



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### Digitalisation and governance of Smart Liveable Cities

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#### Abstract

During the last two decades, the concept of smart city became a buzzword which captured equally the attention of academics, mass-media, business environment and policy-makers. Nonetheless, besides growing into a popular 'megatrend', smart city represents a fashionable (technological) concept which brought massive changes in the way policy makers are currently seeing the development of the urban areas.

"Smart", and its several declinations or connected concepts, such as "intelligent", "innovative", "wired", "digital", "creative" (Hollands, 2008; Thompson, 2016) depicts an on-going process that it is currently at the core of almost all major urban areas.

Closely connected with "smart", but not entirely overlapped, as previously thought, the digitalization process complicates even more the current approaches. While its positive role on urban and regional development cannot be denied (Granath, 2016; Nocht et al., 2019; Maiti et al., 2020; Hölzel and de Vries, 2021; Roy and Khan, 2021; Kunzmann, 2020), some negative effects emerged as well, such as deepening inequalities, institutional disputation, or chaotic urban planning.

Despite the increasingly globalized world, the above-mentioned differences raise the question of spatial differences in the understanding, the implementation, and the interpretation of an overly technological concept, as well as the connection between smart city and digitalization process.

This special session aims to bring together new theoretical approaches and empirical research results focusing on the challenges of digitalization for the smart city strategies. We welcome contributions on, but not limited to:

- digital transformations of smart cities;
- the role of urban institutions in digitalization acceleration;
- AI, VR, IoT, and the city of tomorrow;
- empirical studies on local policies and measures for boosting the digitalization process;
- the drivers of digitalization;
- changes in smart city approaches after the pandemic;
- new approaches to reduce the disruptive effects of digitalization in cities.

Accepted papers for this session could be submitted for publication in a special issue of **Eastern Journal of European Studies** (<http://ejes.uaic.ro/>), journal indexed in Clarivate Analytics, Scopus, Index Copernicus, ProQuest, DOAJ databases.