



Climate-KIC

Innovative Approaches and Smart Cities: Why It is Important and How to Develop Them?



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The Shifting Policy Context

In its 'Flagship Initiative: Innovation Union' the EU emphasised that in a global environment, Europe must develop its own distinctive approach by:

- Focusing on innovations that address the major societal challenges identified in Europe 2020
- Pursuing a broad concept of innovation, both research-driven innovation and innovation in business models, design, branding and services that add value for users
- Involving all actors and all regions in the innovation cycle

So broad in scope and in stakeholders; covers the social as well as the technical; not a top-down, elite dominated process.

EU Urban Agenda offers new form of multilevel, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.



Same principles for the ‘smart’ agenda

- Smart agenda needs to apply these principles.
- Be at service of citizens: not a regime of ‘techies’ who speak in a jargon of their own.
- Hipsters have their place: alongside citizens and users, not apart from them.
- Innovative approaches have to engage on a broad basis and address needs of stakeholders and users.
- Look at responding to the climate change challenge.
- Take the issue of mobility. One of the EU Urban Agenda’s 12 priority themes.
- How can smart cities and smart innovators link to the mobility challenge? And help citizens, institutions, transport agencies to shift mobility patterns, reduce CO2 emissions, improve air quality.

Developing a new mobility culture

Examples from our Transition Cities programme.

Assess the transport patterns and mobility needs of a city.

Bring key stakeholders together.

Examples. 1. Integrated mobility cards. Frankfurt.

Trying to link bus, metro, regional trains. But also bike hire and car sharing all on one card. Integrated across different agencies.

2. Electric vehicle charging stations. Valencia.

Piloting a smart card that maps EV points; takes payment; but also books the slot. Crucial to reduce time wasted waiting for a charging point.



Modena : making the mobility transition

Assessed current mobility projects; Developed network maps;

Brought policy-makers and key stakeholders together.

Identified three priorities.

- Promotion of innovative products / services for bike mobility,
- Promotion of services for sustainable mobility of the tourists;
- Development of ICT systems to promote intermodality.

Wecity 2.0.

Using technology to re-shape urban planning.

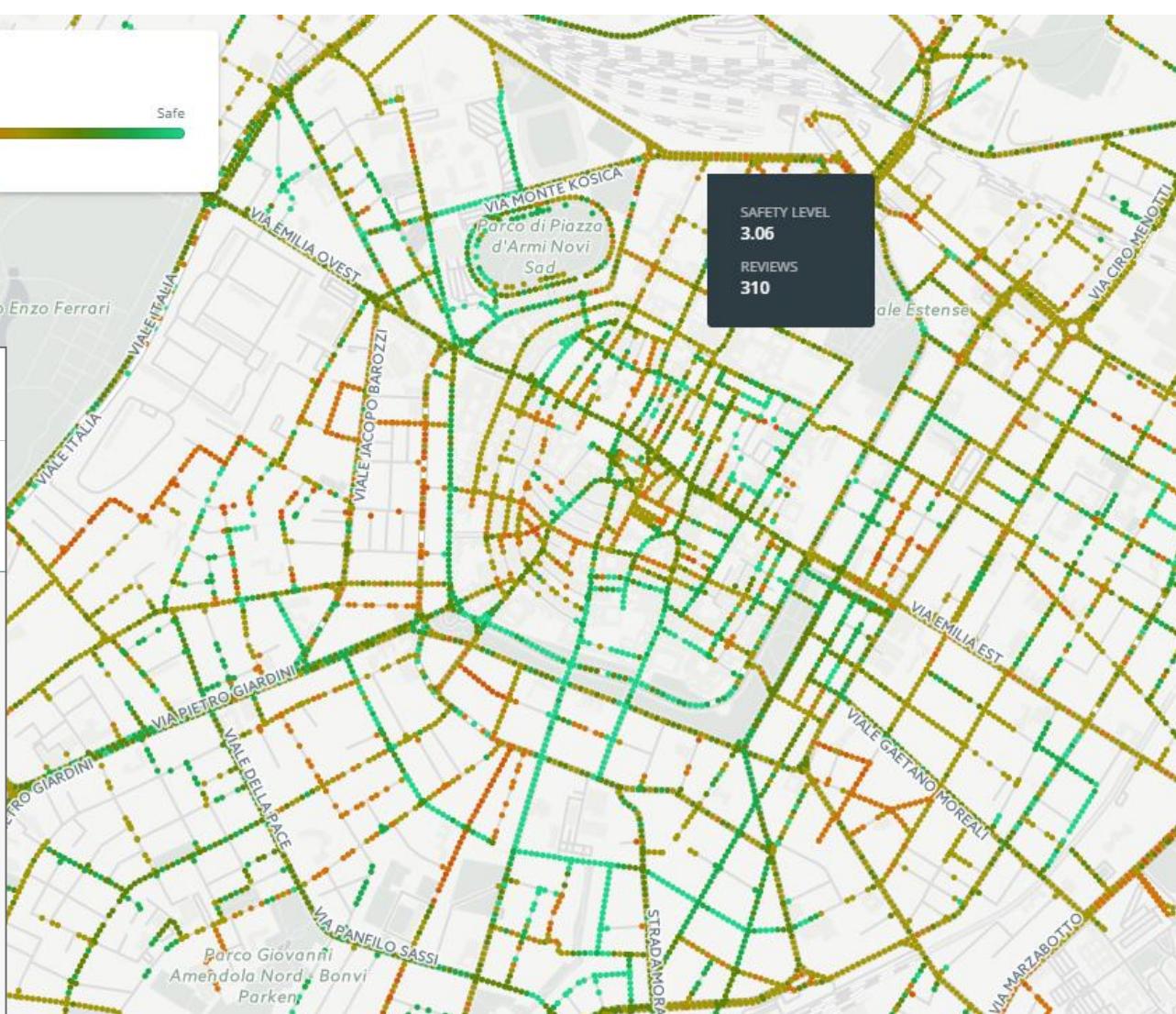
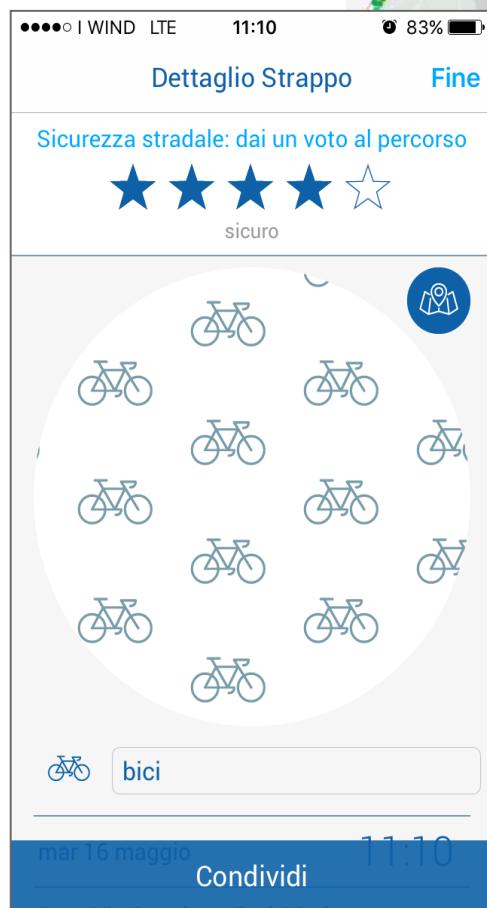
Cyclists use an app to report on the safety of their city journeys and the danger points.

Data turned into a map. Shows where public authority needs to intervene. Using people's experiences to shape urban planning.

Addresses a key issue stopping wider cycle usage: the fear that cycling is not safe.



Safety level map from Wecity users' reviews



From the margin to the mainstream

The key question, the big challenge for these projects and all JPI Initiatives. How can innovative niche projects become the norm? How do they move from the margin to the mainstream?

- “Knowledge on how Urban Areas evolve is fragmented and successful experience can be better valorised, diffused and exploited”
- The task is to create transition pathways and adopt systemic approaches to the big societal challenges in cities.

Transitions Hub: Climate KIC’s knowledge development centre is addressing this issue. For more details on its knowledge services contact:

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