

# MINUTES OF MEETING: IGLO Regional Policy

Date:	1st of February 2024
Programme:	<i>ECA Special Report on Smart Cities</i>
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## ECA Special Report on Smart Cities IGLO REGIO Meeting: ECA Special Report on Smart Cities

**Speaker: Marco Montorio, Auditor at the European Court of Auditors**

**Introduction:** Marco Montorio presented the ECA Special Report on Smart Cities, assessing the effectiveness and challenges of smart city initiatives within the EU.

### Main Points from the Report:

- **Assessment Limitations:**
  - The audit was based on 18 available projects, which may limit the comprehensiveness of the findings.
- **Programme Effectiveness:**
  - Questions arose about whether the programme provided adequate help due to insufficient funding and the use of funds under different rules from the mission platform.
- **Funding Challenges:**
  - There is a need to pool sufficient public and private funding.
  - Enhanced support is needed for cities with financing weaknesses.
- **Citizen Engagement:**
  - Ensuring citizen engagement is crucial, as highlighted in Horizon Europe, contrasting with the Lighthouse initiative.
- **Successful Projects:**
  - Successful projects should be identified and replicated within the mission framework.
  - One of the most beneficial support actions was the opportunity for cities to communicate and learn from each other.
- **Additional Information:**
  - Further details on the report itself were requested for a deeper understanding.

### Cities Mission:

- **Audit Implementation:**
  - Currently working on the implementation of the audit mentioned above.
  - Initially managed by DG Ener, the Lighthouse programme balanced participation among various cities (big, small, forerunning, or not).
- **Current Progress:**
  - Climate city contracts are in progress with hands-on contact from net zero cities for assistance.
  - R&D demonstrator projects and pilot programmes with twinning are ongoing.
  - The biggest challenge is establishing investment strategies within city contracts.
- **Technology and Ownership Issues:**



- Problems persist with the ownership of new technologies and companies.
- Complex rules create challenges between national and regional levels, as seen with Germany's coordinated city efforts, which are difficult to replicate in countries like Czechia.
- **Mission Label:**
  - Cities awarded the mission label demonstrate confidence in the process.
  - Synergies are being developed with CEF Transport, EIB advisory services, and national levels.
- **Synergies and Support:**
  - Emphasis on synergies with the DUT and smart cities marketplace, where labeled cities gain faster access to investors through matchmaking.

### Events and Future Plans:

- **Summer and Winter Schools:**
  - Organized to facilitate exchange and learning among cities.
- **Mission Platform Portal:**
  - A space for knowledge exchange and repository, accessible to all, including Pilot and Twinning cities.
- **Upcoming Conference:**
  - Scheduled for 25 and 26 June.
- **2024 Work Programme:**
  - R&D actions not directly linked to the mission will be published in March, covering urban spaces, zero pollution cities, mobility, and peri-urban areas.
- **CapaCITIES Project:**
  - Capital HUB hosted by the mission platform to help cities navigate the financial community.
- **Calls for Participation:**
  - Efforts to bring more cities into the fold, with potential new calls depending on the new commission.

### Additional Input from Wiebke Pankauke:

- **Synergies and Valorization:**
  - Working on the valorization of research results and bringing more cities into the initiative.
- **Deputy Head of Unit, Strategy, Policy Coordination & Urban Transition, DG RTD:**
  - Provided insights into strategic coordination and urban transition initiatives within the Cities Mission Team.

**Conclusion:** The IGLO REGIO meeting highlighted the challenges and progress of the ECA Special Report on Smart Cities and the Cities Mission's efforts. The discussion emphasized the need for better funding, citizen engagement, and the replication of successful projects to advance smart city initiatives across the EU.

