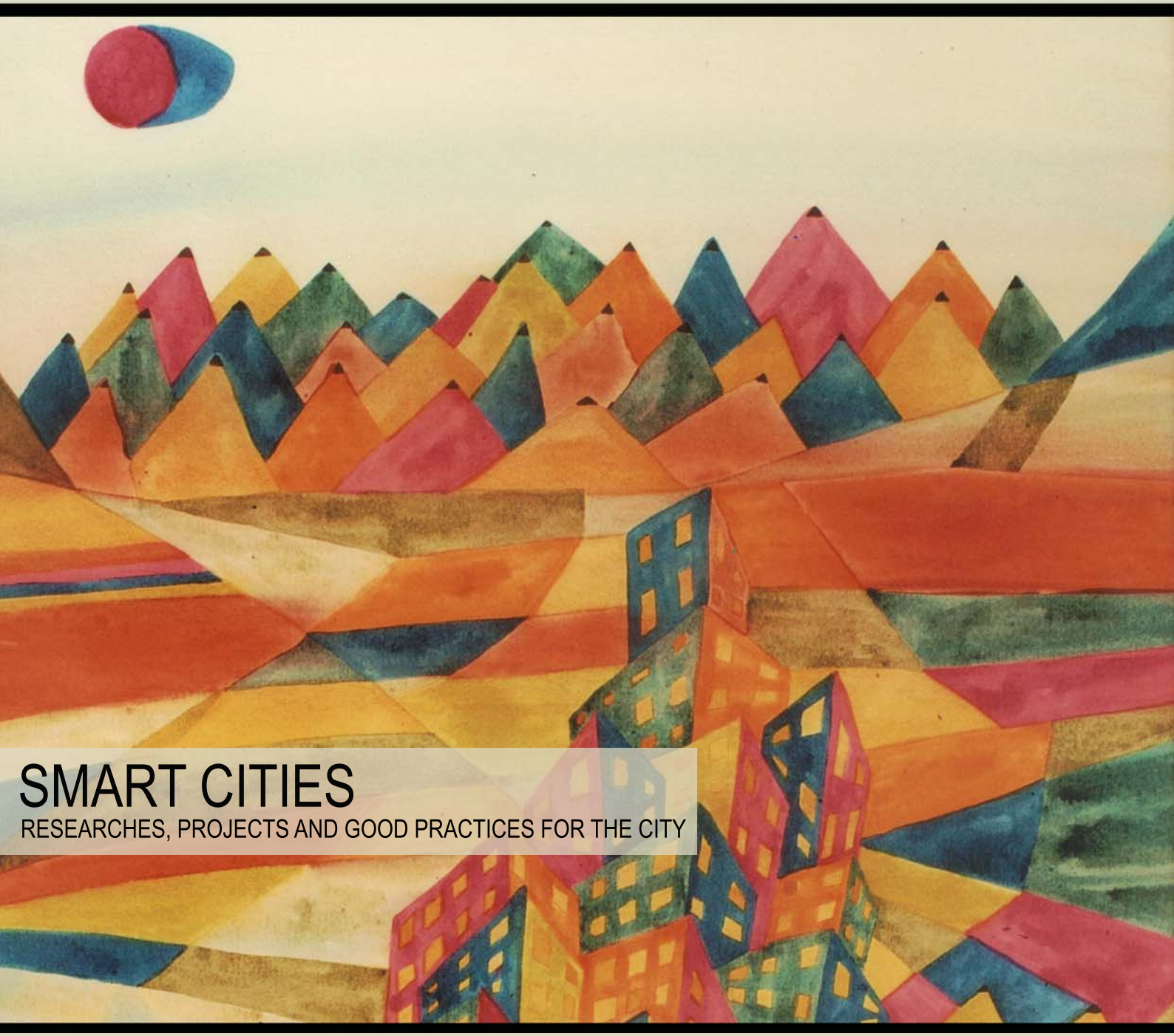
TeMA

Journal of
Land Use, Mobility and Environment

The concept of “Smart City”, providing a the solution for making cities more efficient and sustainable has been quite popular in the policy field in recent years. In the contemporary debate, the concept of smart cities is related to the utilization of networked infrastructure to improve economic and political efficiency and enable social, cultural and urban development.

Tema is the Journal of Land use, Mobility and Environment and offers papers with a unified approach to planning and mobility. TeMA Journal has also received the Sparc Europe Seal of Open Access Journals released by Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC Europe) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).



SMART CITIES

RESEARCHES, PROJECTS AND GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE CITY

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SMART CITIES: RESEARCHES, PROJECTS AND GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE CITY

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The concept of the smart city has been quite fashionable in the policy arena in recent years and the question of how we can live "smartly" in a city has become the focus of policymakers and private industry. The label smart city is still quite a fuzzy concept and is used in ways that are not always consistent. However, starting from a general definition, what is central to the concept of the Smart City and what makes it differ from 'sustainable cities' or 'ECO cities' is the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the process of creating a more sustainable city but also the availability and quality of knowledge communication and social infrastructure. Smart cities can be identified along six main axes or dimensions: a smart economy, smart mobility, a smart environment, smart people, smart living, smart governance.

Millions of euros are being invested in research, development and pioneer projects which tried to contribute to the construction of more intelligent urban areas. The European Union (EU), in particular, has devoted constant efforts to devising a strategy for achieving urban growth in a smart sense for its metropolitan city-regions.

However, after an enthusiastic first phase in which information technology and digital data were considered the solution for making cities far more efficient, some disappointing are growing around this theory. An article by Ludwig Siegele published in the Economist in 2012 analyses this phenomenon and describe the passage from top-down and bottom-up Smart Cities projects. He explain the main difference from the first Smart City ambitious projects that built shiny new metropolis on green fields—or in the desert as the famous Masdar in Abu Dhabi and the more democratic bottom up Smart City project developed in Amsterdam: a "smart-city platform" of institutions and infrastructure that helps businesses and citizens develop and test green projects. In the first top-down case the whole new cities are built from scratch and were thought holistically from the very beginning, the second case regards most European cities where the development towards becoming a Smart City happen within several bottom up stages. Some failures of the first and the achievements of the second, suggest that the smart cities of the future will not be those

created from the top down, but those that have grown organically more intelligent. This reinforce the concept according to which being a smart city, is not just about using less energy or being made of smart and reusable materials. It is about being able to function as an integral part of a larger system, that also regards participation, human capital, education and learning in urban development.

This first issue of TeMA, Journal of Land Use, Mobility and Environment, volume no.6 deals with the subject of Smart City with reference to the urban scale. Accordingly, the papers tackle the different aspects characterizing a smart urban development: ranging from the more specifically economic ones, targeted to the implementation of strategies expected to improve competitiveness of cities in the global scenario; to those more involved in environment questions aimed at identifying strategies for improving the city capability of facing the important challenges given by the ongoing climate change as well as by the ever-growing reduction of traditional energy resources, paying particular attention to the improvement of urban mobility and energy saving as well as of those connected with the quality of life of communities, with specific attention to the participation to decisions-making processes, equity in the access to resources, individual and collective safety, social cohesion.

In the FOCUS section the paper by Rocco Papa, Adriana Galderisi and Carmela Gargiulo focuses on the urban planners' perspective on Smart City. The paper by Corinna Morandi, Andrea Rolando and Stefano Di Vita present the research called "The smart region between Turin and Milan. Mobile services as drivers of spatial innovation towards Expo 2015" by Politecnico of Milan and Telecom Italia. The paper by Francesca Moraci and Celestina Fazia

proposes an idea of smart, secure and inclusive city. The work by Romano Fistola focus on the definition of Smart City bringing back the dynamics of development of the Smart Cities in their natural site of theoretical development.

The work by Alessandra Barresi and Gabriella Pultrone present the most recent studies and trials about innovation and competitiveness. The paper by Luigi Minozzi focuses on the study case of Siracusa, presenting the "Smarter Cities Challenge program", sponsored by IBM.

The LUME section includes papers on the general subject of the integration between land use, mobility and environment and in this issue proposes the study by Raffaele Pelorosso, Federica Gobattoni, Nicola Lopez, Antonio Leone with the title "Urban green and environmental processes: toward a multifunctional landscape design".

References:

Siegele L. (2012) Mining the urban data, The Economist June 2nd 2012