

Dear reader,

The Netherlands is an innovative country. For it to have an impact on what is happening in the world, collaboration is important. The Dutch Institute for Technology Safety & Security (DITSS) was put in place to stimulate cooperation in order to provide new security challenges with innovative and technological solutions. DITSS is a unique, not for profit organization that co-creates innovation with local and national governments, companies, knowledge institutions and citizens.

DITSS helps postal services and government to start detecting undesirable products (like drugs) in shipments. We are researching the possibilities to find hemp nurseries, by using 'sound cameras'. The impact we have, is concrete, tangible and meaningful.

For new developments, like the emergence of Smart Cities thanks to the Internet of Things (IoT), we have put in place creative and innovative Living Labs and Field Labs, like the one in Eindhoven's biggest clubbing area Stratumseind and with various departments of the police and fire brigade.

In Eindhoven DITSS developed, with partners like Atos and the State Advocate Pels Rijcken, the Smart City StarterKit. Its purpose is to contribute to developing an innovation platform to improve the safety and security of systems and people in tomorrow's Smart City.

The idea behind the Smart City StarterKit is rather straightforward. Simply put: when more cities work on becoming 'smart', based on the same conceptual framework, more local contributions can be re-used elsewhere so that better solutions come together faster. It's like LEGO™: when everyone uses the same construction tools, you can exchange individual blocks. In its current initial version 1.0, the Smart City StarterKit may not be the ultimate solution; it most definitely represents a contribution to jointly creating an innovation platform to speed up the transition towards a Smart City.

Our Smart City StarterKit contains both non-technological instruments as well as technological solutions. Non-technological instruments are policies that municipalities can use to smooth the transition in their city; think of Open Data Principles to address ownership of publicly created data or an IoT Charter to help hardware suppliers cooperate on the equipment they install in the city.

The technology part is the translation of 5 years of application and software development into a FIWARE implementation. FIWARE is an initiative of the European Commission to facilitate Smart City developments with Open Source software and a shared reference architecture (a common framework). Using the StarterKit enables cities to skip man-years of Living Lab research and man-months on FIWARE software development.

We have converted our experience at Living Lab Stratumseind 2.0 in Eindhoven, our Living Lab for Safety & Security, into a tool that governments, companies, knowledge institutions and students can benefit from. It is our hope that the StarterKit can help you speed up your transition to a Smart City! Should you want to contact us to see if we can jointly continue developing this StarterKit, please feel free to do so. We are looking forward to innovation together!

Good luck!

On behalf of the DITSS team and its partners,

Leon Verver