



2021PORTUGAL.EU

Summit

European Regions

for Smart Communities



SESSION: GOVERNANCE

SMART COMMUNITIES: THE EBN EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD

RAFFAELE BUOMPANE

EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTERS NETWORK (EBN)

SENIOR ADVISOR



EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK IN A NUTSHELL



EBN is an **open community** for any business support organisation whose mission is to help entrepreneurs, start-ups or innovative SMEs

EBN has two membership categories:

EU|BICs – certified European Union business and innovation centres

Associates – organisations who work in our ecosystem but do not wish to become a certified EU|BIC

EBN membership includes access to added-value services to support the growth of innovative ideas, business incubation and acceleration, internationalisation solutions and involvement in international projects

Created in **1984** by the EC (now fully private NGO), headquartered in Brussels

A GLOBAL INNOVATION PARTNER NETWORK FAST-TRACKING MEMBER CONNECTIVITY AND CERTIFYING VALUE

175+

Dedicated members

Operating in over 29 countries, covering the full spectrum of innovation sectors, and collaborating for continuous improvement and more impact

650+

Business experts

Committed to the development and growth of entrepreneurial innovator, providing high-quality services to startups, spin-offs and SMEs

25,000+

Client companies

Receive support by our members. Benefiting from expertise and programmes critical to their growth

TYOLOGY OF OUR MEMBERS



EBN MEMBERS (EU | BIC/ ASSOCIATE) TAKE REAL STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SERVICES ARE BEST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THEIR CLIENT AND THEIR REGIONS



OUR MEMBER SERVICES



EU|BIC Certification



Training



Meet and Connect



Project Participation



Matchmaking and Visibility



Services for Your Client Companies

SECTOR FOCUS: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG)

- **Eco-innovation**
 - Smart Mobility
 - Sustainability & Circular Economy
 - Blue Economy
- **Social Impact**
- **Creative and Cultural Industries**
- **Space**
- **Smart Manufacturing**

Each SIG is chaired by a local expert from the EU|BIC community



THE PHILOSOPHY AT THE BASE OF OUR APPROACH TO INNOVATION

- Leaving room for **mutual learning, exchange of best practices, basis for networking**
- Higher **visibility, credibility and transparency**
- Access to the **only existing international database on the incubation and acceleration** industry
- Possibility **benchmark** against similar and different business support organisations
- Building of **trust and confidence** among practitioners at international level
- Evaluation process which is intrinsically rigorous but based on **peer-to-peer** assessment

EBN AS A TESTIMONY OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT

Over the years, EBN witnessed a change of paradigm **from rural to urban realities** and a later shift of interest from **Smart Cities to Smart Communities**

Community

A group of people **sharing a similar interest**, which includes some or all of the common elements:

- Geography
- History
- Interests
- Goals
- Culture
- Economic
- Social fabric

Smart Community

A neighbourhood to a nation-wide community of common or shared interest whose members, organisations and governing institutions are **working in partnership to use information** and communication technologies **to transform** their lives and activities in significant ways



EBN AS A TESTIMONY OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT

Over the years, EBN witnessed a change of paradigm **from rural to urban realities**



and a later shift of interest from **Smart Cities to Smart Communities**



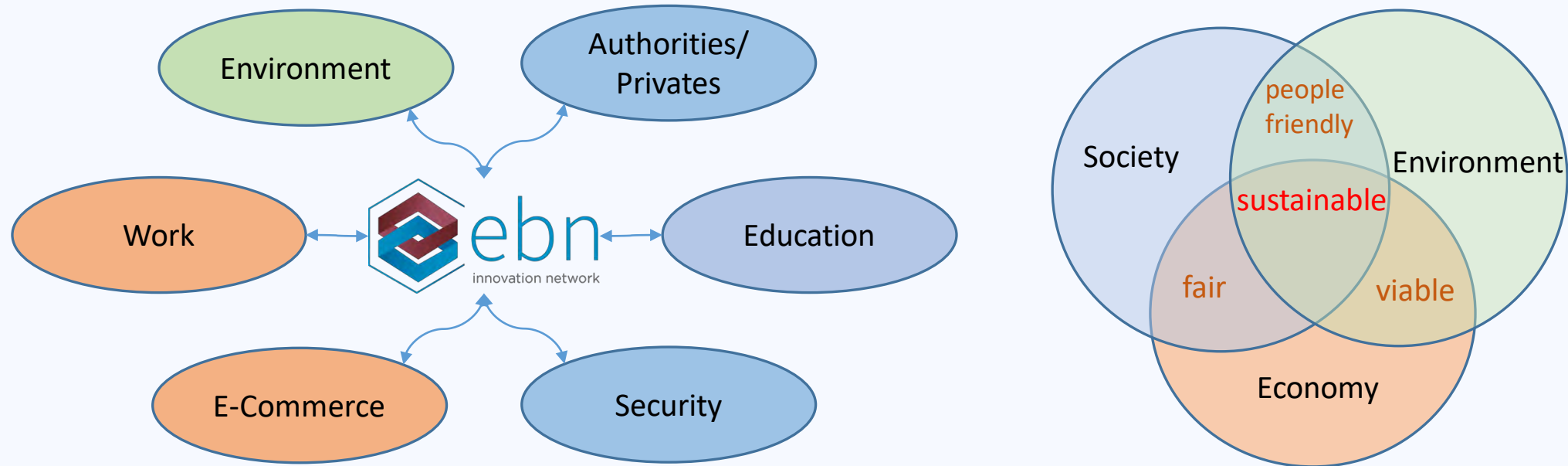
SHARED CONCEPT OF SMART COMMUNITIES IN EBN

*“A community in which government, business, and residents understand the **potential of information technology**, and make a conscious decision to **use that technology to transform life and work** in their region in significant and positive ways”*

“Smart Communities Guidebook”
California Institute for Smart Communities (1997)
San Diego State University, USA



EBN HOLISTIC VIEW OF SMART COMMUNITIES



The EBN Smart Community concept focuses the **importance of collaboration, cooperation and partnership** between all parties involved including public institutions, private sector, voluntary organisations, schools and citizens



SMART COMMUNITIES IN EBN NETWORK

The network of EBN has an extremely **wide outreach** at Country, Macro-region (NUTS 2), Region and Municipality level

Teams of EU innovation stakeholders (from early stage start-up to larger incubators and international innovation support organisations partnering with EBN) are of specific importance to assure a **smooth and effective digital transformation** to deliver effective administration, transparency and public service

Additionally, the cooperation with other Community organisations and other EU and local authorities helps EBN position as one of the most **important and influent counterparts** for smart communities all over the continent



SMART GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES FOR EBN NETWORK

On the base of the interaction with its members, EBN identified the following **priorities** for improving Smart Governance at EU level:

- sustainable **urban mobility** and districts environment
- natural environment and **ecological** sustainability
- **integrated infrastructures** and processes in energy, information and communication technologies and transport
- **citizen focus**
- policy and regulation with **integrated** planning and management
- **knowledge sharing** and open data governance
- business models, procurement and funding



EBN ROLE IN SMART COMMUNITIES GOVERNANCE

EBN **facilitates** its members **participation** at all levels of governance providing the best possible support and services to EU innovation stakeholders

It **suggests improvements** to the action and functions of the EU institutions and local governments while ensuring transparency and a closer contacts with governmental bodies close to entrepreneurs

It offers **support and services** so that all works of public and private innovation stakeholders is available to all citizens



TOWARD A SMART FUTURE

As said, over the years EBN witnessed a **change of paradigm** from rural to urban realities followed by a later shift of interest from Smart Cities to Smart Communities

Smart communities are no more related to cities but they embrace nowadays rural areas as well for a **omni-comprehensive tech infrastructure** based on a democratisation of services giving advantages to all components of our societies

It is time for all of us to **support this transformation** generating huge opportunities for economies and industries in order to create the condition to ameliorate our lives reciprocally while protecting the environment

EBN is fully active and proactively operating with all members of its network and all its external partners to explore smarter ways of creating a **social, industrial and environmental sound European community**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Raffaele BUOMPANE
Senior Advisor

raffaele.buompane@ebn.eu

www.ebn.eu





2021PORTUGAL.EU

Summit

European Regions

for Smart Communities

