City standards

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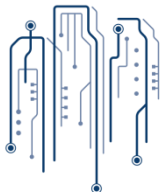
Summary of research

- case studies
  - ISO 37105: Descriptive framework for cities and communities
  - ISO 37106: Guidance on establishing smart city operating models for sustainable communities
  - ISO 37120: Indicators for city services and quality of life
- research methods
  - 51 semi-structured interviews
  - document analysis
- location of research
  - Barcelona, Boston, Dublin, London, Melbourne and Toronto
  - Skype: Bristol, Brussels, Dubai, Glasgow, Minna (Nigeria), Peterborough and San Francisco
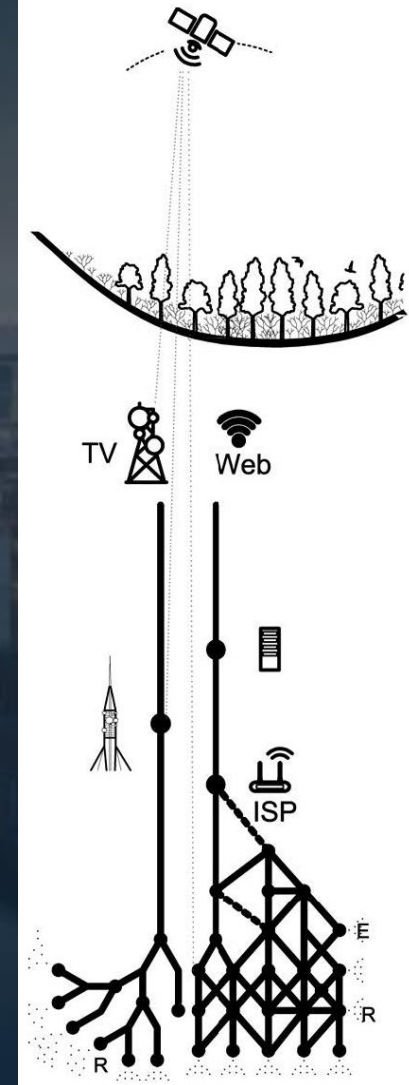
Key findings

- city standards are not like shipping container standards
  - represent a range of opinions on urban infrastructure, governance, sustainability and information technology
- what the standards hope to achieve
  - facilitate inter-city communication and knowledge exchange
  - integrate urban systems and data generated about them
  - make city data internationally comparable
  - spread tools and techniques for managing cities
- based on three ideal organisational forms
 - systems
  - markets
  - networks

Key lessons

- get involved in making standards
  - National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)
  - ISO/TC 268: Sustainable Cities and Communities
  - mirror committee
- how to engage with city standards
  - think in terms of open systems rather than closed systems
  - question the logic of silo busting
  - question the commissioner model of service provision
  - do not be afraid to insist on local sovereignty over data and metadata
  - global indicators are not a replacement for local, geographically sensitive analysis

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White, J.M. (forthcoming) Politicising smart city standards. In Coletta, C., Evans, L., Heaphy, L., and Kitchin, R. (eds) *Creating Smart Cities*. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
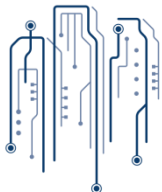
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