

Levelling Up Innovation in Local Government: An Evaluation of International Smart City Competitions

National governments across the globe fund incentive-based smart city competitions to spur modernization, digitalization and innovation in local governance structures and service delivery. This paper explores four cases studies from Europe and North America to determine how well the smart cities competition model advances the adoption of technology and it proposes a series of recommendations to improve future smart city competitions.

[Read the full paper: bit.ly/IMFG-SmartCities](https://bit.ly/IMFG-SmartCities)

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Recommendations for governments:

Build a community around applicants and municipal technology solutions rather than a fight for resources.

Ensure that competition goals are clear by co-creating program goals with municipalities to ensure a broader alignment for national and local governments.

Clarify the role of the public to urge municipalities to realize systemic change in furthering smart city adoption.

Support data governance and privacy standards through competitions with multiple rounds so that municipalities can sharpen these areas.