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Generation Z and Smart Cities

A Bibliometric Exploration of Their Contribution to Urban Sustainability

Mário Carrilho Negas

mario.negas@uab.pt

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This work is funded by national funds through FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., under the projects UIDB/04372/2020 and UIDP/04372/2020.

STATUS SUMMARY

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Key Objectives



To analyze how Generation Z is represented in the scientific literature in the context of smart sustainable cities, identifying themes, patterns, and knowledge gaps.

Research Questions

01

What are the recurring themes and approaches found in the scientific literature that connects Generation Z, smart cities, and urban sustainability?

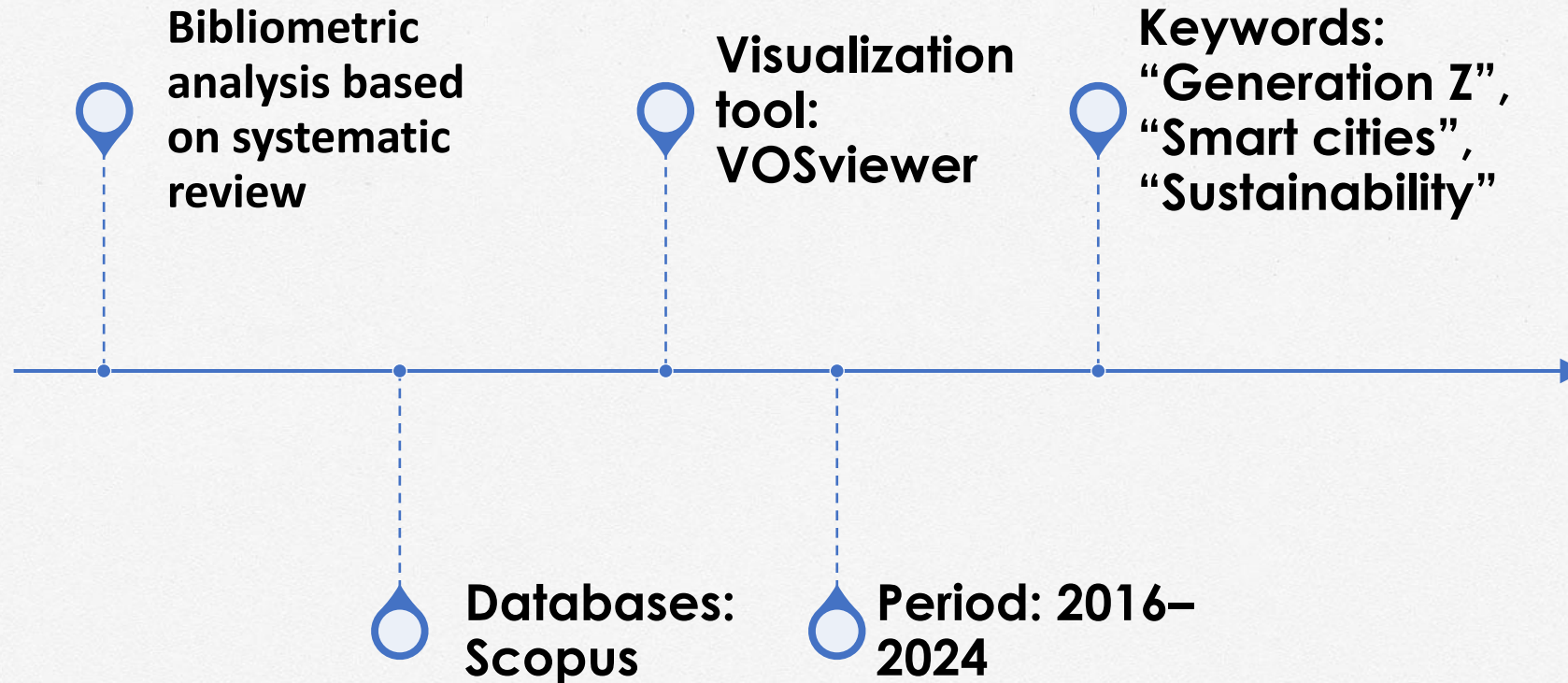
02

How is Generation Z represented as an active social group, both as agents of innovation and change and as critics of smart city dynamics?

03

What strategies and governance models are proposed to integrate Generation Z into sustainable smart cities?

Methodology



Methodology

Using a structured search on Scopus, we initially retrieved **five articles** that matched the inclusion criteria. However, after full-text screening, **one article was excluded** due to its primary focus not being on Generation Z. Therefore, the **final analysis** is based on **four peer-reviewed** journal articles.

Search formula in Scopus

Generation Z

TITLE-ABS-KEY("generation z*" OR "Gen Z*" OR "Post millennial*" OR "Z Generation*" OR "iGen*" OR "post-millennial*" OR "Zoomer*" OR "lgeneration*" OR "Generation-Z*" OR "Gen-Z*" OR "Z-generation*" OR "GenZ*" OR "Generation of Z*" OR "Generation XYZ*" OR "Postmillennial*")

Smart city

TITLE-ABS-KEY("Smart city" OR "Smart cities" OR "intelligent city"
OR "knowledge city" OR "digital city" OR "wired city")

Sustainability

TITLE-ABS-KEY(sustainability OR sustainable OR green OR
"urban resilience" OR natural OR liveable OR maintainable)

Inclusion Criteria

- Peer-reviewed articles
- Published in English
- Exclusion of conference papers, book chapters, and non-indexed documents
- Explicit relevance - the three areas: Generation Z, Smart Cities, Sustainability

Authors in Gen Z, smart cities, and sustainability literature ranked by number of publications and citations (2016–2024)

Authors	Documents	Citations
<u>Grzesiuk, Kalina</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Jegorow, Dorota</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Wawer, Monika</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Amelio, Stefano</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Gazzola, Patrizia</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Głowacz, Anna</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Nicolescu, Luminița</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Vătămănescu, Elena-Mădălina</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Jedliński, Mariusz</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Sosik-Filipiak, Katarzyna</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

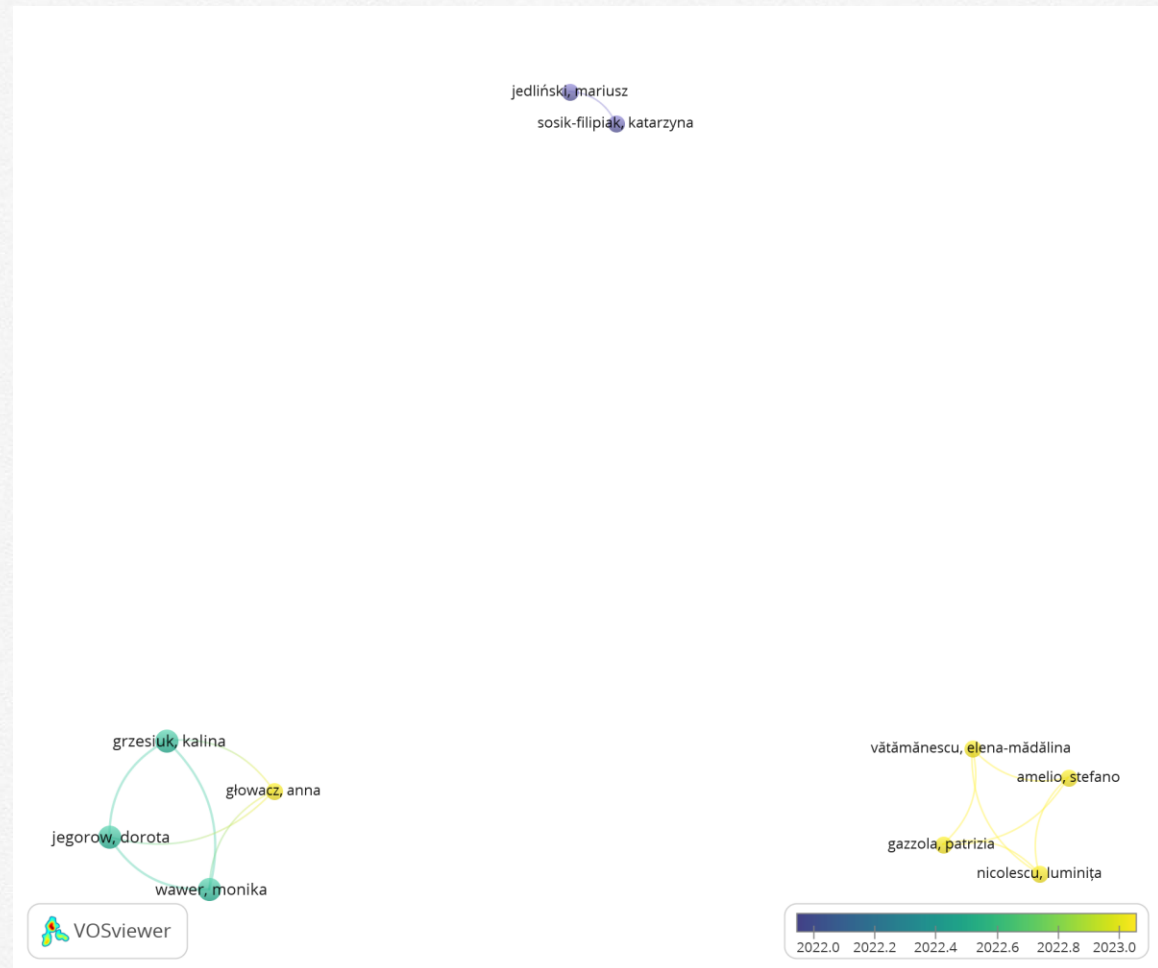
Sources	Citations
Energies	40
Journal of Cleaner Production	11

Sources in Gen Z's smart cities and sustainability research area rated by citations number (2016–2024)

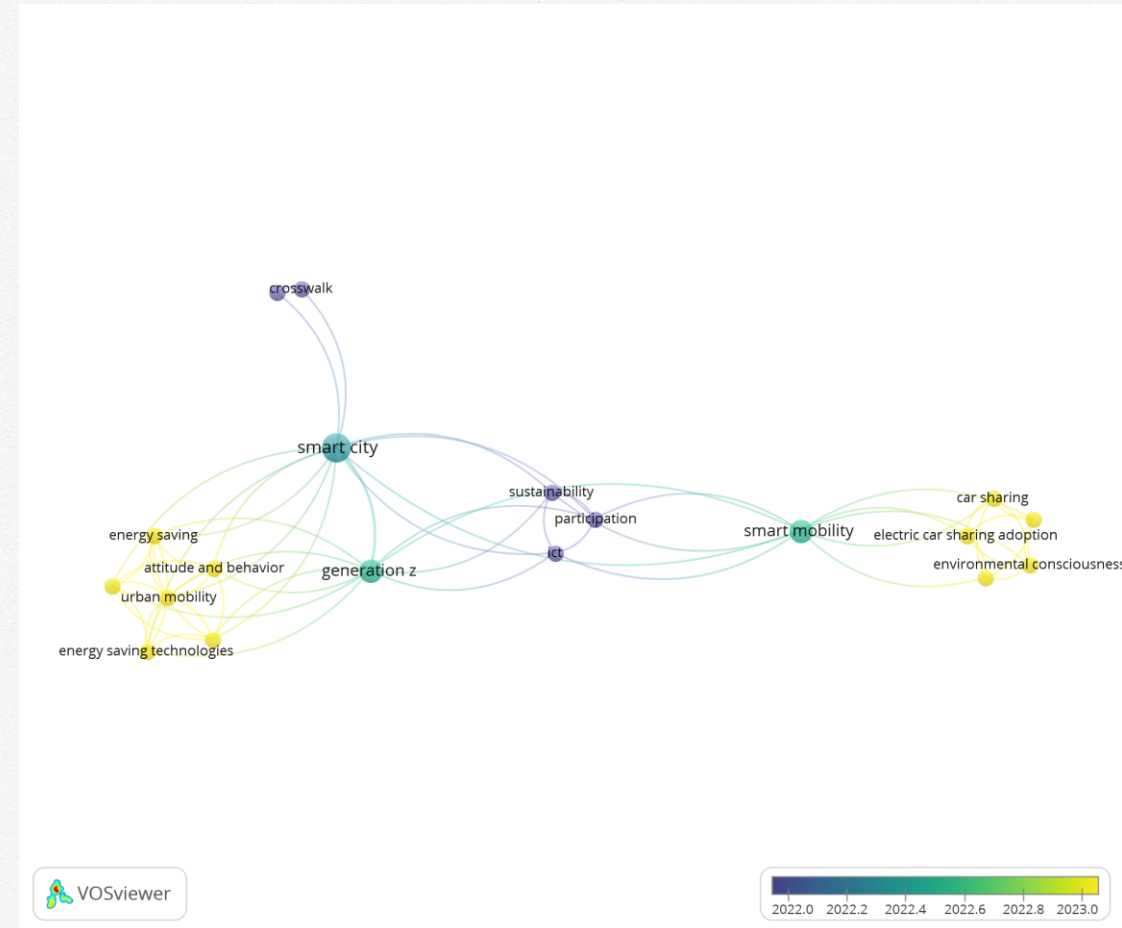
Results – Scientific Production

Final	Countries with publications	Most cited authors	Cited journals
4 peer-reviewed journal articles <i>Exclusion after full-text screening: 1 (not focused on Gen Z)</i>	Poland Italy Romania	Grzesiuk, Jegorow, Wawer	Energies Journal of Cleaner Production

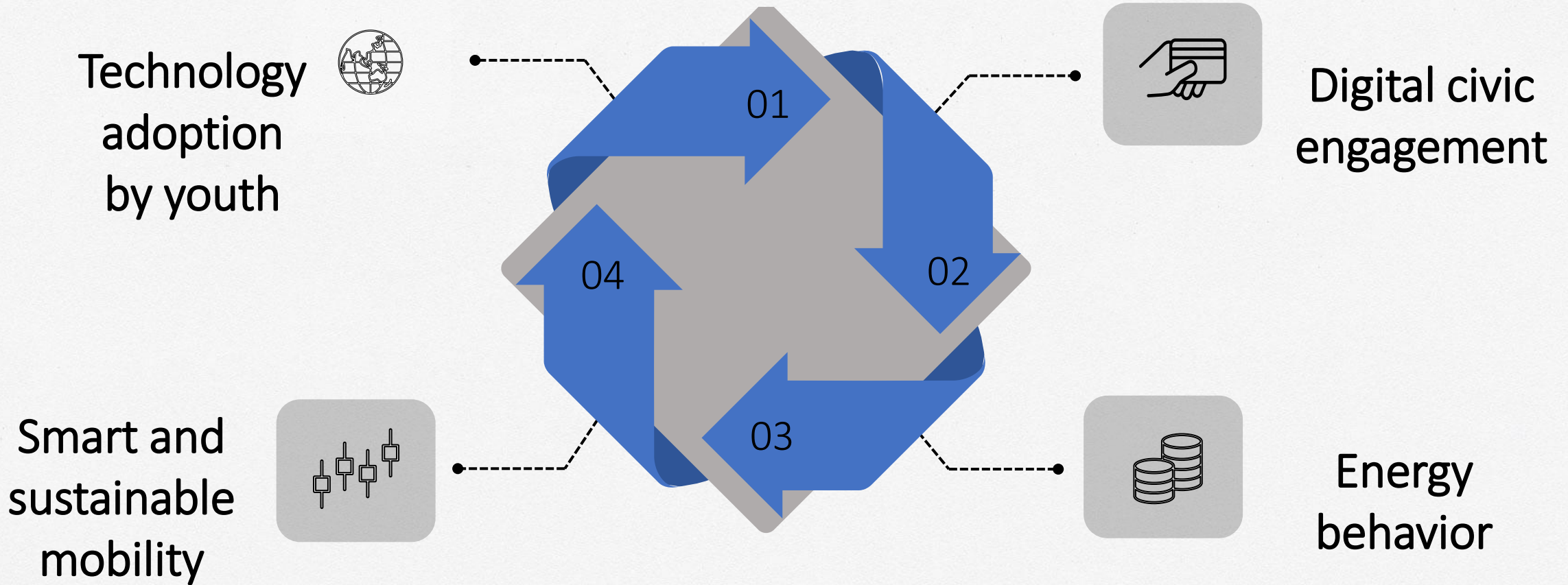
Co-authorship map with Overlay Visualization (threshold 1 article)



Keyword co-occurrence map with overlay visualization in Gen Z



Key Thematic Contributions



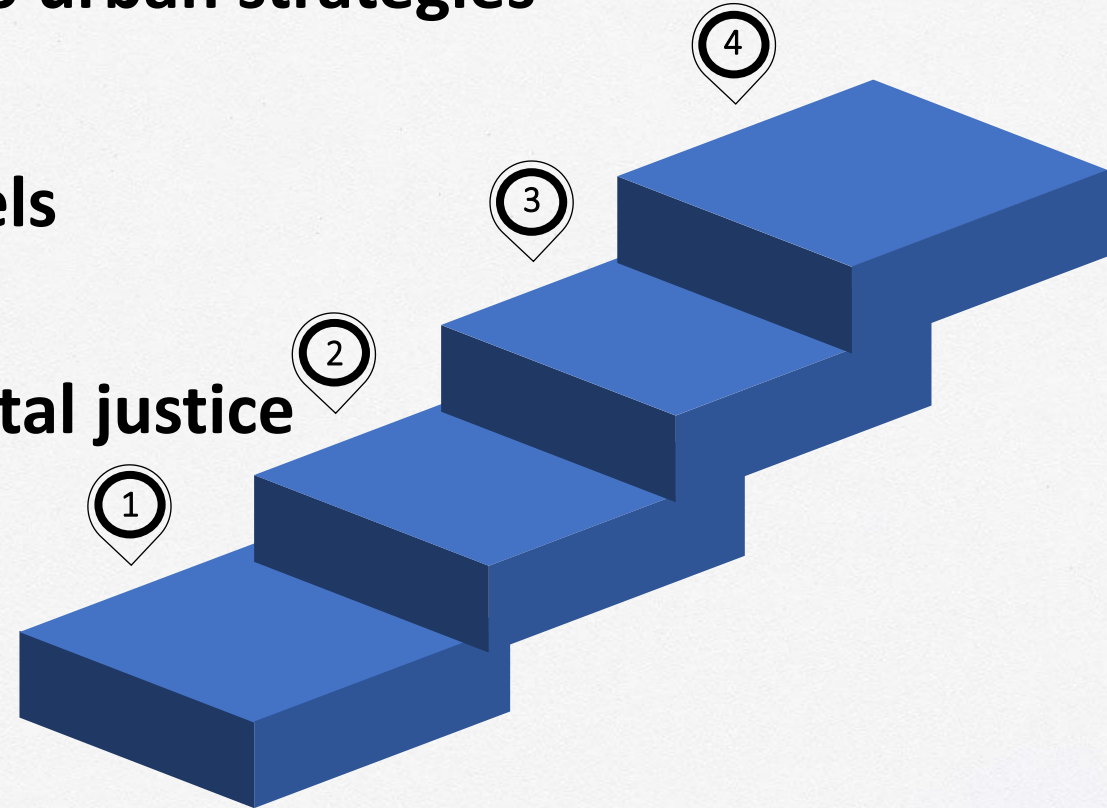
Implications and Future Directions

 **Need to integrate Generation Z into urban strategies**

 **Promote inclusive governance models**

 **Foster innovation and environmental justice**

 **Fill gaps in the existing literature**



Synthesis of Key Findings Aligned with the Research Questions

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1

What are the recurring themes and approaches found in the scientific literature that connects Generation Z, smart cities, and urban sustainability?

- Emphasis on Gen Z's **digital skills** as drivers of eco-efficient urban practices.
- Focus on **participatory and co-creation approaches** in smart city development.
- Critical reflection on **technologies that exacerbate social inequalities** or lack ethical grounding.



How is Generation Z represented as an active social group, both as agents of innovation and change and as critics of smart city dynamics?

- Recognized as tech-savvy innovators who **shape sustainable urban solutions**.
- Actively engaged in environmental advocacy and **community-driven initiatives**.
- Critical of **technocratic urban strategies** and lack of ethical considerations.

3

What strategies and governance models are proposed to integrate Generation Z into sustainable smart cities?

- Development of **digital participatory platforms** for youth engagement in urban planning.
- Implementation of **educational programs** focused on digital and sustainability skills.
- Adoption of **adaptive governance models** that respond to intergenerational priorities.

Thank you very much!

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