



## Forty-two large-scale cities start a collaboration to deal with the threats and opportunities of the platform economy

- » During the Sharing Cities Summit 2018 global cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Lisbon, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Paris, São Paulo, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm and Vienna have agreed on a Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the Sharing Cities
- » Cities claim respect for the existing legal framework, transparency in the use of data and guarantees for labour rights
- » Cities have debated about public policies regarding platform economy and about the possibilities of promoting platforms based on socially responsible models.
- » An action plan aims to establish a Barcelona-based office where cities can share common information, strategies and a negotiation framework.

The Declaration of 13 November 2018 integrates different viewpoints of cities on the platform economy and updates and expands upon the set of 7 principles established during the New York meeting in 2017. It incorporates three new principles: one on the differentiation between platform models, depending on the impact they produce; a second one on the defence of the sovereignty of cities regarding big digital platforms; and a third principle regarding public support policies for the collaborative economy that have a positive impact.

Different global cities have different sensitivities and priorities, but all want to safeguard respect for local regulations and legality, protect the rights of the citizens using the platforms, and stimulate innovation. Cities ideally would like to reach a new “contract” in which economic activity, users' rights and the right to live in cities become compatible.

The Sharing Cities Summit is part of Smart City Expo World Congress 2018 and dedicates a specific area to new economic models of the collaborative economy that represent a great opportunity to create a more inclusive, participatory and diverse urban economy. Recent research studies have developed tools to differentiate between different models of digital platforms, and identify the wider impact they have on cities. This new economy can be aligned with the interests of the city. Barcelona is a worldwide reference in socially responsible platform



economy models. Som Mobilitat, Katuma, Som Energia, Smart IB, Moodle, Wikiloc, Wikipedia and Mensakas are significant examples of these socially responsible platforms that are aligned with cities' general interest. They are active, respectively, in the field of shared electrical mobility, the distribution of organic food, renewable energy, labour, free software, open data and food delivery. Their economic model, which combines participatory governance and social and ecological responsibility with local embeddedness, open knowledge and open technologies, represents a different paradigm for understanding the economy.

Barcelona assumes the compromise to establish a task force-office to share common information and strategies with the participating cities and to develop a negotiation framework.