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## TIPS FOR MARKET

Through our “**Tips for market**” newsletter, we aim to recommend and promote the latest Smart Cities and Communities funding opportunities and market highlights.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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### New off-the-shelf Financial Instruments

The European Commission launched two new "off-the-shelf" financial instruments for ESI Funds investments, to ease access to funding for young businesses and urban development project promoters. New characteristic of the new instruments is to help managing authorities to deliver faster and safer funds to the final recipients combining public and private resources. The new instruments are:

- A co-investment facility to provide funding to start-ups and SMEs. This support will enable them to develop their business models and attract additional funding through a collective investment scheme managed by one main financial intermediary.
- Urban development funds will support sustainable urban projects, in public transport, energy efficiency or the regeneration of urban areas, for example. Projects must be financially viable and part of an Integrated Sustainable Urban Development strategy.

#### **Resources:**

“Financial Instrument for the ESIF”, Thomas De Bethune, DG Regio EC. ([Download the Presentation](#))

[Read more](#)

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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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## URBAN US

Urban Us is the venture fund for startups that make cities better. By investing up to \$250,000 alongside other funds or angels, Urban Us connects startups with a specialized network of founders, investors, companies, cities, and advisors. Beyond fundraising support, Urban Us helps startups to develop their first products, find their customers, and develop their first channels.

[Read more](#)

## EU CALL: Smart Cities and Communities lighthouse projects

**Submission opening: October 4th 2016**

**Submission deadline: February 14th 2017**

By developing and testing integrated innovative solutions at large scale, while implementing their Sustainable Energy Actions Plans, lighthouse cities are set to become the most advanced in Europe. Horizon 2020 is promoting the development of lighthouse cities by providing funding for the upscaling and replication of related projects.

[Read more](#)

## EU CALL: Demonstrating innovative nature-based solutions in cities

**Submission opening: November 8th 2016**

**Submission deadline: March 7h 2017**

Mass urbanisation presents one of the most urgent challenges of the 21st century by seriously impacting on human health, quality of life, wellbeing and security of citizens. Proposals should address nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration, including regeneration of deprived districts, or neglected or abandoned areas.

[Read more](#)

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# EVENTS & OTHER

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## **SMEs aim higher with Eurostars: cross-border collaboration of national public funding to innovate and reach new markets - 12/13 October 2016**

This Eurostars Annual event is organised in Amsterdam and Brussels on 12 and 13 October 2016. While the Amsterdam Event (12/10/2016) targets mainly the SMEs and the process, operation and matchmaking activities to participate in the Eurostars programme, the Brussels event (13/10/2016) targets the EU institutions and the political stakeholders.

[Info and Registration](#)

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## **Accelerating urban transition: tapping the full potential of smart city and community pilots - 16th November 2016**

This workshop aims at bringing together people working in public administration, researchers, business, NGOs and civil society to jointly discuss measures to fully exploit the potential of Smart City and Communities pilot and demonstration projects. The aim is to identify bottlenecks at hand, ways forward and concepts to move from demonstration and pilots to larger scale implementation. Experiences from cities and JPI Urban Europe research projects will be shared and used to reflect on good practice examples and critical conditions. The event, co-organised by JPI Urban Europe, the ERA-NET Smart Cities and Communities and the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, is taking place at the Smart City World Expo in Barcelona on 16 November from 14:30 to 19:00.

[Info and Registration](#)

## **TECHITALY - 29/30 November 2016**

A promotional event focused on the latest excellences and innovations of Italian technology in different relevant sectors (industrial innovation, aerospace, global challenges). The initiative is organized in Brussels since 2012 by the Embassy of Italy in Belgium and the Italian Trade Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant Italian partners as the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU, the National Research Council (CNR), the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), Confindustria and the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

[Read more](#)

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