

Smart Cities – what technology can bring, and what depends on us

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Smart cities are very much in the spotlight in recent years. Although there is no universally accepted general definition of smart cities, and civil engineers, sociologists, computer scientists or urban planners have all their own understanding of how a smart city should look like, there is a general consensus on the fact that sensing and communication technologies should be an important pillar different smart city applications and services could rely on. In this talk we will focus first on this technological background that is more and more advanced and deployed in smaller and larger cities around the globe. Specifically, we will analyze the areas of intelligent transportation systems (smart parking solutions, car sharing and carpooling services, vehicular communications and self-driving cars) and citizen safety (surveillance cameras and the cloud-based big data technologies behind). On the other hand, we will also discuss the role of people in these smart cities – how can we live together with these technologies, how can we accept the trade-offs they present to us, but also how can we become active innovators, shaping the smart environments around us but also the mindsets of our fellow citizens.