

WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions 2026

I. About

Marking its fifth year, the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) is expanding its youth capacity-building program, WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions (or 'WeGO Champions'). 'WeGO Champions' is an initiative open to students and young leaders worldwide, aimed at enhancing their skills in the field of smart city development.

Building on the contents of the previous years, the program is now adding new lectures on the topic of "Shaping the Future of Housing" at www.cityresiliencetraining.com. The WeGO Champions program will also continue with in-person workshops in global cities such as Athens, Baku, Brescia, Cairo, Geneva, Milan, New York, and Seoul.

In addition, in 2026, WeGO will continue with the second edition of the **Global Youth Award**. The initiative aims to recognize exceptional global youth leaders excelling in areas such as smart cities, culture, net-zero initiatives, advanced technologies, youth entrepreneurship, leadership, AI and SDGs.

II. Introduction

Bringing in more than 500 students last year, WeGO will continue to expand the program and publish a new online course series as well as collaborating with more cities around the world to the line-up of in-person workshops. This year's new online lectures will explore and take on the topic of Housing Systems. The in-person workshops to be conducted around the world will tackle topics such as housing innovation, sustainability, and governance in cities undergoing smart city development.

The program is based on hybrid learning: the online course consists of four parts centered on the topics of smart cities, sustainable infrastructures, AI for smart and sustainable cities, and housing governance. These modules are supported by offline workshops held in cities around the world. Both the online and offline components delve into the international framework of smart city development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), meaningful data use for improving resilience, social cohesion and inclusivity, and managing and engaging with multi-stakeholders and communities in cities.

To encourage participation, a certificate co-signed by the WeGO Secretary General and the Mayor of Seoul will be issued to WeGO Champions under the age of 35 who attend the workshops. Additionally, the videos are equipped with subtitles to ensure maximum learning effectiveness. The videos feature subtitles in English, Italian, German, Arabic, and French, with machine-translated subtitles available for Korean and Chinese. The lectures are accessible to youth globally and are offered free of charge upon sign-up and enrollment at www.cityresiliencetraining.com.

III. Programme Overview

Online

- **Part 1:** Accelerating, Benchmarking, and Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities' Transitions
- **Part 2:** Frameworks, Technologies, and Solutions for Urban Sustainable Infrastructures
- **Part 3:** AI for Smart and Sustainable Cities
- **Part 4:** Shaping the Future of Housing

In-person workshop

Young Urban Leadership: Perspectives in Dialogue

Target audience/participants: Students and young professionals below 35

Program Objectives:

- Facilitate the active engagement of youth from around the globe in discussions on empowering them as future leaders;
- Provide a platform to highlight the importance of youth and develop recommendations for advancing the youth development agenda in smart city frameworks;
- Build the capacity of young people to contribute meaningfully to the direction of smart cities;
- Foster interaction and networking opportunities between youth and other stakeholders through workshops;
- Establish partnerships with domestic and international universities to expand the WeGO network;
- Identify and champion youth efforts in topics such as smart city innovation, advanced technology, net-zero sustainability, social media influence, entrepreneurship, low birth rates, cultural promotion, and leadership; and
- Foster global collaboration and empower the next generation of leaders in urban development.

IV. Process

Registration

Online - The free online certificate course videos for Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 are available on the learning platform <https://www.cityresiliencetraining.com/>. After completing the sign-up and verification process, students can enroll in the course directly on the course's page.

In-person workshop - Sign-up links will be shared by WeGO and the consultants. Those interested in attending the offline workshops can also contact the WeGO Secretariat. Please note that attendees are encouraged to enroll in and complete the online certificate course, which complements this part of the program.

Platform/Venues

- Offline course



- Online course: www.cityresiliencetraining.com

	Accelerating, Benchmarking, and Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities' Transitions	Frameworks, Technologies, and Solutions for Urban Sustainable Infrastructures	AI for Smart and Sustainable Cities	Shaping the Future of Housing
Lecture 1	Global Context and Local Conditions of Sustainability	Introduction to Urban Sustainable Infrastructures	Prerequisites: AI Fundamentals for Urban Systems	The Housing Crisis - Structural Roots and Global Patters
Lecture 2	The Metropolitan Century	Infrastructure Sustainability Assessment Frameworks	Urban Planning & Future of Infrastructures	Public-Private Partnerships and Financing Innovation
Lecture 3	Tools and Cases for the Ecological Transition in Cities	Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Sustainability	AI for Urban Security & Safety	Technology and Data Systems for Housing Access and Affordability
Lecture 4	Data for Urban Inclusion	Sustainable Urban Infrastructure & Data	Environmental Sustainability 2.0	AI, Algorithmic Tools, and Responsible Housing Innovation
Lecture 5	Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities	Emerging Technologies in Urban Planning	Citizen Engagement & Well-Being	Scaling Housing Solutions
Lecture 6	Measuring and Benchmarking Sustainable Smart Cities	The Spatial Impact of Urban Digital Infrastructure		
Lecture 7	Digital Twins and MetaCities			
Lecture 8	Integrative, Inclusive, Resilient Cities			

WeGO Global Youth Award



Category	Partner Institution	Target Winners
1 Smart City	University of Geneva, Catholic University of Milan, Technical University of Munich, Kookmin University	2 winners
2 Advanced Technology	The State University of New York- SUNY, Korea	1 winner
3 Net Zero	Kookmin University Carbon Neutral Green Growth Research Center	3 winners
4 AI	Boombooming	3 winners
5 Youth Entrepreneurship	Next Challenge Foundation	3 winners
6 SDGs	Hankuk University International Model United Nations	3 winners
7 Culture	Silk-Road Universities Network	1 winner
8 Leadership	All Nations Global Emerging Leadership School	3 winners

**Winners will be awarded during the Seoul Smart Life Week 2026.*

V. Additional information

Successful participants of the online course can request a digital certificate by completing the required coursework and filling out the form available at the end of the course. Required reading materials will be provided free of charge on the online course platform.

Participants of the offline workshops can request a certificate signed by the WeGO Secretary General and the Mayor of Seoul.

VI. Contact Information

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