Smart Cities Dialogue Platform, Smart City Charter and Smart Cities Model Projects

With its research, the BBSR supports the work of the Smart Cities Dialogue Platform. Members of the platform are representatives of the federal government, the federal states, associations and civil society. The platform enables the exchange of views on digitalisation topics and develops recommendations for sustainable digital urban development. The results have been incorporated into the Smart City Charter. The charter provides municipalities with an orientation framework for the digital transformation of integrated and common good oriented urban development. The BBSR research work and the findings of the dialogue platform were the basis of the funding programme Model Projects Smart Cities. The Federal Ministry responsible for building supports the municipalities in the development and implementation of digital strategies. The Coordination and Transfer Office (KTS) provides support for the model projects and prepares the findings for the public. Research activities of the BBSR aimed at answering of key questions of the digital transformation and the development of digital skills in cities and regions.

Publications

- Smart City Charter – Making digital transformation at the local level sustainable. Bonn 2017 (also available in Spanish and Portuguese).

- Smarter Cities – better Life? Informationen zur Raumentwicklung, 1/2017. Bonn.

- On the road to becoming a Smart Citizen: Defining, locating and supporting digital competences. BBSR Analysen KOMPAKT, 8/2017. Bonn.

You can find current publications at www.bbsr.bund.de under:

Topics > Digitilisation

Contact

Smart City research at the BBSR
Contact: Eva Schweitzer
smart-city-forschung@bbr.bund.de

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Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development
within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning

Smart Cities

Research Cluster of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development

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Research Cluster of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)

The Smart Cities research cluster bundles the research work of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) on digital urban development. The researchers of the BBSR work together with and for science and (municipal) practice on various questions: How can municipalities use digitalisation to achieve the goals of sustainable, integrated and common good oriented urban development? What opportunities and potentials are associated with digitalisation? What challenges and potential risks do municipalities face? For instance, studies show how digitalisation improves planning processes and makes administrative action more transparent, how it drives the mobility transition and supports climate protection, and how it creates new opportunities for participation and enables innovative business models.

With its Smart Cities research cluster, the BBSR monitors and accompanies the digital transformation and its effects on urban development.

- It makes methods and instruments from research on digitalisation usable for urban development;

- develops strategies for future-ready designs of digitalisation in municipalities;

- supports the improvement of digital skills of municipal stakeholders, civil society and citizens with regard to urban development;

- initiates, supports and analyses model projects and other smart city projects.

Topics of the Smart Cities Research Cluster

Digital Strategies
Digital strategies enable the innovative development of municipal activities. Studies and model projects show how municipalities develop such strategies – for example for mobility, climate protection or local economic development. How do municipalities organise the processes of strategy development and which stakeholders should be involved?

Data Governance
The density and complexity of data for implementing urban development goals place high demands on municipalities. The Smart Cities Dialogue Platform and the smart city research at the BBSR address the question of how the municipalities can further develop their skills to control, manage and use data and thus their data sovereignty. Experts from research and practice take into account the close interlinkages between digital strategies, digital skills and data governance in urban development.

Digital Inclusion and Participation
New technologies, open data solutions and social media make participation easier and administrative action more transparent. At the same time, there are risks of further excluding already disadvantaged groups in the urban population. How does digital inclusion succeed in cities? How can municipalities include those who are not be reached by their digital services? In addition, what preconditions are needed so that communication on a level playing field between administrations and urban society also works online?

Digital Skills
To manage the digital transformation, it is not only the municipalities that must rely on and expand digital knowledge. In order to make use of all the possibilities, all city residents need digital skills. The BBSR therefore develops guidelines and organises – together with municipalities – digital learning labs to increase skills, for example in dealing with big data and new media.

Legal Studies
As new technologies and digital platforms become more widespread, new players and interests enter the market. Studies explore the questions of what business models as well as organisational and operating structures are helpful for municipalities. The studies analyse European directives on the handling of data as well as public procurement law and the municipal commercial law of the federal states.

Interconnected Mobility
Cities are in the midst of a mobility transformation. People are using means of transport more flexibly and with greater diversity, for example using sharing services or engaging in inter- and multimodal transportation services. Digital networking and the analysis and use of traffic data are becoming key drivers of tomorrow's mobility: What are the consequences for municipalities?

Urban Economy
Online trade and platform economies are not only changing local retail, but also people's working and living environments, and consumer cultures as a whole. The research cluster examines the effects on (commuter) traffic, logistics and settlement structures. At the same time, the BBSR is investigating both the challenges and opportunities for city centres and the provision of public services that are associated with these changes, and to what extent the digital transformation is able to contribute to a greater mix of functions in order to make urban neighbourhoods more vibrant.

Monitoring and Evaluation
Monitoring and evaluation make the effects of digital strategies verifiable. The BBSR deals with the question of how social learning processes, structural effects and other impacts can be assessed methodically and in terms of content. Beyond the impact analysis of singular activities and approaches, the BBSR supports the evaluation of smart city funding programmes, e.g. the Smart Cities Model Projects..

Smart Cities International
Cities around the world become smart with the help of interconnected und digital technologies, using the potential to increase the quality of life for their residents. International experiences and exchange with experts provide valuable insights and support the development in Germany and Europe. In order to coordinate and bundle European smart city activities, the aim is to strengthen further smart city networking among both, EU member states, and German and European municipalities.

More Information on the research cluster and current projects can be found online at www.bbsr.bund.de:

Topics > Digitalisation

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