

FinEst Centre
for Smart Cities

SMART CITY CHALLENGE 2025

City Challenge

Max 3 pages

send to smartcity@taltech.ee by Sept 30, 2025

Challenge Title – (max 5 words, no acronyms) [Public-Private Climate Action Model](#)

City/county and country [Warsaw, POLAND](#)

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name, organization, job title, e-mail, phone

1. What is the future urban challenge that would need a solution to?

- Please describe the challenge of your city / county neighboring a city?

[Warsaw is tackling the growing challenge of the urban heat island effect, intensified by dense development and limited green infrastructure. This issue falls within the scope of building a climate resilient city. To respond, we are implementing "The New Centre of Warsaw", a major revitalization project transforming a fragmented central area into a greener, more inclusive, and adaptive public space.](#)

[Beyond physical transformation, we recognize that climate resilience requires collaboration across sectors. We're developing models to engage both public and private stakeholders in co-creating and financing nature-based solutions and other adaptive measures. This approach aims not only to reduce climate risks but also to strengthen local ownership and long-term sustainability.](#)

[By being involved in developing solutions, the private sector will not feel that it is being faced with difficult changes that it must cope with.](#)

- Which category your challenge is primarily in: safe city, happy city, and climate resilient city?

[Climate resilient city](#)

- Why is it important for your city to solve it? How big priority it is for you and why?

[This is a top priority for Warsaw, as climate adaptation is essential to protect public health, ensure livability, and maintain city operations during extreme weather. Engaging the private sector can accelerate implementation, improve solution quality, and scale up impact. To make this possible, we aim to create transparent procedures, offer capacity-building and legal support, and build a cooperation model that aligns public goals with private incentives. While challenges like unclear regulations may arise, building trust and clear roles will be key to success.](#)



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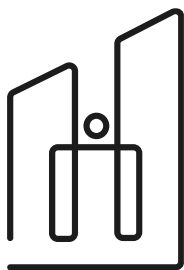


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- Is this a unique challenge/problem of your city, why or is this by your knowledge a challenge/problem that many cities have – which kind of other cities?

While not unique to Warsaw, the challenge is especially pressing in dense urban areas across Europe. What sets Warsaw apart is our integrated, cross-sectoral approach—combining spatial transformation with innovative governance and stakeholder engagement. Our experience can offer a scalable model for other cities working to link climate adaptation with social and economic resilience.

2. Innovation.

- How have you solved that issue so far? Why aren't the present solutions good enough? Are there legal obstacles, which ones?

So far, Warsaw's climate adaptation efforts have been led mainly by the public sector, with limited involvement from private stakeholders. There are no fully developed cooperation models that systematize private sector engagement, which limits the scale and impact of current actions. As part of the Night-Time Economy Strategies, a new business association is being formed to bring together key private sectors and the city, creating a platform for ongoing dialogue and joint initiatives. This structure, expected to launch by the end of the year, will support stronger and more coordinated partnerships moving forward.

- What should be the main features, characteristics of the future solution to be potentially best for that challenge or problem?

The future solution should include clear, transparent procedures and offer both financial and non-financial incentives to encourage private sector participation. It needs to be scalable and adaptable, with pilot projects supported by expert guidance and best practices. Building trust, capacity, and commitment over time will be essential to ensure effective, sustainable collaboration aligned with Warsaw's climate resilience goals.

3. Expected impact of your pilot solution.

- What is the expected impact to your city environment you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?

Through the engagement of local stakeholders and businesses, and by establishing effective cooperation models, climate adaptation efforts will become more coordinated and impactful. The city, as the primary leader, will be better equipped to build resilience in urban spaces, resulting in a healthier and more sustainable environment.

- What is the expected impact to your citizens you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?

Citizens will enjoy safer, more comfortable, and inclusive public spaces, especially during extreme heat events, enhancing their health and overall quality of life. Greater collaboration with local communities and businesses will foster a stronger sense of ownership and social cohesion.

- What is the expected impact to your city governance you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?



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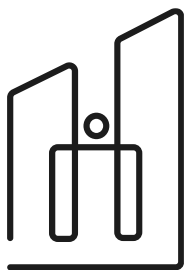


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City governance will be strengthened through clear, transparent cooperation frameworks that actively involve diverse stakeholders, including private sector partners. This will enhance the city's capacity to plan and implement scalable, sustainable climate resilience strategies effectively.

4. Piloting

- Why would you be interested to become a piloting partner of a proposed solution to the challenge you are describing here? Describe shortly your capability to participate.

Warsaw is highly motivated to pilot new solutions that support climate adaptation through multi-stakeholder cooperation. We are currently developing a new business association in the New Centre of Warsaw, which will serve as a platform for engaging key private sector actors. The city has strong institutional capacity, experienced teams within the Infrastructure Department, and direct political support, including a dedicated Plenipotentiary reporting to the Mayor. Participating in a pilot would help us test cooperation models, build trust, and scale up impactful solutions based on best practices.



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