

### **UPSIDE Partners Present Regional “Smart City” Best Practices at Fair “Zukunft Kommune”**

*CyberForum has organised a theme series with focus on innovative Smart City solutions in the framework of the fair “Zukunft Kommune” in Karlsruhe, Germany. Several UPSIDE consortium members presented regional best practices and research results.*

The 9<sup>th</sup> trade fair for public management, financing and public services took place from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and attracted 114 exhibitors, turning the exhibition hall into a large municipal marketplace. In addition to the exhibitors' stands four practical forums and ten thematic series on current challenges, including climate protection and Smart Cities, provided a varied program. Guido Wolf, State President of Baden-Württemberg, spotlighted the topic "Public service – Powerful backbone of our country" in his keynote, putting emphasis on the perspectives of employees in business and government as well as on the societal changes and associated challenges. All activities within the fair were devoted to a modern, efficient administration and intelligent solutions for a sustainable life in urban environments.

The theme series – one of the highlights of the fair – has been realized in cooperation with competent professional organizations and associations of the organizers, including amongst others the UPSIDE lead partner CyberForum, who was responsible for the topic “Smart Cities”. Several UPSIDE partners presented regional best solutions and research results. The series was opened by Ralf Eichhorn, Economic Development Department of the City of Karlsruhe, who presented “*SmarterCity Karlsruhe – User-Driven Participatory Solutions for a Smart Town*”, one of the mayor working fields within UPSIDE. The initiative SmarterCity Karlsruhe aims at enhancing citizens’ life and business opportunities in Karlsruhe, converting it into a sustainable city. He was followed by Dr. Ralf Trunko, CyberForum e.V., who showed the key benefits of Open Innovation and citizens’ involvement in the context of *SmartQuarter Karlsruhe*, a lighthouse project of the SmarterCity initiative. The Open Innovation approach is used as basis for integrating citizens in the innovation process and as a basic tool within UPSIDE. Our project partners from Estonia showcased the *Participative Budgeting approach* of the City of Tartu. Here, citizens were allowed to define public budgets for their own needs. The presentation of Dr. Kristina Reinsalu from the Estonian e-Governance Academy analysed the case focusing on challenges, choices and decisive factors of this type of e-participation process. Last but not least, Dr. Harold Weffers from Eindhoven University of Technology discussed how to put the "Smart" in "Smart Cities": Innovations in science and technology enable citizens to acquire and process more and more data from different types of sensors in their environment, providing them with an increased situational awareness and allowing them to make cities become ‘smart’. The question to be answered is how to use all this data in order to enhance citizens’ lives with sustainable solutions.





## Press Release

### **About UPSIDE**

The project UPSIDE – User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally Centred Eco-Systems aims at delivering economic and societal benefits by fostering the emergence and development of User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally-centred Ecosystems. The project aims at promoting the development of cooperation frameworks and synergy linkages between research, innovation activities within companies, urban development policies and open user-driven innovation ecosystems “which are close to the interests and needs of cities and their stakeholders, including citizens and businesses, and which may bridge the gap between short-term city development priorities and longer term technological research and experimentation.” UPSIDE receives funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration and connects different cluster actors from Europe, which aim to strengthen the competitiveness of its member companies by encouraging cooperation.

### **Project Facts**

Project Acronym: UPSIDE

Project Title: User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally Centred Eco-Systems

Project Reference: FP7-REGIONS-2012-2013-1, Grant agreement no: 319962

Project Type: Coordination and supporting actions

Project Duration: 36 months from 01.07.2013 – 30.06.2016

Budget: €2,791,323 (total, EC Funding: €2,601,967)

Web: <http://www.upside-project.eu/>

### **Project Partners**

- CyberForum e.V. (LEAD partner / coordinator)(Germany)
- Wirtschaftsförderung Karlsruhe - Economic Development Department Karlsruhe (Germany)
- inno AG (Germany)
- Stiftelsen Elektronikcentrum i Kista (Sweden)
- Baltic Innovation Agency OÜ (Estonia)
- Tartu City (Estonia)
- E-Zavod (Slovenia)
- Mestna Obcina Maribor / City of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Samenwerkingsverband Regio Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Living Labs Global (Denmark)
- Bevel (Sweden)
- Interactive Institute (Sweden)
- Stockholm University – eGovLab (Sweden)

### **Contact (Coordinator)**

Tamara Högler | CyberForum e.V. | Germany

Phone: +49 721 602 897 29 | Email: [hoegler@cyberforum.de](mailto:hoegler@cyberforum.de)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 319962