Simple Ways to be Smart

Judy Backhouse

United Nations University

Simple Ways to be Smart: 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.

- This guide aims to:

  - 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, and
  - Guide cities in the implementation of such solutions.

Simple Ways to be Smart: Status update

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

- Case selection

- Groups contributed to report chapters

- Report consolidation is underway

Timeframes

- Began in February 2020

- Collected cases April 2020 – June 2020

- Drafting report since July 2020

- Complete draft by 15 October (meeting 7) to share with members

Simple Ways to be Smart: Report structure

Chapter 1: Introduction
- Background on smart cities, definitions and understandings
- Purpose of the report and the target audience
- Explains what we mean by 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
  - City administration
  - Environment
  - People
  - City experience
  - City resilience

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