WILL YOU JOIN A
DATAWALK ?

A Datawalk is an accessible method to provide citizens insight into the 'smart city' and to let them think about how (personal) data is used in this regard. In this brAInfood you can read more about the setup of a Datawalk and take a look at some examples of data hubs that you can encounter in the city.

WHAT IS A DATAWALK?

A workshop in the form of a guided, interactive walk through the 'smart' city. A guide gives the participants insight into how (personal) data is collected, processed and used in the city. The participants and the guide then discuss their preferences and wishes for the use of data in the smart city.

The participants and the guide can discuss, among others, the following questions:

- Did you know that (personal) data is collected and used in this way?
- What do you think of the way data is used here?
- How would you like to be informed about how (personal) data is used? Is the current method good?
- What does a smart city look like to you? Which data and applications would you use for this?
- Are you aware of the existing legislation regarding personal data (GDPR) and camera use (camera law)? Do you agree with the law and do you feel the collection of data is in compliance with it?
- and more...

You can have the conversation during the walk, or you can do this during a debriefing.

Want to know more or create your own Datawalk? Have a look at the manual & cardset 'Create your own Datawalk!' or read the SMIT 'Policy Brief' about the Datawalks.

brAInfood of the Knowledge Centre Data & Society in collaboration with SPECTRE

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WHY ORGANISE A DATAWALK?

You can organise a Datawalk for several reasons:

Raising awareness
"This is how a smart city works. These data are collected and processed in the process."

Critical reflection
"What are your preferences for the smart city? What data may and may not be collected? What are your processing preferences? How do you want to be informed about this?" A Datawalk can be part of a data protection impact assessment (DPIA).

Co-creation
"What other information can be useful in a smart city? How do you want your city to become smarter?"

EXAMPLES OF DATA SOURCES ON THE WALKS

During the walk through the city, the guide will stop at various places where data is collected. Some examples:

Police cameras have a function of increasing security in the public domain. Sometimes these cameras use analytical software to automatically analyze and interpret the images. They can be used in various ways to count vehicles, detect suspicious behavior and determine traffic violations.

Shared scooters & bicycles Companies that offer shared scooters and bicycles that you can rent via an app also collect different forms of data. This way they receive information about where and at what times customers use their service. This allows them to analyse what, for example, are popular routes or pick-up and drop-off locations.

Weather station Small weather stations in the city map things like precipitation, wind speed and temperature very accurately. By analyzing these data, the city can refine local climate policy, such as anticipating heat islands or flooding.
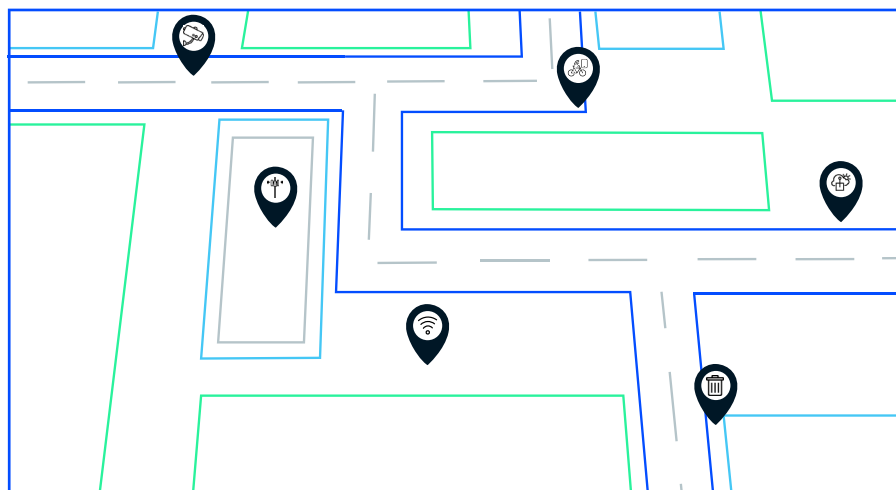
Cell towers Your mobile phone in combination with cell towers allows telecom operators to collect a lot of personal information, such as your location. This information can be combined (on an aggregated level) with socio-demographic data and payment information. For example, a city can map traffic flows, gain insight into the spending patterns of visitors and adjust their policy accordingly.

Public WiFi Each device with a WiFi module (such as a smartphone) has a unique identifier. Anyone who comes within range of a WiFi transmitter with a smartphone automatically exchanges a connection request, in which this code is sent along. WiFi transmitters, with which you can connect to use public WiFi, often also function as WiFi sniffers (a device that maps all WiFi devices in the area). In this way, the location of your device and general traffic patterns throughout the city can be mapped, even if you do not (actively) use the WiFi network.

Smart bins can, for example, register the amount of waste in a bin and compress and process it on site. The cleaning services can follow up when they are about to become full. There are also waste containers for household waste, which are linked to a personal badge. With these containers, your personal data is linked to your waste production (type of waste and amount). This information serves, among other things, to optimize garbage collection.