IFKAD 2022 Special Track no. 18

Collective Wisdom and Participatory Knowledge for Urban and Regional Development

Research Area: KB Development and Territory

Organizers

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Description

This track analyzes the complex nexus of drivers that lay behind sustainable urban and regional development processes. On the one hand we face a tremendous trend to live in and migrate to big cities and urban agglomerations. On the other hand – not at least triggered by the current pandemic – we also are confronted, that especially skilled professionals try to escape city centers and search for a high quality of living and (remote) working in the countryside. A trend, which relies on well-connected rural areas – especially in terms of data-infrastructures. Can we afford, that administration, exchange, innovation and cultural activities are concentrated in urban centers, and that re-creation, relaxation, holidays happen on the countryside?

Cities offer opportunities, not only concerning educational offers and jobs, but also about culture and creativity. On the other hand, cities also face critical developments and are prone to undesirable effects of modern and postmodern times: poverty, pollution, overcrowding and suburban ghettos, over-tourism and traffic problems are crucial issues on the urban agenda.

To face these threats for urban development, new trends in city management are emerging. Some of them are rooted in the use of innovative technologies to improve the effectiveness of local policies and services and the quality of life of citizens and firms: digital cities and smart city are streams of city management born at the beginning of the millennium and implemented progressively all over the world. These processes should be as inclusive as possible, but there is a real threat that participation is confined at a very superficial layer of these activities.
Other trends look at the climate change, its impact on city life and economy, and the environmental footprint of urban agglomerates, as well as the need to consider the Sustainable Development Goals included in the United Nations’ Agenda for 2030. This vision feeds the emerging of sustainable and green city strategies (New Bauhaus initiative, 2021). Other streams of research focus on culture and creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development (UCCN, 2004). The social fabric of cities, the cultural offerings and the interaction of various professionals challenges the production of ideas and represent perfect incubators for new societal frames, business models and start-ups. A linear view of innovation in cultural context is obsolete, and a more comprehensive ecosystemic approach is required to grasp the complexity of the forces in place.

Rural areas and less populated regions face diametrically different problems: Young people leave the regions with directions to big urban centers with the consequence of a devastating brain drain. In the other direction retired people return to their roots and some professionals from the service industry move to attractive regions. To revitalize rural areas and to de–center the cultural focus, also one of the flagship–projects of the European Union – the European Capitals of Culture – opens up also for regions: See e.g. the winning projects of Essen–Ruhr 2010 and Salzkammergut in 2024. More broadly, recent urban and regional development policies try to combine and enhance the advantages of urban centers and remote regions.

Given this big picture, this track calls for contributions in regional and city management, performance measurement, organizational approaches, and accountability taking into consideration the emerging urban strategy streams and the role of territorial knowledge and competences in implementing effective local policies, towards the achievement of a sustainable development. Hereby, the participation of key stakeholders and professionals is a key ingredient.

Therefore, we encourage to submit contributions addressing these issues in a comprehensive vision, supporting decision making and planning for better cities and regions, enhancing accountability and promoting tools for citizen participation in co–producing and co–developing sustainable services. Especially, we want to address the following research questions:

- What role can participatory processes play in the generation of knowledge for urban and regional development?
- What innovative strategies are in place to both – increase the opportunity and face the vulnerability of cities and regions?
- How can cities measure and control their performance as smart, sustainable, creative and resilient cities?
- How can regions confronted with a major brain drain react and what role do regional development processes play in this context?
- How can urban and regional development strategies be successfully combined in order to enable a fruitful co–existence of cities and regions?
- What role can big flagship projects like the European Capitals of Culture play to revitalize urban areas as well as less populated regions?
• How can we increase the participation and the engagement of citizens in co-designing and co-producing more sustainable public services?
• How can cities and regions be accountable for their sustainability impacts?
• What role do artificial intelligence, data security, digital infrastructures, the protection of privacy, and the increasing vulnerability of complex networks play in the context of urban and regional development?
• How can the evolution of multi-layered ecosystems push forward the cooperation of cities and regions?
• How can new business models combine private and public partners for regional wealth creation?
• What new forms of knowledge transfer between entrepreneurs, established companies and public stakeholders contribute to urban and regional development?

We welcome contributions from several fields of research covering also the following topics (among others): smart city, resilient city, sustainable city (management, performance measurement, accountability and disclosure); city management and local development; creative city, role of cultural and creative firms and initiatives in territorial development and cohesion, urban policies and SDGs, role of innovative technologies in city management, stakeholders’ engagement, cultural policy programs, innovative and cultural ecosystems.

Keywords

Urban and regional development, knowledge generation, participation, collective wisdom, city management, smart cities, sustainable development, creative cities, urban performance & accountability

Special Track details published on IFKAD website >>

Guidelines

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an extended abstract (in editable MS-Word format) of min 500 and max 1000 words by 15 JANUARY 2022, using the submission procedure available on the website. The abstract should address theoretical background, research objective, methodology, and results in terms of expected contribution to Knowledge Management theory and practice. Authors are required to follow the guidelines for both extended abstracts as well as full papers available on IFKAD site: www.ifkad.org
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Important dates

15 January 2022 Extended Abstract submission deadline
10 February 2022 Acceptance notification to authors
15 March 2022 Early-Bird registration cut off
30 April 2022 Full paper submission deadline
31 May 2022 Registration deadline
20-22 June 2022 Conference sessions

For further information

For any information related to the event, please see the event website at www.ifkad.org or contact the conference manager at info@ifkad.org