

# Smart and Emotional Cities: Key to urban Sustainability.

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## Abstract

“Smart cities” are a functional concept.

Smart cities are using information and modern communications technology to connect urban activities hitherto unconnected, such as land use, including heritage and resource conservation, energy use and mobility.

This functional concept has become a buzzword, enhanced by the media and supported by interests including, among others, the producers of knowledge-based services making use of “big-data” collecting.

The concept of “smart cities” can apply to “connected” individual buildings, neighbourhoods, entire cities, and conurbations.

“Emotional cities” appeal to their citizens and visitors by their quality of life and their identity. Beyond the Gross Development Product statistics, quality of life includes perceived quality of air, water and health. The continuity of their urban landscapes invites to leisure activities (“green and blue” trails). It offers diversity of views as experienced by users of the street level (“views from the street” rather than “views from the road”). It offers open spaces, squares, trees and gardens, fountains, and canopies, all designed for both walking and sitting urban users, and an overall urban density propitious to informal contacts, as opposed to undefined urban spread.

Combining on the one hand the “smart cities” functionalities that enhance availability of urban services, safety and security for all, and on the other hand the “emotional cities” qualitative appeal to their citizens and users, is perhaps a key to urban sustainability and adaptation to unavoidable economic, social and disruptive technical changes affecting cities.

Keywords Smart \_\_ Big data \_\_ Energy \_\_ quality of life \_\_ Assessment

Global \_\_ Local \_\_ Sustainable