## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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≥ 250 words

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| 1. **Intro / background**   With the rise of technology, people started wondering, whether we can use it to improve the place we live in. It did not take long to realize, that different types of electronic methods, sensors, the implementation of the IoT and ICT can make our dwelling areas safer, faster, and more efficient. Due to the breadth of technologies that have been implemented into the city, we started calling them “smart”. But does smart really mean better and is it worth the time and money? One of the many research papers in this field “The concept of smart city in the theory and practice of urban development management” (2016) states that Poznań and Łódź (Poland) are practical examples of cities implementing measures as part of the concept of a smart city. Since Lithuania and Poland are close, and have gone through similar conflicts in the past, the implementation and the use of technology may be perceived similarly. Many papers and studies have been done about smart cities and their implementation, therefore this study will try to answer, whether it is worthwhile, to try and make cities “smart”. |
| 1. **Research questions**  * Does living in a smart city mean better life quality? * Do people care whether their city is smart? * Is it worth to implement technology into a city, that is relatively small (on a worldwide scale)? |
| 1. **Data collection**   Since our neighbor, Poland, has started to implement smart technology into their cities, the people tested will be from the Polish cities of Poznań and Łódź, as well as other non-smart Polish cities. A minimum of 50 000 people would be needed to carry out this research, although the more answers we get, the more accurate results will be. The participants would be asked to fill out surveys, answering question about the cities of their country, especially the contrast between smart and non-smart cities, and whether they feel a difference in the six main elements of a smart city: economy, mobility, environment, people, living and governance. Since the survey can be done online, everyone will be able to express their opinion and feelings toward cities being made smart, and whether it really makes life better, or just appears to do so. |
| 1. **Methods of analysis**   The data collected (answers about the differences of smart and non-smart cities) will be split into three groups: people who have only lived in a smart city; people who have lived in both, smart and regular cities; people who have only lived in a non-smart city. This will help us get a better understanding of the different views on smart cities, which groups of people are more likely to appreciate the implementation of technology, and more importantly, see if a city being smart makes a difference in the quality of its inhabitants’ lives. |
| 1. **Original contribution**   This research will investigate whether smart cities improve the quality of life, the differences between smart and non-smart cities, and most importantly, answer a question, whether it is worthwhile to implement this kind of technology into a relatively small area. This can help the authorities make a better decision, on what kinds of technology matter to people, what to implement and what to stay away from. This will allow the development of better cities, where the decision makers were the people living in them, instead of the few in charge. |

References:

1: Dorota Sikora-Fernandez, Danuta Stawasz (2016). The concept of smart city in the theory and practice of urban development management.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304570582>

* Pragmatic competence (content): 10 points
* Linguistic competence (language use): 15 points