

\*\*\*Call\*\*\*

## **Governance of socio-technical transformation towards smart cities**

### Agenda for a GoST Workshop / a Special Issue

The objective of this workshop and the related special issue is to take stock of GoST research on smart cities/ urban digitalization.

Hundreds of cities worldwide are currently undergoing transformation processes based on the promise of using “smart” technologies in order to meet the sustainability challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Following the GoST approach, the workshop seeks to explore crucial but neglected governance issues in areas of urban digital infrastructure/ smart cities by uncovering multi-dimensionality and temporalities of socio-technical transformations. Based on case studies in a variety of countries, we seek to explore how transformations towards smart city are governed, by whom, to what end, and with what consequences.

We invite specifically topic-focused contributions from the GoST project that examine ideas of the smart city and ways how to govern socio-technical transformations towards smart cities in just and democratic way. We welcome:

- Contributions that illustrate why the STI framework provides a useful lens for interrogating dominant assumptions, promises and understandings concerning smart city, including divergent understandings of the common good
- Case studies of/ comparisons between the temporality and performativity of smart city visions
- Comparisons of futures of ‘smart cities’ with other ‘abstract futures’ in the domain of T2S or in other domains (such as Net Zero)
- Studies of the historical provenance of smart city discourses and how expertise shaped its adoption (where the smart city comes from and how the vision is made)
- Research on how the smart city discourse is related to particular ways of knowing that shape modes and styles of governing it (including questions such as: who gets to imagine smart cities, how is the smart citizen imagined and how have civil society actors and most vulnerable groups been invited? Who *owns* the smart city? What role for foreign investors and international agencies?)
- Research on the entanglement between global, national, local and project-related politics of Smart cities (multi-scale nature of the topic and related questions of subsidiarity)
- Research on how smart city discourses has become a controversial and politicized terrain of configuration for essentially conflicting interests concerning long-term sustainable transformation
- Studies of the pandemic as constitutional moment for enabling digital technologies? How is the pandemic framed – as opportunity or crisis for the smart city / for reaching sustainability?