



Governance of the Future

Context

Both the way in which policy is drawn out and the way in which we govern evolves, be it under the influence of new technologies or because citizens re-appropriate the political domain. Big data, blockchain, artificial intelligence and many other technologies bring new opportunities that can improve the functioning of public administration and increase trust in policy. In addition, experiments on process innovation are being set up in various cities and countries, with participation, trust and sustainability as key words. *Civic tech* connects these technological and process innovations, but the evolution towards policy fed by scientific insights can also increase the confidence in, and sustainability of, the policy conducted.

These new trends create high expectations among the population, as well as high policy ambitions. In the most optimistic scenario, they can lead to a flexible, smooth, informed and personalised policy that meets the needs of the citizen. At the same time, they raise important questions and pose important challenges in terms of feasibility, practicability, security, freedom, ethics, etc.

Challenges

The political world and public services are under increasing pressure, partly because citizens increasingly reject traditional political actors but also because society is constantly changing. Whether it is by opting for more digitalisation, by giving citizens the possibility to make decisions or by adopting a more integrated approach, public and political governance will have to evolve in order to meet the challenges of tomorrow. In this call, several specific issues can be addressed, but ultimately, a (part of the) answer has to be given to the following question: how do you organise governments and authorities that are citizen-centred, cooperative, network-based, ethical and, if possible, supported by innovative technological solutions, so that they can respond to the challenges of a sustainable and just society for tomorrow?

It should be noted that Innoviris will not support projects that are based on political dogmas or that show similarities with public procurement projects for the sole benefit of one public service. We remain purely in the field of governance organisation and the instruments needed for it.

Examples of relevant research sub-questions:

More and more citizens are asking to take public administration into their own hands, which we saw reflected in the programmes of various parties that proposed forms of participatory or civil administration during the last municipal elections (and probably also during the next regional and federal elections). To what extent (and how) can these proposals be elaborated? What kind of decisions can really fall into the hands of citizens? How can citizens appropriate them?

What are relevant instruments, IT or other, for the region? Which implementation processes would be realistic? What social benefit can we expect? What is the impact on social justice? What are the opportunities or barriers to the use of technological solutions? What are the non-technological alternatives?

How can the government innovate their own policies in a context of existing rules, processes and procedures (clarification, simplification, flexibility for innovation and experimentation, risk

management and complexity)? How can the impact of government or public policy be strengthened by a more efficient transfer of scientific or other knowledge? How can this transfer be improved?

Possible mentors: the Brussels Parliament, municipalities, cabinets, public services, etc.