

CITIES COALITION FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS

STRATEGY 2020 *action plan and roadmap*

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Strategy 2020 Cities Coalition for Digital Rights

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For more information, contact us at endorse@citiesfordigitalrights.org

1. Proposition

The 5 principles of the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights:

1. Universal and equal access to the internet, and digital literacy
2. Privacy, data protection and security
3. Transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination of data, content and algorithms
4. Participatory Democracy, diversity and inclusion
5. Open and ethical digital service standards

Why cities?

Cities are the closest democratic institutions to citizens and communities and are best situated to dealing with the growing consequences of digital rights violations.

This makes city-leadership a suitable actor to promote and defend digital rights by;

- Leading Public opinion and advocacy for residents' concerns
- Being an agile testbed for new policies and rules
- Legislating and managing public space
- Using purchasing power

Why a Coalition?

The Coalition for Digital Rights is a network of cities helping each other in the greenfield of digital policy-making. United in spirit and ambition, we represent cities from around the world and are building the coalition in a pragmatic and principled way. The Coalition is committed to promoting and defending digital rights in urban context through city action, to resolve common digital challenges and work towards legal, ethical and operational frameworks to advance human rights in digital environments.

To make this happen, we unite in collective action and local implementation by:

- **City leadership on technology** = *Local implementation and mutual support*

Applying expert-knowledge in practical city context to tackle challenges collaboratively.

- **Communities of practice & knowledge** = *Collective action and sharing know-how*

Forming working groups and partnerships focused on digital rights topics relevant for City-members.

- **International policy & positioning** = *Uniting voices > Policy outreach and advocacy*

Gathering local use-cases and experience to influence international policy.

Coalition Strategies:

1. **Build the coalition and promote the 5 principles of the Declaration.**
2. **Share best practices and know-how, to learn from each other's challenges and successes.**
3. **Coordinate common initiatives, actions and joint events among member Cities.**
4. **Advocate for relevant international policy processes.**
5. **Build communities of digital policy makers to help Cities lead by example on digital rights.**

The success of the Coalition is a sum of the actions of individual member cities. Which is why the working groups and city-to-city collaborations are the core of the coalition. Cities will address learning questions and local implementation plans concerning digital rights, while creating re-usable solutions.

CC4DR: Summary of Strategy 2020

4 Goals – 10 Objectives – 40 Actions – 120 Cities

BY THE END OF 2020:

Policy Goals

Driven by City Members via working groups

Goal 1. [Joint initiatives and deliverables] **City members have produced deliverables and concrete collaborations on the topics of Open Technology, New Technology (AI), Data Economy and Digital Inclusion that support local implementation.**

Objectives:

1. Four working groups are setup and run independently, producing re-usable deliverables, working-sessions and events.
2. Collaborations with academia lead to knowledge exchange, applicable methods and research agenda's addressing digital rights challenges in city context.

Goal 3. [Build the coalition] **At least 120 Cities from the 5 continents are members of the Coalition, with more than 100 demonstrable projects to promote digital rights and city-members are in close contact to learn from each-other.**

Objectives:

6. 120 City-members from 5 continents, with at least 5 cities on each continent, to ensure a more global approach on digital rights.
7. 120 existing or planned local digital rights related projects are published online, tagged and searchable.
8. An infrastructure for dissemination of digital rights projects, best practices, use-cases, methods and procedures for implementation.

Goal 2: [Train digital policy makers] **Digital policy makers and managers from city members are trained in the field of digital rights. City-to-city collaborations address local learning questions while learning by doing in practice.**

Objectives:

3. City members are significantly helped with their local action plans by local representatives from other cities, at least 20 city-to-city collaborations have lead towards shared solutions, related to topics of the working groups.
4. City-members have organized at least 10 digital rights workshops with policy makers in 10 different cities.
5. Creation and publication of training materials for policy makers on digital rights, focused on the expertises of accountable policy making, procurement, legal and digital innovation and data-use.

Coalition Goals

Driven by Core-team and partners

Goal 4. [Reach International Impact] **International policies from several regional and global organizations increasingly take Digital Rights into consideration with use-cases and positions of Coalition city-members.**

Objectives:

9. International partners have formulated a position on privacy regulation, accountable decision-making with AI, open technologies, digital inclusion and cities in the data-economy.
10. Present at least 6 events throughout the year of partners where and strengthen media coverage to advocate for Digital Rights.

2. Strategy 2020: Goals, Objectives & Actions

TWO POLICY GOALS - Strengthened by City-collaborations

Deliverables based on cities' priorities, capacities and learning questions.

<p>Goal 1. [Joint initiatives and deliverables] By the end of 2020, the Coalition has produced deliverables, collaborations, and joint events among member Cities on the topics of Open Technology, New Technology (AI), Data Economy and Digital Inclusion that support local implementation.</p>	<p>Goal 2. [Train digital policy makers] By the end of 2020, four digital policy makers and two managers from member cities are trained in the field of digital rights. City-to-city collaborations are shown successful in addressing local learning questions while learning by doing in practice.</p>
<p>Objective 1.1. <i>At least 4 coalition working groups are setup and run independently, with concrete deliverables and meet-ups throughout 2020 that support their plan.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up working groups for key needs and questions determined by member cities, with at least 4 members in each working group. The groups formulate learning questions, a working plan, reusable deliverables and a calendar. - Organize working sessions or workshops to further develop the deliverables of the working-group. Favorably face-to-face meet-ups, in addition to collaboration online. - Working groups actively share their results as deliverables with other city-members - and obtain feedback - through webinars, published documentation, blogs, workshops and deep-dives and bi-annual meet-ups of the coalition. - For specific deliverables of each working-group see their conceptnote.* <p>Objective: 1.2: <i>Collaborations with academia and research organizations to promote knowledge on digital rights, which leads to research led by common challenges cities face, facilitating practical research and applicable methods in city context.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List challenges faced by cities which academia can provide support for in terms of methods, research or new solutions. - invite experts to attend working group sessions or present their papers linked to relevant digital rights topics. - With experts, the coalition and city-members will organize workshops, webinars or deep-dives and attend working group sessions or present their papers. - Benchmark existing research projects on digital rights (privacy, AI in public services, open technologies, digital inclusion) to publish expert papers and blogs on the website. - Stimulate member- cities to involve existing collaborations with local universities within the coalition. 	<p>Objective 2.1 <i>City members are significantly helped with their local action plans and learning questions by local representatives from other cities, at least 20 city-to-city collaborations have lead towards shared solutions, related to topics of the working groups.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify common ground where city-to-city collaborations can lead to towards shared solutions as deliverables. - Identify local experts on specific topics, to connect them to cities and policy makers that have specific learning goals. - Facilitate one-on-one discussions between city-members. - Summarize and share procedures that led to the implementation of successful or re-usable solutions. - Put local policy/guidelines open to members for feedback. - Test existing methods , procedures or guidelines. <p>Objective 2.2. <i>City-members have organized at least 10 digital rights workshops with policy makers in 10 different cities. The workshops add to (local) city-leadership on digital rights topics.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify cities where workshops/deep-dives/ working-sessions can take place. - Hold workshops and report on results in the form of an information-graphic to distribute among member-cities. <p>Objective 2.3. <i>Creation and publication of training materials for policy makers on digital rights, focused on the expertises of accountable policy making, procurement, legal and digital innovation and data-use.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of knowledge-gaps and key areas for training - Preparation of training materials /toolkit - Test training materials in key cities - Publish training materials on CCDR website - Translate materials in at least 5 languages

TWO ORGANISATIONAL GOALS - Facilitating the Coalition

Efforts mainly driven by core team and partners.

<p>Goal 3. [Build the coalition] By the end of 2020, city-members are in close contact to learn from each-other with more than 100 demonstrable projects locally in place that support digital rights. At least 120 Cities from the 5 continents are actively contributing.</p>	<p>Goal 4. [Reach International Impact] By the end of 2020, it is demonstrated that international policies from several regional and global organizations increasingly take Digital Rights into consideration with use-cases and positions of Coalition city-members.</p>
<p>Objective 3.1. <i>The Coalition counts 120 City-members from 5 continents, with at least 5 cities on each continent, to ensure a more global approach.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue recruitment drive online (email, etc.) and during events, especially in Africa and Asia, with direct contacts. - Actively include smaller and intermediate cities. - Continue leveraging international partners to contact key persons involved in the Digital Rights projects. - Member-cities invite other cities in their country to join the coalition as well. - Make joining the coalition simple through better information online and standardized model documents/ presentations such as an information package or adhesion letter. <p>Objective 3.2: <i>The coalition has set up an infrastructure for dissemination of DR projects, best practices, use-cases, methods and procedures for implementation.</i></p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The website evolves into a knowledge-library portal with the publication of WG deliverables and interesting papers. - Disseminate tagged DR projects on the Website. - Stimulate the active use of the member maillist to stimulate knowledge sharing and collaboration on learning questions. - Transparent overview of Coalition activities, that allows for interaction and additions of city-members and partners. <p>Objective 3.3: <i>The Coalition has published details of 120 existing or planned local DR related Projects (one for each city), that demonstrate leading by example from city-members.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue collecting information on DR projects from the member Cities by strengthening one-on-one contact with city members with a clear coalition-contact person and coalition contribution. - Work towards a Digital Rights index with relevant indicators to track and support the safeguarding digital rights in member-cities. 	<p>Objective 4.1: <i>International partners and other organizations that align with the CC4DR principles have formulated a position on privacy regulation, accountable decision-making with AI, open technologies, digital inclusion and cities in the data-economy, with active use of city-examples.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare concept notes for international and regional policy, marked with the Cities for Digital Rights logo. - Lobby for digital rights as an important topic to be incorporated in digital strategies. - Actively search for funding opportunities to be able to start growing our work and involvement via city collaborations, or with via the network of partners. - Join forces with international organizations that share efforts towards digital rights. - Install an advisory board to the Coalition existing of experts which underline, advise and provide input on the findings and positions formulated. <p>Objective 4.2: <i>Present at least 6 events throughout the year of partners where Digital Rights is a topic to advocate for in cities and strengthen media coverage.</i></p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively participate in events that are organized by coalition city-members, partners or organizations, with a clear defined output that is focused around the above policy priorities. - (Deputy) Mayors of cities can address the issue of digital rights during events or speeches. - Partners use social media channels for agenda-setting, to share existing content and to distribute coalition-results, digital rights challenges cities face, and opportunities for feedback on deliverables.

3. Roadmap and Calendar

Click here for the real-time 2020 [Roadmap](#) and [Calendar](#).

What can cities do to contribute?

City-members of the Coalition can i.e.:

- Share reports, research, best-practices and procedures of implementation.
- Join one of the working-groups and work towards deliverables/shared solutions.
- State and share learning questions or support other cities in with learning questions.
- Start a collaboration with another city, or other cities, resulting in a deliverable/shared solution that feeds into the coalition and may be re-usable for other cities within the network.
- Organize events, workshops and (face-to-face or online) working sessions.
- Add to policy positions.
- Write blogs or give webinars.
- Put local policy or guidelines related to DR topics open for feedback.
- Invite cities in their own countries to become a member.
- Actively contribute to any of the 4 goals or 10 objectives.
- Show local leadership for implementation.
- Train and create awareness amongst local policy makers.
- Test already existing methods, guidelines, standards or policies.
- Align local universities or research programmes to the work of the coalition.
- Let (Deputy) Mayors of your city address the issue of digital rights during events or speeches.

The Core Team of the Coalition will:

- Safeguard the continuation of the 2020 Strategy & Roadmap.
- Safeguard the continuation of the working-groups.
- Provide the right infrastructure to connect and share.
- Provide materials and support in all actions above if needed.
- Have clear one-on-one contact with member-cities.
- Connect with collaborative partners to strengthen eco-system.
- Create joined Policy positions – overviews on topics.
- Organize 2 annual member meet-ups.

4. Working groups

The success of the coalition is a sum of the actions of individual member cities. Which is why the working groups and one-on-one city collaborations are the core of the coalition. Cities will work on re-usable deliverables or on concrete city collaborations. The Working Groups define their own mandate, scope, output and timetable. During bi-annual member-meetings, the concept or deliverables will be presented and awarded. Work or training will be done during face-to-face workshops or working sessions, and can be continued online.

Examples are:

Blog-items or white-papers, webinars on a specific topic, events or workshops.

> **Deliverables:** AI guidelines and procurement standards, EU/US privacy exchange, digital rights MIM standard, AI online training, workshop accountable decision-making, white paper on open standards, open policy toolkit, data-sharing standards, policy position or cases on digital inclusion.

Working Group 1. Digital Inclusion

Prioritize initiatives concerning digital accessibility to advance social inclusion.

The goal is to advance collaborative global municipal efforts to advance social inclusion issues - gender, disability, human rights and children/youth/elderly people. For its first policy focus, the working group will prioritize initiatives concerning accessibility, in particular for people with disabilities. Inclusion issues such as poverty, gender, children/youth and older people will remain prevalent in following focuses.

Working Group 2. New Technologies

Anticipate accountability when implementing new technologies in the city. AI as first focus.

This team focuses on how to ensure new technologies in cities are adhering to digital rights, with a first focus on Artificial Intelligence, where the group has been working on guidelines for procurement. We are planning to launch the first draft before the end of the year. Also, Helsinki and London have worked in partnership on artificial intelligence, resulting in a white paper and workshop around Fair Artificial Intelligence. Other topics mentioned are mobility, facial recognition, 5G or IoT..

Working Group 3. Open Technologies

Produce policies aiming to improve digital rights through the use of open technologies.

The Open Technologies working group is focused on the links between open technologies and open standards and digital rights, with the aim of producing guidance for cities' technology policies aiming at achieving greater auditability, interoperability, security and privacy through the use of open technologies. This group aims to produce a detailed concept note for supporting open technologies in City policies, a series of case studies and a list of resources with policies, programmes and standards.

Working group 4. Data Economy

Work towards a policy position about the role of cities in the data economy. Data is the new oil.

Although this statement may be the worst consultancy claim of our times, there is actually some truth in here: Personal data is being traded for access to digital services. Organizations and consumers are looking for facilities to share their data, whilst keeping control over it. Various cities have worked on open data portals and data exchanges/ data trusts. Moreover, lessons on privacy can be shared between Europe and other parts of the world. In this working group we will be sharing our experiences and work towards a policy position about the role of cities in the data economy.

Click here for the real-time 2020 [Working plans of each working group.](#)

5. Partnerships

The Coalition for Digital Rights will always be led by cities. We can cooperate with NGO's, academia and private partners. In principle, the coalition consists of public and civil society actors. We want to avoid any "rights washing"; e.g. companies or cities pretending to respect digital rights in cities whether their business model and values are completely different.

Current Networks

We are part and closely related to the networks OASC, EUROCITIES, UCLG. They have provided a network structure. The cities are responsible for the content and cases, the networks are experts to tie this knowledge to the international policy making process. The networks are also responsible to introduce the coalition to its members. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place with partners the coalition closely works with.

Partnerships

> *Engage in international advocacy with input of city-members and boost Coalition initiatives.*

- UCLG
- EUROCITIES
- UN Habitat
- UN Human Rights

Collaborations

> *Strengthen communities of practice/knowledge of the working groups, boost network of experts.*

- OASC: Open and Agile Smart Cities
- AINow: Fair, Accountable, Transparent Algorithms
- I.e. Open State Foundation*
- I.e. Contract for the Web*
- I.e. Foundation for Public Code*

Funding

Via individual cities, joint-city collaborations or associations/institutions, the Coalition will join forces to respond to specific funding opportunities on digital rights protection. The results of this can be promoted through the coalition.

Appendix 1

Levels of Collaboration

1. City leadership on technology – Local implementation.

The Coalition can support city members in developing solutions that answer to the needs of their local contexts. Cities can find mutual support for their local action plans. Connecting local digital policy makers will contribute to this. It will advance the local implementation of digital rights protection and safeguard local credibility on a project by project basis. Every city should be significantly helped by another city on a local challenge.

Actions and materials supporting this strategy are:

Bring each other as experts (video or live) to councilors or public servants | Test products and ask residents for feedback | Communication specialists to convey and spread city knowledge | Implement Digital rights design standards | Use Human rights impact assessment | Connect local experts on topics | Our group will always be cities led.

2. Community of knowledge & practice – Collective action and know-how.

Cities will exchange knowledge, tools and experience to mutually support local action plans and learn from each other. What lacks in the market we can provide. We will establish neutral knowledge about technologies and their impact on society and city governments. Besides merely exchanging, we will jointly develop materialized output as well. Specific topics related to the five principles will be addressed with expertise knowledge and practical validation. This shows city's local and joined force in coalition. When needed the coalition will supported by outside subject-matter experts from academia and research institutions.

Actions and materials supporting this strategy are:

Webinars | Deep Dives | Event Attendance | Network to meet each other | Collecting case studies | Ask questions via email list | Communication and publishing case studies | Dissemination platform | Neutral mailing list with help questions | Website with cases and expertise | Vendor neutral academy for and by cities + citizens | MVP's for each topic with cities leading + expert communities

3. International policy and positioning – Unite voices.

The coalition can advocate for the cities' position in international realm. To take a stand in international discourse, we will bring in city voices to promote our 5 principles. We will follow new legislative developments concerning technologies, to proactively infuse the process of law making with a cities perspective in a very early stage. All members will be actively involved in advocacy and policy influencing when input is needed. We can connect the Cities Coalition to the lobbying efforts of the Coalition members.

Actions and materials supporting this strategy are:

Create Standards | Policy Guidelines | Presenting at events | Impact analysis | Joint Advocacy | Globalizing the coalition to the ones without knowledge | Speeches of our deputy mayors | Conferences and communication about this | Formulate policy position [jointly / as a few cities] | Feed international partners with cases and a policy position | Connect with stakeholders who share position or mission | Build a broad movement for Digital Rights | Organize ourselves around opportunities [events/policy]