1st ASCIMER WORKSHOP

Focus groups

European Investment Bank · Institute

POLITÉCNICA

ASCIMER
ASSESSING SMART CITY INITIATIVES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

http://eiburs-ascimer.transyt-projects.com/
1st Focus Group
Wednesday, 16th of July 2014, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Number of participants: 18 + 17

1ST FOCUS GROUP GUIDELINES

KEY ELEMENTS OF SMART CITY PROJECTS

Background

This morning we have deepened the concept of Smart City from different approaches and we have introduced most of the challenges that cities are already facing and will face in the following years. Besides, we have described some projects that we considered "Smart Projects".

As all of you already know, the overall goal of the ASCIMER project is to develop a comprehensive framework to help public and private stakeholders to make informed decisions about Smart City investment strategies and to build skills to evaluate and prioritize these kinds of projects, including solving difficulties regarding deployment and transferability.

Since we want to develop an assessment methodology for Smart City Projects, we first need to know what makes a project smart. Therefore we need to define what the main characteristics of a Smart City Project are.

Besides, once we discuss the characteristics of a Smart Project we should determine if all kind of Smart Projects can be considered Smart City Projects to be evaluated by the ASCIMER methodology.

Main objectives of this focus group

This focus group aims to:

- Understand what a Smart Project is
- Determine which are the elements that make a Project Smart
- Differentiate city-level projects and user-level projects (top-down vs. bottom-up initiatives)
- Establish what kind of projects are going to be evaluated by the ASCIMER methodology

Guiding questions

- What characteristics should a project have to be considered Smart?
- What are the differences implied in the Smart term?
- How many Smart city projects are necessary to make a city Smart? Is there any kind of regulation about this in your country?
- What is the key factor, or factors, that turn a city into Smart?
- What are the main actors required to develop a Smart City project: public institutions, private companies, universities, research centers, NGOs?
- Are all the Smart City Action Fields equally relevant for the ASCIMER methodology? Should we focus only in city-level projects? How could an user-level (bottom up) Smart Project be funded?

Examples

a) Green Navigation

Description of the measure: Routing recommendations based on the calculation of the fastest route, environmental impact and real-time traffic situation. Information may be provided via a PDA or mobile phone

Discussion:
Do you consider Green Navigation a Smart Project? Do you consider it a Smart City Project?

Since it uses real time information to evaluate the environmental impact and the travel time of a trip, we think that Green Navigation is Smart Project.
However, we don´t think it is a Smart CITY project because it is not an initiative that could be implemented at city-level. It depends on the car maker (when it is embedded in the vehicle) or on the user decision (buying a GPS with this technology).
Nevertheless, it will depend on the city managers to provide real-time information to feed these devices.

b) Bike sharing

Description: Bike-sharing schemes are proved to be sustainable projects from environmental, economic and social approaches. It promotes a soft transport mode with no emissions during operation and that aims to reduce congestion and its impacts.

Discussion:

Bike-sharing programs are sustainable projects, what do they need to become a Smart Project?