej-Jemioło**, WSB University
"From Point Cloud to Function: Staged Digital Documentation of Legacy Industrial Infrastructure in Industrial Regeneration and Investment-Support Areas"

15:30 - 15:45 **Joanna Borkowska**, English Education Foundation
"Becoming Urban Residents: Digital Resilience and Civic Belonging Among Young Student-Migrants in a Smart City Ecosystem"

15:45 - 16:00 **Rajab Guliyev**, WSB University
"AI-Driven Decision-Making and Organizational Performance: Building Resilience through AI Agents in Smart Cities"

16:00 - 16:15 **Agnieszka Ganiek**, WSB University
"*Deinstitutionalisation of Social Services as a Smart Community Strategy: Between Public Administration, NGOs and Residents*"

16:15 - 16:30 **Jolanta Domańska**, **Beata Tkacz**, WSB University
"DomFit: A Community Initiative for Active Ageing and Social Resilience"

16:30 - 16:45 Scientific discussion

16:45 - 17:00 Closing remarks for the 1st day of the event

17:30 Dinner (Amigo Club)

27 October 2026 - Tuesday

09:30 - 09:45 **Introduction**
Grzegorz Kinelski, Moderator of the Q-Helix International Research Group Urban&Resilience, WSB University

09:45 - 10:15 **Keynote Speech**
János Balázs Kocsis, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
"Beyond Techno-Utopia and Techno-Scepticism: Smart Cities, AI and the Logic of Urban Development"

10:15 - 10:30 **Case study of smart city technology implications**
Grzegorz Obajtek, Nexcharge, Cracow
"Nexcharge – powering inclusive mobility through reliable IoT connectivity"

10:30 - 11:30 **Expert debate - ESG in Smart Cities**
Moderator: **Jarosław Kacprzak**, Future Processing Gliwice, WSB University

Participants:
Katarzyna Kobierska – Director of the City Development Bureau, Gliwice City Hall.
Ryszard Kulik – Klub Myśli Ekologicznej Foundation
Łukasz Gruszczyk – Managing Director, SmartFlow by Future Processing.

11:30 - 13:00 **Smart City presentations**
Moderator: **Grzegorz Kinelski**, Moderator of the Q-Helix International Research Group Urban&Resilience, WSB university

11:30 - 11:45 **Adriana Witkowska**, Head of Socio-Economic Development Division, Upper Silesian - Dąbrowa Basin Metropolis, Katowice

11:45 - 12:00 **Karolina Ostrowska**, Head of the Strategy and Development Department – PiekaryŚląskie City Hal

12:00 - 12:15 **Magdalena Faracik**, Head of the City Development Department, Siemianowice Śląskie

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12:15 - 12:30 **Ewelina Włoch**, Head of the Digitalization and New Technologies Department, Rybnik City Hall

12:30 - 12:45 **Patryk Białas**, Director of the Innovation and Competence Centre, Science and Technology Park Euro-Centre LLC

12:45 - 13:00 Scientific discussion

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch (Main Hall on the First Floor)**

14:00 - 15:30 **Networking of the Q-Helix International Research Group Urban&Resilience**
Moderator: **Karolina Mucha-Kuś**, Tauron, WSB University
Room 227

PARALELL 14:00 - 15:30 **Expert debate – Implementing dual-use technologies in Smart Cities (in Polish)**
Auditorium D
Moderator: **Jacek Szołtysek**, Head of the Department of Social Logistics, University of Economics in Katowice

Participants:
Konrad Gołota - Undersecretary of State, Ministry of State Assets.
Grzegorz Kinelski - President of the Management Board, Enea Group
Adam Leszkiewicz - President of the Management Board, Polish Armaments Group
Leszek Pietraszek - Chairman of the Management Board, Upper Silesian - Dąbrowa Basin Metropolis

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