

Measuring the Smartness of Cities – The use of Smart City Approach in Urban and Regional Planning abstract

by

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There is an emerging interest on smart city issues both by social scientists and urban and regional planners. To think about Smart City as a global idea it clearly includes the following approach: sustainable, inclusive and effective city management by the use of ICT to ensure the well-being and better quality of life for their citizens. Smarter City Assessment provides a city ranking system by several factors of cities like economics, mobility, energy etc. This kind of analysis may also be used both for the design of single urban strategies or regional social-economic plans.

When we talk about smart city we are dealing the city as organism, dividing the city into ICT based interconnected subsectors. The details of this classification differ by countries/experts which developed any method to measure the smartness of cities.

The paper has three objectives. First is making the link between the theory of ICT and public policy by the identification of the meaning of Smart City. Second is comparing methodologies to analyse smart cities. Finally, based on these analyses we make the link between smarter city initiatives and urban and regional planning.

1. The Smart City Approach

The fast evolution of ICT gave the opportunity for the public sector as same as for the business sector, to build up a more efficient governance using that technology. Based on the Bangemann report (EC 1992) intelligent strategies were established across Europe on national, regional and local (urban) level. Those strategies focused on the use of ICT first of all in the relation of the government and the public. Since the mid 2000s that process turned into a new quality of development. The expression of 'SMART' became the new keyword which is far beyond the pure e-communication between the government sector and citizens. Use of ICT is a toolkit to provide more efficient, higher quality and possibly cheaper public services. 'Smart' means in this sense the improvement of quality of life.

2. Smarter City Assessments

Over the last 6-8 years several methodologies were developed by research institutes and IT companies and government bodies to measure the smartness of cities. We compare some of those methodologies. The basic difference between those methodologies the data set which required for the analysis. Working on an international smart city assessment is really hard because of the limited number of comparable data. National comparison is easier, however if the assessment methodology including too much soft factors the analysis may include more subjective impression. Using these methodologies one of the outcome is a ranking of cities.

3. Smarter City Assessments and Urban and Regional Planning

We should look at the results of smart city assessment rather benchmarking than ranking. In this sense, results of such analysis give an opportunity to build of a single smart city strategy but also provide a basis for regional, national and cross-border strategies. Key factor of smart city approach is the ecological sustainability. In this sense local, regional and national Smart City Strategies may contribute to local and regional climate change mitigation and adaptation.