

Urban environment: ecofriendly management and smartness

Year 2015

The orientation of city governments to sustainable management and to implement “smart city” policies is described by grouping the response indicators related to eight environmental topics (Water, Air, Eco-management, Energy, Urban mobility, Waste, Noise, Urban green) in six dimensions of analysis: two representing sustainability, two the “smart city” policies, and two relevant to both themes.

In the field of urban planning, one out of four provincial capitals did not have the Acoustic Zoning (a compulsory mapping of noise emission limits), and 102 were lacking the Urban Traffic Plan (compulsory for 111); while 23 (out of 45 over 100,000 inhabitants) had a Urban Mobility Plan and 11 a Plan for Green Areas.

95 of the 116 provincial capitals had joined the Covenant of Mayors (committed to reduce local CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020), and 76 had already approved a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

100 municipalities carried out activities of noise measurement, in order to verify compliance with the legal limits. Altogether 7.9 checkings every 100,000 inhabitants took place, detecting values over the legal limits in about half of the cases.

In favour of sustainable waste management, 76 cities implemented at least three measures to prevent and reduce the production of waste - among the most frequent: incentives for home composting, exchange points for used items; supply of quality drinking water on public areas.

In 2015, nearly all provincial capitals (114) performed curbside collection and withdrawal of bulky on call (113); 106 provided “Isole ecologiche” (waste separation stations) for the direct disposal of some categories of waste by citizens, 44 provided the same service by mobile waste separation stations, and 99 performed special collections of abandoned waste.

In the sustainable mobility sector, in provincial capitals there were on average 38,1 sq² of Pedestrian areas every 100 inhabitants, 13 parking slots every 1,000 cars in Park-and-ride facilities, and 20.2 km of Bicycle lanes every 100 km². 66 municipalities established “30 Zones” and 103 municipalities established Restricted traffic areas over their territory.

Severe inefficiencies persisted in drinking water supply: in 2015, water losses in municipal networks exceeded 20% in four provincial capitals out of five, and 13 cities had to apply rationing measures. Coverage of networks was generally high: 97.7% of inhabitants of provincial capitals were connected to Drinking water networks; 93.4% to Sewerage and 88.9% to Wastewater treatment plants.

Positive signals came from the field of sustainable construction: 63 provincial capitals obtained the Energy certification for at least part of their housing stock, and 19 (including Torino, Bologna, Roma, Bari and Cagliari) had buildings certified in the top classes of energy efficiency (“A”).

24 cities promoted the Greening of new built areas, and 22 the Conservation of trees in private areas adjacent to existing buildings.

78 provincial capitals provided at least one infomobility system in support of private mobility, and 98 at least one in support of Local Public Transport (LPT). Genova, Bologna, Verona, Siena and Roma displayed the most complete offer of infomobility services.

55 municipalities installed re-charging stations for electric vehicles on public areas, and 81 improved efficiency of public lighting (+97.8% of light sources using LED lamps, +1.1% powered by photovoltaic energy, +11.8 using dimming devices, +19.8% equipped with remote/automatic control).

In the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, 107 municipalities produced photovoltaic solar energy from their own plants, 9 produced hydropower, and 17 geothermal energy. District heating systems were active in 36 cities; 81 cities owned thermic solar plants, 22 biomass/biogas plants and 31 made use of high efficiency heat pumps.

In provincial capitals there were, on average, 34 free WiFi spots every 100,000 inhabitants, and 62 cities made available public utility Apps.

64 cities realized “Urban gardens” (small green areas of public property, granted in use to citizens to practice horticulture for domestic use and leisure gardening, the area grew by 27.3% in 4 years), and 30 awarded the management of green areas to individual citizens or associations. In 2015, 42 municipalities planted a tree for every child born.

Bike sharing services are available in 60 cities, and Car sharing services in 26 - in 20 of which only in station-based mode, in 2 only in free flow mode, and in 4 (Torino, Milano, Firenze and Roma) in both modes.

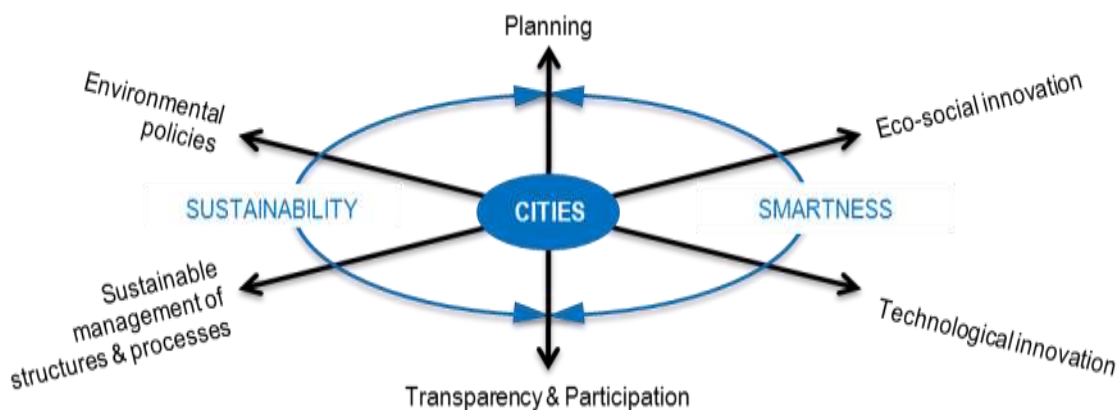
Eco-social reporting was on the rise: between 2011 and 2015, 34 municipalities published at least one Environmental report (“Bilancio ambientale”), 41 a Social balance sheet (“Bilancio sociale”), and 21 an Arboreal balance sheet (“Bilancio arboreo”).

To help users and foster transparency of administrative procedures, the municipalities of provincial capitals provide access to 25 online services on average: in 34 cities the entire procedure (including possible payments) could be completed online for at least 8 in a range of 40 municipal services.

In 2015, 26 cities resorted to Green Public Procurement, by applying at least one of the Minimal environmental criteria (CAM) defined by the Ministry of environment, in the purchase of goods and services.

Electric or hybrid vehicles were, on average, about 4% of the municipalities’ fleets (+19% in one year); the total number of bicycles, segways and other zero-emission vehicles (owned by 35 municipalities) grew up by 20%.

FIGURE 1. DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS FOR RESPONSE INDICATORS RELATED TO URBAN ENVIRONMENT



For more details please refer to the Italian version

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