



Indicators for the smart cities: What do we need from a planning point of view?

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In front of specific trends cities are challenged in a manifold way. In order to meet such economic, social and environmental challenges the idea of "Smart City" is discussed since some years. The term itself has become a buzz-word because it is interpreted in different ways, often used without any specific understanding but mostly claiming for technically based and data driven solutions.

In this contribution I will show which different factors and trends influence this discussion and what is more or less meant by "Smart City". According to the different understandings an overview is elaborated describing the information which is predominantly needed and how it is providing new possibilities for indicator construction in urban planning regarding specific fields of urban development.

Against the technology driven understanding a place based one is discussed in particular. Along with this comparison different sets of indicators are discussed regarding their quality and meaning in the urban development and policy context. Finally, perspectives, limitations and risks of data driven understanding of Smart City concepts are discussed regarding specific planning requirements ó for instance, effectiveness, transparency, and others. Most of these experiences and conclusions are based on findings in the project PLEEC (Planning Energy Efficient Cities), funded by the EU FP-7; and indicator discussions in projects funded by KLIEN (Climate and Energy Fund in Austria). The paper will conclude with an outlook which indicators should be favoured in the Smart City discussion.

Keywords: evidence based governance; monitoring urban development; steering technical and social innovative processes.