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Success Factors for a Digital Twin of Subsurface Utilities - Experiences from the Comparison of Singapore and Zurich

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#### Setting the scene







#### Data driven excavation and construction





(SEC) SINGAPORE-ETH CENTRE

> DIGITAL UNDERGROUND

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**Current process for planning and construction in Singapore** 



Strimble.



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#### **Process in Singapore – example of trial trench**









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## Current process for planning and construction in Switzerland



Key messages:

- People trust the data
- Data as integrated part of projects
- Cooperation between all actors
- Underground cadastre supports development towards digital building and construction (BIM)





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### Key principles for multi-purpose cadastre in CH

- Responsibility for correct data for lies with asset owner
- Decentralized data maintenance and centralized access
- Financing of decentralized infrastructure through each asset owner, centralized infrastructure funded by government
- Open access to data for asset owners, their contractors and public agencies most municipalizes provide access also to private individuals (like for property development)
- Any discrepancies between the data and reality to be reported in order to improve the data quality.





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#### Comparison, contextualisation and lessons learnt

- Lack of legal obligation in Singapore to collect (and provide) data on underground utilities: (some) asset owners do not want to voluntarily share information.
- Differences in construction and maintenance of a road:
  - The climate has a direct influence on the structure of the roadway (road bed, foundation, surface)
  - Opening a road for trial trenches much simpler in subtropical Singapore than in the harsher climate of Zurich.
  - In Zurich, a road must be completely and extensively renovated every 20 years including renewal of infrastructure!
- Time constraints: In Singapore, roads with construction sites must be reopened at the start of rush hour. In Zurich, road closures or deviations due to construction sites usually last several weeks and the works are therefore easier to plan.
- Data access: perception of security situation is different in Zurich, threat of open data is considered low.





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## **Conclusions and recommendations for a successful** implementation of a digital twin of underground infrastructure

Governance and institution:

- Digital twin of the underground: supra-organisational product Strict (data) governance.
- Cross domain data  $\rightarrow$  need for a leader overall quality, provider of the spatial data infrastructure (SDI). Policy and legal:
- Special attention on data quality, data exchange (format, mechanism), data management and data security Processes and standards:
- Process design must take into account the local planning and construction culture! Capacity and Education
- Surveying techniques and understanding the purpose of the different assets to map them correctly.







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# **Commission 7**

**Cadastre and Land Management** 

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