

Abstract for the general public in English

Interest in studying smart cities and its links to measuring, and visualizing performance in Poland and Sweden is rising. The recent reforms undertaken in the European countries are pulling into different directions and may cause great diversity in the national smart governance models and practices. Therefore, it is essential to study the variety of smart city practices, spread across Poland and Sweden, and to identify the major factors that explain such practices' variations in enhancing urban sustainable development.

Our project focuses specifically on a neglected challenge: how to measure and visualize performance of cities' in Poland and Sweden. The integration of multiple stakeholders into governance processes brings to the forefront a long-standing problem of public management studies, i.e. dealing with conflicting, plural and ambiguous performance measures and demands in the public sector.

The data collected in the project will be interpreted with the use of ambiguity and decision-making theory. The research team will aim to understand the ambiguities, present in the Polish and Swedish countries' contexts, and the specific factors that bring multiple stakeholders in a common forum to engage in consensus-oriented decision-making.

This project will focus on: 1) measuring and visualizing performance in selected cases of smart city initiatives in Poland and Sweden; 2) the possible ambiguities faced by smart cities in measuring and visualizing performance; and the ways in which these ambiguities could be managed more effectively 3) the possible uses by internal and external stakeholders of accounting and performance measurement systems of smart cities.

This proposed project will reveal new knowledge on the dilemmas and trade-offs, as well as the paradoxes, complications, but also potentials that cities face in implementing smart city initiatives. We expect to provide new conceptual innovations for linking smart city practices with performance in developing attractive, liveable and sustainable cities in Poland and Sweden based on environmental, health and value creation.

This three-year project will comprise three phases and related outputs:

- 1) creating a theoretical framework useful to investigate how smart cities measure and visualize performance with a documentary, textual and visual analysis;
- 2) conducting in-depth qualitative studies of four relevant cases of smart cities in Poland and also Sweden;
- 3) assessing similarities and differences in the four national cases; and transferring knowledge on relevant and innovate practices for practitioners.

By doing this, our research can contribute to be relevant and useful for scholars and also for decision makers and other users as well as in the public debate in Poland and Sweden.