



Measuring the Smartness of Cities - points to be considered

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The concept of Smart City is increasingly used. However, there is no clear consensus on the exact definition of the concept. Instead, the term is associated with different meanings in different contexts. What is common for the different definitions is that they all characterize a Smart City as one which is constantly investing in social and human capital as well as in modern infrastructure. These investments enable a Smart City to utilize new technology and information to improve its performance in different sectors, such as living conditions, mobility, governance and economy among other things. The nature of Smart Cities is that they are evolving constantly. There has been relatively little discussion on how the Smartness of cities can be measured. However, Smartness plays a big role when it comes to attracting people, businesses and investments to a city. It is an important concept in cities marketing strategies and setting long-term goals. Hence, finding suitable indicators for Smart Cities would be most welcomed. This paper discusses a few points that need to be considered in order to measure multi-dimensional phenomena such as Smart Cities. These include the need to operationalize the concept into measurable characteristics and to consider the reliability and validity of the indicators for these given characteristics. In this paper we suggest measuring both the smart investments, hence the city's efforts to improve its performance in an innovative way, as well as the outcome of these investments. We also discuss the role of National statistical institute can or should play when it comes to measuring smartness of cities.

Keywords: Smart City, measurement, reliability, validity.