PREPARE

Results of the "The Role of Standardization in Smart Cities and Communities Workshop" – ERSCP 2014, Portoroz, 15th October 2014

INTRODUCTION

Objective of the session: to discuss and to get new insight and feedback about the role of the standardization in relation to smart cities and communities.

The following agenda was presented:

a) 3 Presentations on Smart Cities and Communities and Standardization:
b) Dialogue session and questions
c) Discussion: Metaplan Methodology

Workshop moderated by: Eugenia Atin and Oihana Hernáez from PROSPEKTIKER (www.prospektiker.es) – PREPARE Network (www.prepare-net.com)

a) SPEAKERS PRESENTATIONS:

1. "**Smart Sustainable Cities: Definition and Challenges**". Dr. Josefin Wangel - Centre for Sustainable Communications at KTH Royal Institute of Technology – Sweden
2. "**Smarter Cities - European perspective**". Mr. Blaz Golob - Go Foresight Institute / Ljubljana Forum on Cities – Slovenia
3. "**New ISO standards for sustainable development of communities**". Mr. Kim Christiansen - Danish Standards – Denmark

b) DIALOGUE SESSION – QUESTIONS:

1. *So, you have talked about the challenges in relation to smart cities, and you have talked as well as for some current tools cities have already or are implementing or considering, as for instance Aalborg Commitments, or Local Agenda 21. Could you tell us which elements from current existing programs or resources adopted by Cities or even from EU policies and initiatives related to Smart Cities, you consider should or could be integrated by Standardization? (from your own background perspective).*

Some ideas from the speakers:

- When we do standards we try to integrate what has already been done. It is very different from country to country but all standards build on policies and initiatives that are currently being implemented.
- There is a need for some guidelines or database to present a requirements checklist of all the different initiatives, commitments, standards, etc. On top of that, all standards should be publicly available. And finally, there is a gap we need to bridge in differentiating between "smart" and "sustainable".
- It seems that we didn't learn enough from failures. New standards should pay attention to the progress made. We are setting universal targets but we should be measuring the progress achieved. It can be very frustrating for some countries that are progressing very well but are still far from the fixed targets, we should motivate and incentive them. Furthermore, we must pay attention to the translation of the standards.

2. *And do you think that municipality authorities are ready for this? For adopting a Smart City standardization scheme for the city?*

Some ideas from the speakers:

- Mayors can help to regulate incentives. Cities can look at one of the challenges, let's say water. Then they focus on the water issue and take small steps to improve and build ISO indicators.
- Green communities need infrastructure and cities are not mature to adopt standards. Cities need a comprehensive picture of what a smart city would look like. Then the city can go step by step.
- Politicians think across and of a greater whole. We need to understand what a politician is and focus on where we see results (for example green flags). Politicians only focus on where they see results. In 10/15 years things have changed a lot.

3. *Finally, social acceptance is another important aspect to be considered. Is society and are citizens ready to accept the new mechanism/tools or the new ways of doing things that Standardization may involve? If not, how to facilitate this acceptance?*

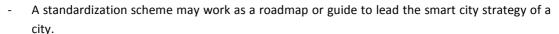Some ideas from the speakers:

- No. Only 5% is ready (same as ecolabelling). It doesn't work, something else is needed. Citizens don't use standardization; it is about how smart cities can change the life of the citizens and about the role they play.
- But when getting citizens to adopt smart solutions, this is not a problem.
- A change in governance is needed to empower the citizens. The participatory budgeting for example gives the opportunity to the people to decide where a percentage of the budget should go.
- Smart Cities Agenda should take into consideration this aspect.
- Some differences may be appreciated within European Union.
- Standardization schemes should consider citizens' acceptance and involvement issue.
- Citizens may be afraid of their data privacy and confidentiality, so protection of data is one of the aspects that the ISO Agenda my prioritize to avoid citizens' reluctance.
- EU Urban Development Agenda my help to facilitate citizens acceptance on smart cities standardization schemes.

c) **PARTICIPATORY DYNAMIC:**

2 questions were discussed in two different groups. The following ideas were collected:

Question 1: BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION FOR CITIES: WHY SHOULD CITIES ADOPT A SMART CITY STANDARDIZATION SCHEME? HOW CAN STANDARDIZATION HELP CITIES?

- A standardization scheme may work as a roadmap or guide to lead the smart city strategy of a city.
- It may facilitate or clarify the organizational process for the development of a smart city strategy.
- It may promote further action, speed of action.
- It may act as an action checklist, in order to set priorities for the city strategy.
- It may provide practical tools and be useful to measure the progress of the city in relation to the smart concept; to facilitate a comparison between previous and post situations.
- It may work as a progress instrument to measure the "smart" level of the city ("Political pressure" instrument).
- It may enable an integrated approach of the smart city strategy; not as just individual initiatives or actions in different domains, but as an integral strategy considering different domains in an interrelated/interlinked way.
- People/citizens involvement is necessary for the implementation of this kind of schemes, what is positive for the city. Standardization may promote the involvement of citizens during the processes to be implemented.
- Standardization can work as an "upgrading of the status of the city"; as a city brand or label.
- The possibility to make comparisons between cities may increase the motivation of the politicians.
- The process of standardization of cities may give cities the possibility to learn from each other; through failure and success cases.
- It may incur economic benefits.

Question 2: CHALLENGES/RISKS TO BE FACED BY STANDARDIZATION: WHICH ARE THE CHALLENGES OR RISKS THAT STANDARDIZATION SHOULD FACE TO BE APPLIED IN CITIES? HOW TO FACE/OVERCOME THEM?

- In some cases, it may be too early for cities to implement a standardization scheme, as not all the cities are so aware of and involved with the smart city concept. Therefore, cities may not be experienced enough or what is even worse, the standardization could stop or limit new possibilities and new innovations.
    o This challenge or barrier may be overcome by an established competition.
- Many cities do not know or may ignore which cities' real needs are. Without this knowledge, it can be very difficult to implement a standardization scheme.
    o This challenge or barrier may be overcome by strengthening and having a good communication among all the relevant agents and stakeholders involved; technical agents, public authorities, politicians, utility providers, citizens….
- Once that the standardization scheme has been implemented, there is a risk to lose it, due to not complying with the defined requirements (e.g. if there are changes in relation to the private investors…).
    o Having transparency, among all the involved agents, and during the whole process, seems necessary to avoid this risk.
- The process of standardization may be costly in terms of human and economic resources.
    o Financial incentives to adopt the new standards may help overcome this risk.
- Political changes may delay or interrupt the adoption of the standardization in the cities.
    o For this reason it is important to involve in the process the whole community and also external agencies and networks.
- Cities may think it is too much for them or can be demotivated to apply the standardization.
    o The added value should be very clear for the cities as well as the focus on innovation.