

# Effective urban governance

including citizens' participation and new models of governance

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## Speakers

- Federico Savini, University of Amsterdam
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## Key Message:

- Whatever you do in urban research, you stumble across governance. Governance is a crosscutting issue
- In the Pact of Amsterdam, the notion of *effective urban governance* is used without any further definition. What is meant by it, for what purpose it should be effective for who remains open.
- In the JPI UE **AprilLab** lab project, three factors of governance have been identified. The interlinkage of the three makes city governance effective:
  - Environment
  - City-regional Economies
  - Urbanisation
- Legal frameworks have to be changed for eg. attracting new investors and to facilitate the implementation of new tech and solutions. Therefore, governance systems have to be flexible for just in time adjustments
- Unpacking regional inter dependencies for more participation is essential to adapt the expectations of all stakeholders in time and scale and to make the decision making procedures more inclusive.
- Contract based decisions between public, private and civic actors allow for diversity. However, more contracts require more public regulations (as guiding principles) if not they generate endless processes of re-negotiations. Therefore, time, human resources and money are required.
- Municipalities need to seriously take the long term and aggregated costs of small scale, incremental and on demand urban development into consideration.
- For effective governance, all elements need to be included. If not, it is simply efficient decision making. While effective governance might be more expensive, the benefits would be a more flexible and innovative governance model in the long run.
- The Interplay of social and technological innovation has the potential to transform current governance models.
- Cities look for more specific tailor-made solutions which are context specific.

- Effective urban governance is not about less spending but more on public risk, more management, more regulatory tools and more coordination
- The Interplay of social and technological innovation has the potential to transform current governance models
- New dynamics in social and technological innovation allow for new means of community engagement
- The challenges urban management is facing is the sum of multiple societal challenges (eg. climate change, environmental vulnerability finite resources)
- Urban Living labs deliver solutions in cities because they are contextualised in a specific urban space.
- One of the highest benefits of Urban Living Labs is the meeting place for various stakeholders and urban actors they create.
- The strict ownership of a problem shifts towards more co-ownership which brings in different dynamics in addressing them.
- Urban Living Labs are a good way to facilitate change towards new urban models and to convince wider groups in public administration.
- Engaging stakeholders can create political will. At the moment there is a failure to deliver solutions to complicated challenges.
- Governance is the creation of conditions and managing powers. Therefore, democratic legitimation is the first condition.
- Countries in Central Eastern Europe are yet to catch up with countries in North-West Europe in terms of governance models.