INDIA

Sustainable, innovative and participative urban development through Citiis

Under the Indian Government’s Smart Cities Mission, the Citiis program seeks to provide financial and technical support to projects focused on innovative urban development, selected through a national challenge.

BACKGROUND
The Government of India launched its Smart Cities Mission (SCM) in response to the population explosion in Indian cities over the last few decades. This program aims to improve the quality of life of people living in urban areas by developing innovative and sustainable solutions for 100 Indian cities.

While local authorities are encouraged to develop a cross-cutting vision of urban development in consultation with citizens, a Special Purpose Vehicle positioned in each of these cities is responsible for the implementation of the projects.

DESCRIPTION
Since January 2016, the AFD has been supporting the SCM by providing technical assistance to the cities of Pondicherry, Nagpur and Chandigarh. Following the success of this project, the Government of India has commissioned the AFD to conceptualize and implement an innovative programme to support the SCM at the national level.

The Citiis (City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain) programme, co-developed by the AFD, the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) provides technical and financial support to around 15 Smart City projects. Selected following a national challenge, these projects will focus on the themes of sustainable mobility, public open spaces, urban e-governance, and social innovation for low-income settlements.

Financial support for the project has been possible through a sovereign loan from the AFD to the Government of India signed in March 2018 in the presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and the President of France, Emmanuel Macron. A 6 million Euro grant from the European Union together with a 1 million Euro grant from the Government of France enables this project to mobilise the required expertise.

IMPACTS
Once selected, the winning projects will benefit from additional financial support in the form of a grant as well as from technical expertise specifically tailored to the needs of the project.