Track: Smart city entrepreneurship

Utrecht, the Netherlands, 16-18 October 2019

Track Chairs:
Marco Baudino, Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS, GREDEG (France)
Jackie Krafft, Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS, GREDEG (France)
Michele Pezzoni, Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS, GREDEG (France)

Description of the track

Since the beginning of the new century, the world population has been growing rapidly, with towns and cities accommodating half of this population and using 70% of available energy resources. The urban population is expected to rise to 70% by 2050 (UNCTAD, 2017), and this creates tremendous pressure on every aspect of the urban living, stimulating new entrepreneurial projects to accommodate the upcoming challenges. Such pressure towards efficient cities has triggered several Smart City initiatives in Europe and outside of Europe, as cities now need to provide solutions to significantly increase their overall energy and resource efficiency through actions addressing the building stock, energy systems, mobility, and air quality (Albino, Berardi, and Dangelico, R., 2015). This context leads to a new generation of entrepreneurs: the smart city entrepreneurs. There is an emerging global competition among cities where talents, growth and investments, quality of city life and the attractiveness of cities as environments for learning, innovation, doing business and job creation, now become key parameters for smart cities entrepreneurial success. Cities themselves are now included in rankings that shape their attractiveness both in terms of business actors and investors, and every local ecosystem has to take aligned and proactive actions in order to increase its own visibility in these rankings based on a solid acknowledgement of existing entrepreneurial assets and handicaps.

While there is literature on startup cities and urban entrepreneurs (Florida and Mellander, 2016; Munoz and Cohen, 2016), there is a global lack of understanding of smart city entrepreneurs and their business models. More contributions should cover the field better, in view of analysing what are the distinctive characteristics and commonalities of smart city entrepreneurship.

Key topics and research questions of the track

- Who are the smart city entrepreneurs, what is their background, and what are the characteristics of their teams?
- What types of activities are covered by the smart city entrepreneurs?
- Are smart city entrepreneurs more successful than others?
- What are the sources of their distinctive success? Are the individual characteristics, team characteristics, type of activities, or the innovation value added?
Does the firm incubation process help smart city entrepreneurs in venture creation? Does it foster their performance?

What are smart city entrepreneurs distinctive business models, and how do they create value?

How smart cities fundamentally change / are changed by this new type of entrepreneurial and innovation behaviours?

We encourage theoretical and empirical research papers that extend and develop our understanding on this set of questions. We welcome research using various empirical methods, like statistical and econometric evidence, microdata exploitation, surveys and monographs.

The deadline for submissions is 15th June 2019.
All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.
Download the submission template here
Submit your paper here

The registration for the conference is open until 31st August 2019.
Register here