



AN INSIGHT INTO GOVERNANCE AND POLICY-MAKING DIMENSIONS OF THE SMART CITY CONCEPT FROM THE CEE PERSPECTIVE

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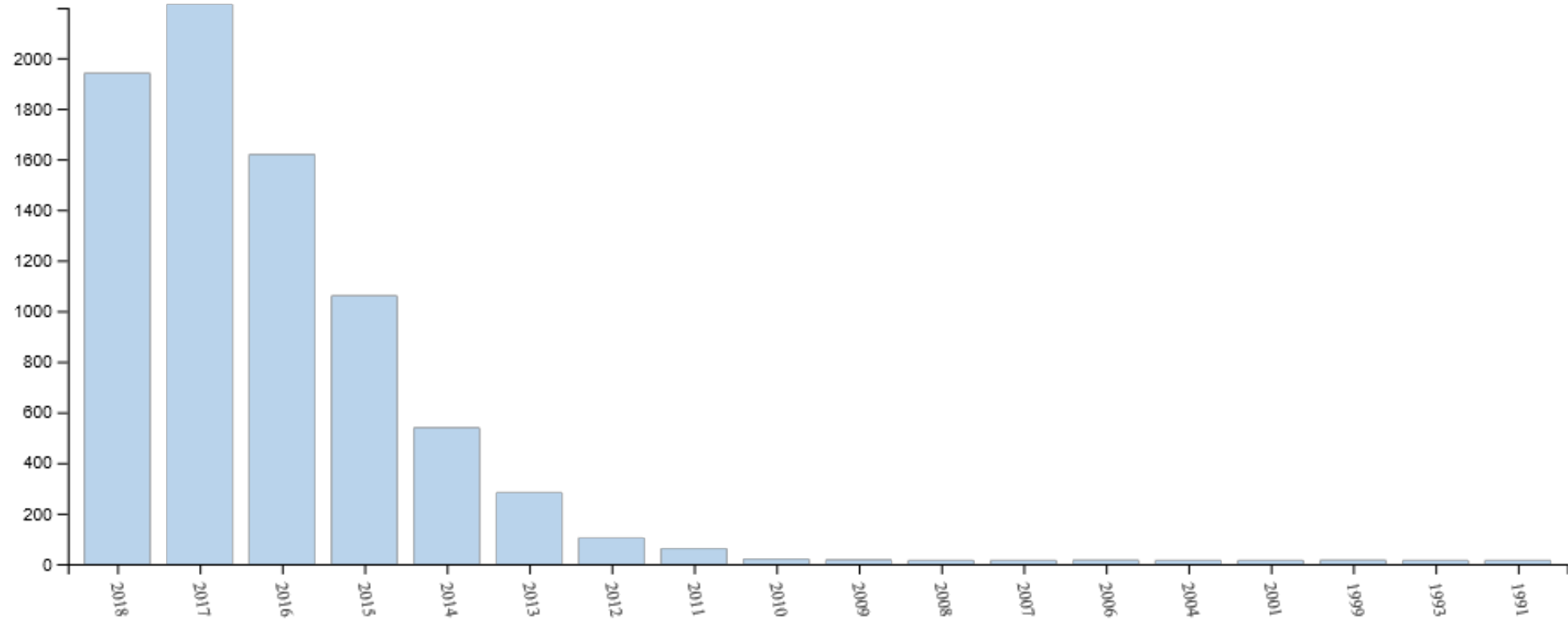
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Introduction

- Popularization of Smart City concept/label:
 - Urbanization and complex urban problems solving
 - Political promotion for electoral purposes
 - Marketing purposes – urban labelling phenomenon
- Promoted also in the scientific literature:
 - Part of global attention for building and improving administrative capabilities
 - But: „sister“ concepts
- R. focus:
 - Why smart city label?
 - Practical evidence on the implementation and outcomes?

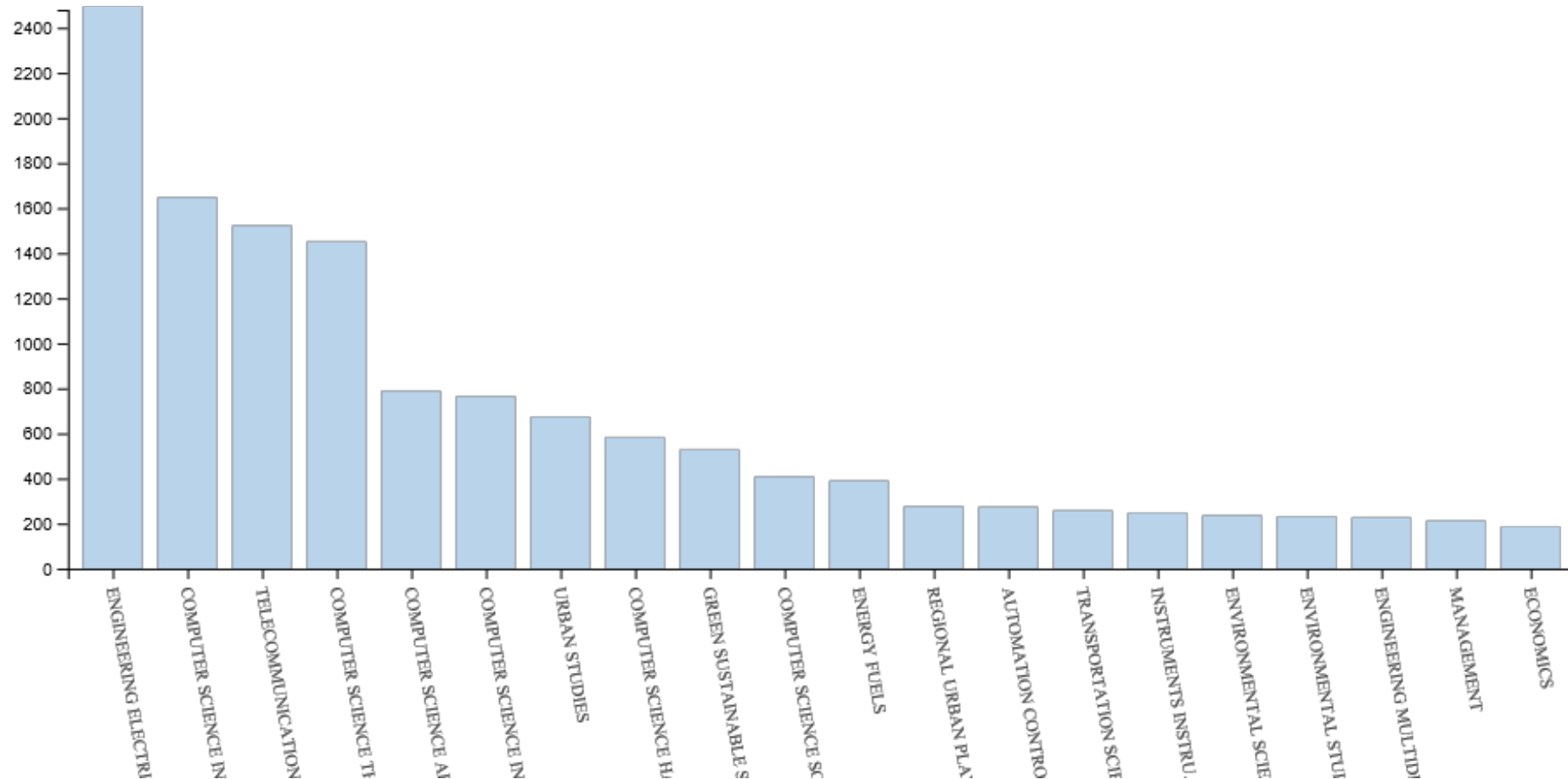
Some evidence (1)

Figure 1: Smart city coverage in Web of Science – number of hits in the topic category till 2018



Some evidence (2)

Figure 2: Smart city concept appearance in WoS categories of academic disciplines – number of hits till 2018



Source: Web of Science Core Collection (2019).

Results (1)

- Smart city and „sister“ concepts:
 - Label – recent popularization, after 2013 became #1
 - Politically neutral
 - Focuses on desired outcome, user perspective
 - Technological utopia perspective, and flow of research funds

Results (2)

- Governance aspects missing
- Barriers to practical implementation exists, concept has limitations:
 - Too much focus on ICT's contribution
 - Incomplete strategies, partial approaches
 - Smart city as goal, but it should be a process
 - Lack of focus on generating and managing public value, lack of feedback
 - Lack of planning
- Evidence – only 60 % of „smart cities“ actually have a formalized strategy (S.S.C., 2017)

Discussion

- Cities from CEE region and their specific challenges:
 - The gap (in fin. strength and economic development) as inhibitor
 - Evidence (smart strategies focus on transportation, energy and environment) – financially demanding
 - Late start of the initiatives, still focusing on technologies, other dimensions lag behind – consequence, lower rankings in international comparisons (see European Smart Cities, 2014)

Concluding remarks

- S.S.C. – not just the technological issues
- S.S.C. and practical implementation – the role of existing (and transformed) administrative structures and culture