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TOWARDS **SMART CITY STRATEGIES** for KOSOVO CITIES

BUILDING **SMART, SUSTAINABLE & ACCESSIBLE** CITIES

UBT - Institute for Urban Studies &
Spatial Planning

1. SMART CITY KOSOVA – Smart Cities for Sustainable Development

By involving 5 universities from 5 different countries (University for Business and Technology - Kosovo, TU Wien-Austria, ETH Zurich-Switzerland, HafenCity Universitat-Germany and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University-Turkey) with more than 20 experts/professionals from academia and other experts/professionals from partner institutions and industry, 'Kosova Smart City' project aims to prepare a **National Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development**, as well as to prepare and communicate **Overall Smart City Strategies** for 7 Kosovo cities, providing them with innovative approaches towards local problems and helping them to promote and generate a sustainable urban development.

Prishtina, Prizren, Ferizaj, Peja, Gjilan, Vushtrria and Lipjan Municipalities, which all together constitute more than 30 % of Kosovo's territory and 45 % of Kosovo's population, will be targeted by this project. All of these 7 cities will be treated in paralel.

With its technological and non-technological dimensions, Smart City initiative can help overcome the limitations of traditional urban development that tends to manage urban infrastructure systems in silos. By using digital technologies, such as Open Data, they help connect different city stakeholders, improve citizen involvement, offer new and enhance existing services, and provide context-aware views on city operations. Smart City development is, however, highly complex, challenging and context-specific.

1.1. The Key Benefits of Transforming Our Cities: Why Should Our Cities Become Smart ?

Smart city technology can help cities operate more efficiently while improving services to citizens and businesses, among many other benefits. Thus, it benefits both governments, citizens and the environment.

By adopting holistic perspectives and a new concept development, consisting to short listing / prioritizing of initiatives as well as by coordinatin multiple parties and project initiations, the smart city project will benefit our cities as described below:

- a) Reducing emissions by focusing on Sustainable Living, Working, Mobility and Public Space
- b) More efficient use of physical infrastructure through artificial intelligence and data analytics to support a strong and healthy economic, social, cultural development.
- c) Engaging effectively with local people in local governance and decision by use of e-participation, improving the collective intelligence of the city's institutions through e-governance, with emphasis placed on citizen participation and co-design: More effective, data-driven decision-making & Enhanced citizen and government engagement
- d) Advancing the Open City Philosophy

- e) Improved transportation + Improved infrastructure: A more efficient and sustainable Urban Mobility + Connectivity
- f) Efficiency Gains: Efficient public utilities and Cost Savings
- g) Environmental Impact: Reduced environmental footprint and achieving Environmental sustainability
- h) Economic Prosperity, Increased workforce engagement : Business-friendly and attracting city
- i) Radical protection of resources
- j) A high, socially fair quality of life: Cities for people
- k) More public spaces and green areas
- l) More walkable and livable cities
- m) Transparency and democratic culture
- n) Universal access to culture, education and health etc..

To summarize, here are main benefits we see smart cities derive from smart technologies every day:

- a) More effective, data-driven decision-making & Enhanced citizen and government engagement**
- b) Public service digitalization**
- c) Improved transportation + Improved infrastructure + Connectivity**
- d) Efficiency Gains: Efficient public utilities and Cost Savings**
- e) Environmental Impact: Reduced environmental footprint**
- f) Life Quality**
- g) Economic Prosperity, Increased workforce engagement**
- h) Universal access to culture, education and health etc..**

All the goals of our strategies are considered very important ones in order to improve citizens' welfare and quality of life and to ensure an economic progress.

For achieving it's goals, the scope of the project includes analyzing the best global practices to address local problems and to provide our cities with most appropriate and implementable strategies.

It helps our cities to adopting visions, principles, strategies and specific programs for becoming smart city. It also helps them to realize their vision and strategic goals to make cities more livable, efficient, more sustainable, to increase their quality of life, to create a more sustainable urban environment and to become the smart city.

Finally; by providing our cities with concrete strategies to manage their current and future needs, we will assist them in the process of transformation - through technology - towards smart cities, towards cities with more public spaces and green areas, with well-managed urban transport and traffic, with an protected and promoted urban identity and cultural heritage, with the digitalized public services, with radically protected resources and environment. Consequently, we assist them in the process of transformation towards more livable urban spaces.

2. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project is divided in 3 periods, as follows:

Period I: September 2020 – December 2020

During this period data will be collected and fieldwork, study trips, official visits and cooperation with relevant institutions and other stakeholders will be realized. Prioritisation of themes/areas for treatment within the Smart City Strategies will be made for each city separately, depending on the needs of each. Study and consultative visits to cooperating universities alongside with visits of experts and professionals from same universities, as well as workshops, conferences, multi-stakeholder consultations with all parties involved in the process are also activities planned for this phase of the project.

Period II – January 2021 – June 2021

During this period the National Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development in Kosovo as well as Comprehensive and Overall Smart City Strategies will be developed for 7 cities treated in this project. While the National Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development will particularly focus on Integrated and Smart Water Resource Management, Radical Protection of Natural Resources, Sustainable Mobility and Digitalization of Public Services; the overall strategies for each municipality will include the technological and non-technological aspects of Smart City, as well as tackling all areas related to sustainable urban development. These strategies are intended to provide our cities with tangible strategies and guidelines, with specific goals that aim for tangible results with an ultimate goal to improve the quality of life in urban areas.

Period III – July 2021 – October 2021

During this period, detailed action plans will be developed and all policies and applications that should be developed in order to meet the objectives of the respective strategies will be identified. Further; the development of detailed plans for specific sectors (e.g. Mobility Plan for Prishtina, Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Pristina and Vushtrri, Plan for Smart and Integrated Water Management Resources in Gjilan etc..) will be carried out in this period in order to achieve the goals outlined in the Smart City Strategies.

Monitoring – November 2021+

Eventhough the Smart City Strategies are not subject to any mandatory implementation, based on mutual wellunderstanding, the implementation of the strategies and action plans, on the ground, will be monitored. The necessary interventions will also be designed and implemented after feedbacks. Staff of UBT and involved municipalities will monitor the implementation of strategies and action plans as well as communicate the situation through quarterly reports as well as a final report.

PORJECT IMPACTS IN A NUTSHELL

- 6 Planning experts with proven experience in the field will lead the process of preparing a National Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development in Kosovo;
- 21 young professionals will be employed, with 14-month contracts. Each municipality may propose 1 young professional to join the team. This staff will be able to continue to work with the UBT's Institute for Urban Studies, in case of other research projects will start;
- 5 universities from 5 different countries will be involved (UBT, ETH Zurich, HafenCity Universität, TU Wien, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University);
- More than 20 experts and professionals from world wide well-known universities will support the project;
- 7 Smart City Strategies will be prepared (for Pristina, Peja, Prizren, Gjilan, Vushtrria and Lipjan);
- 14-21 Action Plans will be prepared in order to implement these strategies;
- Municipalities involved in the project will be advised on fund-raising process for the implementation of Smart City Strategies;
- The implementation process of the strategies will be monitored.