

# iCity Project improves the quality of citizens' lives

Through **iCity Platform**, and interacting with open Information Systems of the cities, IT partners develop applications that provide public interest services.

- **A European project that works with standards between cities.**
- **The first Platform capable to interact with different Information Systems from a single end-point.**

The **iCity Project** has worked on overcoming existing barriers and create the right environment for the co-creation of public interest services. This is a space where the administration opens its Information Systems and companies develop Apps and new services for the citizens disposal.



**A collaborative project.** Along the project, the engagement has been strategic. In this process, four players have been identified as the most significant, forming an ecosystem which is the main value of iCity. All of them are necessary to ensure the viability of the project:

- 1 - **Citizens.**
- 2 - **IT Companies and developers (SIG).**
- 3 - **Information Systems' owners and managers (SIG).**
- 4 - **The cities managers (SIG).**

*We must foster a new relationship between the technical teams of the public administration and the companies that develop services. But we must also include the citizens in the process.*

Laia Sánchez - CityLab - WP2 Leader

## iCity Project ecosystem

### 1 – Citizens

Citizens are the end users of cities' applications and services, but how to get them to understand and use their city APIs. That challenge became an opportunity to innovate in the **iCity Project**. Opening data is one of the open and transparent government policies' lines of action. And we had the opportunity to contribute to the citizenship approach to the use of these new portals of their APIs and Open Data. The idea is that citizens themselves, who increasingly demand more transparency in management administrations, are the drivers of the new intelligent services of cities, beyond the role of sensors or simple end customers.

It has been confirmed that citizens are demanding to public managers the opening of data and access in real time to them. The public manager wants the citizen's to participate in the city's issues. E.G. A "report" or a "City suggestions" App will allow the user to report defects on the street, something that will mean great savings in public resources.

**iCity Project value for the citizens:**

- A wide range of services can be developed and shared.
- Services and APPs can be used in multiple cities.

### 2 - A challenge for IT companies

The **iCity Project** IT Partners, specially developers, have been participating in the project sharing their interests, developing Apps and disseminating the project.

Due to the cost of developing an App, this new market has become a better opportunity for medium and large companies than for freelance developers, who have not always been able to recover the development costs. Nevertheless, all of them require quality standards and data to allow them to bring competitive products into the market.

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### iCity Project value for IT companies:

- Access to multiple IT Systems through an unique end-point.
- External orchestration.
- Easiness of data use for apps development.
- A service or an App thought for one city can be run for multiple cities, thus increasing the market.



## 3 - Information Systems' owners and managers

Cities have created a shared vision on the most essential data to be opened, thus services were targeted as follows



### iCity encompasses the concept of Open Data with a novel approach of Open Information Systems

The platform is not limited to work with open processed data (READ) but also allow third parties to interact with Cities and Companies' (READ&WRITE) Information Systems.

- The platform allows a secure control of data through the interaction with third parties.
- The platform facilitates to third parties a common, independent, clear & easy way to Read & Write cities' Information Systems.

### Safety, the solution of the reluctance of the Information Systems manager

Information Systems' managers are concerned about the safety and integrity of their systems. Therefore, they are only willing to accept the full interaction with the system if they have complete control over when, how, and what traffic load is.

### iCity Project value for Information Systems owners:

Increases the channels for offering services and provide more visibility, security, accounting and Internal orchestration.

*Through iCity Platform, Information Systems owners are able to control any petition or Access of any user at any time, in an organized and structured way. iCity Platform is oriented to accept any technology*

**Alejandro Sala**, WP4 Leader – Cellnex Telecom

*When I was proposed to open the public infrastructures to third parties my first answer was "never ever!" But after realising that the manager would have always the absolute control of the use of his systems; I found it a brilliant idea.*

**Francisco Rodríguez**

CIO at Barcelona City Council

## 4 - City managers

### COMMON STANDARDS.

#### A necessity for IT companies and cities

Developing an App is often an unreachable cost for many small cities. On the other hand, the lack of common standards means that Apps are inconsistent from one city to another. This is a handicap for small cities that prevent them from offering the same quality services than the wealthy ones.

*Thanks to iCity Project, we had a chance to increase the space for collaboration between citizens and Public Administration. iCity helped us to improve engagement and participation and to build a new urban ecosystem*

**COMUNE DI BOLOGNA**

Nowadays, large IT companies are on the hunt to create massively new products and services that could be interoperable among the cities. But it is impossible for 5,000 European cities to agree on the data exchange or the updating of the changes that will occur in the future. The solution is to create standards for Information Systems. The solution is the **iCity Project**.

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# Pillars of the project

## The iCity Network

The iCity Project has created a network of cities with common synergies. Those cities need coordination and execution among them in order to co-create and deploy services.

Cities do not want to negotiate one by one with every company the access conditions to the Information Systems services. They prefer to delegate the translation between the APIs and the many standards to a third party. It is for this reason that the **iCity Project** becomes a key strategic piece in the context of smart cities.

### iCity Project value for cities:

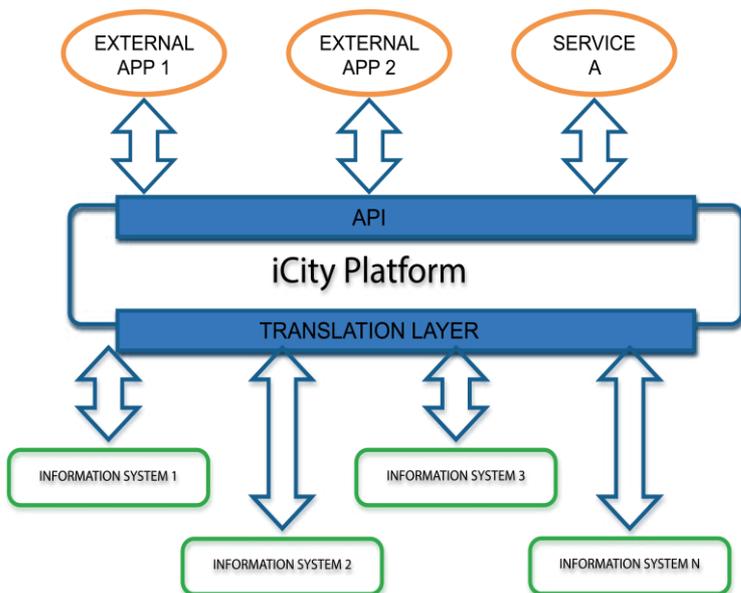
- Facilitates the creation of new public services for their citizens, services that the city had never thought about.

## The iCity Platform API REST Architecture

[icity-devp.icityproject.com](http://icity-devp.icityproject.com)

### The iCity Platform, the core of the project

A platform designed and developed under requirements and needs of the cities, offering a secure environment to allow European Cities to open up cities data on a free basis.



*We don't have the same resources as big cities like Barcelona or Bologna and we can't afford to create state of the art Apps for our citizens. But we surely believe that being a smart city is the most clever way to offer more public services of quality and save expenses. That is why being part of a network where their members cooperate, share resources and knowledge is so interesting for us, and actually our opportunity to be a real smart city.*

*Besides, since the iCity Project works as a neutral broker between us and the demanding data developers, the Open Data service has been improved.*

City participant of the **iCity Project**

*SEAT, and the other Volkswagen Group's brands have been working for years on the concept of a connected vehicle. We could develop more functionalities if we had the possibility of interaction with the cities' systems in real time. Actually, we have done a pilot in some cities but it is quite complicated for us to bring it to the market without a universal standard access to the cities data.*

**Jordi Caus**, Manager of E-Mobility Team SEAT and external cooperation

*Getting to know the iCity Project and the iCity Platform has been a rewarding experience. I think there should be more systems to access because its possibilities are innumerable.*

**Cristina Gómez**, coordinator of the winner team of iCity Contest, associate professor at the UPC.

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## iCity Apps

Many European cities have opted for relying on third parties the development of the Apps. Those Public Interest Services are outsourced due to two main reasons:

- It offers new services when there is not sufficient Administration funds to do it.
- It allows to take advantage of the talent of citizens, who know their own desires and needs better than the government.

### Apps' users fidelity

Often, too many apps downloaded for the same functionality but different for each city is consuming device memory and unpractical for the users. Apps related to tourism or mobility should be universal and run almost everywhere. This is one more reason that shows the need for a neutral broker to access the Information Systems of the city such as the **iCity Project**, a neutral broker that allows the development of 1 APP that can be used in multiple cities.

### iCity App Store

iCity Apps is **the iCity Project's** app store. A place where to find the public apps developed on iCity platform, with open Information Systems of cities like Barcelona, Bologna or Genova among others. Developers, vendors and citizens are welcome to visit the website, sign in and publish their apps, projects or ideas.

[www.icityappstore.eu](http://www.icityappstore.eu)



@icityproject  
[www.icityproject.eu](http://www.icityproject.eu)

*The APPs model is not sustainable by one city alone, at least no without difficulty. However, if we are able to increase the market to many cities, the business model becomes clear. Without it, it is very complicated for these services to be universal.*

**Alexis Culubret**, Manager of electronic procedures and new channels. Barcelona City Council

*We started with the Project City SDK already convinced that APIs would be the preferential link channel with cities' data in the future. City SDK has been an effort of identifying which cities' APIs would be the best for Tourism, Participation and Mobility; and propose them as common standards between cities.*

**Alex Serret**. Barcelona's representative of the City SDK project

*Sometimes, browsing in my cell phone an App catches my interest. I used to download and test it for a few days hoping that could make my job a little bit easier, like those that gives you real time information about traffic. But nowadays I don't do that anymore because when you have to use 10 different Apps for the same purpose, just because you have crossed a city, it becomes a nightmare instead of being useful.*

**Joan Serra**, International transporter

*The genoese experience with developers could be summarized in a positive one, most of time has been dedicated to create a good climate and relationship among the actors involved. It was not easy to involve people who aren't get used to co-create and co-work with the public administration. The two iteration meetings was necessary to put the basis for the future collaboration, while the NEXT City Contest finalize it.*

**COMUNE DI GENOVA**

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# The future of iCity Project

## Business Model

The will of the **iCity Project** has always been to offer a new way to create Apps that ease the path for a truly European Smart Cities.

Following this philosophy, some partners are working on a business model that would allow this public service the continuity beyond the European Commission project.

*As proof of the possibilities involved with the iCity Project, Cellnex Telecom has agreed to keep on running the iCity Platform beyond 2015.*

**Raul González**, Cellnex Telecom – WP7 leader

## A sustainable solution: workable and operative

The iCity Project has revealed the need to share and to consume information and services. A trend that is growing exponentially both among organizers and citizens but has confronted difficulties of integration that limited its size.

The model would consist of:

- A consumer of data (IT company or developer) will go to a mutual broker to make his request and wait for a response.
- A platform will be responsible for redirecting the request to the organization with the most respond capacity. The developer will not be aware from whom he is receiving the information from. Whether it is from a traditional Open Data or an online Information System.
- An end user would download an App with real-time information.

With a critical mass of online and active users, the utility of this system would be guaranteed and it could be satisfactorily implemented at European level.

*The greatest achievement of the iCity Project, from a communication point of view, has been to create a community engaged and motivated. We are talking with stakeholders, partners, cities and developers. Getting all these people involved has been the key for success and we are satisfied to see that once we got our speech clear, they reacted positively to the project's initiatives.*

**Fina Sala**, WP8 Leader.  
Barcelona City Council

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