During the eMerge Americas week, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized two workshops on Smart Cities. On April 20th, in the morning, experts on "Smart Cities" met with Miami-Dade Community at large in the offices of Gray Robinson, Attorneys at Law, Inc. in Miami Downtown. The workshop entitled "Accelerating Smart Cities": environment, safety, transport, utilities & buildings" included a discussion on environment, safety, transportation, utilities, and buildings. The latest environmental techniques that can produce sustainable and cost-effective urban policies, as well as the application of the latest technology in order to provide the safest and most efficient security of city residents were discussed by experts. Furthermore, the mobility of people, taking into
consideration low-carbon technologies and the development of freight transport and logistics, was discussed. Lastly, the experts discussed ideas for improving or replacing our energy grids in order to help power our cities more efficiently at a minimum cost to consumers. They added that innovative construction techniques that will lead to better quality of life for residents were under consideration. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to discover the latest calls on “Smart Cities” offered by the European Commission under the framework program for research and innovation, Horizon 2020.

Dr. Robin Mishra, Minister-Counselor, Head of Section Science and Technology, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington DC, was the moderator of five distinguished experts (to view bios, click here):

- **Dr. James Gavigan**, Minister-Counselor Research & Innovation, Delegation of the European Union to the United States Washington DC
- **Dr. S. S. Iyengar**, Distinguished Ryder Professor and Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences, Florida International University
- **Dr. Karen Lee**, MD, MHSc, Health + Built Environment + Social Determinants Consulting, based in NY & NJ; Special Advisor, World Health Organization offices; NYC
- **Danilo Nanni**, PE, Structural Engineer, Expert in Smart Building Structures, and Associate at DeSimone Consulting Engineers
- **Dr. Haydn Thompson**, Managing Director, THHINK Wireless Technologies Ltd, UK, and ICT expert in the PICASSO project.

After introducing each panelist, Robin Mishra began the workshop by asking each of them to define what a smart city was.

Dr. Iyengar started with a definition of a smart city and outlined how cities have to be designed to be smart as well as safe.

Dr. James Gavigan proceeded to talk about EU activities and funding.

Afterwards, Dr. Haydn Thompson talked about how EU/USA ICT cooperation aspects can broaden our scope.

Finally, Karen Lee brought up interesting practical examples with healthy environments, and Danilo Nanni shared his expertise on high rises he build in Miami.

The workshop was a success. More than 68 guests, from Miami-Dade and Broward counties attended the workshop. The target audience consisted of Miami-Dade Community members at large, high tech company CEOs, European Consuls General and Deputy Consuls General (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, Monaco, Tobago & Trinidad...), Miami Dade County Economic Development and International Trade officials, executive directors of European Chambers of Commerce (France, Germany, Italy) Miami City Hall representatives, and even the Science & Innovation counselor, Head of Office Embassy of Sweden. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence would like to sincerely thank our co-sponsor Gray Robinson, Attorneys at Law, especially Mr. Glenn Cooper.

► To view pictures, click here

*By Christine. I. Caly-Sanchez*
In addition, the same day, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized a luncheon-workshop on Accelerating Smart Cities held at and hosted by the Beacon Council, the Miami-Dade County’s Official Economic Development Partnership, where distinguished guests from Miami-Dade County government officials, European Consuls General gathered. We were honored to have the presence of Nathalie Olijslager, Consul General of the Netherlands; Guido Landeer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Foreign Trade Relations of the Netherland; Roger Kleinenberg, Counselor for Science, Technology and Innovation at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington DC. Larry K. Williams, President & CEO of the Beacon Council, welcomed the audience and said that he was very pleased to partner with the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and participated in the discussion of this very important topic.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence would like to sincerely thank The Beacon Council for making this second event a success.

► To view pictures, click here

By Christine. I. Caly-Sanchez