The Role of Citizens in the Smart City

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Smart cities

- Smart city is a concept
- Most definitions includes the use of computer technology
- Main objective is to improve quality of life for its citizens
 - Provide better services
 - Reduce environmental footprint, sustainability
 - Facilitate participation



Smart cities

"Projects of smart cities have an impact on the quality of life of citizens and aim to foster more informed, educated, and participatory citizens.

Additionally, smart cities initiatives allow members of the city to participate in the governance and management of the city and become active users"



Smart cities

Some application areas:

- Communication
- Culture
- Energy
- Environment/climate
- Health
- Tourism
- Transport





Smart Cities

- Many definitions include more administrative aspects:
 - Good governance
 - City management
- Where CITIZEN PARTICIPATION plays an important role



Big Data for Smart Cities

- Sensors
 - Including real-time video
- Human sensors
- Social media

Open data sets



Smart

- Smart city
- Smart buildings
- Smart devices

Smart citizens



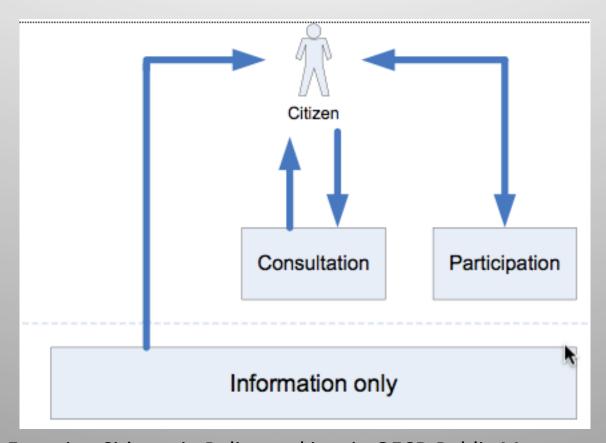
The Role of Citizens

Citizens can have different roles in the smart city:

- Political processes and decision-making
- Experts (sharing insight)
- Volunteers (sharing time)



OECD Model



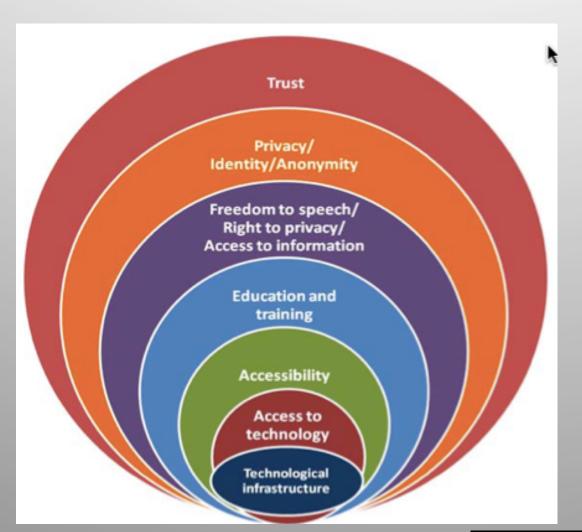
OECD, Engaging Citizens in Policy-making, in OECD Public Management Policy Brief. 2001, OECD: Paris, France.



Political participation

- In order to take active part in policy-making and political processes, the citizens need access to information
- The transparent smart city

Preconditions for participation



This model was presented at ICDS 2010 Berntzen, L. & Karamagioli, E. Regulatory Measures to Support eDemocracy IEEE Computer Society

Preconditions for user participation and involvement



Transparency

- Documents
- Meetings
- Processes
- Benchmarking
- Decision-makers and their agendas
- Disclosure



Documents

- Access to documents used in the political decision making processes
- Mail records

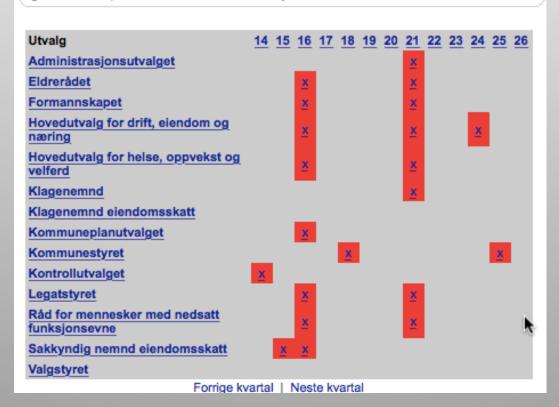
Meetings

- Agendas
- Proceedings (webcasts)
- Minutes

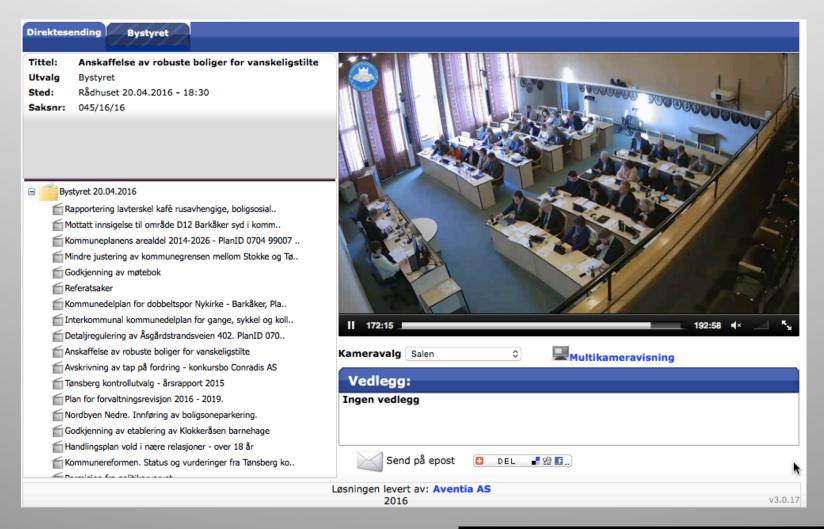
Meetings

Møteplan 2. kvartal 2016

Du ser her en liste over alle møtene det er sendt ut innkalling til, ordnet etter utvalg og ukenummer. Dersom du klikker på et ukenummer, får du en liste over alle møtene den uken, og ved å klikke på et møte får du mer informasjon om det.



Webcasting

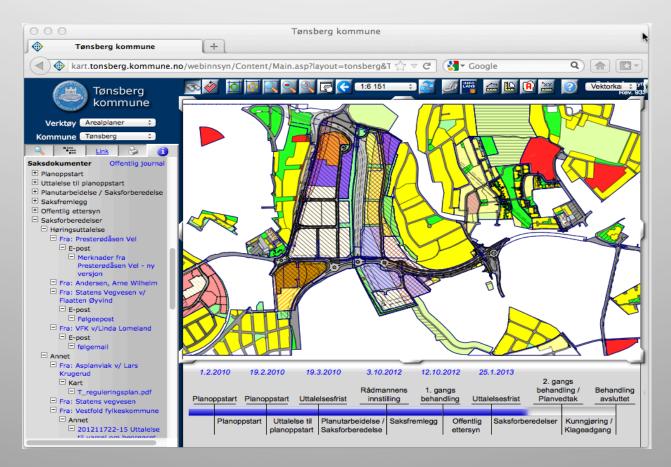


Processes

- It is important for citizens to understand the processes leading to the decisions
- Processes may be visualized as a flowchart
- Timeline



Digital Planning Dialog



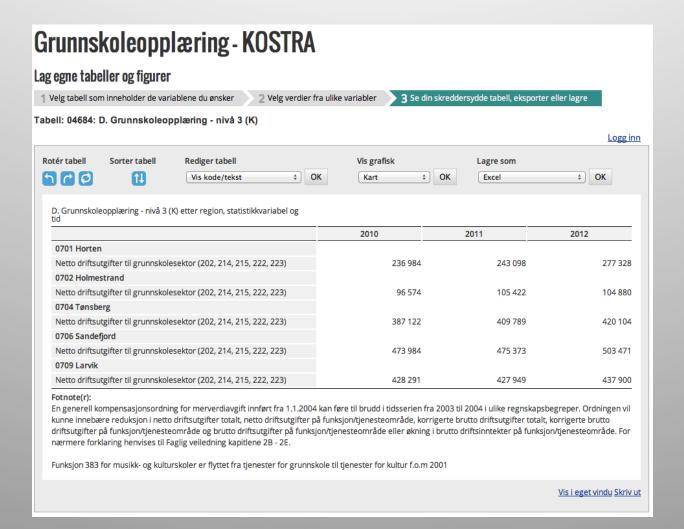
http://nettv.regjeringen.no/digitalt-planregister-og-plandialog



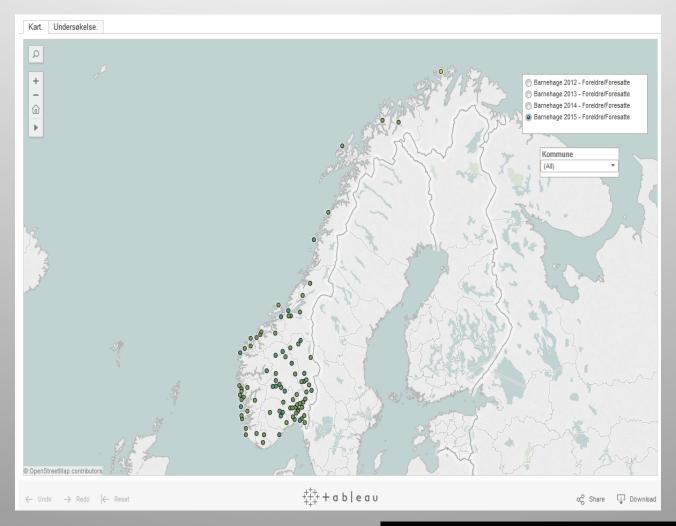
Benchmarking

- The possibility to compare how the city is doing compared to other cities.
- Indicators

KOSTRA



BedreKommune.no

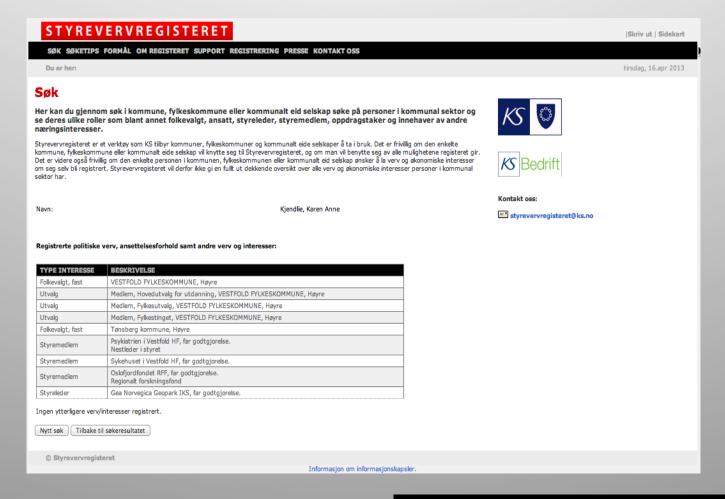


Decision makers

 The personal interests of decision makers should be known to the citizens



Register of interests





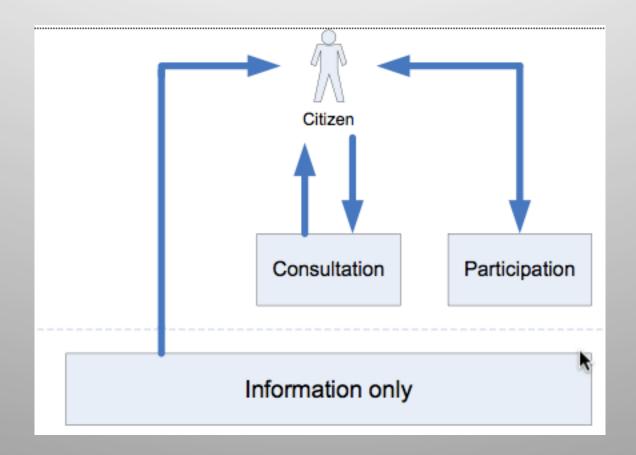
Disclosure

 Citizens should be able to ask for information regarding the running of the city.

Information

- Information (and Transparency) is important, not only for the citizens, but for employees, the press etc.
- No participation without informed citizens

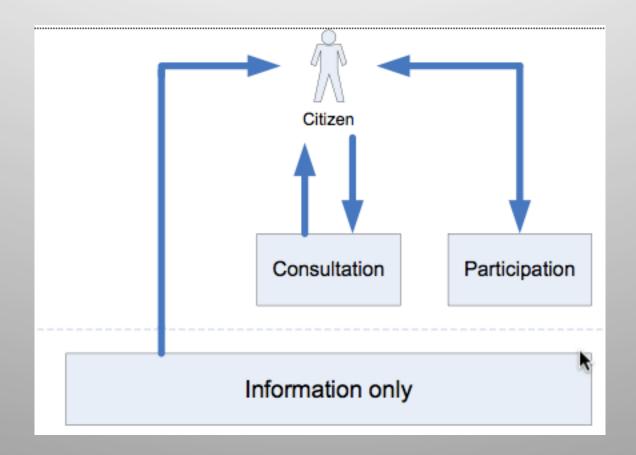
OECD Model



Consultations

- The city asks for input on specific issues, and provides a service for collecting input from its citizens
- Some kind of feedback should be provided on how the input has been used
- If input is not valued, interest will disappear

OECD Model



Participation

- Consultations are top-down. The city asks its citizens for input on specific issues
- Participation is different. The citizens may raise issues they are concerned about
- The goal is to have a dialog between the city and its citizens.

Discussion Forums

- Several Norwegian municipalities established discussion forums to collect input and start dialog with their citizens.
- Unfortunately, they have been closed down, one after another due to abuse.
- Racial discrimination, attacks on city employees.



Citizen initiative

- Between elections, citizens can raise issues by making a "citizen initiative".
- The citizen initiative is embedded in the legislation. If the initiator manages to collect signatures from 2% of the population or 300 signatures, the local council is obligated to discuss the initiative.
- No positive response is guaranteed.

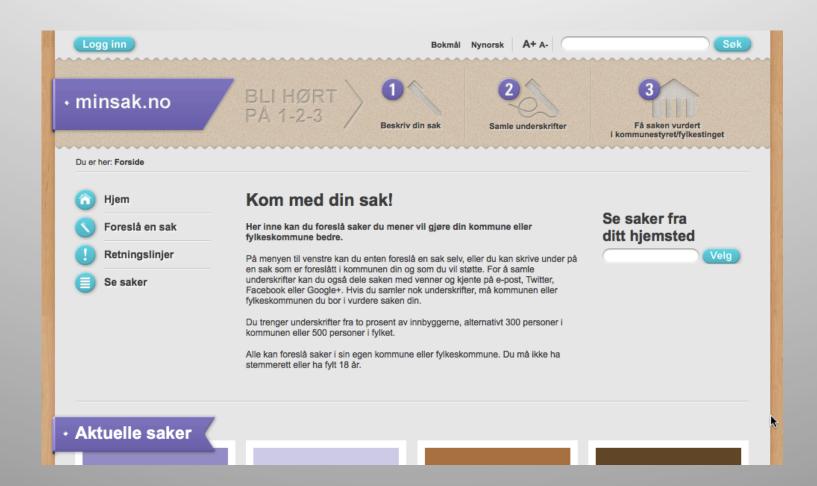


MinSak.no (MyCase)

- The government has established a platform "minsak.no" to facilitate both proposals and collection of signatures
- The platform has so far 685 registered initiatives



MinSak.no



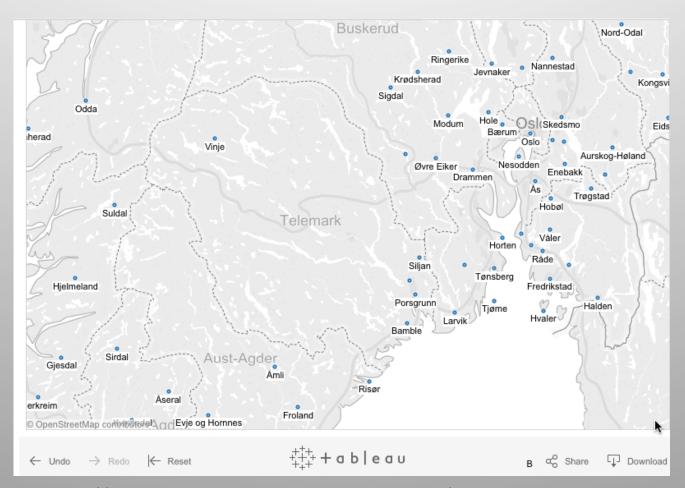
Social Media

- Many municipalities (184) have established themselves in social media (Facebook)
- These pages are mostly used for questions and answers, but there is some examples of dialog taking place
- Citizens have to use their Facebook profile, which disciplines the discussions

Social Media

- Two of my students made a solution to track the use of municipal Facebook pages
- Show comments, reactions and shares

Social Media



http://socialmediadata.citizencentric.net/maps_tableau.html



Participatory Budgeting

- Participatory budgeting has become widespread, where the citizens vote on the use of (a portion) of the total budget for a city. In this case, the results are a consequence of the participation
- Participatory budgeting is a powerful mechanism to make participation work. The incentive to participate is high, since the citizens will see direct results from taking part in the decision making



Political Participation

- Political participation is seen as important by many researchers
- A shift towards direct democracy
- Or support for indirect democracy?
- What is successful participation?
 - Quantity?
 - Impact?



Political Participation

- In my opinion, the "smart city" should listen to its citizens, since they sometimes have concerns that should be taken into account
- At the same time, we have to be realistic. Not all citizens have opinions on everything
- In their book"Stealth Democracy", Hibbing and Theiss-Morse from USA support this



"Stealth Democracy"

- "The last thing people want is to be involved in more decision making: They do not want to make political decisions themselves; they do not want to provide much input to those who are assigned to to make these decisions; and they would rather not know all the details of the decision-making process."
- Hibbing and Theiss-Morse build on empirical data from U.S.A.



The Role of Citizens

Citizens can have different roles in the smart city:

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Mobilization

- The smart city may use information technology to mobilize citizens to help making the city a better place to live
- I will now show some practical examples on how this can be done

Human sensors

- A "human sensor" is a person that observes some issue and reports it using some platform.
- Smart phones

Green Watch Project

- The project distributed 200 smart devices to citizens of Paris. The devices sensed ozone and noise levels as the citizens lived their normal lives, and the results where shared through a mapping engine
- The project showed how a grassroots-sensing network could reduce monitoring costs dramatically, and at the same time engage citizens in environmental monitoring and regulation



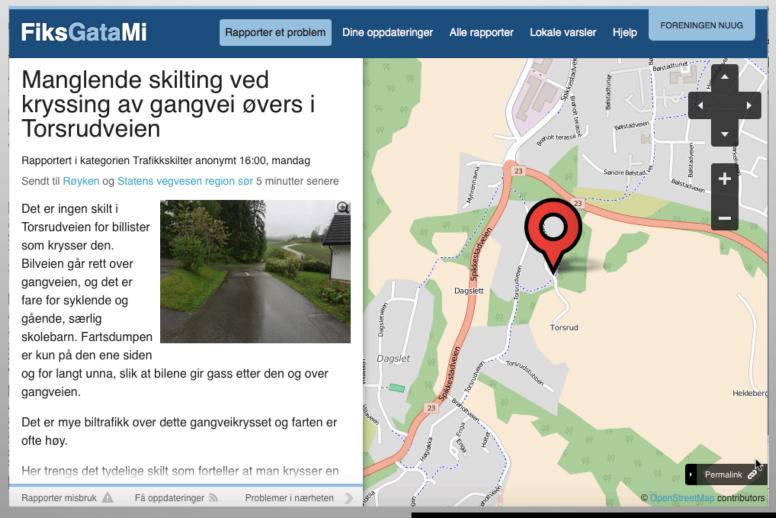
- FixMyStreet is an application that allows citizens to report on issues and problems through their computer or smart phone
- The application is location based, it uses the address or GPS coordinates as a tag to show the exact location of the issue or problem.
 Typical problems are holes in the road, broken light bulbs in street lightning, abandoned vehicles, broken water pipes etc.

- FixMyStreet mobilizes citizens to alert the city administration when something needs to be fixed
- The application also provides feedback on status.
- It is possible to see how fast (or slow) the city is responding to reported problems
- FixMyStreet is widely used in United Kingdom, but the software itself is open source, and has been adopted by cities all over the world. In Norway, the application has been translated into "FiksGataMi"
- In this case the citizens are acting as "human sensors".
 They observe something is wrong and report it



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Sauberes Wiesbaden

- The project aims to promote the participation of the citizens to quickly and easily report illegal garbage in the area of Wiesbaden, Germany
- An app has been developed to make reporting easy. The app uses the location data from the mobile phone to give exact position of the problem



SafetyNet

- SafetyNet is a self-help network. The initial idea was to provide self-help to spouses of patients suffering strokes or dementia
- The platform is run by a consortium of municipalities, and have later been extended to support parents of children with psychological problems, and relatives of drug abusers

SafetyNet

- The whole idea is to learn from other citizens experiencing the same situation
- The platform includes video communication between network members, and access to a knowledge database with information written by medical professionals

SafetyNet

 The network is run by coordinators employed by the municipalities, and these coordinators also arranges off-line events

http://www.trygghetsnett.no/safetynet/safetynet-article755-599.html



Open Data

 Open data may be important for making even better applications for citizen participation

Conclusion

- Participation is more than political participation
- Researchers have been too concerned with political engagement
- But participation is more than politics, it can be used to build better services and achieve better quality of life for the citizens



Thank you for listening

If you are interested, please stay in touch lasse.berntzen@hbv.no

