

## SMART CITIES AS A TOOL FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND AS AN APPROACH OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

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**Abstract:** *This paper presents the importance of innovation as a source of growth in the regions. There are growth models that focus on social and environmental sustainability. Regions play a key role in shaping good innovation paths and in mobilizing untapped economic growth potential. All regions can improve their ability to adapt knowledge to regional innovation needs and to present their competitive edge. The work of the regions is aimed at assisting policy-makers in different areas at national and regional level. The development of smart cities aims to improve the quality of life of citizens, increase the regional competitiveness of industry and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, make cities more competitive and better places to live, share knowledge, reproduce successes and preventing repeat errors, meeting our energy and environmental goals. The paper presents opportunities and prospects for networking of regional partnerships in order to help and search for appropriate cross-border cooperation and joint solving of identified common problems, as well as in order to develop proposals to overcome regional imbalances, demographic problems, especially in border areas by introducing innovations and achieving social, environmental and economic sustainability for the remote cities in the cross-border regions.*

**Keywords:** *Smart Cities, Regional Innovation, Cross-Border Cooperation, Regional Partnerships, Regional Growth*

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