

How International Innovation Centers Assist Economic Development Programs and Organizations

EDP/EDO have significant new roles to play to **setting up Smart Cities the right way**. On top of encouraging investment and job growth, they must also:

- **Develop new “magnets”** to attract new industries and businesses that are now being formed by an avalanche of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Analytics, and Sentient Robots
- **Aid the migration of cities to the new era called: The Digital Era or The Era Of Discontinuity**. Of course, there are at least ten other names to characterize the new era, but the label is not as important as the massive and drastic changes that are happening all around us, of which **Smart Cities is by far the most important one** (if done right)
- Develop the **Smart Culture for the Smart City** and make it one of the important magnets to attract smart citizens, smart businesses, and smart investment
- Aid the migration into **Smart Education** (treated as an Institution) that helps the migration to Smart Cities and the introduction of the nurturing of the Smart Culture
- Develop the **next generation of Innovation Centers** that not only help entrepreneurs and startup companies, but all of society, as prescribed by the doctrines of Smart Cities
- Help build and expand the city’s **Business and Innovation Ecosystems**, and align them in such way that support each other
- **Develop PPPs** (Public-Private Partnerships) that will enhance and speed up the migration to Smart Cities
- **Turn Smart Cities into a Movement**

We have the best resources to help EDOs with all of the above plans and initiatives by performing:

- **Strategic Planning**
 - Developing the Master Plan and Business Model
 - Brainstorming Sessions
 - Eye-Opening (Education) Sessions
 - Performing the Internal and External Scan, incl. Surveys and Citizen Engagement Feedback Sessions/Hackathons
 - Migration Path or Transition Plans
 - SWOT and PESTLE Analyses, etc.
- **Action / Implementation Planning**
- **Funding Planning**
- **Providing Assistance for:**
 - Decision Making
 - Justification of Strategic Initiatives
 - Obtaining Investments for Strategic Initiatives, incl.:
 - Federal and State Agencies (like NSF / US Ignite, and DOT)
 - Strategic Partners (incl. PPPs)
 - Program Management
 - Transformation Management
 - Education and Training (for employees, general public, focus groups)