



# **SMART CITIES AND SOCIAL FUTURING**

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**CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST**

**26<sup>TH</sup> ISDRS CONFERENCE, JULY 15-17 2020, BUDAPEST**

**6.A – URBAN AND RURAL TRANSITIONS: INNOVATION LEVERS**

**BME, FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

# CIAS - Social Futuring Center



## Faculty

10 research fellows and staff  
12 associated research fellows



## Publications

Books/Issues  
Working papers



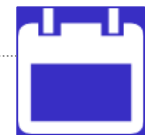
## Communications

Media coverage  
Wikipedia articles  
YouTube videos  
[www.socialfuturing.com](http://www.socialfuturing.com)



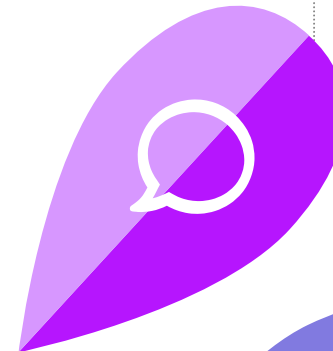
## Social Futuring Index

Calculating the Index  
for the OECD countries  
(November 2020)



## Events

International conferences  
International workshops



**connext**  
SOCIAL FUTURING CENTER

# SOCIAL FUTURING

A social entity's capacity, ability and fitness to envision, enact and manage changes and so to prepare itself for the strategic and beneficial managing of the future

in order to preserve and reproduce their way of life

A good life in a unity of order

Comprehending the ever-evolving world

Aczél P., Csák J., Szántó Z. O., (eds.), Social Futuring, Society and Economy, Budapest, HU, vol. 40/Issue S1, pp. 5–20, 21–45, 47–75, 2018. DOI: [10.1556/204.2018.40.S1.4](https://doi.org/10.1556/204.2018.40.S1.4)



ANALYTICAL

Necessary

Self-conscious

Constituted

Permanently  
operating in a  
functional way

Organizes  
actions to  
maintain  
functioning

Sufficient

Ability

-to exploit  
opportunities  
of changes

-to manage  
the risks of  
changes

-to facilitate or  
create changes

ACTIVE

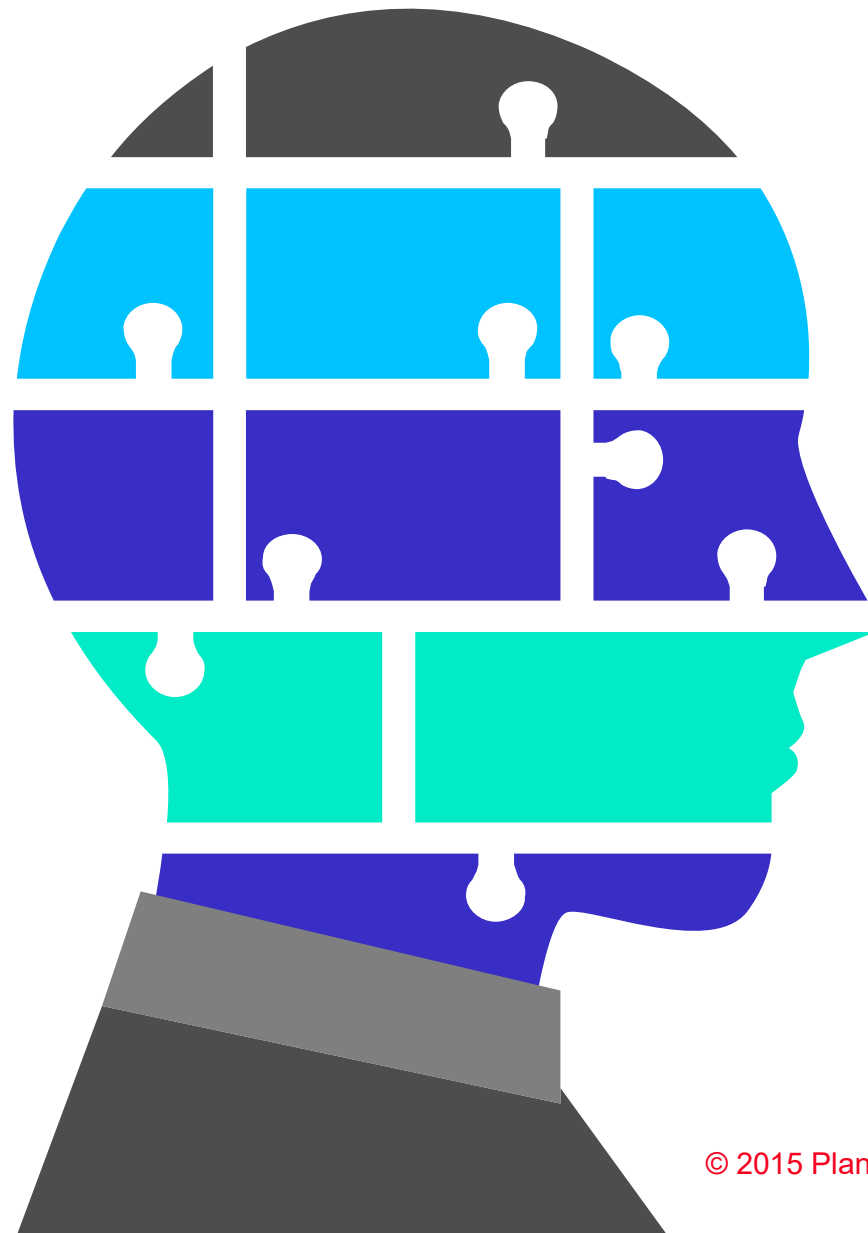
REACTIVE

PROACTIVE



Peace and security  
Attachment  
Care (Freedom and  
Material Advancement)  
Balance

# DEFINITION OF CITIES



- covers a large geographic area
- constitutes a dense network
- actors perform complementary and highly specialized activities
- engaged in a fast and intensive exchange of information
- the main role is played by the actors' knowledge and experiences



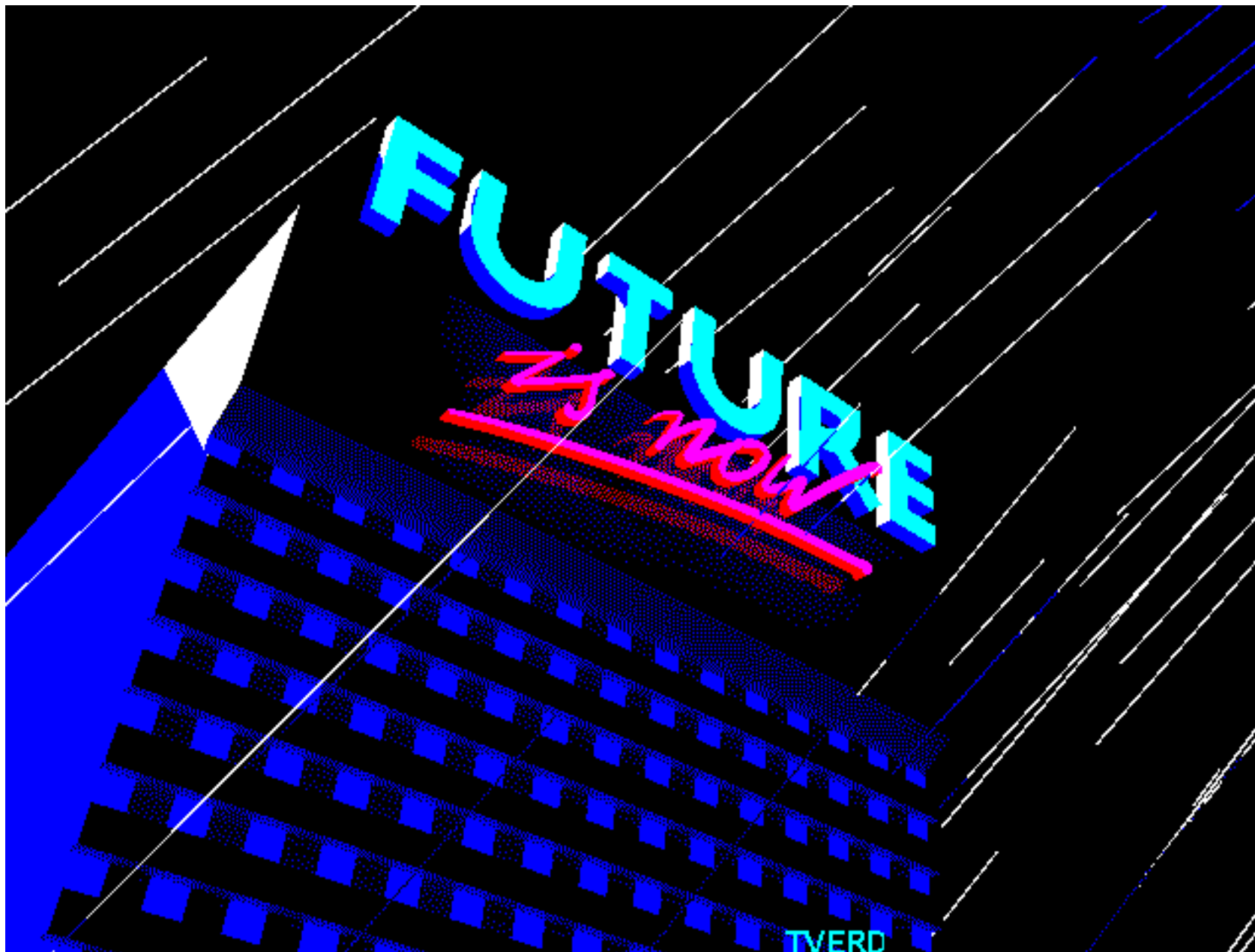
Cities operate sophisticated systems

Serious risks and dysfunctions

Floods, fires and wars

But the danger is not external most times

Inability to give a response to changes



## Smart Cities

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Cities always had to be “smart”

- with the systematic use of existing knowledge
- with efficient implementation
- with routines and traditions

Such knowledge provides a firm ground but, if it becomes rigid, it can prevent the city and community from managing challenges

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## Technological determinism

- primarily takes the form of network development
- the interconnection of networks
- innovative analysis of large quantities of digital data (big data)
- The current paradigm of smart cities
  - Sub-paradigms: intelligent and digital cities
  - mainly aimed at a more efficient operation of technologies

A stylized graphic of a human head profile in shades of blue and purple, facing right. A large, light blue speech bubble originates from the mouth area. Inside the speech bubble, the numbers '20' and '50' are stacked vertically in white, bold font. The top of the head is also light blue.

20  
50

## APPROACH OF THE NEW MILLENIUM

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### Knowledge based society or creative city

- a part of social conditioning
  - as opposed to technological determinism
  - focus on the role of local communities and social capital
  - instead of technologies competitive and liveable cities
- 

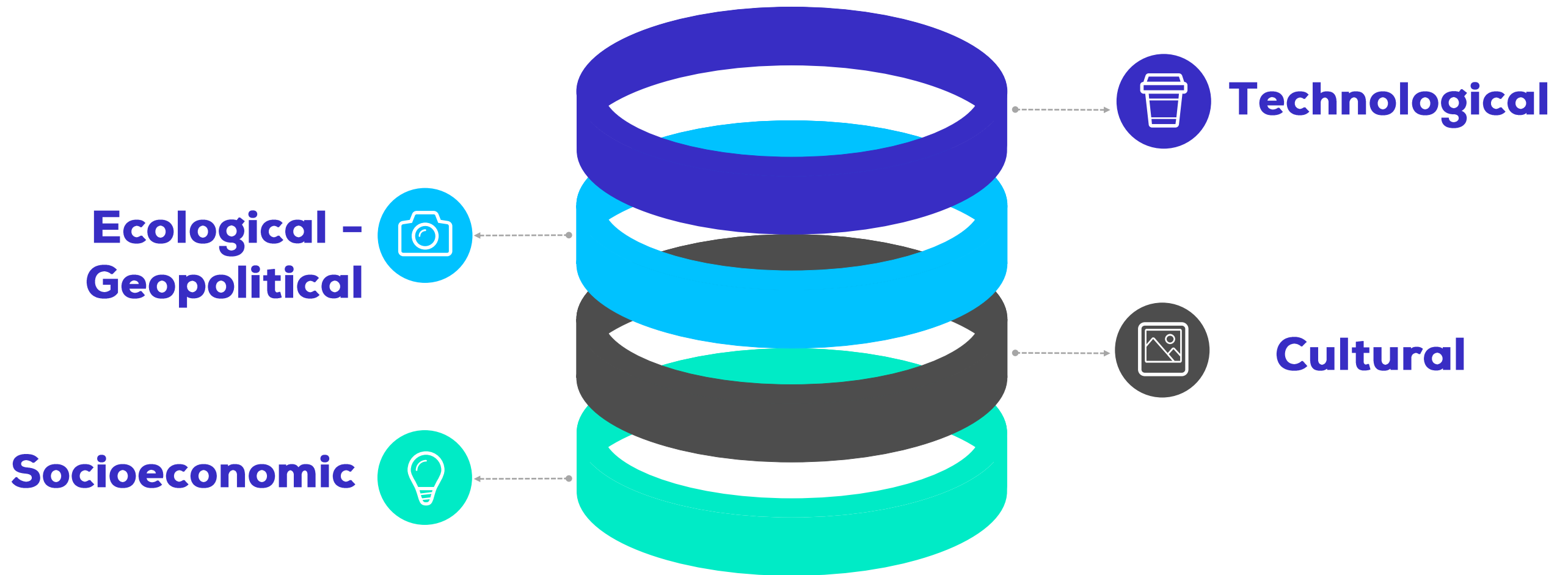
- From technology to community



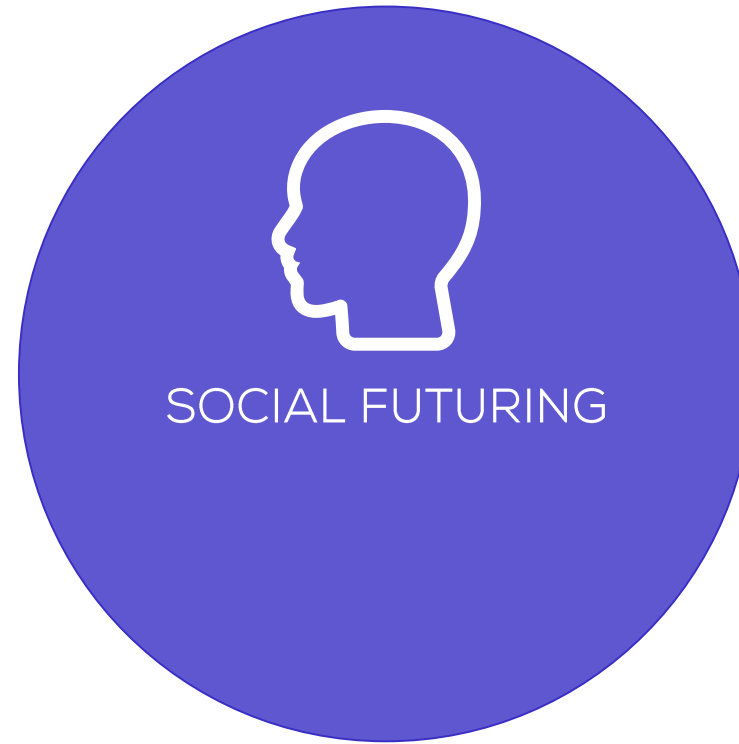
innovation,  
development  
based on local  
communities,  
participation,  
and creativity

# PILLARS of SOCIAL FUTURING

11



# THREE BASIC TYPES OF SOCIAL FUTURING



# The proactive type – „smartest“ cities

- It covers the
  - interpretation
  - causing and
  - promotion of expected changes
  - preparations for any action to influence them
- The smartest cities are able to manipulate changes according to their own shared goals and interests
- This is a form of strategic creativity - its goal is to shape the future in the desired direction





In the Antiquity, such proactive cities included

- Athens at the time of Pericles
- Rome in the early imperial period



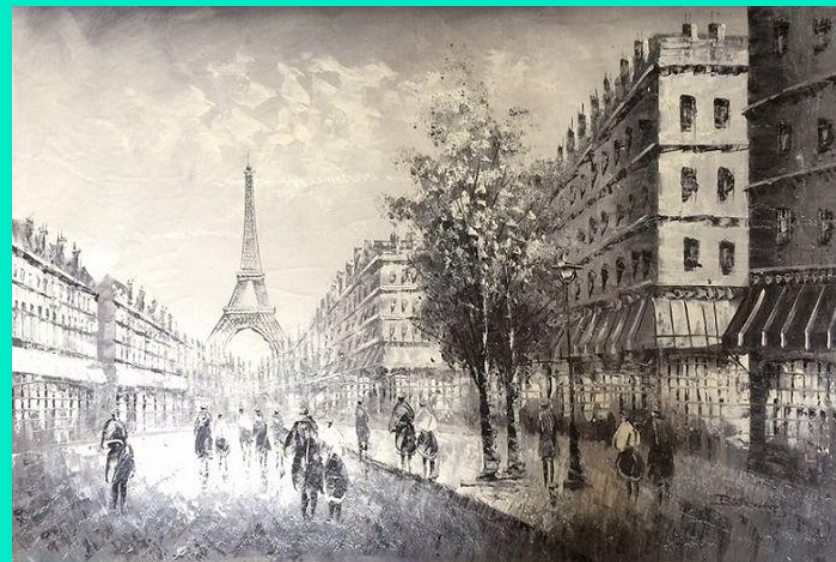


In the late 19th and early 20th centuries

- London



- Paris



- Berlin



While today

- New York



- Shanghai



- After a major gap London again





Some smartest cities are able to adopt a world-class proactive futuring in a few partial areas

- Los Angeles in culture



- Milan in fashion





Some cities have lost this ability in recent times

- Tokyo in the field of creativity
- Hong Kong with a decline in its political autonomy and economic position



# The active type – „smarter“ cities

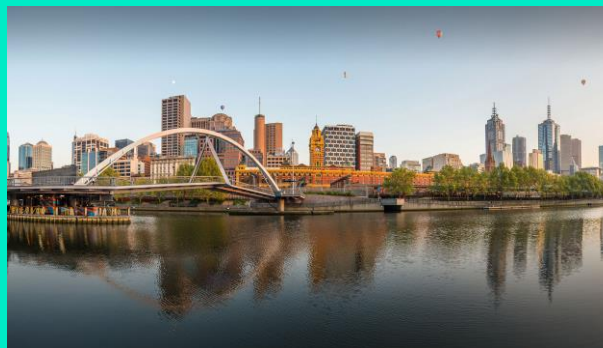
- The potential smarter cities prepare for neutralising the intrinsic limits of future changes and exploiting the opportunities of change
- As with the previous type, this is also a kind of creativity, although aimed at the potential consequences of change in an innovative way
- This partly includes global cities with a key regional role





# The active type - Smarter cities

- Mumbai
- São Paulo
- Chicago
- Frankfurt
- Sydney
- Toronto
- Vienna
- Melbourne
- Copenhagen



# The reactive type – „smart“ cities

- The attempt of smart cities to manage the risks involved in expected change
- This means not some form of creativity but a kind of strategic adaptation
- Focusing on responses to the inevitable future risks in the form of risk management





# The reactive type – „smart cities”

Smart cities in and around Hungary that exhibit such properties include

- Budapest
- Warsaw
- Prague
- Cracow
- Bratislava
- Cluj Napoca





Smart, smarter and  
smartest cities mean  
different levels in the  
operation of cities with  
adaptive, efficient,  
creative and innovative  
use of existing  
conditions, means and  
procedures





Thank you  
for your attention

[www.socialfuturing.com](http://www.socialfuturing.com)

20  
50