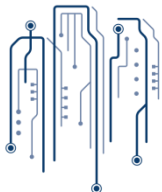


The impact of local contingencies and wider structural contexts on smart city implementation

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Summary of research

- Focused on the practicalities of implementing smart city initiatives in two research sites: Dublin and Boston.
- Dublin case reviewed a feasibility study into the possibility of introducing a smart lighting system.
- Case involved collaborating with both members of the lighting department, wider sections within DCC, and people outside the council connected with business advocacy associations and environmental concerns
- Boston case analysed the city's Constituent Relationship Management system, BOS:311



Key findings

- Wider structural contexts with respect to the development of the smart city have resulted in the reproduction of a series of patterns, i.e., an emphasis on pilot projects, innovation districts, and an emphasis on citizen engagement
- The presence or absence of any meaningful regime or coalition of partners mitigated whether or not either initiatives were successful
- BOS:311 was implemented on the back of initial decisions from the previous mayor, various champions within a myriad of departments, and as a result of a data-driven logic driven by the current incumbent
- The lighting project was hampered by a weak regime building capacity and the absence of any vision for lighting in the city, resulting in its subsequent secondment by the smart city

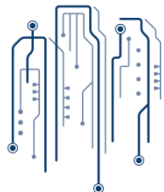


Key lessons

- The implementation of smart city projects should be viewed as a political issue as opposed to a principally technological prospect
- Top-down commitment in conjunction with bottom-up collaboration and a genuine governing capacity is required for projects to prove successful
- Pilot schemes need to transcend best-case locations and innovation districts in the hope of acquiring key insights towards wider city-scale implementation
- Issues related to the incorporation of citizens viewpoints and the digital divide should be placed to the forefront

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