

22nd
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Policy Round Table

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE for the Public Sector

JRC and DIGIT Science for Policy **CONFERENCE**

Webinar 4: Bringing AI closer to citizens – smart communities

Local Digital Twins Conversations: Framing the Green + Digital Transition

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Smart Communities as Learning Innovation Ecosystems

BE-GOOD (Interreg NWE, 2016-2022)

“Building an Ecosystem to Generate Opportunities in Open Data”

Local Digital Twins Conversations (2021-2022)

- **WHO** Soenke Zehle (media theorist / HBKsaar, Co-CEO K8.design), Prune Gautier, Slim Turki (data ecosystem researchers, LIST.lu) as facilitators
- **WHAT** series of workshops and meetings with practitioners from European cities and regions, with different levels of maturity, to share experiences with their counterparts and gain strategic and operational insights (technologies, governance, infrastructure, etc.)
- **WHY** building a community of practice on top of a conversation across smart communities

Learning Innovation Ecosystem

- P2P knowledge exchange / transfer as extra register for communities smartness
- “**smart**” = be part of a “learning” innovation ecosystem combining **data-derived knowledge** with **human knowledge**



AI as Driver of Public Sector Innovation

- **wide gap between early and late LDTs adopters**
 - differences in awareness, vision, data availability, models, digital infrastructure, budget, HR, skills
 - need for assessment matrix to best link and amplify initiatives
 - cross-cities/regions cooperation needs facilitation and support
- **embrace the ecosystem diversity**
 - audiences / stakeholder groups / leadership
 - wider view leads to wider range of experiences / practices: many PoCs + use cases
 - people and practices are spread widely across city and regional governments and have less in common than we tend to assume when we only look at technology - attend to differences in context
- **need for a more nuanced understanding of “public agency”**
 - what the many different stakeholder groups within and across the public sector can contribute to an innovation and transformation process



Citizens-as-User vs Citizen-as-Co-Creators

- current policy maker **focus on tech-centric innovation**
- citizens appear as users of “smart” services, not **co-creators of intelligent systems**
- **redefine citizen role** involvement at early design stages, citizen science data streams, co-validation of data, decentralization of infrastructures (example: coops)
- citizens don't know best but help others **explore a wider range of perspectives**
- **citizen empowerment** can accelerate, drive, and enhance green + digital transitions and become the frame of ai use in the public sector
- define **added value of intelligent systems** (efficiency, sustainability, transparency)



Take-Aways for Public Sector AI-Deployment

- How can we **reduce the threshold for involvement** in the LDT conversation?
- How can we **sustain and expand data flows** for data-hungry LDTs?
- How can we make sure data literacy becomes part of a broader **transformation literacy**?
- How can we **make tangible the value added by intelligent systems**?
- How can we **turn intelligent systems into drivers of the green + digital transition**?