



Special session proposal

How to assess the ‘Smart City’?

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‘Smart City’ is a kind of leitmotiv today, dealing with digital technologies, economic development, energy efficiency but also city management, governance and empowerment. It’s undoubtedly a term of urban marketing and no one of the European cities is allowed to ignore this trend: The last ‘SmartCity Expo World Congress’, in 2018 in Barcelona gathered more than 700 cities from 150 countries.

But the ‘Smart city trend’ is not only a matter of urban promotion. Local authorities are also looking for solutions to manage and operate the urban services. They are waiting for digital technologies abilities to reduce operating costs, to develop new services, to extend those existing toward populations or areas excluded...

Another aspect of the Smart City is to mix public and private initiative and economic models. It is clear that the development of urban digital services modifies the frontline between the both spheres of activity. It is also clear that local authorities are deeply challenged by the dominant stakeholders of digital economy. In another way, the Smart City includes promotion of entrepreneurship, start-up incubation and more widely ecosystem management.

Then, the ‘Smart Face of the city’ concerns not only urban services. ‘Smart’ could mean that the areas under this flag are digital technology-friendly and develop strategies to attract high added-value activities. It could also highlight the ability of a specific location to identify and implement appropriate solutions regarding the specificities of its needs.

At last, the Smart technologies and the jointed issues are seen as a way to improve, according to political colors of city authorities, both security and individual control, and citizenship and empowerment, even this scope of activities is not so well defined. This session aims to deal with this polysemous term from a specific point of view: how to assess the ‘Smart city’?

Another specificity of this session is to be built to generate a three-way perspective, crossing scientist’s, local stakeholder’s and entrepreneur’s analysis. That’s why it is proposed and organized both by

- the LabEx ‘Intelligences des Mondes Urbains’, a research structure labelled at the French national scale, gathering on wide transdisciplinary approaches most teams working on cities, in Lyon/St-Etienne: <http://imu.universite-lyon.fr/>;
- YoobakY, a unified group of entrepreneurs & researchers – applying their crossed competencies to create actionable links between research and market applications in terms of smart cities, through prospective studies, consulting and entrepreneurship: www.yoobaky.com

We are waiting for contributions relating experiments and analysis of actual deployment of ‘Smart City’ Assessment processes. What goals, criteria, methodologies, results and difficulties?