



Crowdsourcing Urban Sustainability Governance (CROWD_USG)

A booklet for Policy and Action

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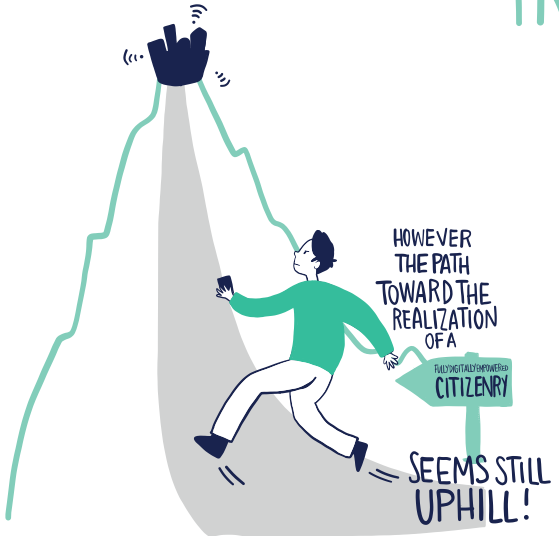
Centrum voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling
Centre for Sustainable Development - Ghent University

FUTURISTIC FANTASIES DEPICT SCENARIOS OF INTELLIGENT CITIES PLANNED, MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY HIGHLY INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS WHOSE CHARACTER NOT ONLY ALLOWS BUT ALSO

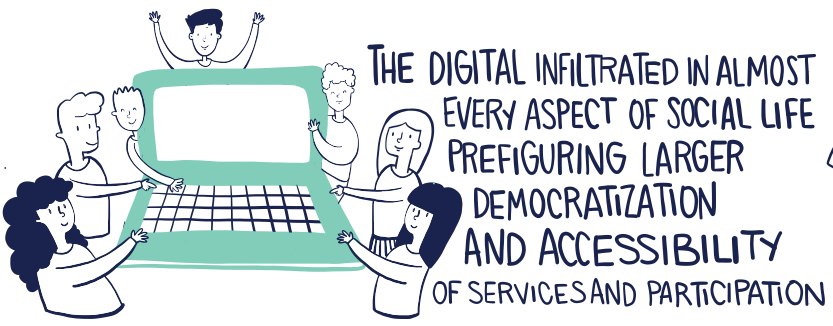


INDUCE PEOPLE PARTICIPATION

THE AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL AND INTERACTIVE TOOLS AND SOFTWARE HAS BEEN WELCOMED AS A REVOLUTIONARY POSSIBILITY FOR ENLARGING THE SPHERE OF PUBLIC DEBATE, IN **GOVERNMENT** AND **GOVERNANCE PROCESSES**

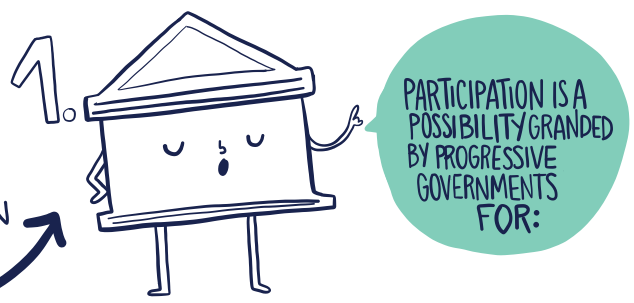


CRITICAL STUDIES OF INTERNET AND SOCIETY ARE ATTACHING ATTENTION TO THE ACTUAL POSSIBILITIES, INTRINSIC LIMITS AND EXTERNAL OBSTACLES THAT REQUIRE US TO RECONSIDER THE PROMISES OF TECHNOLOGICAL CITIZENRY



THE DIGITAL INFILTRATED IN ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF SOCIAL LIFE PREFIGURING LARGER DEMOCRATIZATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES AND PARTICIPATION

3 POINTS NEED TO BE FLAGGED



- ☐ RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT COLLECTIVE ISSUES
- ☐ SHARING RESPONSIBILITY ABOUT DECISION-MAKING
- ☐ OUTSOURCING PART OF MANAGING PROCESSES

PARTICIPATION

IS A GENERAL TERMS ENCOMPASSING A WIDE VARIETY OF AGENCY FORMS

IT IS CLEAR THAT CITIZENS ARE INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN:

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

2. THERE ARE DIFFERENT DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION



3. IT CANNOT BE ASSUMED THAT PARTICIPATION IN ITSELF IS A POSITIVE THING



PARTICIPATION IN LAWBREAKING MIGHT NOT ALWAYS INCREASE THE DEMOCRATIC QUALITY OF SOCIETY

WHILE THIS MIGHT NOT THE CASE FOR GOVERNMENT-LED PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES, THE SAME DON'T APPLY TO CITIZENS-LED INITIATIVES WHOSE VARIETY, MULTIPLICATOR EFFECTS AND UNCONTROLLABLE CHARACTER REQUIRE A SPECIAL CONSIDERATION



DSP
DIGITAL SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

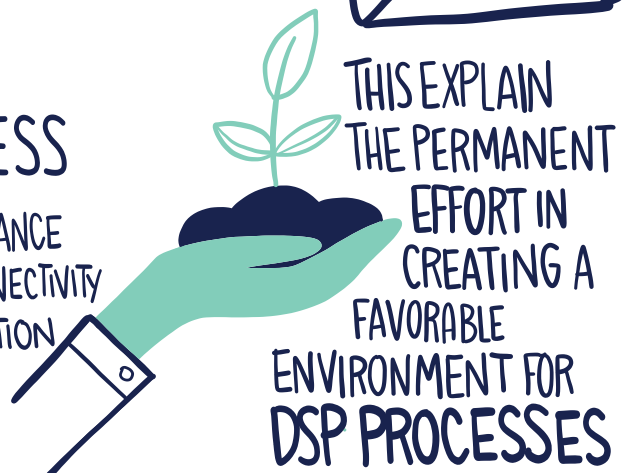
THE RESULT OF PEOPLE'S POSSIBILITY, CAPABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PART IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE VIA THE USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS AND PROCESSES



PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIVENESS: BEING (VIRTUALLY) ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYBODY

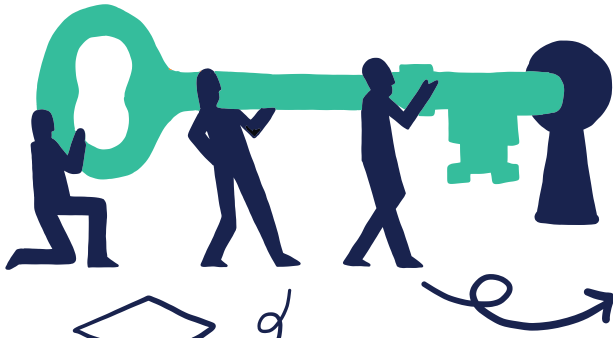
ICT PROCESS

ARE REPORTED TO ENHANCE THE SCALABILITY AND CONNECTIVITY OF KNOWLEDGE-GENERATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES



THIS EXPLAIN THE PERMANENT EFFORT IN CREATING A FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR DSP PROCESSES

THE BROADENING OF TECHNOLOGICAL ACCESS HAS BEEN WELCOMED AS IMMEDIATE ENABLING CONDITION FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION...



BUT:

THE MERE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION, DOES NOT NECESSARY MAKE THE PEOPLE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AND ABLE TO USE DSP TECHNOLOGIES



ACCESS POSSIBILITIES ALSO REFER TO THE CAPABILITY FOR TAKING PART IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE BECAUSE THE NECESSARY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE IS PRESENT



THIS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN EFFECTIVE REDISTRIBUTIVE MEASURE

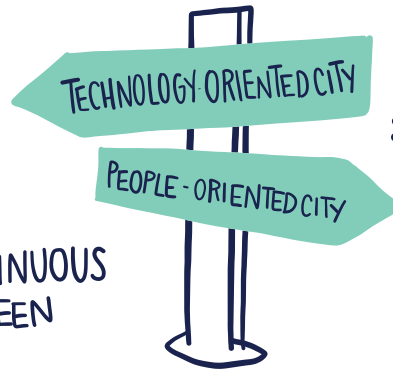
THE MAIN ISSUE AT THE STAKE IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS **EMPOWERMENT***



[* THE HANDING OVER THE POWER TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN POWER.]

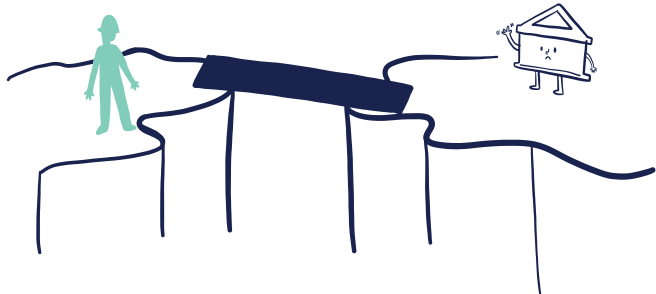


THERE IS A CONTINUOUS TENSION BETWEEN



= TENSION BETWEEN "A DE-POLITICIZED TECHNOCRATIC METHOD AND A STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE"

THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ELIMINATE THE GAP BETWEEN CITIZENS and INSTITUTIONS



AND CAN REINVIGORATE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ALLOWING CITIZENS TO ENTER PUBLIC DEBATE RESHAPE EXISTING GOVERNANCE CONFIGURATIONS

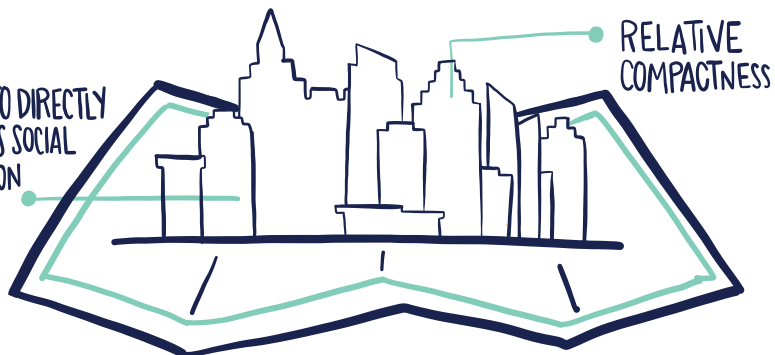


THE DSP IMPERATIVE PERMEATES THE BLUEPRINTS FOR



THE URBAN CONTEXT PROVED TO BE THE PREFERRED ONE FOR EXPERIMENTING WITH DSP IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

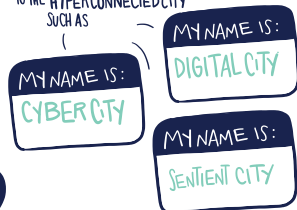
POSSIBILITY TO DIRECTLY DEAL WITH ITS SOCIAL COMPOSITION



AIMED AT FOSTERING BETTER CONDITIONS OF LIFE NOT ONLY WORKING for THE CITIZENS, BUT WORKING with THE CITIZENS



THE DIGITAL TURN GAVE DIFFERENT NAME TO THE HYPERCONNECTED CITY SUCH AS



IN THE CITY NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATION OPENED BY DIGITAL TOOLS, PAVED THE WAY FOR INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE OVER TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT FORMS

THE NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL IS CHARACTERIZED BY DISTRIBUTED TECHNOLOGICAL AGENCY IN DEMAND-DRIVEN PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES.



THIS RE-SHAPE TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES OFFERING NEW POSSIBILITIES IN

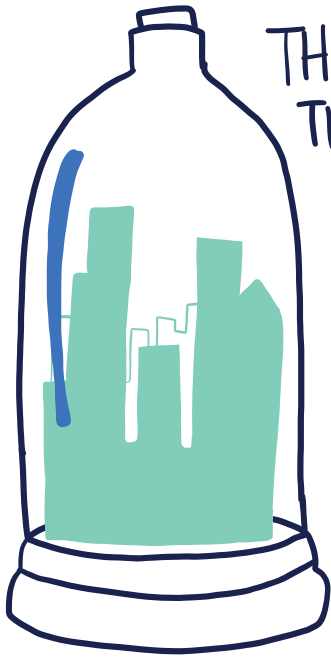
- INFORMATION-HARVESTING
- ADVISING ABOUT WHAT ACTIONS ARE ADVISABLE TO BE TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION
- PROVIDING INNOVATE IDEAS ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

A NUMBER OF CONCERNS AND CRITIQUES ARE MOUNTING



THE TECHNOLOGICAL FETISHISM PROPOSES AN IMAGE OF THE CITY MONITORED IN REALTIME AND CONTROLLED AT A DISTANCE





THE SCEPTICISM ABOUT
THE DIGITAL TURN IS CONFIRMED
BY THE CREATION OF HIGHLY
TECHNOLOGICAL NEW CITIES
RUN BY PRIVATE COMPANIES



ECONOMIC
INTERESTS

MASSIVE INTERVENTION OF PRIVATE
COMPANIES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
GENERATE

