

Conference report: **Opening up the smart city** , Open governance, data and people



6th Informed Cities Forum

7-8 November 2018 | Vienna, Austria

Co-produced by the smarticipate project & Urban Innovation Vienna



7-8
november
2018

The 6th Informed Cities Forum took place from 7-8 November 2018 in Vienna (Austria), with the participation of over 100 researchers, local government representatives, entrepreneurs and civic technology enthusiasts. As the final conference for the smarticipate project, the sixth edition of the conference series took on a digital twist, exploring the relationship between open governance, data and people.



100+

participants

22

countries

46

cities

5

field
workshops

18

sessions proposed
by participants

day one, venue: **Nordbahnhofhalle**

Since 2017 the Nordbahnhofhalle has been a place of experimentation in Vienna within the framework of the project, “Mischung: Nordbahnhof”, led by TU Wien. As a mixed use space, it is home to a diverse group of “MacherInnen” (“makers”) that use both the coworking space and the large hall to make their ideas come to life. The Nordbahnhofhalle also hosts events from concerts to exhibitions, conferences, film evenings and more.



Christian Peer
Project lead
FutureLab, TU Wien

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conference moderators:

Pamela Mühlmann, Senior Smart City
Expert, Urban Innovation Vienna

Stefan Kuhn, Deputy Regional Director,
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



welcoming addresses



“We need discussions on digitalisation for a **better future** for our cities and Europe”

Marcus Schober, Vienna City Council

“We’re here to talk about how to **engage people** in decisions and policy making”

Serge Novaretti, European Commission



“smarticipate is about **cooperative work** using digital tools to connect citizens and their local government”

Joachim Rix, Fraunhofer IGD, smarticipate coordinator

Digital tools and cities: genuine transformation or facade?



“Too often citizen engagement means listening to citizen complaints - **how can we move beyond** that?”

Stefaan Verhulst, The GovLab

#REIMAGINING GOVERNANCE
Six Shifts for a Genuine Transformation



the smarticipate platform

As the final conference of the smarticipate project, several sessions explored the progress and journey of the project's pilot cities (Rome, Hamburg and London) as well as the final product of the three-year project: the [smarticipate platform](https://www.smarticipate.eu). Participants could also test out the platform and see the use cases developed by the pilot cities at the smarticipate booth during the event.

“smarticipate helps cities and citizens co-create **new public services**”



informedcities.eu

smarticipate consortium members discuss developing and piloting the platform. Left to right: Andries Geerse (WeLoveTheCity), Claudio Bordi (Risorse per Roma), Paul McDonald (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea), Astrid Köhler (Stadtwerkstatt, Hamburg), Jan Peters-Anders (Austrian Institute of Technology)



What if every citizen had access to the same information as their local government?

The smarticipate platform uses open data to make this a reality, giving citizens the information needed to help shape their city. By making data accessible and understandable, citizens are empowered to give input on new public services and solutions to urban problems.

Try it out and learn more at www.smarticipate.eu



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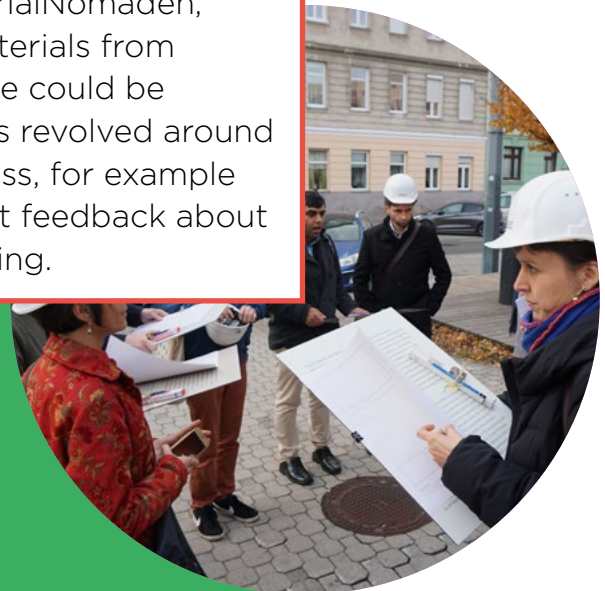
field workshops

Five field workshops were organised together with local initiatives in Vienna, all surrounding the topic of the digitalisation of public services and how tools like smarticipate can help facilitate this process.

Towards a circular city

Host: [MaterialNomaden](#)

The existing building stock in our cities can be a source of precious materials for new buildings - but how can we find ways to reuse these valuable resources? Participants in this workshop stepped into the shoes of MaterialNomaden, getting a taste of their work: mapping materials from existing buildings and imagining how these could be reused in future constructions. Discussions revolved around how digital tools could improve this process, for example through cataloguing, mapping, and instant feedback about the materials contained in any given building.



Activating vacant spaces

Host: [Kreative Räume Wien](#)

Kreative Räume Wien is an agency commissioned by the City of Vienna primarily aimed at providing comprehensive advice to potential users of vacant urban spaces, including networking, communication and support. The workshop set up discussion tables for participants on three topics: challenging legal and economic frameworks for activating vacant spaces, and how digital platforms can help overcome these; activating local communities and local space potentials; and how data can support the activation of vacant spaces.

Greening the city

Host: [Gartenpolylog Association](#)

Gartenpolylog was founded in 2007 and aims to support individuals and groups in establishing community gardens, while also facilitating the relationship with the city of Vienna. The workshop toured a nearby neighbourhood and included a discussion aimed at sharing experiences around promoting community gardens. A participant from the startup, Neisos, also presented about their work in Rome on community gardens. Participants discussed how to simplify procedures for establishing and managing community gardens using digital tools, as well as how community gardens serve as an important point of (multi-)cultural exchange in communities.



Sharing responsibility for public space

Host: [Wien gibt Raum](#)

As in most European cities, in Vienna the use of public space is heavily regulated. Bottom-up initiatives have to face a heavy burden of paperwork to receive permits to use public spaces. Wien Gibt Raum (“Vienna gives you space”) is a new public space management programme that aims to provide a one-stop-shop for people who are seeking permission to use public areas for their own projects, events or ideas. The platform enables ideas and participation while reducing administrative burden. Participants in the workshop helped brainstorm how to make public space truly public and guarantee transparency and fairness in the process.



Digital participation for all

Host: [Smarter Together](#)

Smarter Together is a Horizon 2020 project that aims to make the Vienna Simmering district fit for the future and increase the quality of life for its residents. This includes new zero-energy buildings, refurbishments to existing buildings, shared mobility, and initiatives to connect the community at a social level. The workshop explored how the project approached the development of a digital platform to help achieve the goals of the project. Participants discussed how to ensure that residents are on board and encourage participation through e.g. gamification and effective communication strategies.



8 can civic tech save democracy?



“Politicians need to stop being self-centred assholes. **They should be humble** and learn to admit that they don’t know everything.”

Borja Prieto, City of Madrid

The city of Madrid launched Decide Madrid in 2015, an online platform used to engage the public in decision making. Transparency regarding impact as well as combining online and offline methods of engagement are key success factors for the platform.



crowd-sourced open space

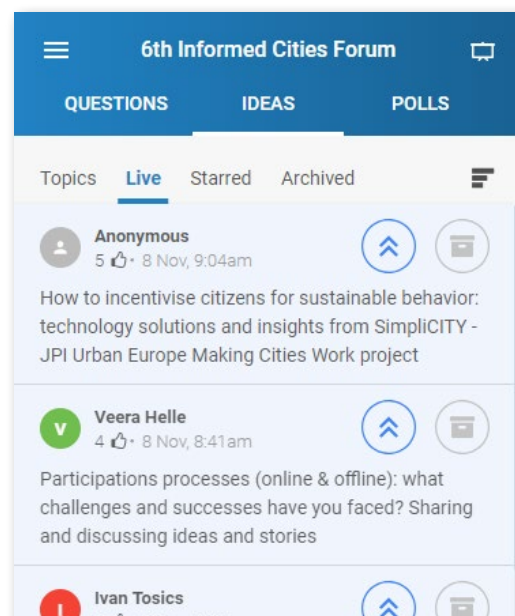
Participants could spontaneously propose their own ideas for sessions during the open space session using their smartphones or laptops. The submitters of the highest voted proposals then had the chance to lead a discussion at round tables. Topics included:

“How can we incentivise sustainable behaviour for citizens?”

“Learn how to make an app with smarticipate, step by step!”

“Cities often decide on the topics that citizens are allowed to participate in, how can we change that?”

“What risk does “Slacktivism” pose when talking about citizen involvement?”



knowledge is power

The closing panel of the conference addressed the issues of imbalances of power in municipal decision making processes. Panelists explained how tools and initiatives like [smarticipate](#), [Mapping for Change](#) and [Vienna's Smart City projects](#) can help address imbalances, level the playing field, and unlock knowledge and the potential of all actors in urban areas.

smarticipate helps create **new public services**, connecting citizens and their local governments.

We have developed **over 200 apps** based on open data... citizens like working with us!

Be proactive! We learned long ago that organising a workshop and **waiting for people to show up doesn't work.**



Marek Vogt
WeLoveTheCity



Ulrike Huemer
CIO, City of Vienna



Louise Francis
Mapping for Change



Interested in Informed Cities?

Visit the [Informed Cities](#) website to learn more about the series, including information on the next edition in Warsaw in October 2019!

www.informedcities.eu

