

Preface

In the early twenty-first century, the rapid transition to a highly urbanized population has made societies and their governments around the world to be meeting unprecedented challenges regarding key themes such as sustainable development, education, energy and the environment, and safety and public services among others. The availability of ubiquitous Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in smart cities stimulates the development of new services and applications, and creates environment more efficient in collaborative problem-solving and innovation. This use of new technologies is thought to rationalize and improve government and have the potential to transform governance and organizational issues.

Governments in smart cities are, therefore, taking advantage of modern ICT infrastructure, e-government, and the newly empowered citizenry, seeking to produce higher outcomes regarding wealth and public value in the city. So the innovation and the application of smart technologies to city management are two critical issues in smart cities nowadays. This is why I thought interesting to focus my efforts in editing a book on smart technologies and its use by governments in smart cities, with the aim at helping public managers, policymakers, and citizenry in is showing some practices that could help them to make cities become smart as well as to know the possible changes or transformation into organizational issues.

The authors of the chapters in this publication have contributed to the success of our work by the inclusion of their respective studies. This book, consisting of 10 chapters, is divided into three parts: smart technologies implemented in public sector entities for improving transparency and interoperability, smart technologies implemented in public sector entities for improving efficiency, and organizational issues in the implementation of smart technologies in public sector entities. Also, a chapter for introducing the book and a conclusion chapter has been written with the aim of analyzing smart technologies used by governments in smart cities to promote e-services and e-participation.

In the introduction chapter, the authors explain the relevance of analyzing smart technologies used by governments in smart cities for improving e-services and e-participation. In addition, they make a review of main smart cities in Europe showing their practice and implementation in these technologies. Later, the first part

of this book has sought to analyze smart projects driven to improve government transparency including open data projects and other technologies that allow the disclosure of government information and interoperability.

This way, the authors of Chapter “[Smart Cities, Transparency, Civic Technology and Reinventing Government](#)” look at the potential of the civic technology movement to enhance the development of smart cities and the smart city movement. Indeed, according to these authors, the radical idea behind the civic technology movement is its use of twenty-first century ICT tools and the new modes of social interaction which facilitate to break down the boundaries between local government organizations and the constituencies they serve.

So, the authors of Chapter “[Governing the Complexity of Smart Data Cities: Setting a Research Agenda](#)” propose new research directions for the policy aspects of smart cities, asking in particular about the possible contradictory interests of city governments and the ICT sector on the one hand, and of city governments and hyper informed citizens on the other. This hyper-informed societies also lead to the implementation of semantic web technologies to link open government data with the aim of supporting development of innovative and intelligent applications that improve openness and transparency and deliver a smart environment for smart living (Chapter “[Semantic Technologies in E-Government: Toward Openness and Transparency](#)”). Finally, authors have tried an overview of the technologies that are available for transparency in smart cities, and presented lessons learned from cases the authors have been involved in (Chapter “[The Transparent Smart City](#)”).

In the second part of the book, authors have performed studies to show experiences in smart projects implemented for improving efficiency in public actions. In this regard, Chapter “[Making EU Justice Smart? Looking into the Implementation of New Technologies to Improve the Efficiency of Cross Border Justice Services Delivery](#)” has been addressed to analyze the digitalization of the justice procedures (e-justice) and how a service can support the main elements of smartness in the e-justice context. Then the authors of Chapter “[Co-Producing Smart City Services: Does one Size fit all?](#)” have focused their study in analyzing the efficiency of public services into a smart city context. In brief, they have explored the methods, tools, and techniques for managing smart city services effectively, and the skills required to do so, drawing on both literature and empirical data.

The third part of the book is constituted by a collection of chapters addressed to analyze the organizational issues in the implementation of Smart technologies in public sector entities. So, Chapter “[The RECI Network \(Spanish Network of Smart Cities\) Making Policies More Future Proof?](#)” analyses the incentives for promoting the implementation of smart technologies in cities from the point of view of organizational matters, and analyses the Spanish Network of Smart Cities (RECI) and its effect on the successful governance of smart cities in Spain. Then, authors of Chapter “[Money Matters? A Qualitative Study of the Funding Organizations as Parts of Smart Cities and Innovative Development](#)” examine funding organizations in the context of smart cities and innovative development and put emphases on the differentiated views that the funding organizations have concerning the conceptualization and understanding of national and regional innovation systems.

Finally, in the conclusions and future research section, the book includes one chapter summarizing the findings of the contributions published in the earlier parts of the book in order to obtain interesting conclusions for theoretical contributions and future strategies in the Smart Cities area.

Therefore, the chapters included in this book incorporate both theoretical and practical aspects, and serve as baseline information for future research through which significant developments in smart technologies and smart cities can be expected. This book will be of great interest to the public managers, practitioners, policymakers, citizens, and research scientists working in the area of smart cities and smart governance.

With great pleasure, we extend our sincere thanks to all our well-qualified and internationally renowned contributors from different countries for providing the important, authoritative, and cutting-edge scientific information to make this book a reality. All the chapters are well supported with appropriately placed tables and figures and enriched with up-to-date information. We are also thankful to the reviewers who carefully and timely reviewed the manuscript.

We are extremely thankful to the Springer for the great efforts of the book publishing team especially Lorraine Klimowich and Kelly Daugherty, Editor and Associate Editor, in responding to all queries very promptly. We express sincere thanks to my family for all the support they provided, and regret the neglect and loss they suffered during the preparation of this book.

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