

Press release
Bucharest, 15.03.2023

Cities of Tomorrow to support the competitiveness and investments

The German– Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Romania) organises the 11th edition of the conference **Cities of Tomorrow**, consisting of 10 round tables and the conference itself during the **21st-28th March 2023**. The round tables will take place online on the 21st-24th March, and the main event, on the 28th March, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bucharest.

Around 300 participants from the public and private sectors are expected to attend this year's event. Among those who will make presentations at the conference are Hilmar von Lojewski, Municipal Councillor at the German Association of Cities, Karmen Strahonja, Managing Director of Stadtmarketing Mannheim GmbH (Mannheim's public-private partnership company), Flavia Boghiu, Deputy Mayor of Brasov, Raluca Munteanu, Business Development Manager at Iulius Company (developer and operator of urban regeneration projects in Romania).

The round tables cover topics such as energy efficiency and energy management, financing & EU funds, digitalisation and city governance, city safety, mobility, construction law, reconversion and revitalisation, circular economy, tourism, lifestyle and culture, work-life balance. During two hours, the participants will discuss concrete topics and themes in their respective fields, and the solutions found can then be applied in their present or future projects. The participants will meet in person on the 28th March for a panel discussion on the conclusions and the solutions identified during the round tables.

The main input of this event is what happens afterwards, how the participants make use of the ideas, experiences and best practices shared during the conference.

Prior to this edition of **Cities of Tomorrow**, a project competition was organised, with the aim to reward solutions that improve the quality of life in the city/community. A number 55 projects entered in the competition, in three categories: public administration, civil society and business. Three projects will be selected from each category and their initiators will be invited to present them to the jury and to other conference participants. The winners will be announced at a closing ceremony.

Cities of Tomorrow is AHK Romania's annual flagship event dedicated to urban and regional development. Its aim is to encourage the sustainable development of the country, to promote measures that can increase Romania's competitiveness and attractiveness for new investments. The whole event is a platform for exchanging ideas, concepts and best practices between the public and private sectors, which can then be turned into projects and partnerships with concrete actions and results.

Through its ten previous editions, **Cities of Tomorrow** has consolidated its position as a leading event in its field, bringing together business people, urban development specialists and architects, civil society and public administration.

The conference provides useful information and new perspectives for the city halls, Romanian and foreign private companies, urban utilities and infrastructure companies, representatives of the regional development agencies, municipal and county councils, urban planning professionals and architects, real estate investors and developers interested and/or based in South- Eastern Europe, real estate professionals, representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry, industrial clusters, technology providers, NGOs and banking professionals.

A Marketplace will be organized in the foyer of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where the sponsors of the event - **BASF, Bosch Romania, Delgaz Grid, E.ON, FEPR, Horvath, Hotspot, Iulius, nhood, RETIM, Siemens Healthineers, SNRB** - will present their solutions and technologies designed to make the cities and regions more modern and efficient.

The first part of the main event on 28 March will be broadcast live on AHK Romania's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ahkromaniaofficial/>.

Details and the agenda of the Cities of Tomorrow event can be found at www.citiesoftomorrow.ro.

About AHK Romania

AHK Romania is the official representative of the German economy. Founded in 2002, AHK Romania has about 580 member companies and offers an important platform for networking, exchange of information and experience. Through the services it offers and the events it organises, AHK Romania actively supports German companies entering the Romanian market, while being a partner of Romanian companies interested in the German market.

Since the 1st January 2020, AHK Romania has been operating the Competence Centre for the Republic of Moldova. Thus, it wants to intensify the business relations between companies from Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Germany and to contribute significantly to the economic development of the Republic of Moldova.

The AHK Romania's motto of the year 2023 is : Strengthening Partnerships – Turn Challenges into Opportunities

Strong partnerships give the power to face current and future challenges. Thinking and acting in partnerships between business, politics, society and education is more important than ever. In this context, we have chosen "**Strengthening Partnerships**" as our theme for the year. In partnerships, we accompany the development of the sustainable business models and actively support investments in education, health, science and new technologies. To achieve these ambitious goals,

we need to work together more closely and think in the same direction. Through *Strengthened Partnerships* we turn *Challenges into Opportunities!*

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