Editorial: Entering the Second Decade; Rethinking Smart Cities and Regional Development

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The first issue of the tenth volume of Smart Cities and Regional Development (SCRD) marks not only a chronological milestone but a moment of intellectual consolidation. Established under the auspices of the Faculty of Public Administration, SNSPA, and the Smart-EDU Hub, the journal continues its mission to advance rigorous scholarship at the intersection of technology, governance, and sustainable urban transformation.

This volume underscores the systemic nature of digital transformation. Smart development today extends beyond technological adoption; it demands ethical reflection, institutional maturity, and cross-sectoral integration.

The opening article revisits cosmopolitan moral thought – from Diogenes and the Stoics to Kant and Habermas – arguing that smart governance must rest upon a coherent ethical foundation [1]. Technological sophistication without moral universality risks fragmentation; sustainable development requires citizenship grounded in solidarity and responsibility.

A study of radiology services in Moroccan public hospitals illustrates that healthcare digitalization depends not merely on infrastructure, but on leadership, interoperability, workforce competence, and cybersecurity. Institutional intelligence emerges from the alignment of governance, technology, and human capital [2].

Comparative research on North Carolina and Frankfurt Rhein Main highlights the place-sensitive character of digital transformation. Infrastructure gaps, equity policies, governance structures, and innovation ecosystems produce distinct yet instructive pathways, confirming that smart development relies on adaptable principles rather than universal templates [3].

Finally, the discussion of human-centric digital leadership within the HRM 5.0 paradigm emphasizes the centrality of cultivated competence and institutional culture [4]. Smart ecosystems ultimately depend on leaders who combine technological fluency with ethical responsibility.

Across these contributions, a unifying insight emerges: smart cities and regional development are not isolated technological projects, but civilizational endeavors requiring philosophical grounding, administrative rigor, and sustained commitment to inclusive sustainability.

As SCRD enters its second decade, indexed in major international databases, we reaffirm our dedication to interdisciplinary dialogue and evidence-based reflection. The complex challenges confronting contemporary cities demand scholarship that is analytically precise and normatively aware.

We invite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and students to engage critically with this issue and to contribute to the shaping of resilient, inclusive, and ethically grounded smart communities.

References

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