

COLLABORATE

Formalising open-innovation regime in cities

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Status quo:

Ineffective collaborative regime and near-absence of an innovation ecosystem

The existence of legacy gaps in infrastructure, path-dependencies in the administrative process, and lack of platforms for institutional collaboration have resulted in severe capacity constraints to effectively tackle urban challenges. The lack of such a collaborative governance regime has stymied the culture of open innovation leading to a symptomatic approach to addressing urban challenges and denying resilience in cities. It is imperative, then, to reduce barriers to participation from the larger ecosystem of stakeholders and institutions, to usher systemic thinking, better design in the delivery of public goods and services, and, finally, enhanced accountability and information symmetry in the system.

Theory of change:

Innovation hubs to formalise open innovation

The Innovation Hubs will enable the creation of an ecosystem that brings together the crucial quadruple helix of stakeholders: government, business-industry, academia, and civil society groups to cultivate and formalise open innovation to catalyse population-scale problem-solving at speed. Utilising a stack approach towards scoping and operationalising on an urban challenge, the hubs will formalise alliances and networks, that will ideate and co-create solutions through a principled engagement process leading to delivery of innovative solutions for cities.

Envisioned long-term impacts:

Reduced premium on risk and thought-leaders in global innovation

In addition to the above, the inherent trust and transparency in addressing challenges through an open innovation regime enhance the salience of the socio-political agenda of the city. A framework for executing innovative ideas with high risks and uncertainty can theoretically be taken ahead as risk is pooled and venues for uncertainty reduced for stakeholders. This creates an environment where innovation can be portfolio driven, the premium on risk is reduced and organically institutionalises innovation in the ecosystem. Finally, over the long-term, such an open innovation regime has the potential to convert our cities as thought-leaders for innovation globally.