SMARTER SUSTAINABLE CITIES

ENABLED BY CITIZENS

WSIS SESSION REPORT
APRIL 11TH 2019
GENEVA

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED ?

In a rapid urbanising world, **SMART CITIES are evolving towards a higher sustainability focus where their citizens' engagement is central to the city progress. The public sector must collaborate with the private sector and the academics to co-design and co-innovate it's future together with it's citizens in an Open collaborative process.**

How can Smart cities tackle the SDGs, mobilizing citizens and society innovation for sustainability and prosperity ? The panel shared specific insights from **Open Geneva**, the open city innovation festival for science, technology and society that took place between March 18th and 24th in Geneva. This yearly event gathered 1500 participants over 30 Hackathons, conferences and open doors throughout the city. The panel shared the key learnings from the Geneva ecosystem that was able to mobilize the energy of local citizens from all backgrounds, young and old, women and men, volunteering and co-creating together for a more sustainable city. **The "behind the scenes" ingredients needed to promote Innovation and citizens engagement in addressing the SDGs challenges** was primarily driven by motivating volunteers rather than paid professionals. We discussed the role of the public sector in supporting such an initiative and the role of Open Innovation and open data in the process. We discussed how public consultations and debates about key sustainability topics are important to the city's development agenda.

PANELISTS

Vincent Subilia	GENEVA CCIG
Cyril Hollenstein	MICROSOFT
Stephane Gorjux	HPE
Thomas Maillart	OPEN GENEVA
Giovanna Di Marzo	UNIGE
Dimitri Konstantas	UNIGE
Pierre Mirlesse	SMART CITY CONSULTANT

PUBLIC SECTOR
Should identify and support grass root citizen initiatives that mobilize citizen-born initiatives for the city's SDG11 plan.

IDEA
The Private sector has a keen interest to address the city sustainability challenges when the public sector provides an engagement framework for it. See SDG17.

WHERE TO START
The SDG 11 and the ITU SSCC frameworks are a good place to start. one can also **contact www.OpenGeneva.org or your IT Vendor for more best practices.**

WHAT WAS RECOMMENDED ?

The **learnings** shared by the panel from Geneva and **transferable** to any city, even those with little resources.

The use of **technology** is important, but it should be seen **as a "mean to an end"** not as an end in itself: For a smarter & more sustainable city the city should have a clear and published plan with integrated objectives, budgets and time-lines within which the private sector can contribute with it's own technology innovation proposal.

The panel noted that there are plenty of citizen born initiatives in every city, **"grass root innovation "** that can be energized & accelerated with proper recognition and support.

The Public sector **facilitation is important** as a support when promoting citizens engagement initiatives that wish to improve the city condition. Key to a more sustainable city is the **collaboration between the Private, Public and Academic sectors.**

Academia (university and schools) are a great source of innovation when engaged and promoted early in the process.

Trust & support your citizens quality of life **innovation initiatives** for them to trust and support you.
Formalize a sustainable city Plan accross your functional departments, with the help of ITU's sustainable Smart City framework. Reach out to Geneva and/or other cities to leverage best practices.

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2019/Agenda/RemoteParticipation/307