**EGOV2021: EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2021 conference**

**Smart Cities (Government, Communities & Regions) Track**All aspects of smart cities and smart governance, including frameworks, policies, and the use of technology

**University of Granada**

**Spain, September 7-9, 2021**

The pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation pushing cities towards a mandatory digital transition to a touchless economy. Unsurprisingly, cities with greater digital maturity maintained their normal activities more easily showing greater resilience to changes. Digital technologies such as IoT, Clouding Computing, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Extended Reality and Blockchain allowed them to develop more resilient service management systems and supply chains. The digital data was used to make complex analyzes, forecasts, prescriptions resulting in cities more agile and adaptable.

More than ever smart and connected communities are need to deal with these times of uncertainty. Knowledgeable communities capable of integrating technologies with the natural environment to improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of citizens within cities.

The literature on smart cities and communities is dispersed among several areas of knowledge, resulting in a lack of a multi-domain holist view and strategy to achieve the ambitioned smartness. Although there is not just one path for a city to become smart, because different territories have their particular circumstances, having a common approach for achieving it is fundamental to guide decision-makers in this transformation.

It is widely recognized that technology plays an important role in connecting institutions, governments, and citizens. Connectivity is an essential element to increase communications between institutions and citizen participation. Smart applications and services can make our life easier; however, technology also brings big challenges with it such as the digital divide, privacy, and security issues.

This track aims at exploring these issues, paying particular attention to the challenges of smart cities and smart communities as well as to the impact of these initiatives. It also aims at focusing on the orchestrated interplay and balance of smart governance practices, smart public administration, smart communities, smart resources, and talent advantage in urban, rural, and regional spaces facilitated by novel uses of ICT and other technologies.

As a result, areas of focus and interest to this track include, but are not limited, to the following topics:

* Smart governance as the foundation to creating smart urban and regional spaces (elements, prerequisites, and principles of smart governance)
* Smart government (focal areas, current practices, cases, and potential pitfalls)
* Smart partnerships and smart communities (triple/quadruple helix, public-private partnerships, and citizen participation)
* Smart cities and regions (cases, indicators, assessment, rankings, comparisons, and critical success factors)
* Collective intelligence for smart cities and communities (smart ideas and solutions for smart cities)
* Emerging technologies implementation in cities to face and manage pandemic situations (big data, open data, data analytics, social media and networks, Blockchain technologies, etc)
* AI and IoT as an enabler for Smart Communities/Smart Cities (infrastructure, transportation, citizen participation, education, governance, environment, health care, safety, security, and energy)
* AI in smart city design and operation
* Integrative research that addresses the technological and social dimensions of smart and connected communities
* Smart grids
* Smart environment and transportation (carbonless and clean individual and public mobility)
* Smart devices and their novel use in public management
* Smart (technology-facilitated) practices such as payment systems, identification systems, etc.
* New cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities in smart technologies
* SMART as a public-sector planning and management principle (Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Results-based, and Time-bound)
* Smart university and education
* Quality of life issues in smart cities and smart communities
* Urban-rural gaps in smart communities
* Citizen participation in smart cities using new technologies as chatbots or blockchain.
* Innovation and creativity in smart society development

**IMPORTANT DATES**

* (Hard) deadline for submissions (anonymous- camera ready): 19 March 2021
* Notification of acceptance: 30 April 2021
* PhD Colloquium deadline for submissions: May 3, 2021
* Poster submission deadline (non-anonymous-camera ready): 15 May 2021
* Poster acceptance 31 May 2021
* Camera-ready paper submission and author registration: 15 June 2021
* PhD Colloquium notification of acceptance: 15 June 2021
* PhD Colloquium final version: 31 July 2021
* PhD Colloquium: 6 September 2021
* Conference: 7-9 September 2021

**Track Chairs**

* Prof. Nuno Lopes (Lead), DTx: Digital Transformation Colab, Portugal
* Prof. Manuel Pedro Rodríguez Bolívar University of Granada, Spain
* Prof. Karin Axelsson, Linköping University, Sweden