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New urban governance as a way of building city resilience to pandemic-caused stress (COVID-19)

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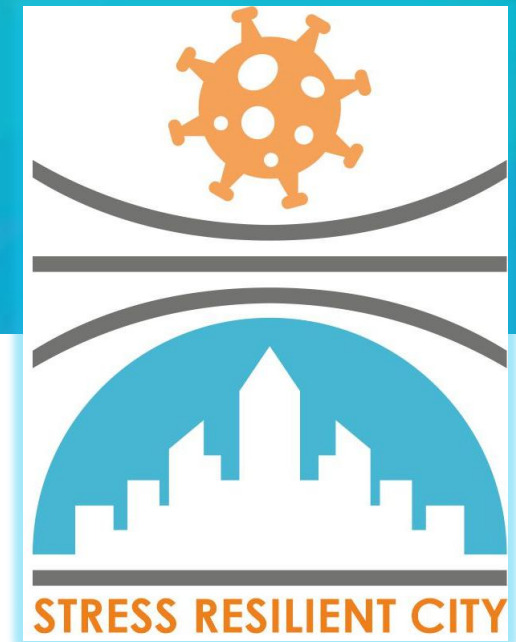



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A stress-resilient city under pandemic conditions (Covid-19)



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Content:

- **Aim of the study**
- **Resilience as a way for cities to survive during the pandemic**
- **From governance to new governance**
- **The role of new urban governance**
- **Model of new urban governance**
 - *Mitigation phase*
 - *Re-construction phase*
- **Results**
- **Summary and recommendations**



AIM OF THE STUDY

- to present an original **new urban governance conception** and demonstrates the role this method of governance may play in building city resilience to a pandemic-cased stress using the example of COVID-19,
- to sketch the different mechanisms of new urban governance regarding such **coping strategies as a short-term mitigation** of pandemic consequences **and a long-term reconstruction** of the city system towards shaping a stress-resilient city,
- to emphasize the need of involving the **highly qualified, interdisciplinary professionals (experts) in urban governance** to develop a city resilience strategy (development scenarios and the related multivariant short- and long-term action strategies) with help of **smart technologies** (engaging inhabitants in an active co-governance and shaping a **civil society that is undertaking bottom-up initiatives**).

Resilience as a way for cities to survive during the pandemic



Stress resilient city

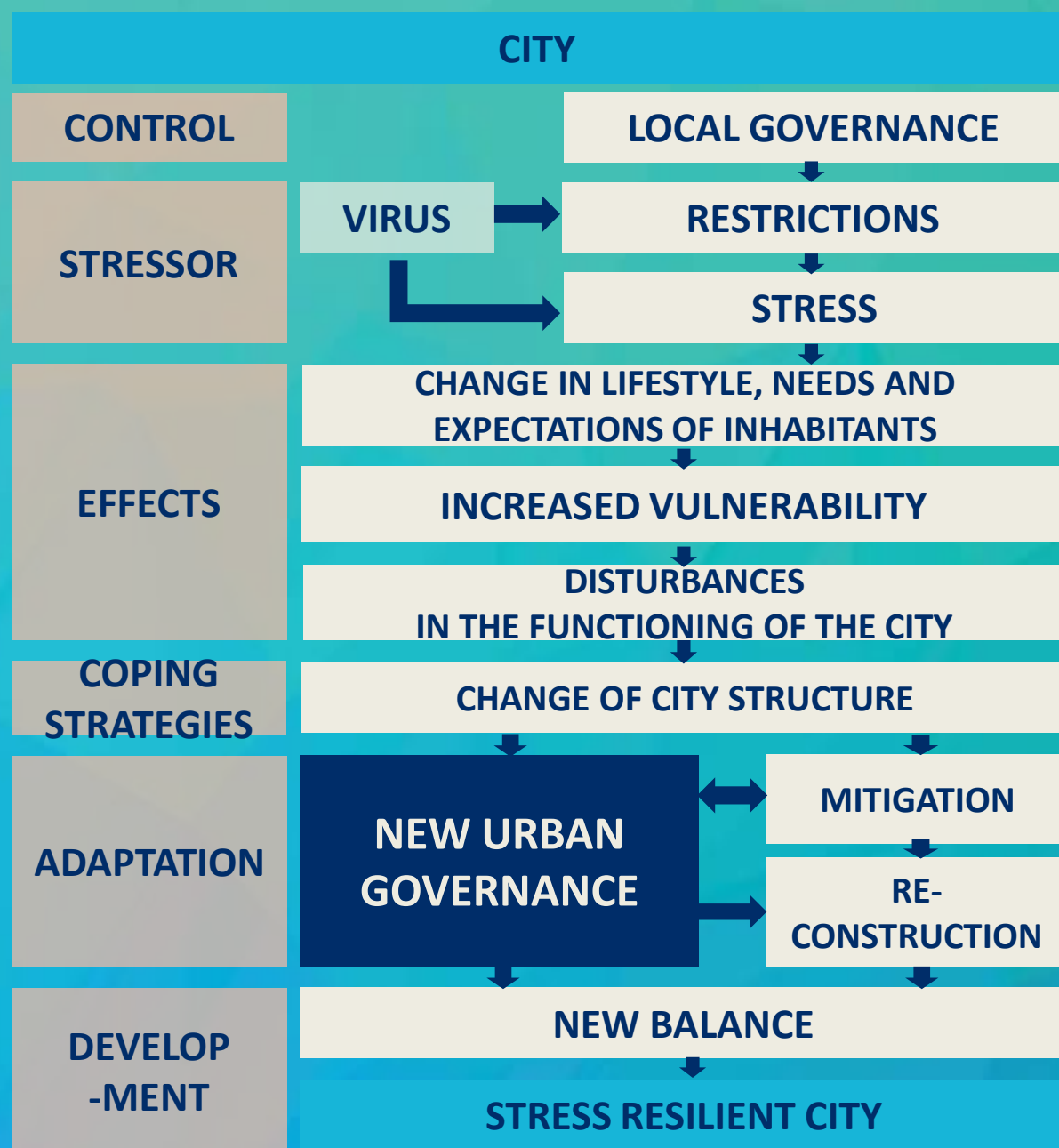
The pandemic is a great stress for cities and their inhabitants. Development of strategies helping cities and their inhabitants to cope with this stress, during and after pandemics, is a must and is becoming a priority. Such coping strategies include:

- mitigation of negative effects of the pandemic for cities,
- re-construction of the urban system so that it would be less vulnerable to pandemic-caused stress by creating healthy and safe living conditions and services for inhabitants,
- new urban governance, serving to enhance the effectiveness of mitigation and re-construction that will result in city resilience to adverse effects of the present and future pandemics.



FROM GOVERNANCE TO NEW GOVERNANCE

City resilience is not a condition, but a state which cannot be maintained, if the system does not evolve, transform and adopt to present and future conditions and changes.



FROM GOVERNANCE TO NEW GOVERNANCE

New urban governance should involve:

- 1) building stronger and more flexible **cooperation forms** – inclusive participation,
- 2) including highly qualified, **interdisciplinary experts** in urban planning and governance,
- 3) applying **new technologies for communication** and urban governance,
- 4) appropriate funding for local authorities and governments, and rationalization of costs,
- 5) **effective leadership**,
- 6) **integrated planning** resulting in a coherent local policy **between surrounding cities and communes (adjacent to the city)**,
- 7) development of **civil society**.



*New Urban Governance
– main elements*

MODEL OF NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE

NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE – GENERAL MODEL

The pandemic-related stressful situation revealed the need to **engage not only residents themselves in governance processes, but first of all professional, highly qualified, interdisciplinary experts.** It should be their role to draw up and present development scenarios and the related multivariant action strategies.





MODEL OF NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE

DECISION MAKING PROCESS



SMART TECHNOLOGIES

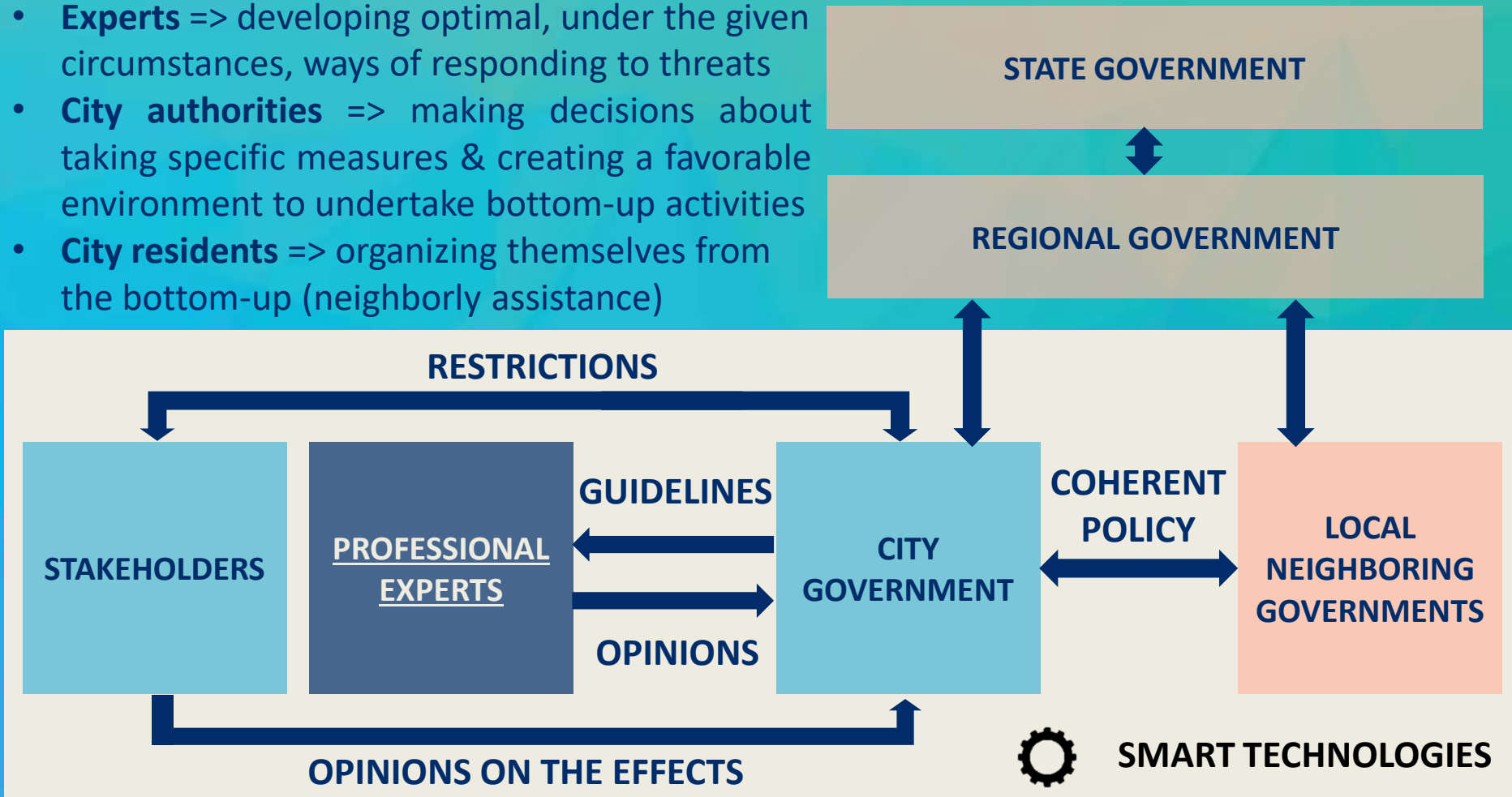


MODEL OF NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE

Mitigation phase

New urban governance model – relations between participants

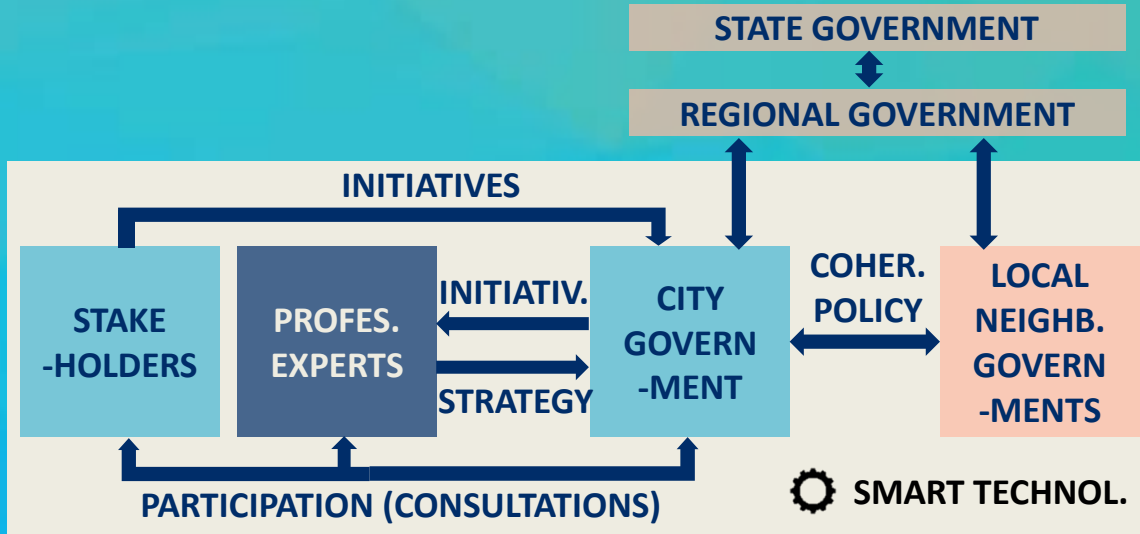
- **Experts** => developing optimal, under the given circumstances, ways of responding to threats
- **City authorities** => making decisions about taking specific measures & creating a favorable environment to undertake bottom-up activities
- **City residents** => organizing themselves from the bottom-up (neighborly assistance)



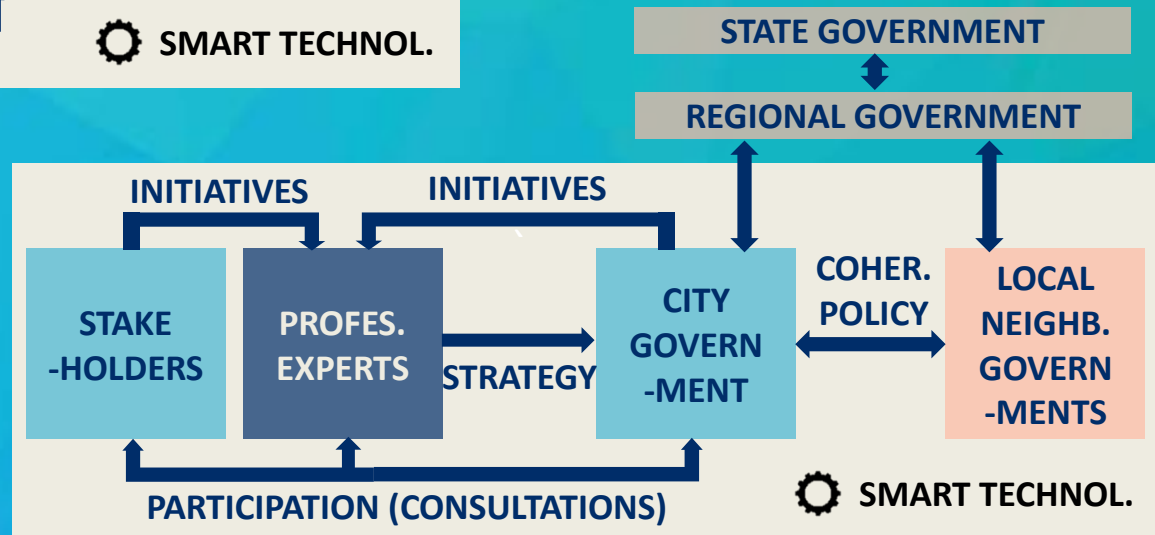
MODEL OF NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE

Re-construction phase

New urban govern. model: relations between particip. - variants



Variant 2





RESULTS

- various **consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic** including **revival of the state authorities' intervention** => **not effective measures** => **need to develop new ways of governance** for pandemic & new, post-pandemic reality => **new urban governance model** => opportunity to develop a city resilience strategy for the pandemic-caused stress & to build healthy cities
- **city as an organic whole, a single coherent system and as a community which should be properly governed** => urban governance model limiting public participation => **presented new urban governance model** => involving the largest number of entities possible (including immediate neighborhood) => **public participation as a series of interrelated activities**, not only as a single action

RESULTS

- **pandemic crisis => urban innovations acceleration & expansion of governing mechanisms** (public spaces, mobility, planning, providing services) => **access to ICT technol. as a key** during impeded mobility => **smart technologies** (facilitating functioning) **required in the stress resilient city**
- **COVID-19 responses formulated at national level by politicians, virologists & epidemiologists => other experts excluded** => but pandemic crisis as not only a health problem, but also a social and economic one => **need for more integrative and multidisciplinary approach** (experts in different fields opinions & observations of various social groups)
- **complex relations between public health & the organization of urban space** => “designing cities for health” => development of an **urban policy** allowing for a **balance between health protection costs & economic ones** as the key => **demand of ‘healthy city planning’** and redefining competences of particular public authorities



- **city dwellers** => under pressure of enforced lifestyle changes, exposed to stress & implications of top-down restrictions, functioning in complex cities systems => should not only be governed, but should react to introduced restrictions & to changes introduced in the city system => **urban space as an actively shaped field of regeneration and recovery after social stresses**
- **coping strategies of stress resilient cities:**
 - mitigation (immediate responses, short-term measures, fast information exchange)
 - re-construction (long-term reconstruction of the city structure)
 - **new governance** (change in the way of urban governance), based on the need for a new paradigm of organization of planning procedures (prosocial and health-promoting goals of spatial and city planning at a local scale)



- In practical terms, implementation of **new urban governance** will require:
 - conception of **adaptivity of the urban structure** towards stress resiliency (anticipation of crisis scenarios & multivariant strategy)
 - **reintegration of local authorities, strengthening of cooperation between authorities with stakeholders and experts** in building an effective, multilateral, consistent governance system
 - **strengthening the role of experts, third** (next to stakeholders & authorities), equal **party in urban governance** (in the re-construction phase -various development scenarios & the multivariant strategy for a stress resilient city; in the mitigation phase - source of the restrictions)
 - **support for open communication and inclusive public participation** (growth of **civil society**) with help of new, smart info. technologies



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Thank you
for your
attention

