



## **Barcelona launches the European contest Urban Lab Challenge to improve energy efficiency in buildings**

**The Catalan capital is committed to applying innovation in cities and seeks solutions for the implementation of a pilot project to improve energy efficiency in municipal buildings**

Barcelona has become a benchmark in innovation applied to cities, fostering the implementation of devices that help to create a smart city and improve the quality of life for citizens. Both through public-private partnerships and involving businesses, the city is working on incorporating innovation in areas such as urban planning, mobility, ecology and ICT.

In this context, the Barcelona City Council, through the European project [Open Cities](#), leads the launch of the competition "[The Urban Lab Challenge](#)" aimed at businesses, SMEs and entrepreneurs with proposals to improve energy efficiency in buildings.

The winner will have the opportunity to implement its pilot project in a municipal building in Barcelona, in the framework of the Barcelona Urban Lab, which aims to facilitate the use of public spaces in the city of Barcelona to carry out tests and pilot programmes for products and services with an urban impact.

The deadline for [applications](#) is the **15th September, 2012** and the winner of the contest will be announced during the Smart City Expo World Congress 2012.

Co-funded by the European Union, the [Open Cities](#) project was created to bridge the gap between the public sector and open and user-driven innovation. The project aims to improve the quality of city-life, through the more efficient use of urban spaces, advanced networks, citizens' ideas and the involvement of residents in the creation of the Smart Cities of tomorrow. It is coordinated by ESADE and has the participation of the City Council of Barcelona, through Barcelona Activa, Paris, Amsterdam, Helsinki and Berlin, among others.

Additionally, the Open Cities project has also launched three more European competitions focused on the areas of Crowdsourcing (proposals of ideas to improve city life through the

crowdsourcing platform), Urban Lab (projects focused on energy efficiency to be implemented in a real building in Barcelona) and Advanced Broadband Networks (use of advanced networks such as Fibre-to-the-home for testing apps with real users). All competitions are free of charge and aimed at app developers, SMEs, start-ups, associations and the general public.

More information: [http://www.opencities.net/urban\\_lab\\_challenge](http://www.opencities.net/urban_lab_challenge)

