

Report from the conference **European Smart and Sharing Cities** in Prague 22-23 November 2018
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In November the Ministry of Regional development, UNECE and Fakulta Architektury c vut Praze arranged an international conference on cities influenced by digital technologies and online platforms in the region om UNECE: European Smart and Sharing cities with more than 100 participants from different countries but many from the Czech and Slovak republics. Languages were English and Czech

Main goals of the conference

Representatives of countries, cities, institutions and organizations, as well as experts of the UNECE region will meet in Prague to discuss openly various aspects of the use and potentials of digital technologies and online platforms in the region. Digitalization and sharing economy significantly change not only consumption patterns, but also all other aspects of life in cities. New digital phenomena related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development and sharing of assets have exploded in recent years and have thus enabled purchasers and sellers to connect easily, directly and quickly. These models promote use of goods and services without having ownership over them, while people participate in sharing activities by renting, lending, trading goods, services, space or even money only through clicking on their smartphones. Participants of the conference are invited to share their experience, good as well as bad practice and visions; to present lessons learned, recommendations, warnings, and to present examples from cities of the region and to describe the steps done so far in the light of the implementation of the UN and EU documents on housing and urban development – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Agenda 2030, New Urban Agenda, Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, Urban Agenda for the EU.

The conference was divided in four sessions with short presentations and followed by questions and discussions with the participants:

Session One Potentials and challenges of smart and sharing cities in the UNECE region – impact of digital technologies and on-line platforms. Presentations of the current situation in several cities . real experiences, lessons learned from New York, Lisbon, Tel Aviv, Prague. Of special interest was the presentation of Mr Rui Franco, Deputy City Councillor, City of Lisbon. Maybe someone to invite to our world conference.

Session Two Housing – local citizens versus tourists? Markets and affordability

This was mainly about short-term rentals for tourists and how this affects the housing markets. I was sitting in the panel and had 7 minutes to do a presentation. Cedric Van Styvendael, President of Housing Europe talked before me and said during more than seven minutes almost most of I had planned to say. You can see my PPT-presentation attached.

Session Three Urban planning and governance of a smart city – balancing economic vibrancy and public interests

Session Four Self-regulation and regulation and its enforcement - roles of municipal and national governments. My presentation is attached.