

IS Project (Master): Smart City Governance – Conception of a taxonomy

Introduction

With increasing urbanization, significant environment problems, and new expectations of public services and efficiency, it is clear that cities face a large diversity and scale of challenges. Simultaneously, digital technologies and current trends such as Big Data, Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT) are paving the way for smart cities. This involves the process of making cities more efficient, sustainable, and more social (or participatory). Public organizations and institutions can also directly benefit from this smart city movement, as it can improve its control, regulation and governance. Arguably, a city's development towards a smart city could be considered a major transformation and most cities attempting this transformation establish smart city initiatives (or programs) to manage this. The governance of an organization is related to its organizational structures, its decision-making processes, accountability, and its communications. Some cities and organizations are more advanced than others, have different strategies, or have focused on different aspects in their smart city initiatives. To differentiate and classify the organizational governance of such smart city initiatives, a taxonomy is needed. A taxonomy is a classification scheme, which classifies objects according to certain criteria. It can be used to divide smart city governance regimes into classes or categories. It is hoped that by using a taxonomy, the difference between different governance structures (or designs) within smart cities becomes clearer and based on this, researchers could assess which archetypical smart city governance regimes fits to certain contexts and requirements.

Contribution and tasks

A taxonomy helps to gain a better understanding of the research area of smart city governance types and their similarities and differences, which would be a useful contribution to the smart city organization and management research stream. It appears there is not yet any such taxonomy of smart city governance regimes, which indicates there exists a research gap. Thus, the aim of this project is to set up such a taxonomy for smart city governance. To this purpose, a research design must be developed and data on smart city initiatives and their governance collected. Thereafter the data must be evaluated, and classification criteria developed.

The project offers space for 2 - 4 master students. The project provides students with in-depth insights into the current effects of digital transformation and the special features of smart cities.

Evaluation

1. **60% of final grade: Research/project report** including project introduction, theoretical foundations, research approach, results, discussion, conclusion, as well as IS project learnings and self-reflection. This report is a Word document, of approximately 30–50 pages, depending on the number of students.
2. **40% of final grade: Final presentation** of the project results. This part of the grading is based on your PowerPoint presentation, your verbal delivery, and your ability to discuss related questions from the evaluators.

Application

Interested master students (or groups of students) can apply for this project by submitting

1. your *current grade transcript* and
2. a *brief motivational letter* (no longer than a half page) describing why you are interested in this project

no later than **Tuesday 30.04.2019 23:59**.

Please send your application including the relevant documents via email to **Peder Bergan** (peder.bergan@uni-due.de) using the subject **SITM IS project summer 2019**. Please indicate whether you are applying as part of a group of students in your cover letter.

Shortly after the submission deadline you will receive information via email about your acceptance and the date of the initial kick-off meeting for this project.