

SIMPLE WAYS TO BE SMART

Presented by:
Judy Backhouse, U4SSC Thematic Leader
7 December 2021



Introduction

- Smart solutions promise to improve city administration, decision-making, infrastructure, quality of life, economic success and communication.
- Often they involve substantial investments in high-tech infrastructure and innovative systems.
- Many cities, especially smaller cities and those in developing countries, have to balance resources for smart projects against other priorities and lack high-level skills needed to implement smart city solutions.
- Such cities can still be smarter, with simple, low-cost solutions. Using e-mail more effectively, cloud storage, map services, digital forms, social media and mobile apps are potential simple, smart solutions.

Publication aims

- Define simple, smart solutions
- Collect examples of solutions, the problems they address, the resources needed and the benefits that can be expected
- Point readers to more detailed information about these solutions
- Analyse the types of solutions available
- Guide cities in the implementation of such solutions

Process

- Recruited more than 100 experts
- Developed criteria for case selection
- Developed template for contributions
- More than 30 cases were discussed
- Input from local government representatives about needs
- 10 cases selected
- Drafts of report chapters
- Report consolidation

Timelines

- Began in February 2020
- Collected cases April 2020 – June 2020
- Report drafting July 2020 – October 2020
- Final publication March 2021
- Results presented in a workshop at WSIS in March 2021

Selection criteria

Smart solutions are considered simple when...

- Low cost
- Shows returns within a year
- Can start small and be scaled
- Uses proven technologies
- Uses skills that exist in the city
- Low complexity
- Sustainable

Types of solutions identified

Five types of solutions were identified:

- Improve city administration
- Provide environmental benefits
- Change the role of people in the city
- Improve the experience of the city
- Increase the city's resilience

Report structure

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**
 - Background, definitions and understandings
 - Purpose of the report and the target audience
 - Criteria for simple and smart
- **Chapter 2: Why smart matters**
 - Challenges that cities face, particularly smaller and less prominent cities
 - The need for innovation and the potential of smart solutions
- **Chapter 3: Ways to be smarter**
 - About the themes and cases
 - Five themes, 2 cases in each
- **Chapter 4: A simple smart framework**
 - Framework for understanding simple smart
 - How changes in information and communication enable different city actions and outcomes
- **Chapter 5: Implementing simple smart**
 - Notes for cities on planning, building information capabilities, partnering and measuring
- **Chapter 6: Conclusion**

For more information, please contact:

JUDY BACKHOUSE

backhouse@unu.edu

U4SSC website:

<https://www.itu.int/go/u4ssc>

Thank you!

