SMACITE Project Concludes, Delivering Innovative Training Solutions for Smart City Technicians and Engineers

- *SMACITE ends setting a new benchmark in vocational education by combining technical training with green, entrepreneurial and soft skills for smart city development.*
- *The project has achieved its main outputs with a modular curriculum, open-access MOOC and Virtual Worlds to empower future Smart City Technicians and Engineers in Europe.*

Athens, 30 May 2025 – The SMACITE project has successfully concluded, marking the end of a three-year European initiative to bridge the skills gap in the smart cities sector. Funded by the Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by the University of Patras, SMACITE developed a novel vocational education and training program combining technical expertise with entrepreneurial, green and soft skills. Thanks to new job profiles, a flexible curriculum, digital platforms to deliver the educational content and various workshops and events carried out, SMACITE addressed the lack of skills and specialized training in the area of smart cities that ensures the sustainable growth of cities.

Emerging Smart City Job Profiles

A key output of the project has been the creation of two new professional role profiles: the **Smart Cities Technician** and the **Smart Cities Engineer** profiles that provide a clear reference for employers, educators and policymakers on the technical and non-technical competencies required to deploy and maintain Smart Cities. To ensure relevance and alignment with EU labor classifications the roles have been formally mapped to the European ESCO and e-Competence Frameworks. The profiles have also been informed by a multilingual survey, interviews and experts input from 11 European countries, ensuring that they address real-world needs – for example, highlighting that smart city engineers should focus on designing and optimizing complex smart infrastructures, while smart city technicians should concentrate on installing and maintaining connected systems and assisting users.

SMACITE Curriculum and Learning experience

To support the training of these emerging professionals, SMACITE developed a **comprehensive modular curriculum** covering 13 courses for Smart City Engineers and Technicians—ten technical and three non-technical—tailored to smart city enabling technologies and key transversal skills. In addition to that, a diagnostic self-assessment tool was developed to personalize the learning paths through the curriculum, in order to better align the training with the learners' needs.

The **SMACITE MOOC** (https://mooc.smacite.eu/) is the platform which offers free and open-access online courses, structured in a self-paced and modular format that spans topics from IoT and AI to communication and sustainability. It empowers individuals to upskill flexibly and aligns with the EU's emphasis on lifelong learning.

For the transversal competencies, in addition to the MOOC, SMACITE introduced **immersive learning environments** via a Virtual Worlds platform, where three dedicated "Virtual Worlds" were created, targeting soft, green and entrepreneurship skills. These environments simulate real-world collaboration, problem-solving and sustainability challenges reinforcing the curriculum through interactive and team-based training experiences. The integration of online modules and immersive training environments positions SMACITE as a pioneer in experiential vocational education for smart city professionals.

Workshops and Final Conference: Knowledge Sharing and Impact

SMACITE's implementation has been shaped through continuous engagement with stakeholders via **8 national workshops and 3 European workshops**, that brought together over 800 participants including students, HEIs, VET providers, municipal representatives, SMEs, researchers and EU institutions.

The project culminated with the **Final Conference** on **May 8, 2025**, held at the University of West Attica Conference Center in Athens. Organized with the support of the University of Patras and Universal Certification Solutions, the final event welcomed representatives from HEIs, VET providers, municipalities, educators and industry experts to showcase SMACITE main outcomes, the project's curriculum and digital tools, including a keynote speech from a European official, presentation of projects on digital skills development for Smart Cities, and a panel discussion on AI-driven governance and talent development for Smart Cities.

Project Sustainability

As SMACITE wraps up, a suite of high-quality, adaptable resources will be available — MOOC content, virtual training environments and job profiles—aligned with the EU strategy and ready to be used across Europe. Thanks to a solid exploitation plan, the consortium will remain actively involved in sustaining and scaling up these outcomes. These tools are expected to serve as a foundation for future training initiatives, contribute to policy development and foster new partnerships that support the continued evolution of smart city talent across the continent.

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