

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INNOVATION AND ITS APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART CITY SUB-THEME –GREEN ECONOMY AND THE SMART CITY

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Abstract:

Smart City is an engine of growth for the economy. Nearly 31% of India's current population lives in urban areas and contributes 63% of India's GDP (Census 2011). With increasing urbanisation, urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. This requires comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. All are important in improving the quality of life and attracting people and investments to the city, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development. Development of Smart Cities is a step in that direction. It is shown in this article that the current Indian legislation makes the future progress of smart cities critically dependent on the advancement of the green economy and consequently on the further development of energy efficiency and of renewable energy sources. However, the lack of a clear legal framework capable of transforming the current pledges into binding rules at national level can jeopardize the establishment of a more direct and profitable link between the extensive European legislation on energy and environment, and the harmonious and efficient development of smart cities in India.

Keywords: smart city; green economy; energy efficiency; renewable energy sources; legal framework; directives; regulations;

Introduction:

“A smart city...uses digital technologies to enhance performance and well-being, to reduce costs and resource consumption and to engage more effectively and actively with the citizens. The Key smart sectors include transport, energy, health care, water and waste. A smart city should be able to respond faster to urban and global challenges than one with a simple ‘transactional’ relationship with its citizens”.

In other words: “Interest in smart cities is motivated by major challenges, including climate change, economic restructuring, retail and entertainment services moving online, ageing populations, and pressures on public finances”. The terms ‘intelligent city’ and ‘digital city’ are also used.