

Barometer 2017

State of development of Smart Cities in Belgium

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HOW IS THE SMART CITY CONCEPT PERCEIVED BY BELGIAN MUNICIPALITIES?

PERCEPTION

In Belgium, the municipalities perceive the Smart City mainly as:



The Smart City perception differs according to:

THE REGION



THE DEGREE OF RURALITY



However, when we ask the municipalities to rank the three Smart City components, **the human factor (# 1)** remains the most important.

Conclusion

Even if the Smart City concept is primarily seen as a major technological challenge by Belgian municipalities, the latter are not less sensitive to the fact that a smart city is, above all, interested in its citizens.

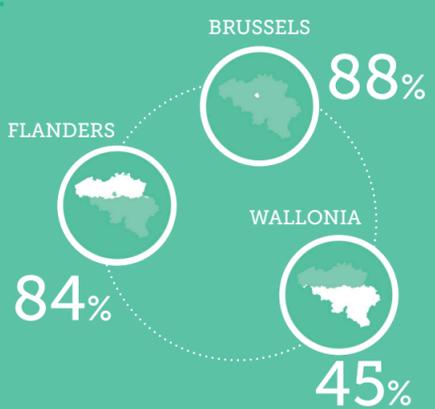
Do Belgian municipalities feel concerned by the Smart City phenomenon?

66%

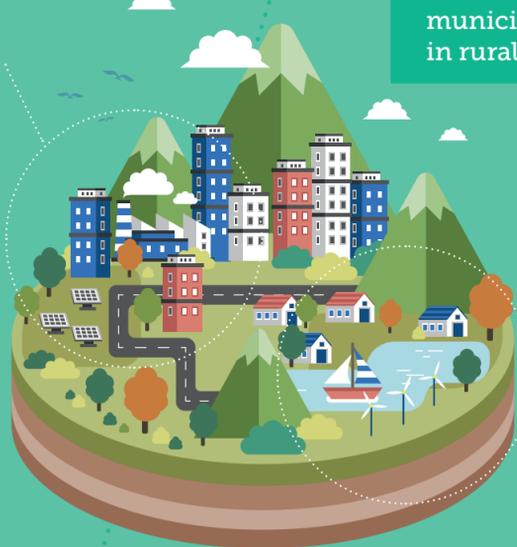
of the **Belgian** municipalities think that the Smart City concept is suitable for their territory.



AT REGIONAL LEVEL:



77% of the **urban** municipalities feel that the Smart City concept is suitable for their municipality,



This percentage is much smaller in Walloon municipalities and especially in rural areas.

whereas in rural areas this percentage hardly reaches 34%

The three smart dimensions that are perceived as essential to implement by the municipalities are:



SMART GOVERNANCE



SMART ENVIRONMENT



SMART MOBILITY



IMPLEMENTATION

HOW DO BELGIAN MUNICIPALITIES IMPLEMENT SMART CITY PROJECTS?



The implementation of Smart City projects is perceived as difficult or even very difficult.



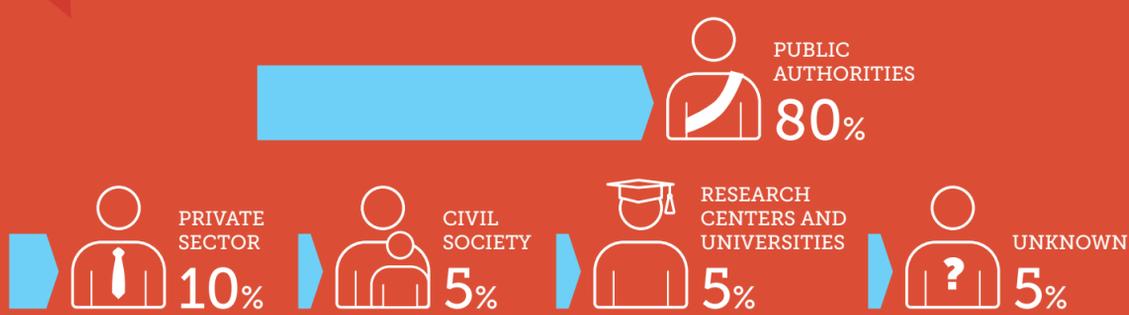
The main barriers for the implementation of smart projects are:

THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING

THE LACK OF EXPERTISE IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

THE COMPLEXITY OF MOBILISING AND ENGAGING DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

In general, public authorities take the lead in Smart City projects:



The participation of private actors, civil society and scientific experts remains very limited.

The main public stakeholders are:



MANAGEMENT

HOW DO BELGIAN MUNICIPALITIES MANAGE THE SMART CITY DYNAMICS?

87%

OF THE BELGIAN MUNICIPALITIES **DON'T HAVE** A SMART CITY STRATEGIC PLAN



IN BELGIUM **17** of questioned municipalities **HAVE HIRED A SMART CITY MANAGER**

NOT A SINGLE CITY HAS A SMART CITY DEPARTMENT

59% of the Smart City managers

WORK IN THE **STRATEGIC DEPARTMENT** OF THEIR MUNICIPALITY



www.smartcityinstitute.be • sci@ulg.ac.be • 04/232.73.55

This study has been carried out by the Smart City Institute (Population: 589 Belgian municipalities. Response rate: 19%).

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