

DIGITAL URBAN FUTURES: URBAN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN THE HEADQUARTER CITY OF KYIV AND THE ROLE OF EMERGING TECH-ECOSYSTEMS (RE-DIGICITY)

PROJECT SUMMARY

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ABSTRACT

RE-DIGICITY examines the tech-ecosystem in the City of Kyiv, an East-European headquarter city subject to multiple urban reconstruction efforts in response to authoritarian aggression. RE-DIGICITY aims to understand and explain how tech enterprises both big and small shape reconstruction efforts and contribute to multiple digital urban futures.



Keywords

Urban reconstruction / Kyiv / Resilience /
Institutionalism / Ukraine

Funding

RE-DIGICITY is a 2-year project funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for Ukraine (ID 1233294)

Institutions

RE-DIGICITY is housed at DGEO's Urban Studies group led by Prof. Markus Hesse. Mentor of the project is Dr. Constance Carr head of DIGI-GOV scientific group.

INTRODUCTION

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Conceptual background - Reconstruction and Digital Futures

The invasion, “caused an avalanche of civilian casualties and a large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure, while Ukraine’s forced displacement and humanitarian needs continue to grow exponentially” (Mykhnenko/Delahaye/Mehdi 2022: 714). At the time of this writing (October 2022), media reported the destruction of 30% of Ukraine’s power stations, with Ukrainians bracing for a hard winter, further compounding problems of dealing with properties occupied by Russian soldiers, managing migration, and repairing damaged infrastructure.

In 2022, Amazon, Google and Microsoft were awarded for their efforts in reinforcing Ukraine’s digital infrastructures and services (Nolan 2022).

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02

An Eastern Headquarter City

The tech-ecosystems thus signify the strengthening of new business sectors in a post-socialist, neoliberal economy, and the delivery of a new digital urbanism in Kyiv, a ‘relational’ (Wong/Hesse/Sigler 2022) headquarter city. RE-DIGICITY will explore this tech-ecosystem to understand its urban relationality, and how this is changed by conditions of authoritarian aggression.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

RE-DIGICITY focusses on three domains:

I Reconstruction and Digital Urban Futures,

II Relational Headquarter Cities,

III Tech-ecosystems in conditions of authoritarian aggression.

QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

RE-DIGICITY's methodological approach inspired by the processuality of urbanization (Carr/Hesse 2020), 'interpretative institutionalism' (Bevir/Rhodes 2006), and urban relationality (Wong/Hesse/Sigler 2022).

OBJECTS OF ANALYSIS

RE-DIGICITY focusses on the tech-ecosystem in the City of Kyiv, an East-European headquarter city subject to multiple and sustained urban reconstruction efforts in response to authoritarian aggression. RE-DIGICITY aims to explain how tech enterprises, big and small, shape reconstruction efforts and contribute to multiple digital urban futures.

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More information at Constance Carr's and Markus Hesse's (Editors) Urbanization Unbound
<http://urbanunbound.blogspot.com/>