

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

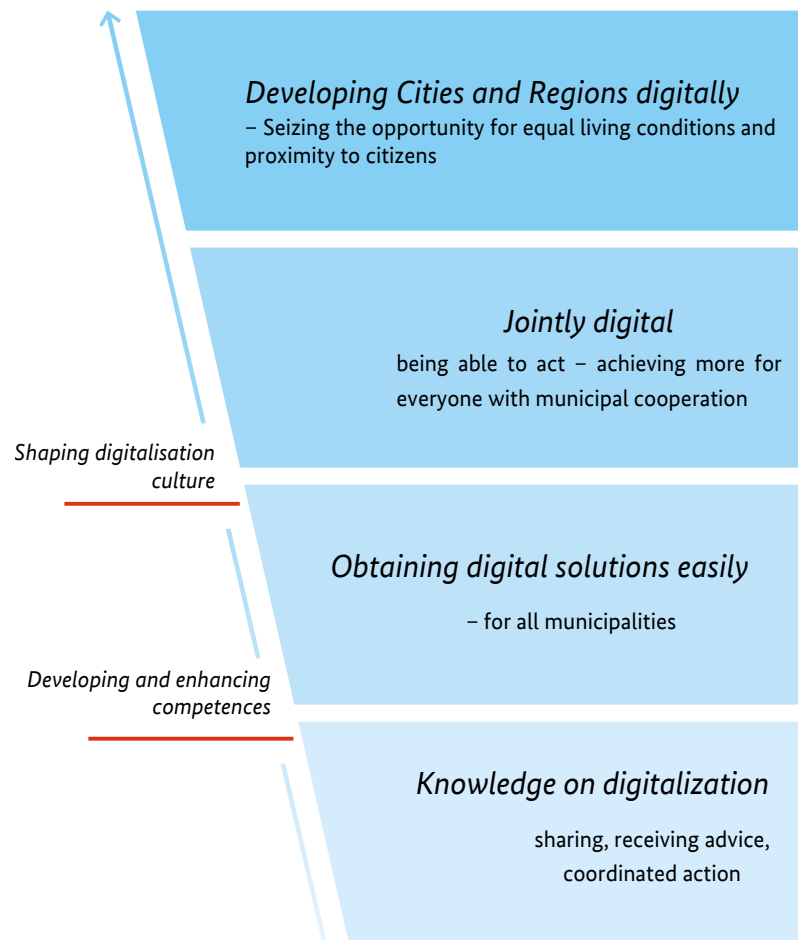
Step-by-step plan Smart Cities and Regions

Joint action for digital capabilities



Federal Ministry
for Housing, Urban Development
and Building

The step-by-step plan in short



In the age of digitalization, integrated urban and regional development is facing decisive transformations. The present step-by-step plan “Smart Cities and Regions” was developed under the leadership of the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB) by an advisory board comprising federal government, German states, municipalities, as well as business, members of the scientific community and civil society. It provides a cooperative framework to enable municipalities to effectively utilise the potential of digitalisation for the common good and at the same time address associated risks.

The aim of the step-by-step plan is to create an action-oriented framework that facilitates for all municipalities the implementation of digital solutions directed at the common good, regardless of their circumstances.

Digitalisation shall serve as a catalyst for a sustainable, resilient and socially inclusive urban and regional development. A particular focus is put on the scaling of tried-and-tested solutions and the establishment of sustainable cooperative structures. The governance of digital urban and regional development is crucial for the success of the step-by-step plan. Federal state, states and municipalities assume responsibility according to the division of tasks mandated by the federal system; private sector, scientific community and civil society support each with their competences. Through this cooperation sustainable and widely accepted solutions shall be established that ensure an inclusive digital transformation.

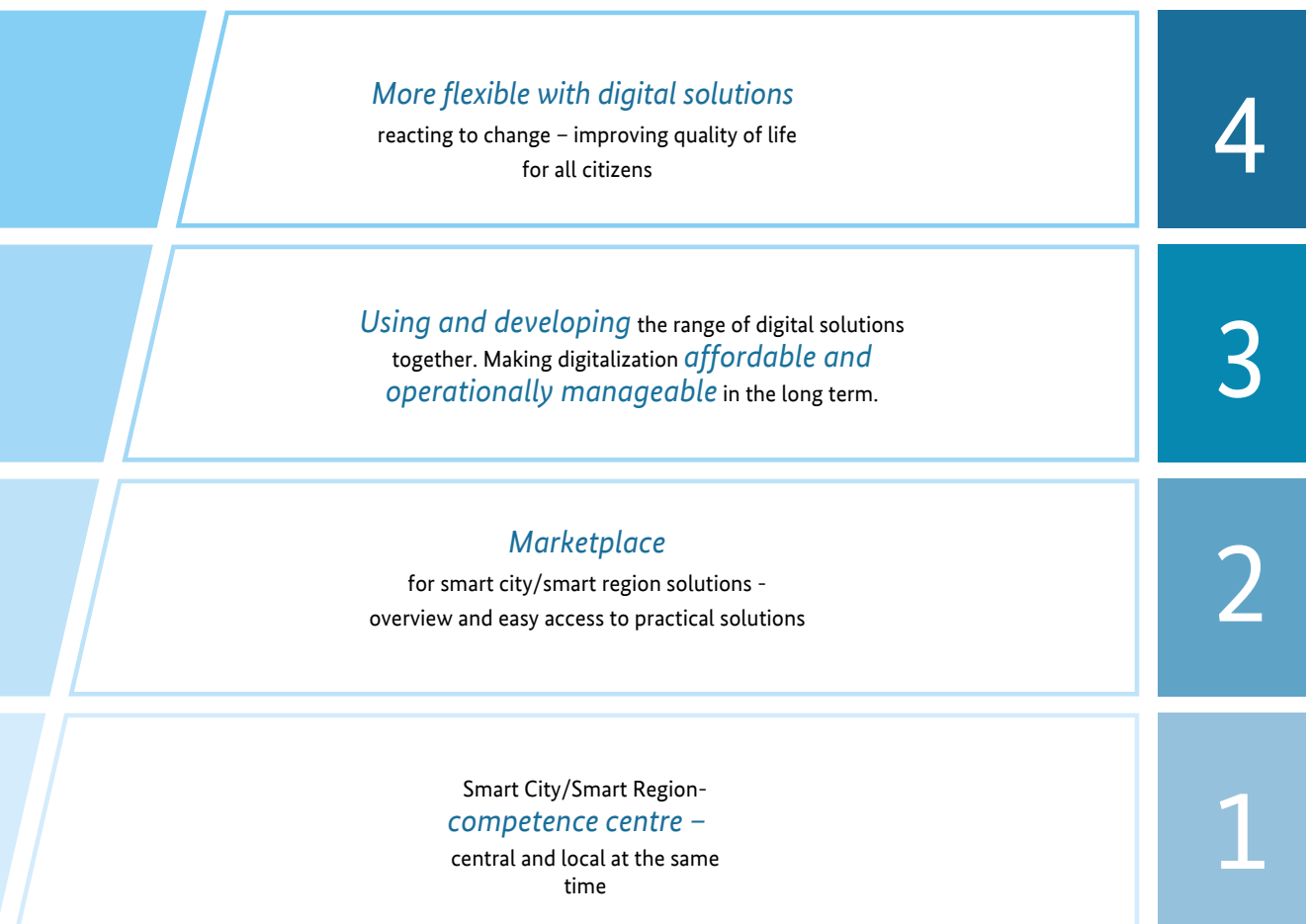


Fig 1: Schematic over view of the step-by-step plan

Implementation in four stages

- **Stage 1: Knowledge on digitalization – sharing, receiving advice, coordinated action**

The first stage focusses the development and enhancement of digital capacities through a competence center that advises and supports municipalities, facilitates the access to digital resources and makes knowledge widely available. It shall function as a bridge to coordinate the cooperative development and the deployment of digital solutions.

- **Stage 2: Obtaining digital solutions easily – for all municipalities**

In the second stage a digital marketplace is proposed which acts as a central platform to facilitate access for municipalities to suitable digital tools and match supply and demand efficiently.

- **Stage 3: Jointly digitally enabled – achieving more with municipal cooperation**

This stage focusses on expanding intermunicipal cooperation and the joint utilisation of digital infrastructures in order to realise economies of scale and employ resources more efficiently.

- **Stage 4: Developing cities and regions digitally – Seizing the opportunity for equal living conditions and proximity to citizens**

The final stage aims at establishing digital solutions as an integral part of public services in order to improve quality of life and equal living conditions in urban and rural areas.

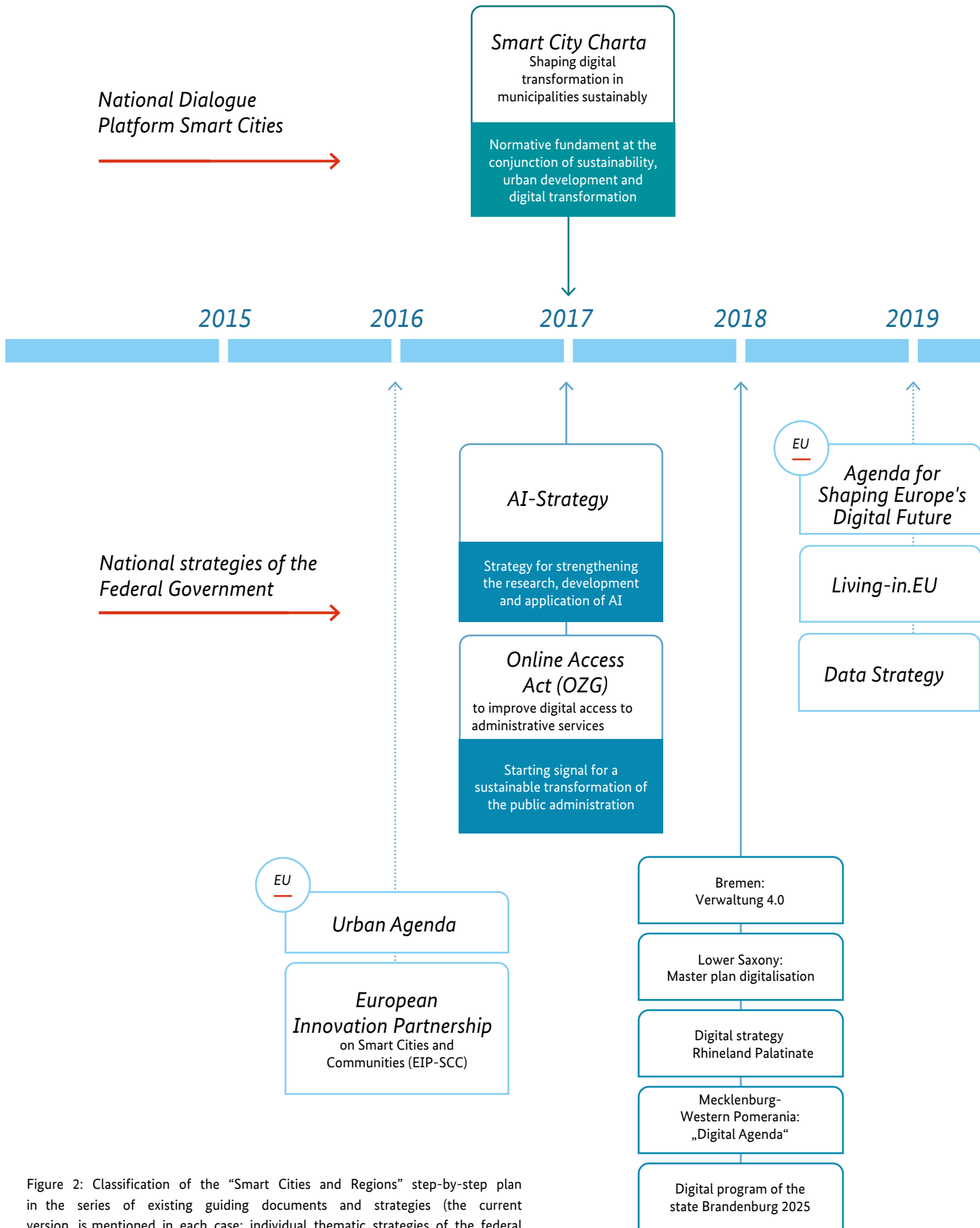
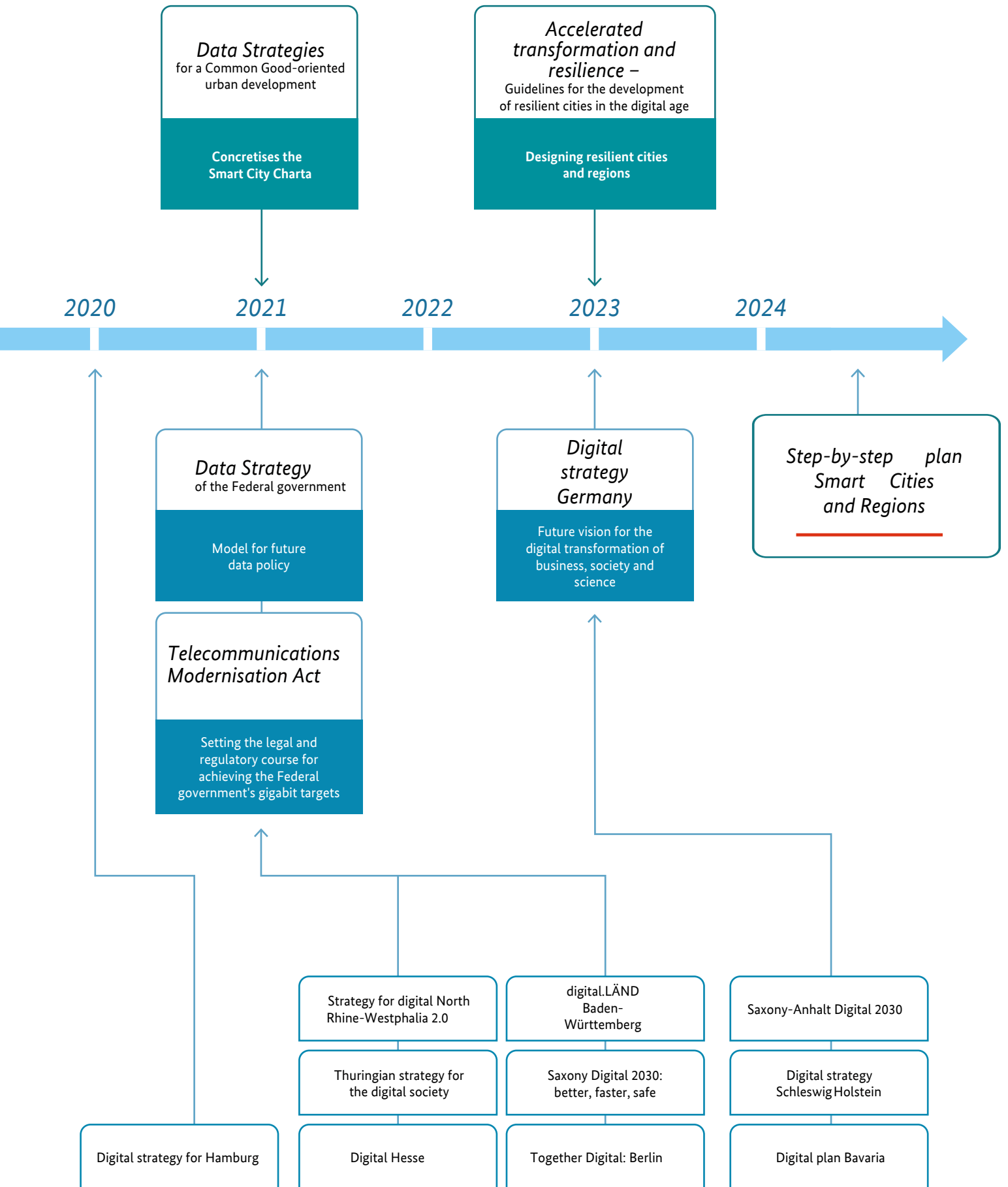


Figure 2: Classification of the “Smart Cities and Regions” step-by-step plan in the series of existing guiding documents and strategies (the current version is mentioned in each case; individual thematic strategies of the federal states are not listed)



Data Strategies
for a Common Good-oriented
urban development

Concretises the
Smart City Charta

*Accelerated
transformation and
resilience –*
Guidelines for the development
of resilient cities in the digital age

Designing resilient cities
and regions

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Data Strategy
of the Federal government

Model for future
data policy

*Digital
strategy
Germany*

Future vision for the
digital transformation of
business, society and
science

*Step-by-step plan
Smart Cities
and Regions*

*Telecommunications
Modernisation Act*

Setting the legal and
regulatory course for
achieving the Federal
government's gigabit targets

Digital strategy for Hamburg

Strategy for digital North
Rhine-Westphalia 2.0

Thuringian strategy for
the digital society

Digital Hesse

digital.LÄND
Baden-
Württemberg

Saxony Digital 2030:
better, faster, safe

Together Digital: Berlin

Saxony-Anhalt Digital 2030

Digital strategy
Schleswig-Holstein

Digital plan Bavaria

Two core pieces

Several initiatives and programs on smart cities have already taken place in Germany, both in the states and on the federal level. They comprise financial support, advisory, the development of networks, best-practice-databases, market places with solution providers, as well as platforms for the exchange of experiences. Against this background, it is a declared goal of the step-by-step plan to create a framework that makes needs-based digital solutions accessible to all municipalities - regardless of their individual conditions. This requires the establishment of structures based on the division of labor within the administration and beyond municipal borders. These are based on the legal requirements that exist with regard to ensuring the provision of basic needs and access to administrative services. Operationally, the step-by-step plan will entail two core pieces for its realization, a competence center and the digital market place.

The Competence Centre

Municipalities are willing to share their experiences. However, there is a need for advice in order to expand their own digitalization skills. Opportunities are also seen in jointly developing and implementing digital solutions.

In order to provide municipalities with structured support, the Advisory Board proposes the establishment of a suitable and dedicated competence center based on federal structures. This should centrally collect, evaluate and systematically harness knowledge and at the same time be available as a local point of contact.

The Digital Market Place

In order to achieve the goal of scaling applications for smart cities and regions in a timely manner, municipalities should be supported both in the subsequent use of funded solutions and in the selection of suitable, market-tested solutions that are developed outside of the funding programs.

A marketplace for digital applications is an adequate instrument in this context. As part of the step-by-step plan, additional conditions are to be created to make knowledge and solutions accessible and to jointly organize their further development and operation.

The market place can support market exploration in procurement procedures and bring together supply and demand in a structured way. Ideally, it provides guidance on existing solutions in the run-up to future, particularly publicly funded, developments and offers assistance in deciding between open source solutions and other license models. Offering the lowest possible threshold for access to trustworthy digital solutions for local authorities helps them in a variety of ways: mastering demographic challenges, reducing bureaucracy, overcoming climate policy and social demands for a modern and liveable environment in urban and rural areas. A long-term solution must be found for the marketplace's sponsorship, which should also support its use by the municipalities with the help of training courses and information events and which avoids duplicate structures.

Scaling

Overall, three goals serve as orientation with regard to the scaling of solutions:

Firstly, proven solutions (adaptable or expandable to user needs) should be easy to acquire. Secondly, it should be possible to use solutions without having to operate them yourself ("Software-as-a-Service" and "Infrastructure-as-a-Service"). Thirdly, municipalities should be given the opportunity to develop and distribute their own developments (as part of funding programs or from their own budgets). Digital solutions should thus remain affordable and operationally manageable for municipalities in the long term.

Institutions and other parties involved in the working group

Employees of the members of the German Bundestag represented on the Advisory Board

Federal level

- Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport
- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
- Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (Lead)
- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development
- Federal Office for Information Security

State representation

- Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of the Free and Hanseatic city Hamburg
- The Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- Hessian state representation at the federal level
- Hessian Ministry for Digitalisation and Innovation
- Ministry for the Interior, Construction and Digitalisation, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Ministry of Regional Identity, Local Government, Building and Digitalization of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture, Thuringia

Municipalities

- City of Bamberg
- City of Guben
- City of Kaiserslautern (KL.digital GmbH)
- City of Zwönitz

Municipal umbrella organizations

- German County Association
- Association of German Cities
- German Association of Towns and Municipalities

Business

- Digital association Bitkom
- German Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Science

- HafenCity University Hamburg

Civil society

- Urbane Liga

Imprint

Published by

Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building
www.bmwsb.bund.de

Technical assistance

Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial
Development, 53179 Bonn

Urbanizers, 13353 Berlin

Status

June 2024

Original Design

re.do graphic and design
Doreen Ritzau . Diplom-Designerin

Picture credits

All images Urbanizers / re.do graphic and design

*Other publications of the Federal government can be found for
download at*





www.publikationen-bundesregierung.de/pp-de/

This publication is a working translation and summary of the original German document. If there is any differences in meaning between the original German long version and this English version, the German version shall prevail.

This publication is issued by the Federal Government as part of its public relations work. The publication is distributed free of charge and is not intended for sale. It may not be used by political parties, election campaigners or election workers during an election campaign for the purpose of election advertising. This applies to federal, state and local elections as well as elections to the European Parliament.



www.bmwsb.bund.de

-  social.bund.de/@BMWSB_Bund
-  x.com/BMWSB_Bund
-  youtube.com/@Bundesbauministerium
-  www.instagram.com/bundesbauministerium