EDITORIAL: KEY FACTORS FOR CREATING SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITIES

The present thematic issue of INDECS examines the driving forces behind smart and resilient city implementations. The philosophy behind the design of smart cities is to respond to the people's needs rather than trying to impose new developments on them. Local communities must be involved in the work of creating successful smart cities, for example, in the form of crowdsourcing, because by taking part in the development process, they will adopt these changes more easily. During this process, the public's needs must be constantly analyzed, which must be followed by the retesting of suggestions and solutions of the experts and citizens involved, in an iterative way. The essence of the pioneer "smart" concept is the development of a common, synergic cooperation of different urban structures with the purpose of creating more livable cities.

In order to create such inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, certain indicators must be defined with regard to the provision of various services and the quality of life. Besides the results of international and European best practice efforts, the importance of a holistic approach to cities and the issues of cities as complex systems must also be considered.

It is equally important to draw attention to the relationship between various research topics (e.g. smart technologies, autonomous cars, drones, data mining, etc.) and the emerging sustainable safe city implementations. The urban structures and technological advances presented in this thematic issue mark the arrival of sustainable development in local communities, where these intelligent and smart systems will cover all aspects of life.

Therefore, the primary aim of the present thematic issue is to offer researchers an opportunity to extend their existing scientific knowledge in the field of emerging key technologies, including, among others, the use of drones, cybersecurity methods, blast protection, smart materials, soft computing methods, autonomous vehicles, Critical Infrastructure Protection, safe city technologies, energy efficient buildings, 5G mobile networks, intelligent transport systems, water management, emergency management, business continuity and community resilience. All of these in the service of a single purpose: to create safe, sustainable and resilient cities and communities which can successfully face the challenges of the future.

Cordially,

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