

Building Smart Regions Through Multi-Sector Collaborations

The production and consumption of knowledge drives competitiveness in the global economy. As a result, nations and geographic regions that desire to succeed in a new interdependent and rapidly changing world must become “Smart”. They need to collect, process, analyze and interpret data to both develop knowledge and act with increasing efficiency to make decisions that will strengthen their government, business, and education sectors and improve the quality of life of their citizens. There are already a number of national data integration and analysis efforts underway - including the National Data Service, led by the University of Illinois National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and Europe’s EUDAT research data initiatives - that offer potential models for others to follow as they forge academic and industry partnerships (Harmon, 2014). The Organization of American States, Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas (OAS-ARTCA), is working to launch an effort to design and deploy a smart region big data plan for the Americas.

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