

# CITIES AS TEST ARENAS

## – a city government perspective on Smart Cities



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# SMART CITIES

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Stockholm, Sweden, featuring a large body of water in the foreground. A bridge with a train crossing it is visible on the left. The city is densely packed with buildings, including a prominent church with a tall spire. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

“[The smart city is] on its way to becoming [the] leading driver of urban sustainability and regeneration initiatives.”

(de Jong, Martin, Simon Joss, Daan Schraven, Changjie Zhan, and Margot Weijnen, 2015)

An aerial photograph of Stockholm, Sweden, showing a bridge with a train, a boat, and a cityscape with a church spire. The text "SMART CITIZENS" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

**SMART CITIZENS**

“The unintended consequence of smart city ‘making’ is to privilege technologies without equivalence tests that make clear what the public values and what the basic needs are that these values seek to promote.”

(Glasmeier, K., and Nebiolo, M., 2016.)

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Stockholm, Sweden, featuring a large body of water, a bridge with a train, and various buildings. The text "SMART CITY GOVERNMENTS" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

# SMART CITY GOVERNMENTS

# Multi-level interests in public sector innovation

*Implementation needs to be directed at [...]:*

***Opening up the public sector in order to provide the industrial sector with a test bed for solving societal challenges in close collaboration with other actors at the local and regional level.”***

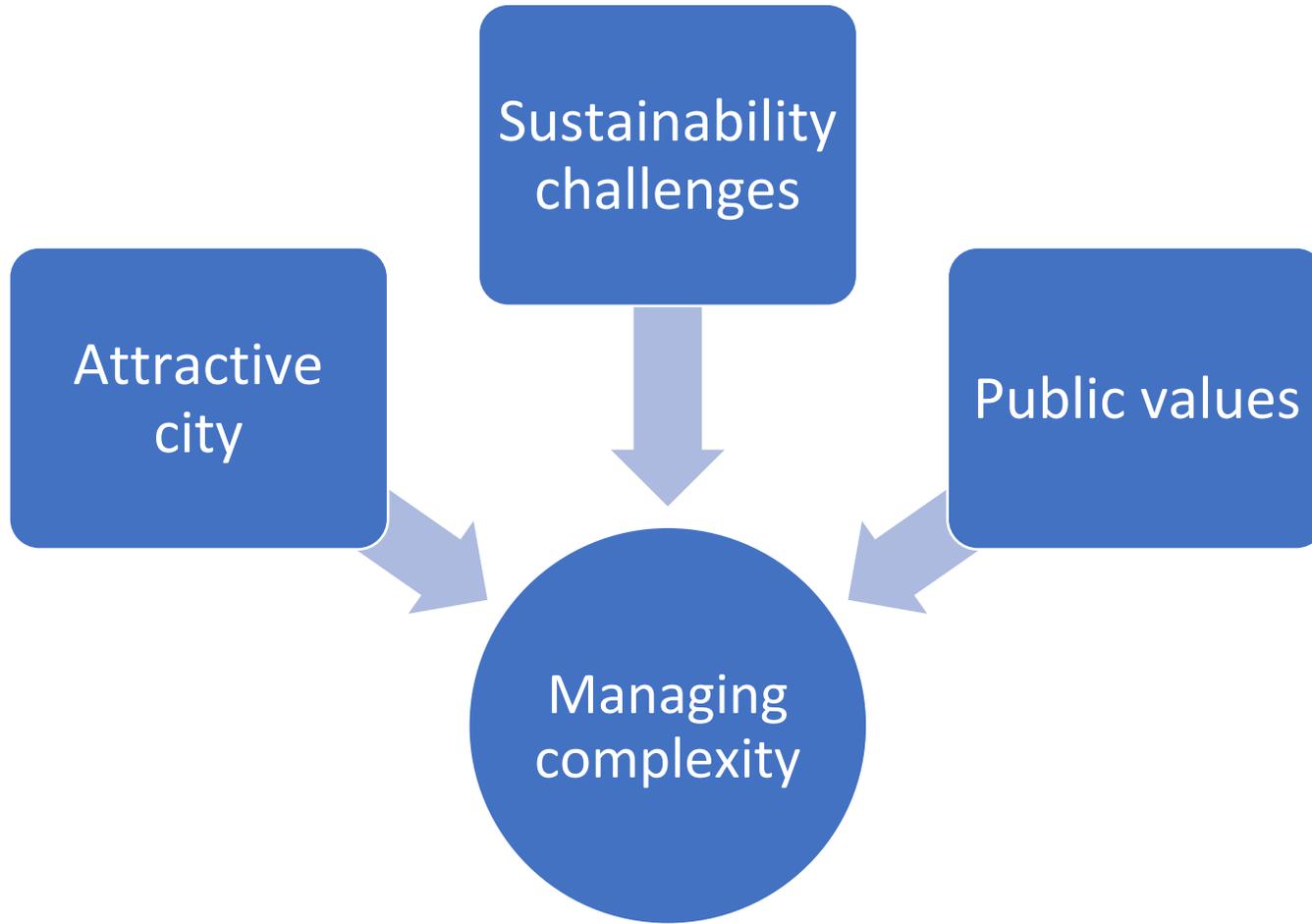
Ministry of Enterprise  
Innovation in Sweden, 2016

and

***“Gothenburg is the hub of Sweden's most important industrial region [...]. That creates unique conditions for the city to be a test arena for the development of new technologies that can solve future societal challenges.”***

*The Program for Business Strategy, The City of Gothenburg, adopted 2017*

# Governance capacity: A Local Government Perspective



## Characteristics of Smart City-projects:

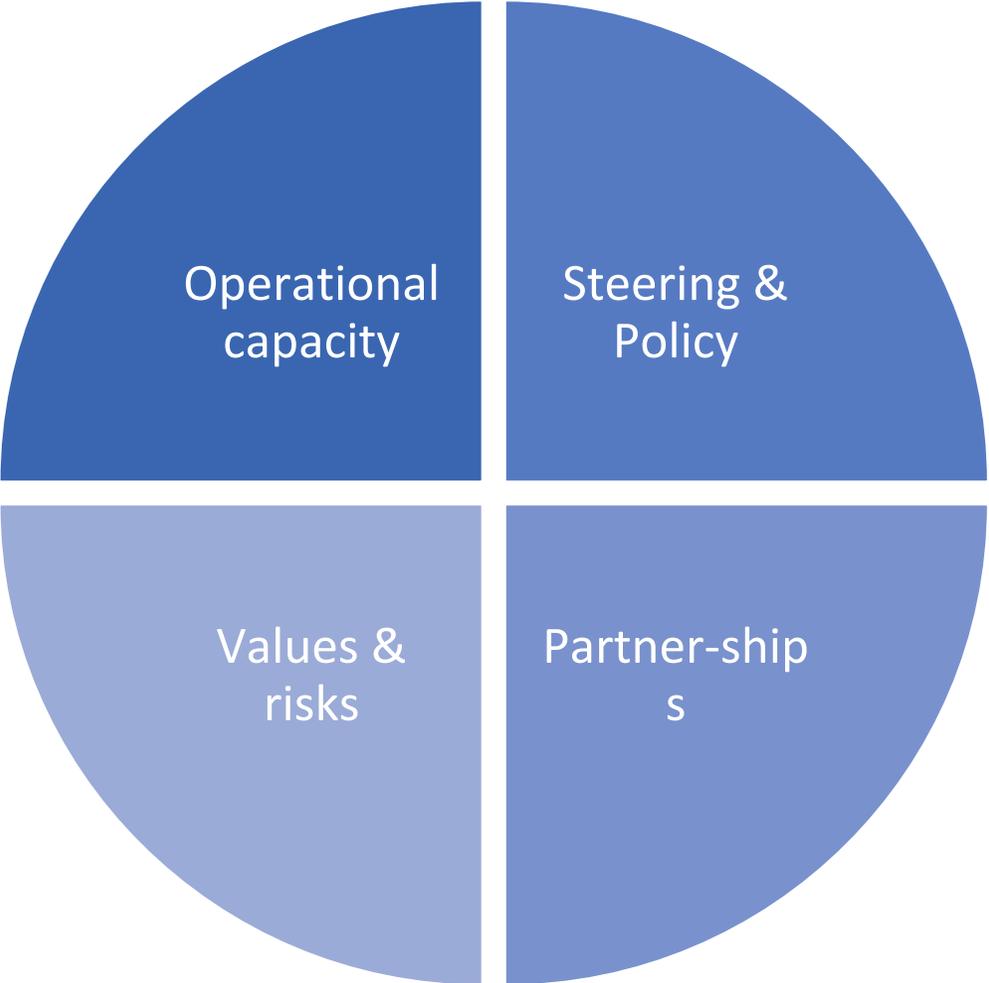
- Externally funded
- Public-private partnerships
- Pilot projects
- Focus on energy and transportation

# Findings – challenges for local governments

- Absence of strategic alignment
- Lack of internal coordination
- Low administrative capacity
- Unclear policy for collaboration with private stakeholders



# A need for local governments to develop capacity for experiments



“Sustainability is largely an assumed result of more efficient, cost-effective urban systems and greater availability of data.”



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