

The Public-Private Partnership. A Smart Solution for an Optimal Urban Security

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to present that the public-private partnership can be a smart solution where the good governance of the specialized public services offered by the city management can present lack of real solutions, in the good governance of the city, and to ensure an optimal urban security. The role of these partnerships is to help and stimulate the economy and development of the city through a real efficient and effective management of the city's resources and assets with the main objective of improving the quality of life of urban citizens. They can also be extended to the development of peri-urban areas. Globally for most cities a sensitive issue on the urban agenda are the slums. The solutions that the local government has to provide for issues of slums are different and should be accordingly with the resources and assets of each city. The value of this paper is to help to identify the key sectors to where PPPs can enhance overall the urban security by the city management.

Keywords: good governance; urban security; slum

Introduction

For a city the relationship between public sector and private sector(s) can provide viable solution and a sustainable development for its all-important sectors. And for any human being, the city - through its specialized public services - must provide the public space and the environments needed for continuing development of human beings, while ensuring access to basic systems required for human development and public order and safety appropriate to the existing socio-political context.

The concept of *city*. The first definition we can think refers to "*city proper*" - "*which describes a city according to an administrative boundary*". The second approach, i.e. "*urban agglomeration*"- "*considers the extent of the contiguous urban area, or*

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built-up area, to delineate the city's boundaries". And the third concept of the city, the "metropolitan area" - "defines its boundaries according to the degree of economic and social interconnectedness of nearby areas, identified by interlinked commerce or commuting patterns" (United Nations 2016) (see figure no. 1).

Where good governance through its public policies lacks real solutions, the public-private partnerships can improve the links between the administration between the city proper - the urban agglomeration and the metropolitan area.

In order to achieve an optimal urban resilience anytime, intelligent governance must consider the principles of intelligent urbanism:

- 1) Balance with Nature;
- 2) A balance with Tradition;
- 3) Appropriate Technology;
- 4) Conviviality;
- 5) Efficiency;
- 6) Human Scale;
- 7) Opportunity Matrix;
- 8) Regional Integration;
- 9) Balanced Movement;
- 10) Institutional Integrity (Intelligent Urban System, 2015). The public-private partnerships regarding urbanism and urbanization process should also consider the principles mentioned above.

Considering figure no.1 the urban mobility plan plays a fundamental role for the whole metropolitan area. It would be adequate to ensure the right links between the most important points of the metropolitan area with the city center and other important points, such as the airport, the railway station, the subway station and other important key points of the city or of the urban agglomeration. Also, emergency routes should be established in case of natural disasters, serious accidents, terrorist attacks, bioterrorism etc.

To understand the "*the complex world we live in*" (Barabási, 2002, p. 12) and to understand human beings, their behaviors, their links with the environment, the way they gather in masses and lead the created society, it is needed to "*think in terms of*

networking” (Barabási, 2002, p. 7). Using graph theory, the important nodes in the city proper, in the urban agglomeration as well as in the metropolitan area can be identified and established. The links of the nodes represents the primary, secondary and emergency routes. These routes are established according to the territorial infrastructure of each city. This planning will have to consider other important elements of the city such as the number of populations, the number of cars, rush hours in traffic and other elements specific to each city, because each city has its specific elements different from the rest, even if cities can have common elements.



Figure 1. Distinction between the City Proper, the Urban Agglomeration and the Metropolitan Area (United Nations 2016)

The concept of *public-private partnership*. First, the concept of *partnership* refers to “any business or institutional association within which joint activity takes place” (Sadran, 2021).

Therefore, what is a *public-private partnership*? The public-private partnership (PPP), can be seen as a “partnership between an agency of the government and the private sector in the delivery of goods or services to the public” (Sadran, 2021).

Another approach of the concept is that public-private partnerships (PPPs) “are a mechanism for government to procure and implement public infrastructure and/or services using the resources and expertise of the private sector” (The World Bank, 2021). The key advantage of public-private partnership(s) is “that it allows public

administrators to concentrate on planning, policy and regulation and the private sector, in turn, is empowered to improve the efficiency and quality of service” (Toolkit for Public-Private Partnerships in Roads & Highways, 2009).

I emphasize a few different goals that PPPs could fulfil, identified by Tony Bovaird:

- a) *policy design and planning;*
- b) *policy coordination;*
- c) *policy monitoring;*
- d) *policy evaluation and review;*
- e) *policy implementation and service delivery;*
- f) *resource mobilization;*
- g) *resource management* (Bovaird, 2004).

The European Commission highlighted four principal roles for the private sector in PPP schemes:

- 1) to provide additional capital;
- 2) to provide alternative management and implementation skills;
- 3) to provide value added to the consumer and the public at large;
- 4) to provide better identification of needs and optimal use of resources (European Commission, 2003).

Urban Security and Public-Private Partnerships

The research question is: what are the key sectors in which public-private partnerships can bring real improvement on long term for urban security? Therefore, this paper may identify and offer possible solutions or may indicate the key sectors in the daily life of the city, where the local and central governments may implement public policies and PPPs or facilitate the PPPs with specialized public services in order to improve the urban security.

What is *urban security*? In this paper I use the following approach of the concept of urban security: “*urban security consists of integrated and sustainable policies that ensure the normal state of human communities, processes and the proper use of*

assets and heritage in the urban environment by guaranteeing the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure and the adaptability of public services in emergency situations, while preserving national identity and culture” (Mînican, 2017, pp. 18-19).

EU presents that urban security can be related to various forms of crime (including for instance human trafficking, organized crime, sexual violence, violence against vulnerable groups and minorities, petty crime and vandalism, violent radicalization and terrorism, including via cross-border health threats) and an actual or perceived lack of security (Urban Agenda for the EU, 2019).

Therefore, the European Organisation for Security emphasize that *“the protection of citizens and of vital services and assets in the urban environment is becoming a key security issue, since about 80% of the population in Europe lives in cities”* (European Organisation for Security, 2014).

As a consequence, urban security becomes a “must have” for the local and central governments. To address to the daily challenges that the management of the city should manage by providing smart solutions the urban security indicates the key points on the urban agenda where the top management of the city should act: integrated and sustainable public policies; urbanism and urbanization process; critical infrastructure; specialized public services. Through good governance urban security safeguards a state of normality of urban society and peri-urban areas and contributes to a high standard of quality of life and an enhanced protection of the environment (Mînican, 2017, p. 19).

Every human being regardless sex, religion and culture, has some primary needs to satisfy. Abraham Maslow coined the basic needs of every human being. The hierarchy of needs encompass:

- 1) the physiological needs;
- 2) the safety needs;
- 3) the love needs, affection and belonging;
- 4) the esteem needs;
- 5) the need for self-actualization (A.H. Maslow, 1943). Consequently, the city must provide the environments needed and the necessary means to meet the basic needs of human beings.

From an urban security perspective, the key sectors where local and central governments should act using PPPs, where it is possible, in general and also in the context of the COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 pandemic:

The Economic sector: improving the production and services sectors; job creation or professional reconversion the human personnel to other auxiliary subsectors. Ensuring job security.

The Healthcare sector: guaranteeing the access to healthcare for every human being 24/7.

In the current context of the COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the access to healthcare may be endangered for the other categories of sick people due to the large number of patients with COVID.

Healthcare industry: in a pandemic time, the healthcare industry plays a key role in providing support for the state medical system. The healthcare industry through PPPs should be able to enhance its medical capabilities and to extent its medical networks.

The Education sector: improving the online teaching system; development of educational programs to develop the way of thinking of pupils and students in the context of the current pandemic, programs for the development of personality and social skills even in the absence of physical presence; providing psychological counseling for pupils and students.

The Tourism sector: reopening of hotels, restaurants, pubs, clubs, amusement parks, complying with the new medical requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2; and creating new tourist attractions to regain tourists lost due to the global pandemic.

From a sociological approach the implement of PPPs can diminish discrepancies and can increase the social cohesion between identity differences in the urban environment.

Public-Private Partnerships for Slums

To cope with new urban challenges and the old rising challenges the European Union has launched the Urban Agenda through the Amsterdam Pact, which focuses on three pillars of European Union policy-making and implementation:

1) better regulation;

- 2) better funding and
- 3) better knowledge (European Commission, 2016).

The list of Priority Themes for the Urban Agenda of EU encompasses the following:

- 1) Inclusion of migrants and refugees;
- 2) Air quality;
- 3) Urban poverty;
- 4) Housing;
- 5) Circular economy;
- 6) Jobs and skills in the local economy;
- 7) Climate adaptation (including green infrastructure solutions);
- 8) Energy transition;
- 9) Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions;
- 10) Urban mobility;
- 11) Digital transition;
- 12) Innovative and responsible public procurement. (European Commission, 2016, p. 7).

Due to the fact that *urban poverty* is much more pronounced in slums than in other neighborhoods, and *migrants* and *refugees* are trying to find a home for the first time in slums, this represents a sensitive issue on every cities' urban agenda. So, there is an increasing need to provide smart solutions to those issues and the PPPs can bring on long term the help for a sustainable development. Therefore, *inclusion of migrants and refugees* and *urban poverty* leads us to slums, i.e. sensitive issues for the urban security.

People living in slums suffer from one or more of the following five deprivations:

- 1) lack of access to improved water sources;
- 2) lack of access to improved sanitation facilities;
- 3) lack of sufficient living area;
- 4) lack of housing durability and

5) lack of tenure security (World Social Report, 2020).

If at the level of the European Union “urban poverty” is a distinctive point on the urban agenda, I believe that a separate chapter should be included on the global urban security agenda called: “Slums”.

For example, the official data from Africa provide the urban reality as follows: “*one in eight human beings lives in slums*” (PSUP Team Nairobi, 2016, p. 2). I emphasize that when this study was conducted Africa had a population of 1.213 billion people, and today the population is 1.367 billion people (Worldometers, 2021).

Another example is India. The 2011 Census of India presents that the urban population of the country stood at 377 million or 31.2 per cent of the total population (Government of India, 2015). In 2015 India had a population of 1,310 billion people and in present it has 1,391 billion people (Worldometers, 2021).

The Latin American and Caribbean region is a concerning example. It is the most urbanized region in the world, with almost 80% of its population living in cities. Data for this region show that 23.5% (113 million) of the population lived in the slum in 2012, and United Nations projections show that more than 160 million people will live in the slum by 2020 (Magalhães, et al., 2016, pp. 2-3).

According to the World Social Report 2020 there are more than 1 billion people across the world living in slums (World Social Report, 2020).

In terms of urban security, for cities to become economically competitive, specialized urban public services, infrastructure, resources, assets and logistics play a key role in achieving this goal. Studies on social life in urban areas and slums in the specialty literature can be taken as scientific benchmarks to some extent, as they are conducted regionally.

Because studies do not address all cities of the world, or in the most important cities in every country on all the continents of the Earth, I argue that there is no applicable conclusions or recommendations that can be formulated for all cities in the world, considering the great diversity of social identities, of religious identities and cultural identities existing worldwide. But certain patterns common to all slums around the world can be identified.

Why PPPs for slums? The answer is to ensure access to healthcare, sanitation, piped water, schools, employment opportunities, adequate housing etc. (World Social Report, 2020).

Another answer would be that slums are the perfect environment for acute respiratory infections and in the context of COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic, viruses can take countless mutations.

To implement PPPs for slums the first requirement is the existence of real coordination between local government and central government. Second, the local government should have programs on its urban agenda to improve the local neighborhoods and to create, where is needed, or to ensure access to running water, sewerage, schools and primary health services (World Social Report, 2020). Third, *timing*. In *Guidelines for Successful Public – Private Partnerships*, the European Commission states “*that successful PPP design requires that all parties are brought together at an early stage*” (European Commission, 2003, p. 10).

Due to the fact that the funding from local governments cannot cover the needs of slums during the pandemic, a smart solution would be to implement PPPs.

Conclusion

The local government together with the central government must find solutions to ensure and to satisfy the basic needs of human beings in the urban environment. Due to the fact that budgets are sometimes limited, PPPs can bring that extra money or they can cover the money deficit and the exchange of know-how compensate for what central and local governments cannot achieve due to bureaucratic rigidity and corruption.

Ensuring access to the primary resources needed to satisfy the primary needs of human beings in the urban environment and creating access to these resources for new neighborhoods created by expanding the city and peri-urban areas, will be a key element of all cities for a sustainable development of the cities and for the resilience of the critical infrastructures.

Slums are a real challenge for urban security that requires solutions adapted to each type of slum depending on the resources of the city. PPPs can compensate the lack of financial resource and know-how of the local government. PPPs for slums can be a solution to reduce poverty, inequality to increase the social reintegration of slum dwellers and to offer more job opportunities.

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