

Andorra city microgrid development

The MIT Media Lab's City Science research group, the University of Andorra, and national and international companies are collaborating in order to bring an innovative ecosystem into the capital of Andorra. This innovation district aims to engage local citizens, researchers, and R& D from the companies in order to build together an Andorran living lab, an "innovation district" where national and international companies can test and deploy their products and ideas and cultivate human capital.

The goal of this project is to provide an open collaborative interdisciplinary space for researchers, companies, startups, and educational institutions that can bring people together and empower them to actively contribute to innovation and the entrepreneurial life of Andorra.

The goal of the project is to find a new way to emphasize cultural heritage as a potential area of interest for tourists and citizens, and to put the culture at the foundation of the transformation and innovation process. Cultural heritage is the legacy of our ancestors: customs, traditions, places, objects, and values are passed on from generation to generation, but unfortunately, many are lost on the way. This project stresses the importance of cultural heritage: both how it defines us, and our duty to not only preserve it but also recover it.

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The goal of this series of workshops is to introduce Andorran (8-10 years old) kids to data mining. Through this series of workshops they will discover the process of extracting knowledge from data through an emotional city mapping.

A dedicated application has been designed to enable students to capture emotional and perception data at various locations of the city. The collected data are then aggregated, analyzed, and interpreted through a series of different visualization tools.

At the end of these workshops the students learned the main phases of data mining, including, data collection,

data aggregation, and data visualization. Most importantly, they gained a deeper emotional understanding of their surrounding environment that enable critical thinking about the current state of their city and a proposal of future urban improvements.

Researchers have developed CityScope Andorra, a 3Daugmented-reality platform that visualises complex urban data on a small-scale model of the country in real-time. The platform simulates the impact of multiple urban interventions — from urban planning proposals to shared autonomous vehicles — and facilitates civic engagement and decision making.

The researchers have also tested the Persuasive Electric Vehicle (PEV), an ultra-lightweight, three-wheel, shared-use autonomous vehicle designed to operate in bicycle lanes. If deployed at scale, the PEV could help address the severe traffic and parking problems in Andorra, a car-dependent country without an airport or train service.

“Urban innovation that is focused on human interaction must be tested in a real-world context,” says Kent Larson, director of the City Science Initiative, who spearheads the projects.

“Working in Andorra is a fantastic opportunity. In such a tiny country, we can work directly with the ministers, policy decisions can be made rapidly and efficiently, and we have access to mobile and energy data for the entire country to help us understand the complex behaviors of residents and tourists.”

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