New Challenges for Europe's Cohesion

Leveraging urban data and AI to support inclusive, participatory decision making – Mobility case studies from Messina

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- **Smart City we cannot leave out the Digital Transformation process.**

- **The digital transformation process is necessary in a context of Smart Cities, in fact the IoT technology is a big support for the development of tools to serve the city.**

- **In the context of Smart Cities, when we refer to the digital transition process, we increasingly hear about the "centrality of data"; this is because data, allow us to monitor, analyse and understand scenarios of the past and present, to outline future scenarios that are increasingly tailored to the needs of the citizen and to offer safe, smart and people-friendly cities.**

The Digital transformation is also one of the pillars of European Goals in the Agenda 2030 and every city that would be considered a Smart City nowadays, knows that digitisation plays a more than fundamental role in enabling cities to evolve and be closer to the needs of citizens.

The decision-making process is increasingly useful to understand each other's needs, both in the context of citizenship, stakeholders and policy makers in the context of the realisation and affirmation of the Smart City.

Specifically, the experience on co-creation activities in which our Municipality, has been involved through various activities promoted, within the URBANITE project, thanks also to our partners in Alma Digit, which is enabling us to make progress towards the affirmation of Messina as a Smart City, considering the many needs and shortcomings present in the city in a Smart City context.

Therefore, ithe co-creation activities are useful for Decision Making in Smart Cities specifically for the Messina Municipality; although it is not always an easy process, but I believe it is useful for Messina as a Smart City.

Mobility case studies from Messina

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From URBANITE the Municipality of Messina, since it's initial proposal, expects to be able to obtain tools that can help overcome some gaps related to technological areas, but especially related to city mobility that is often congested by the concomitance of the different modes of transport that are also and mainly concentrated in the city center:

- **the port** (public ships and private, hydrofoils),
- **railways**, **bus station and city traffic** dictated by means of transport private, make urban mobility in some ways and at certain times of the year unsustainable.

The digital tools that Urbanite will be able to make available to the municipality and its technicians could help, through simulations, analytics and AI algorithms (artificial intelligence) to predict and avoid possibly critical situations for city mobility.

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URBANITE provides, with a view to the digitization of the Public Administration, activities linked to the so-called "participatory democracy" through activities called "political and social laboratories" (SoPoLab) useful to raise awareness and connect the stakeholders of urban mobility, the municipal departments and citizens so that they can derive from this design experience advantages both in the medium and in the long term.

With the help and support of <u>Alma Digit</u>, another city partner within the Urbanite project, there is the willingness to move forward and plan for the future. We must aim to improve ourselves and to take up and adopt the ideas that the Commission and the Community European propose to us, sustainability and digitalization will have to transform from European objectives to local objectives.

Smart CITY MesM@rt

Urbanite is fully part of another project MEsM@RT a Smart City project, which aims to offer a technological tool to monitor the city and its "state of health", based on data, and on sensors spread throughout the territory.

MEsM@RT therefore integrates the existing databases (taxes, heritage, etc.) and data from the territory, (video cameras, water and environmental sensors) that allow you to have an articulated but holistic view of the city, in order to identify the areas of improvement and intervention and to have effective assets available to the different services.

Smart CITY MesM@rt

The ecosystem MEsM@RT" is divided into 4 vertical applications that are the monitoring of the territory, the environment, security and video surveillance, the management of water distribution. It is currently the most ambitious Smart City project nationwide. Overall, the project MEsM@RT to date, has a significant state of maturity, as identified through the management indicators.

These are echoed by the feedback obtained on the national territory, by:

• the various Metropolitan Cities and by the Cohesion Agency itself,

• the subject in charge of the Funding, through participation in numerous events.