

Annual Activity Plan 1

Joining forces to implement the European Cities Mission
at national level



CapaCITIES

Building Capacities for the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

Annual Activity Plan 1

Deliverable D2.1

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Contributing authors: Special thanks to our partners who worked in their country teams to coordinate and create the Annual Action Plans.

Disclaimer

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Document Information

Grant Agreement Number	101056927
Project Title	Building Capacities for the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission
Project Acronym	CapaCITIES
Project Start Date	01 October 2022
Related Work Package	WP2 – Transnational Mission Alliance
Related Task(s)	Task 2.1
Lead Organization	FFG
Submission Date	31 December 2022
Dissemination Level	Public



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Executive Summary

CapaCITIES supports European countries in creating national structures to support the European Cities Mission at the national level. The ongoing activities and respective knowledge of the national actors that are part of the CapaCITIES consortium are at the heart of the project. With this deliverable, all fifteen CapaCITIES Core Countries have submitted their Annual Action Plans describing the main objectives and actions taken in their national context to advance the implementation of the mission.

CapaCITIES is there to support, connect, empower and inspire national authorities, national ministries, funding agencies and agencies responsible for urban transitions in their efforts to build up the necessary *national* change processes. To this end, various measures are being taken:

- A **Transnational Alliance** to showcase good practices so that they can be shared and learned from on a larger scale
- **Capacity building** sessions based on the Core Countries' specific issues identified in the self-assessment
- **Learning materials** to deepen the understanding of the design and process behind national support structures, barriers and levers to implementation, good practices for engaging relevant stakeholders and supporting smaller cities and non-mission cities
- **Webinars and one-on-one workshops** with the Core Countries to assist in the set-up of a countries' **Transition Lab** to advance the national change processes
- **Communication** efforts such as a website, a Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (C&D&E), newsletter, and ambassadors in each country to disseminate and leverage results

Following these activities, the next events provided by CapaCITIES until June are:

- 1st Transnational Alliance "Cities Mission governance support on national level"
 - Topic: Presentation and discussion of national networks, platforms and other structures to support cities' transition. Dialogue and peer learning on success factors, critical aspects and ways of long-term collaboration and stakeholder engagement.
 - When: 20.03.2023 afternoon
- 1st Capacity Building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract (CCC) process
 - Topic: Deep dive into Climate City Contract: How can the national level engage in developing CCC together with Mission Cities?
 - Following up on the meeting with the internal meeting with the NZC City Advisors on March 9th, this Capacity building session will shed light on Action and Investment Plans as crucial parts of the CCC and show opportunities for the national level to get involved in the CCC process.
 - When: End of March (tbc)



- Webinar on Viable Cities' approach on the Transition Lab
 - Topic: What is the Transition Lab methodology? What and who does it need to implement a Transition Lab Event? Presentation of the offer of Viable Cities to support Core Countries in the implementation of a Transition Lab
 - When: Beginning of April (tbc)
- 2nd Capacity Building session on
 - Topic: Depending on the self-assessment and the Core Countries' needs the next Capacity Building session will be either on EU funding and financing opportunities OR innovative funding mechanisms OR private financing
 - When: June (tbc)
- 2nd Transnational Alliance
 - When & where: June, on-site at Urban Futures Conference (tbc)



Introduction

Horizon Europe has stepped up its efforts to help 100 +12 cities become carbon neutral and smart by 2030. To this end, numerous instruments and levers have been created to support cities in their transition to carbon neutrality. One of the most important activities is the development of Climate City Contracts (CCC) for each of the mission cities with the support of the Net-Zero Cities (NZC) platform and their respective City Advisors. In addition to this European support, parallel developments are taking place at the national level to implement the Cities Mission and support the cities in their efforts to become carbon neutral. These efforts range from building networks to facilitate exchange to mobilizing relevant stakeholders to build capacity, expertise, technical and financial resources, and effective intervention portfolios. The past year has shown that the European Cities Mission has generated great momentum and drive in the Member States. Across Europe, nation states are in the process of creating governance structures, mobilizing stakeholders, acquiring budgetary resources to support not only the mission cities, but to mobilize other cities in their national context, disseminating knowledge and building the necessary capacity across the country. Some have even begun to legalize their activities and platforms as legal entities (e.g., in Greece). According to a recent NZC report¹, these activities are critical to unlocking financial resources and removing regulatory barriers to drive the cities' mission and transition to carbon neutrality.

CapaCITIES builds on these national efforts and bridges the gap between the European Cities Mission and ongoing change processes at the national level. CapaCITIES supports the Cities Mission on the national level by 1) establishing a transnational alliance and learning environment for national public authorities, 2) co-designing and prototyping national change processes and 3) exploit synergies with the International/European landscape on climate neutral and smart initiatives.

Vision of CapaCITIES

CapaCITIES will shape a European environment conducive to urban climate neutrality transitions for national, regional and local authorities. It will initiate and strengthen national change processes to establish national networks and governance structures and provide dedicated support for public authorities to put enabling conditions and measures for cities in place to achieve the mission.

This ambitious vision is supported by 15 European countries representing national authorities, national ministries, funding agencies and agencies responsible for urban transitions (see Figure 1). These constitute the "Core Countries" of this consortium. In addition, associated partners represent another 6 European countries that constitute the "supporting countries".

¹ Report on City Needs, Drivers and Barriers towards Climate Neutrality <https://netzerocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/D13.1-Report-on-city-needs-drivers-and-barriers-towards-climate-neutrality.pdf>





Figure 1. Map of participating Core Countries

Core countries: RO (coordinator), AT, CZ, ES, FI, FR, EL, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK, TR

Each country is represented by a country team, including ministries, policy agencies, R&I funding agencies, national networks and research organisations. These partners represent the Core Countries of the consortium, while the consortium's management team (consisting of representatives from ICLEI, Viable Cities, ENEA, AIT and Climate KIC coordinated by UEFISCDI (RO) and FFG (AT)) builds the necessary support structures to orchestrate the different levels of governance, connect the countries, and jointly develop urban sustainability management and capacity building processes at multiple levels.

Supporting countries: BE, BG, EE, DE, SI, UA

In addition to the supporting countries, the consortium is strongly connected to the European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions (JPI Urban Europe) and will therefore ensure outreach to all 28 DUT partner countries.



CapaCITIES general objectives and our operational efforts so far

CapaCITIES has started its operation in October 2022. Due to that, CapaCITIES can already look back at some operational efforts. The activities are grouped within the three general objectives of CapaCITIES.

Objective 1: Establish a transitional alliance for public authorities to strengthen urban transitions towards climate neutrality

CapaCITIES has already established first steps to collaborate with the Core Countries on a regular basis through a monthly Jour Fix. This was requested by the Core Countries at the Kick of Meeting in Brussels in early October and accordingly implemented by the Core Team. Since then, a MURAL has been considered as a form to keep Core countries informed of their current activities. This document is a living document that is regularly updated by the countries.

The concept of the Transnational Mission Alliance (D2.5) was developed and uploaded. An initial timeline can be found both in the Executive Summary as well as in Chapter 2 "Annual Activity Plan of CapaCITIES Management Team". The first event is taking place on "Cities Mission governance support on national level" on March 20. It will be featured by good practice cases from Austria, France, Greece and Hungary.

Following up on this first interviews have taken place in WP2 with Austria, France, Finland and Greece. The results of the interviews will be featured on the one hand in the Transnational Alliance as well as synthesized in learning materials for the Core Countries.

Objective 2: Co-design and prototype effective multi-level and cross sector governance structures and demand driven interventions for enabling national change processes

Based on this objective the following activities have been already taken place:

Self-assessment was developed and sent to the Core Countries (D4.1/2) and will inform the next Capacity Building sessions in June.

Synergies with survey from TRAMI and OECD Mission Action Lab (this lab is only conducted in a few of the 15 CapaCITIES countries, so synergies are only possible where the lab is also involved e.g. Austria) are currently explored.

A first workshop was held in Stockholm (8.12.2023) on-site with 12 Core Countries on the methodology of the Transition Labs. Furthermore, a presentation from CapaCITIES was held on the first results of the interviews with France and Austria on other good practice cases on the implementation of the Mission.

This event in Stockholm was a national event hosted by Sweden with the signature of the revised and more ambitious Climate City Contracts 2030, bringing nine city mayors and the director generals from four government agencies together. First national events have also taken place already in Italy and the Czech Republic.



Objective 3: Exploiting Synergies with International/European and national climate neutral and smart city initiatives

First joint meetings have taken place on national level between the Mission Board Members, NZC City Advisor, the European Commission and CapaCITIES Core Country meeting to update each other on the current ongoing activities on the multi-governance levels. Portugal, France, Greece and Romania were held between November and December 2022. A new batch of similar meetings will start with the other Core Countries of CapaCITIES in February 2023.

A first meeting on 05 December has been held with the coordinators of the NEC Platform. It was agreed that CapaCITIES and the NEC Platform jointly cooperate and exchange contacts with the country teams Romania, Italy, Portugal and Bulgaria. This selection has been proposed as these are the overlapping countries between the two Consortia.

In respect to WP5 on communication, the process to develop a corporate design, logo and landing page has started. A first Ambassador Concept was co-developed and discussed in Bergamo, and a first draft of the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (C&D&E) Plan is shared internally.²

² ENEA Smart Energy Division (TERIN-SEN) organized and hosted a three-day national event on URBAN TRANSITION PATHWAYS in Bergamo innovation district Kilometro Rosso in order to create synergies for the development of urban and territorial contexts among national and international networks.



Structure and aims of this deliverable

This deliverable is intended to serve as a guide for next year's work by outlining 1) the objectives, actions, and needs of the Core Countries and 2) the upcoming activities of CapaCITIES. The focus of this report and the work of CapaCITIES is the work being done at the national level in the Core Countries (see Figure 2). Therefore, the management team has collected annual action plans of each Core Country to understand the ongoing activities of the countries, their overall objectives, and their needs to be addressed by CapaCITIES. The summary of these plans is provided in the next section, while the specific plans can be found in the Annex. After this section, the activities identified by the management team are explained. These are based on the needs of the countries and provide them with a range of formats, tools, and capacity building to create the necessary national structures to support the cities.

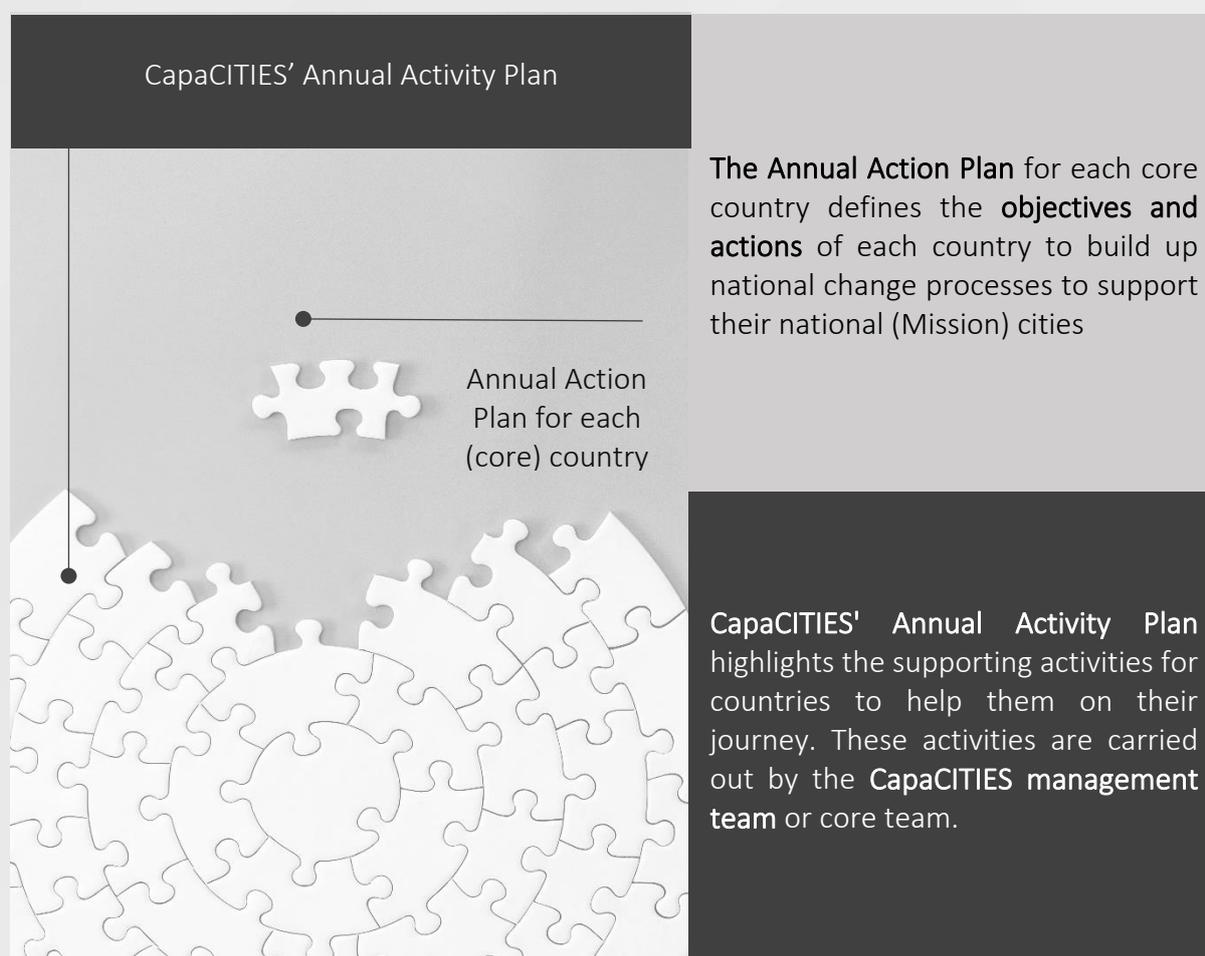


Figure 2. Overview of CapaCITIES' Annual Activity Plan



Objectives, actions and needs of the Countries

The 15 CapaCITIES Core Countries differ in terms of their national context, the challenges they face at the national level to establish the structures and thus their activities to implement the Cities Mission. Some countries have already started to establish national working platform, others are still at the beginning or even just learning about the structures at place, the actors and the gaps. Nonetheless, the work plans reveal some common challenges in establishing national working groups and platforms, including:

- Difficulties in engaging stakeholders and getting them ready to work together.
- The challenge of finding and involving individuals with the appropriate mandate.
- Necessary agreements among partners on how to support mission cities.
- Different timelines between national and regional levels, which provides a challenge in building support structures as cities are interested in solutions that are already being implemented.

In addition, it has shown that the meetings and exchanges between the Core Countries have led to an initial understanding of the different contexts. One finding was that, for example, many ongoing activities are similar in some ways, but just have a different name/history of origin (e.g., the Climate City Contracts in Sweden and the Public-Public Partnerships in Austria). This initial synthesis of the Annual Action Plans is therefore a first summary to identify the necessary commonalities and to highlight some issues and needs that the management team can work with to further support the countries in their ambitions and to bring the Core Countries into an exchange with each other.

Objectives & Actions committed in CapaCITIES from the Core Countries

Objective 1: Establish national platforms and working groups

The first objective of each Core Country is to create a national working group, bringing together national actors, facilitating a process to achieve common understanding, goals and a strategy. Some of the activities that fall under that objectives are to map, contact and involve all relevant stakeholders, organise bilateral and small group meetings, map key processes, networks, institutional infrastructures and financial instruments and defining specific thematic challenges and opportunities.



Objective 2: Develop support framework for Mission Cities' activities

The purpose of all country groups is to develop a support framework for Mission Cities and beyond to support and facilitate between cities on their journey to climate neutrality. Activities that follow under this objective include developing a strategy for benchmarking approaches, developing strategies and tools for citizen engagement and co-creation, organizing events to identify city needs, and disseminating information, materials, resources, and operational tools for cities and municipalities to support them on their journey.

Main thematic priorities identified so far focus on financing and identifying financial tools for cities, carbon accounting and monitoring for cities, and regulation.

Objective 1: Establish national platforms and working groups

- Map, contact and involve all relevant stakeholders
- Organize bilateral and small group meetings
- Definition of the country's key processes, networks, institutional infrastructure and financial instruments
- Definition of specific thematic challenges and opportunities
- Identification of needs, measures, and intervention portfolios through the dialogue between cities, government organisations and other relevant stakeholders
- Co-development of training and awareness raising schemes for local/national authorities, cities and prefectures, policy makers, as well as the general public

Objective 2: Develop support framework for Mission Cities' activities

- Develop connection between national Mission cities and international community
- Develop strategy for comparing national experiences to ones of other Mission cities
- Development of appropriate citizen engagement and co-creation strategies and tools
- Organize events
- Gather and disseminate information, materials, resources and operational tools to cities and municipalities



What do the Core Countries need from CapaCITIES?

There is a recurring need of the Core Countries of sharing good best practices, learning from each other, and building the necessary capacity. Specific needs vary by topic, but can be summarized into four overarching themes.

Core Countries' Need 1. Setting up a national working group and platform – the how and why

As mentioned earlier, the status quo of national working groups in Core Countries varies in terms of scope, size, and when they were formed. Therefore, it is important to understand how these various working groups are established, what their goals are, what they do, and who they involve. A recurring issue for Core Countries is how to set up these collaborations among various stakeholders (e.g., interministerial, national collaborative networks) and who specifically to involve to create the necessary momentum. In particular, countries that are still in the early stages are looking for tools, resources, and processes to engage participants.

Core Countries' Need 2. National events to raise awareness and/or act as a first point of contact to establish a national working group

Over the next few months, events will be held at the national level to bring the various stakeholders to the table and identify the needs for achieving the Cities Mission. However, these events differ in terms of topic, goal, scope and coverage. While some countries (e.g., Hungary and Slovakia) see a strong need to mobilize research, business, and city governments to apply for international calls such as Horizon Europe, DUT Partnership, and/or Net Zero Cities, others are already using these events to raise awareness at the national level and bring together relevant stakeholders. Greece, for example, is using its national event to bring together ongoing actions and form a relevant national team. Other countries, such as Poland, are beginning to work with their cities by planning an event to gather input from cities on their needs and challenges in order to implement the mission. Based on these different event objectives, the needs of the Core Countries are different. Most importantly, the question of how is always raised. It ranges from how to engage cities in the mission, to who should be involved, to tools and methods to engage people in the mission.

Core Countries' Need 3. Identification of existing tools, information and training materials for cities to become climate neutral

Another action highlighted in the annual action plan is the identification of existing tools, information and training materials for cities aiming to become climate neutral. In several cases at the national level, activities are underway to summarize and disseminate good practice case studies in national events (e.g., Greece, Czech Republic). In other countries, working groups are being formed to collect and synthesize existing materials on decarbonizing regions and cities. The goal is to understand beyond the energy sector what can be done with a multi-level governance approach. (e.g., France). Thus, the need of the Core Countries is to identify and share European good practices among themselves for further presentation and dissemination. Another important means is how cities monitor their climate neutrality activities (e.g., Netherlands).

Core Countries' Need 4. Topics to exchange and discuss between the Core Countries



Within the Annual Action Plans, the Core Countries already raise interesting topics to discuss within the Consortium or within smaller groups and/or settings. These include the following questions:

The role of Research and Innovation (R&I) and its connection to sectoral policies

- What is the role of R&I? How can we move from the classical model to funding implementation? How does the R&I landscape need to change for this to happen? What models already exist for this? (E.g., experimental spaces or so-called "living labs").
- What current models exist to coordinate the funding landscape between R&I and sectoral policies? What are the critical building blocks for better alignment between these two areas?

Mobilizing cities for mission and R&I funding and bundling and disseminating result for better uptake

- What do strategies, governance structures and processes look like to mobilize cities for the mission and become more active in R&I?
- How can results from R&I be better disseminated and made transferable for cities? What are the current models and methods for doing so?
- How can cities become more visible at both European and local levels to show their role in transformation? What ideas and approaches exist in other countries?

Taking an inclusive approach

- How to involve non-mission cities in the activities and provide support to them? How to formalize these partnerships and build institutional capacities beyond the EU Mission?

These issues may need to be further clarified and fleshed out with the Core Countries to allow for meaningful exchange on them, for example, through the Alliance, the informal jour fixe between countries, the capacity building meetings, or the Transition Labs. An opportunity to elaborate on these issues could be one of the informal Jour Fixe.



Annual Activity Plan of CapaCITIES Management Team

What does CapaCITIES do to support the activities?

Following up on the objectives, actions and needs of the Core Countries, CapaCITIES focusses this year to facilitate an exchange on good practices, enable learning, and promote and include additional actors to drive the implementation of the Cities Mission on the national level forward.

In summary, it can be said that the offer of this year focusses on four main activities.

The **Transnational Alliance** builds the opportunity for the national partners in CapaCITIES to promote and share their ongoing activities in a wider forum. The Alliance is open to all national, regional, and local authorities and city representatives to provide a space for learning and sharing with other authorities facing similar challenges. Unlike the other formats, partners are asked not only to participate, but to help shape the program and promote the event. The first webinar is taking place on March 20th online.

The **Capacity Building** sessions provide an opportunity for the stakeholders developing the national support structures for climate neutral cities to learn and build their thematic capacity on key drivers and enabling factors for climate neutral cities. For this reason, a self-assessment template was sent out to the 15 countries participating in the CapaCITIES project. It will help identify concrete needs and interests and will inform the series of capacity building sessions. The suggested topics include financing (e.g. innovative funding instruments or private financing), good practices in integrated planning as well as impact measurement and climate reporting. The first capacity building session will be held at the end of March and will provide a continuation of the discussion with NetZeroCities City Advisors. It will focus on the role that the national support structures can play in developing Climate City Contracts, including Action and Investment Plans. National partners in CapaCITIES are encouraged to extend the invitation to other individuals and organizations they deem relevant.

The **Transition Lab** webinar provides an opportunity to learn more about the Viable Cities' format and how it can be implemented in different countries. The Transition Lab is a method that brings the necessary people to the table and into dialogue. This method should help the coordinators of national support structures in different countries empower the relevant actors and create the appropriate structures to implement the Cities Mission. Viable Cities' offer is to provide guidance on how to implement a Transition Lab in different national contexts. After this Webinar, countries can decide on when to implement a Transition Lab in coordination and consultation with Viable Cities.

Communication efforts such as a website, a Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (C&D&E), newsletters, and ambassadors in each country to disseminate and leverage the results (more information can be found in WP5 below).



Following these activities, the next events provided by CapaCITIES until June are:

- 1st Transnational Alliance “Cities Mission governance support on national level”
 - Topic: Presentation and discussion of national networks, platforms and other structures to support cities’ transition. Dialogue and peer learning on success factors, critical aspects and ways of long-term collaboration and stakeholder engagement.
 - When: 20.03.2023 afternoon
- 1st Capacity Building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract (CCC) process
 - Topic: Deep dive into Climate City Contract: How can the national level engage in developing CCC together with Mission Cities?
 - Following up on the meeting with the internal meeting with the NZC City Advisors on March 9th, this Capacity building session will shed light on Action and Investment Plans as crucial parts of the CCC and show opportunities for the national level to get involved in the CCC process.
 - When: End of March (tbc)
- Webinar on Viable Cities’ approach on the Transition Lab
 - Topic: What is the Transition Lab methodology? What and who does it need to implement a Transition Lab Event? Presentation of the offer of Viable Cities to support Core Countries in the implementation of a Transition Lab
 - When: Beginning of April (tbc)
- 2nd Capacity Building session on
 - Topic: Depending on the self-assessment and the Core Countries’ needs the next Capacity Building session will be either on EU funding and financing opportunities OR innovative funding mechanisms OR private financing
 - When: June (tbc)
- 2nd Transnational Alliance
 - When & where: June, on-site at Urban Futures Conference (tbc)

In addition to the portfolio of events, CapaCITIES provide the Core Countries with accompanying learning materials and guides. These include:

- *March 2023:* A **guide on the methodology of the Transition Lab** to guide the Core Countries in their process to implement a Transition Lab in their own national context (additional material to the Webinar on the Transition Lab)
- *March 2023:* A report on **Multi-Level Governance Approaches** for all 15 Core Countries (D3.1) outlining the current national structures in place to support the implementation of the Mission (D3.1).
- *June 2023:* A **first draft of learning materials** to deepen the understanding of the design and process behind national support structures, barriers and levers to implementation, good practices for engaging relevant stakeholders and supporting smaller cities and non-mission cities (D2.3).
- *June 2023:* **Training materials** on climate action, MRV, modelling and innovations in impact assessment provided by ICLEI.



These concerted activities and materials tie into the needs and actions of the Core Countries. The summary below taps into the needs of the Core Countries and highlights CapaCITIES' efforts to support countries in their actions.

Core Countries needs	CapaCITIES support
<p>1. Setting up a national working group and platform – the how and why.</p>	<p>First Transnational Alliance with good practice cases from Austria, France, Greece and Hungary (see Deliverable 2.5)</p> <p>Overview on the current national structures and multi-level governance approaches in place (see Deliverable 3.1).</p> <p>Learning materials to understand the design and process behind the national working group, barriers and levers in the implementation and new approaches to collaboration between government departments and communities (see Deliverable 2.3)</p>
<p>2. National events to raise awareness and/or act as a first point of contact to establish a national working group</p>	<p>Assistance in the set-up of a Transition Lab in interested Core Countries to raise awareness and work across actors at national events, assisting materials to sharpen the understanding of the process and methodology.</p> <p>Information of national events, and exchange in Monthly Core Countries Jour Fix.</p>
<p>3. Identification of existing tools, information and training materials for cities to become climate neutral.</p>	<p>Trainings in the form of capacity building sessions (e.g. Learning from good practices of integrated planning (e.g. SECAPs, Urban Greening Plans), impact measurement and climate reporting) provided by ICLEI</p> <p>To be foreseen on how this material might be synthesised in the learning portfolio.</p>
<p>4. Topics to exchange and discuss between the Core Countries</p>	<p>The identified topics by the Core Countries are taken up in the relevant formats and the planning of the Transnational Alliance as well as in the more informal Monthly Country Jour Fix.</p>



Central aims and activities of each Work Package (WP) for 2023

This section outlines the specific activities for each Work Package. As already outlined in the summary above, all efforts in each work package have been and will be planned and implemented in joint actions to develop a comprehensive offer for the Core Countries.

WP1 – Coordination and Management

This Work Package (Coordination and Management) aims to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the CapaCITIES work plan by coordinating the consortium and providing an appropriate internal service for the project partners. Furthermore, the coordinator will carry out all project related communication with the EC and act as a contact point for external parties. WP1 will provide effective administration and financial services to the partners and the EC, such as reporting and contractual issues

Contract management: ongoing process, first reporting period will start after year 1 (November 2023). The Coordinator is available for budget advice or intermediation of the communication with the European Commission, whenever necessary and upon request.

Internal communication, service and facilitation of meetings:

Physical meetings: the Kick-off Meeting was organized in Brussels (6-7 October 2022) in hybrid format. Next physical consortium meeting will be organized in the autumn of 2023.

Online meetings: weekly Core Team meetings are organized with the Work Package leaders and Task leaders.

Once per three months online consortium meetings are planned with the Core Countries. The first one in 2023 will take place on 12 January. The Coordinator is providing Zoom platform for online meetings. The Coordinator is also providing an online sharing space available at <https://udrive.uefiscdi.ro> (UDrive) where all the meetings are documented with notes, minutes and recordings for the consortium meetings). Consortium members get credentials-based access, allowing the identification of the individuals accessing the project materials.

Coordination of CapaCITIES and alignment with the DUT Partnership and other synergies: CapaCITIES was introduced in the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership Launch Event and in the Consortium Meeting in November. In the next DUT Consortium Meeting, CapaCITIES (FFG and UEFISCDI) will organise a dedicated workshop to collect what's happening at national level regarding the implementation of the Mission Cities and to gather the expression of interest regarding the participation in the future Transnational Mission Alliance activities.

CapaCITIES co-leaders, UEFISCDI and FFG, have organized bilateral meetings with NEC Platform and Covenant of Mayors (Europe) to discuss potential synergies between the actions that each initiative is conducting for the Member States. The participants have agreed to keep each other informed on the working plan for 2023 and to explore participation in each other's public events. A future bilateral online meeting is planned with [EUKN](#) – European Urban Knowledge Network (12 January 2023)

CapaCITIES is represented in TRAMI Sounding Board and is participating upon invitation to the



Mission Cities Board meetings (subgroup working on governance).

A series of meetings has started in November 2022 with the aim to better ensure a coordinated approach between the European Commission, Cities Mission platform (NetZeroCities), the Mission Cities Board member(s) and the national activities, establishing dedicated country meetings that bring together the corresponding partners and experts from:

- the CapaCITIES Core Country working group leader(s);
- the member(s) of the Cities Mission Board advising on the country;
- the NetZeroCities Mission Platform advisor(s) for the Mission Cities in that particular country.

Five such meetings have already taken place (France, Greece, Portugal, Romania and Turkey) and it has been agreed to be followed up by another ones once/three months/Core Country in the same extended formula, whereas each Core Country has agreed to meet to work on the national specific case once or twice per month.

Starting with February 2023 a new batch of similar meetings will start with the other Core Countries of CapaCITIES.

WP2 – Transnational Mission Alliance and Exchange Platform

This Work Package aims to 1) moderate the co-design of the change processes with the Core Countries, 2) synthesize, translate and make available knowledge, good practice cases and guidelines for all interested actors, and 3) establish an Alliance where national, regional and local public authorities can engage, exchange and learn from one and each other.

Under this first objective (see Task 2.1), the annual action plans were collected and summarized in this document. This provides the strategic overview of the project and identifies the next activities. In addition, following the kick-off meeting in October, a workshop was held with the management team to identify key messages from the Core Countries and further define CapaCITIES' next activities and services for the countries. One activity identified by the Core Countries was to provide a monthly jour fix where they can update each other and share with the CapaCITIES core team on next activities. The next planned activities are contributions to the agenda and planning for the next consortium meeting in April and the strategic development of CapaCITIES. In addition, the country JF will continue to be facilitated, and the inputs from that will be discussed with the Management Team to further strengthen CapaCITIES activities. From the last two meetings and the experience of the Core Countries, it has become clear that these informal meetings can also be designated for the exchange of specific sets of topics that the countries themselves can choose. In March 2023, it is planned to do an online session together with the NetZeroCities City Advisor to get a synthesised view on the needs of the cities to the national level. Special attention will be drawn to their process of the Climate City Contracts (CCC) and their action and investment plans.

To understand the underlying mechanisms and function of the Core Countries' governance structures and especially the processes and efforts that enabled these governance structures, first interviews with Austria and France have already been conducted in 2022. These have been

presented to the Core Countries in Stockholm and will be further synthesised into a **learning portfolio of CapaCITIES (see Task 2,2)**, together with the learning materials resulting from WP3, WP4 and WP5. Further interviews to deep-dive into the national cases will be conducted until summer 2023; a first wave is planned for Jan/Feb (Finland, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Netherlands, Turkey, Romania and Spain); a second wave for April/May (remaining Core Countries and selected associated countries). In parallel to the interviews, task 2.2 will continuously - together with the CapaCITIES partners - collect and structure existing guidelines, tools, good practice examples and other useful learning along the identified “learning topics”. In addition to the findings from interviews and reflections about those good practice examples with the other Core Countries³ and CapaCITIES partners, these materials will feed into the CapaCITIES learning material portfolio, which will consequently be updated on a regular basis (first learning portfolio will be published end of September 2023; an updated version is to be delivered by the end of the project). A first draft of the learning portfolio will be shared with the CapaCITIES core partners already end of February to ensure a useful structure and design.

The **Transnational Cities Mission Alliance (see Task 2.3)** concept is already uploaded and shared. The concept (see D2.5) provides a description of the planned webinars program, including scope, functions and detailed format for each webinar. Hence the concept will also be updated regularly to provide guidance throughout the duration of the project.

The scope of the interactive webinars is to provide a platform for interaction, alliance and cooperation among national public authorities and policymakers to develop skills and share expertise on:

- (1) good practices on national governance structures,
- (2) capacity building measures,
- (3) transition labs,
- (4) methodologies and instruments e.g., climate city contracts, national innovation programmes,
- (5) action plans.

The target groups are relevant national, regional and local public authorities in core and supporting countries that have the mandate to improve enabling conditions for climate neutrality in cities within their given competencies. The first webinar is planned for March 2023. Each webinar will comprise three functions:

- (1) Capacity building: Learning from good practice cases, expertise and skills on national level
- (2) Dialogue: Exchange of experiences, knowledge and learnings
- (3) Alliance: Deepened conversation on central climate neutrality aspects

Using synergies and aligning activities among the tasks of WP2, WP3 and WP4 are of high priority.

³ For example, France is currently developing a document as part of its working group on decarbonisation that brings together existing materials on decarbonizing regions and cities. The goal is to understand beyond the energy sector what can be done with a multi-level governance approach. These results can be evaluated and shared within the consortium.

WP3 – Multi Level Stakeholder Governance

This Work Package aims to 1) identify, develop and prototype multi-level stakeholder governance approaches in all countries, 2) set-up transition labs, 3) support the cooperation and alignment of the mission implementation approaches across European and national levels.

Task 3.2 Support Core Country development and learning with Transition Labs (Month 4-24) (Lead VC, all Core Countries)

Within this task Core Countries will be supported to advance and strengthen their governance structures towards mission implementation. This process will focus on involving new actors and overcoming silos depending on country-specific needs and starting points. The approach will be guided and co-designed by Viable Cities, and adapted to different national contexts, with national nodes in each country.

In December 2022, the Swedish Energy Agency, Viable Cities and CapaCities arranged the first CapaCities Transition Lab Forum in Stockholm. The purpose of the event was to kick-off task 3.2 (see below), i.e. introducing 12 present Core Countries to the Transition Lab Method; to showcase how the Swedish national mission infrastructure is set up, and for Core Countries, where some are already underway in the in the process of setting up national infrastructures, to share and co-create ideas.

As there are financial limitations to assist all 15 Core Countries, we suggest to initially prioritise support to a smaller set of countries, based on their planned events and actions as highlighted in their national Annual Action Plans (to be filled in by Dec 2022). A webinar will be held in April to identify those countries and to share the framework conditions of the offer of VC. We will prioritise support to countries that express a high interest to organise and set up their own Transitions Labs and have or are about to develop key processes, networks and arenas for local and national exchange in line with the Cities Mission (**see upcoming D3.1**).

We will also prioritise countries with different economic, policy and geographic background, to showcase different examples for the rest of the countries to learn from.

Task 3.3 Synthesize, showcase and support the replication of multilevel governance approaches (Month 6-24) (Lead VC, Core Countries)

This task will initiate a process to identify, analyse and synthesize innovative governance instruments and multi-level governance approaches across Core Countries, provide support for replicating prototypes of such approaches and a process for facilitating exchange about them, as part of the Transition Lab approach in Task 3.2. VC capitalise on the diversity of the CapaCITIES consortium and will provide a systematic assessment of these instruments against transition criteria (e.g. citizen engagement, digital tools, climate investment plans, system demonstrators, stakeholder involvement etc.) to identify which instrument is best suited under certain conditions and for certain aims. A SWOT methodology will support this analysis and will provide insights on how these instruments can be replicated elsewhere. Additionally, VC will provide dedicated support to Core Countries interested in replicating prototypes of these instruments in accordance to their needs and strategic priorities. This analysis will be a cross-cutting activity with the learning materials in WP2.



Task 3.4 Towards synergies between national and EU approaches on multi-level governance structures (M1-24) (Lead VC, contributors: FFG, AIT, ICLEI, ENEA, CKIC, Core Countries)

This task is underway with an informal working group set up between relevant WP:s in NetZeroCities and the CapaCities consortium.

WP4 – Multi Level Capacity and Climate Action

Work Package 4 essentially aims to help Core Countries create their *Solution Roadmaps*, in which they will specify how the national and regional levels in each Core Country are going to support cities in reaching their 2030 climate neutrality goal. To this end, WP4 will assist Core Countries in the **self-assessment** of the current state of affairs in their national contexts (Task 4.1), offer **capacity-building training** (Task 4.2) with the emphasis on the **impact measurement and climate reporting** (Task 4.3), as well as run **hands-on workshops** on how to create Solution Roadmaps (Task 4.4).

WP4 will provide Core Countries with a template for self-assessment in mid-January 2023 (see Task 4.1). Core country partners will have time until the 20th February 2023 to send back the first version of the self-assessments, which then will be reviewed by WP4. The self-assessments are envisioned as living documents that Core Countries can systematically contribute to as they progress with building their national platforms for climate neutral cities. Based on the results of the self-assessments, WP4 will come up with a sound plan for workshops and capacity-building sessions in 2023 and 2024 that are tailored to the indicated needs and interests.

WP4 will offer capacity-building training (see Task 4.2) that will be comprised of 2-4 online sessions in English. Based on discussions as well as the Action Plans submitted by the Core Country partners, WP4 proposes to cover the following topics. These might be changed or adjusted to the needs expressed by Core Countries in their self-assessments.

- **Climate City Contracts – Deep dive into Climate City Contract: How can the national level engage in developing CCC together with Mission Cities?**
 - Following up on the meeting with the internal meeting with the NZC City Advisors on March 9th, this Capacity building session will shed light on Action and Investment Plans as crucial parts of the CCC and show opportunities for the national level to get involved in the CCC process.
- **Identifying funding** (e.g. EU funding and financing opportunities OR innovative financing mechanisms OR private financing) [June 2023]
- **Learning from good practices of integrated planning** (e.g. SECAPs, Urban Greening Plans) [tbc]
- **Impact measurement and climate reporting** (e.g. *MyCovenant* or *CDP-ICLEI Track*) [tbc]



In addition to the final capacity-building session, WP4 will provide training materials on climate action MRV, modelling and innovation in impact assessment (see Task 4.3).

WP4 will also organize hands-on online workshops, in which consortium partners will help Core Countries create their Solution Roadmaps (see Task 4.4). WP4 will prepare a template for the Solution Roadmap and share it with the Core Countries. The workshops will either be dedicated to selected sections of the template or concrete problems identified by the core country partners along their journey. The first workshop is planned for autumn 2023.

WP5 - Measure and synergies to maximize impact

This work package has three objectives: 1) synergy with other city mission initiatives, 2) communication and dissemination of project results, and 3) building a network of ambassadors who will support the efforts of the Core Countries.

Under Task 5.1, many activities have already been launched, such as the preparation of the project's logo, corporate identity (closely related to Task 5.5), and website. It is expected that this will be completed in March. In addition to these ongoing activities, the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (CDEP) has been drafted (D5.1) and already circulated to the management team. The objective of this plan is to provide the CapaCITIES partners with guidelines on the different communication and dissemination activities that are planned and their schedule, who are the partners responsible for each activity, what tools and channels are available for communication and dissemination and what are the actions planned to achieve the exploitation of the results and impact of the project.

In addition, there have been initial activities to draft the Ambassador Concept (Task 5.3). A first draft was shared with the management team and discussed at an event in Bergamo (hosted by ENEA) to reflect and identify the main criteria and objectives of the ambassador. Once the concept is finalized (D5.2), it will be shared with the Core Countries to identify the appropriate person to start their work and maximize the reach of the Core Countries' actions within CapaCITIES.

In addition to the Ambassadors, other outreach activities are planned, such as the Acceleration Forum. This will be closely linked to the DUT Synergies Forum to leverage the large network and its reach. It is planned that the first Synergies Forum will take place in the spring. The approach and format will be discussed within the management team and the JF with the Core Countries to create an event that best meets the ambition of the project and the needs of the Core Countries.



Get in contact with us!

This deliverable and the above mentioned activities defines CapaCITIES activities until October 2023. An updated version specifying the projects activities in the following year until its end will be published in November 2023.

If you would like to get in contact with the project and its activities, please contact us:

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FFG, CEO DUT Partnership

margit.noll@ffg.at

References

Mapping of national and regional city collaboration and support for Cities Mission implementation (NZC report, D5.9) <https://netzerocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/D5.9-Mapping-of-national-and-regional-city-collaboration.pdf>

Report on City Needs, Drivers and Barriers Towards Climate Neutrality (NZC report, D13.1) <https://netzerocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/D13.1-Report-on-city-needs-drivers-and-barriers-towards-climate-neutrality.pdf>

Cities Mission Implementation Plan https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/cities_mission_implementation_plan.pdf



Annex

Template for the Annual Action Plan for each Core Country within CapaCITIES

Information on the template

Aim of this document

The aim of this document is to identify the main actions in each of the Core Countries for the next 6-9 months and to streamline the support measures provided by the core team according to the countries' needs and priorities.

- *Follow up on last year's Letter of Interest (LoI) and define next steps/actions that will be taken as part of CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months to strengthen support structures for cities and advance the systems already in place.*
- *We are aware that not all actions can be undertaken by you, so the question is how you can link to these already ongoing national activities, how you see your role, and who you need to have on board to achieve your own set objectives.*
- *We therefore distinguish between the actions you can take as a Core Country team under CapaCITIES and the national activities with which you may be able to link your action.*
- *This document not only supports you and your team, but also gives us as a core team the opportunity to connect our activities to your specific measures and help you identify similarities between countries, connect and inspire you.*

How to fill out this template

- *If you have not done so, form a team in your country, determine who has primary responsibility, and if necessary form subgroups.*
- *Fill out the template below, and share the final document on 28th of November on Udrive*
 - *Co-create this with your country team, set responsibilities and set up a working mode.*
 - *Relate the activities to your team, this document helps you to identify the necessary next actions and on how you as a country team can move forward within CapaCITIES*
 - *Use [this MURAL](#) as inspiration. This is a summary from the kick-off meeting in October and the Consortium Meeting in September, summarising your input and collecting it into a map. This will be used throughout the duration of the project to continuously update each other on the ongoing activities within each country.*
 - *The green text should provide you with some guiding questions and instructions. You can delete this text after your finished.*
- *Voluntary: Discuss your prepared input at our informal coffee chat meeting on 17. November (9-10am). Please write an email to Katharina.berger@ffg.at if your country would like to attend this meeting. If the demand is very high, the meeting will be extended if needed. Please choose one representative per country to attend this meeting.*



Annual Action Plan for *Insert your Country's Name*

Status as of: *choose the final date that you were working on in this document*

Committed team: *Define your team with Name & Organisation*

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Please provide a paragraph on the current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission and cities to become climate neutral (ongoing activities, based on the Lol and the input you provided at the meeting in September and KoM – see also [HYPERLINK "https://app.mural.co/t/aitisp7222/m/aitisp7222/1667372975720/62b6c5a27d5ee05e6b84ebc788ef7671047ccd5a?sender=nikolasreschen3483"](https://app.mural.co/t/aitisp7222/m/aitisp7222/1667372975720/62b6c5a27d5ee05e6b84ebc788ef7671047ccd5a?sender=nikolasreschen3483)this MURAL)

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in *COUNTRY*, we define the following objectives:

What are your objectives within CapaCITIES? Try to think of concrete outputs and goals you would like to achieve that are linked to your listed actions below. You can list some bullet points.

- xxx

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

What are your planned action(s) as a Core Country team foreseen within the next six to nine months within CapaCITIES? What support could you see beneficial from CapaCITIES to move your national action forward? Is there already an ongoing national activity that you would like to connect with one of your actions? Please fill in the table:

Your specific action as a Core Country team	Connection to already ongoing national activity	The relevance of your activity and the associated current barrier for this action	Who do you involve for the implementation ?	What kind of support do you need from CapaCITIES?



Countries Annual Action Plans

Annual Action Plan for Austria

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team:

AIT: Gudrun Haindlmaier, Maximilian Gasser

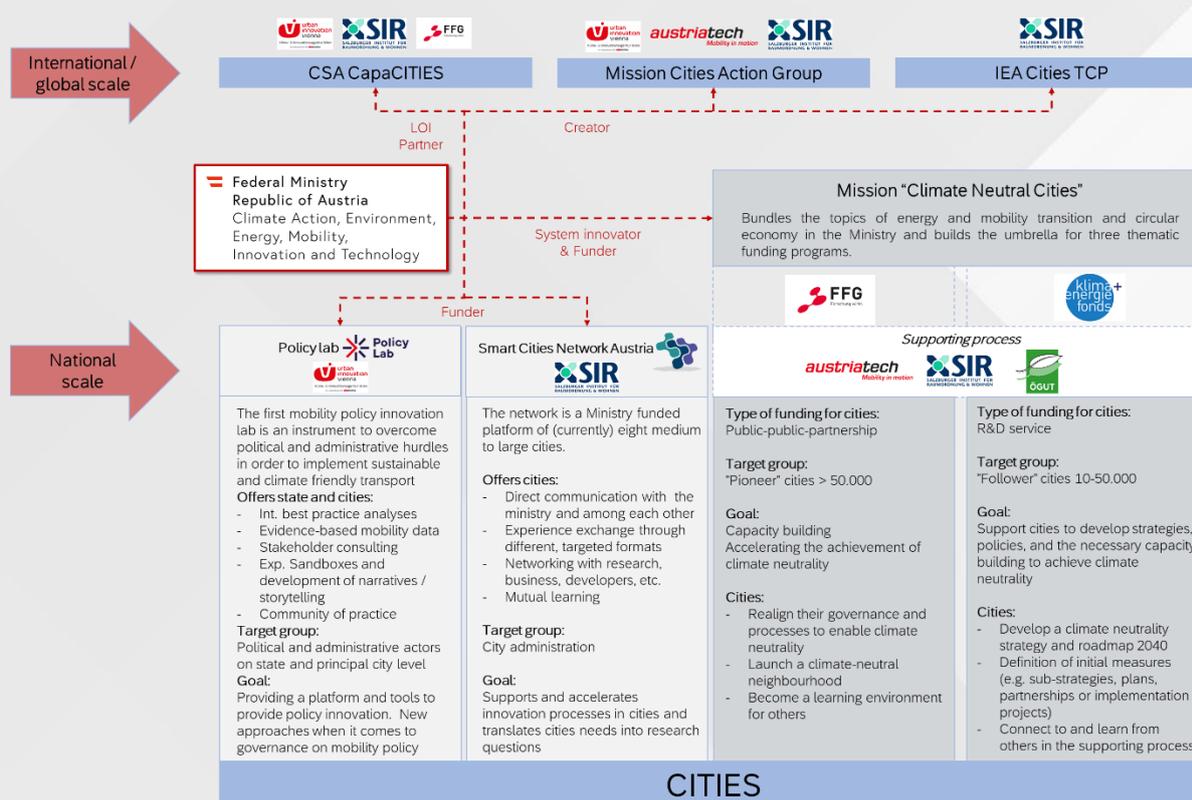
FFG: Margit Noll, Katharina Berger, Christoph Gollner

SIR: Nina Mostegl, Helmut Strasser

UIV: Waltraud Schmid, Gerald Franz

BMK: Walter Wasner, Anna Wang, Hans-Günther Schwarz

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission



The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) functions as the hub of the Cities Mission support structure and enables six crucial building blocks on the international / global and the national scale. On the international/global scale, the BMK is a LoI partner of the CSA CapaCITIES project, created and leads the Cities Mission Action Group and was one of the founding countries of the IEA Cities TCP. On the national scale, the BMK created the Mission "Climate Neutral Cities" (administered through the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the Climate and Energy Fund). The



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under grant agreement no 101056927

Mission funds large (>50.000 inhabitants) and medium-sized (10.000-50.000 inhabitants) cities and aims at accelerating the achievement of climate neutrality. In addition to the Mission, the BMK funds the Smart Cities Network Austria and (as part of a consortium) the Mobility policy lab.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Austria, we define the following objectives:

The Austrian consortium expresses its objectives in the first phase of the project in three levels

- *Level 1: Identify interest and experience*
- *Level 2: Share and learn & improve*
- *Level 3: Compile and develop*

Level 1 refers to topics in which the consortium has little to no experience. The aim of the level is to identify interesting approaches and to experience their impact. Examples include the topics of experimental spaces or the successful involvement of research, business and industry partners, etc.

Level 2 aims at sharing own experiences and knowledge about existing approaches and structures (e.g., the Smart Cities Network Austria, Mobility policy lab) in order to support other countries in their structural development. Furthermore, level 2 activities are aimed at learning from other countries in order to improve and further existing approaches (e.g., data management, use of satellite data, coordination of funding at federal and state level, moving from R&D to implementation funding, role of innovation – framework conditions, etc.).

Level 3 includes the elaboration and collaborative discussion of relevant content from Level 2, such as data issues (availability, accounting method, etc.) in the mobility sector.

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Learn about involvement of research, business and

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with experience in the topic

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Create a list of countries with experiences, collect best practices and organize exchange

Action 2: Learn about involvement of research, business and industry partners in other countries (Level 1)

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with experience in the topic

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Create a list of countries with experiences, collect best practices and organize exchange



Action 3: Learn about key activities in other countries in the next 4 years and share own approaches (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Austria seeks to improve the national plans and funding agreements (2024-2026) in terms of the "big chunk" investments

Parties involved in implementation: All participating countries

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Provide space for exchange and discussion; moderate; meeting minutes

Action 4: Exchange on topics related to data management in cities (focus mobility, data usage authorization, CO2 accounting and monitoring, use of satellite data) (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”, Smart Cities Network Austria, Mobility policy lab

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The exchange will support Austrian cities in developing and adapting existing CO2 accounting approaches – particularly in the mobility sector. In addition, this action will assure that the Austrian method is compliant with EU methods

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with experience in the topic, NetZeroCities

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a workshop (provide space for exchange and discussion); moderate; meeting minutes

Action 5: Compose comparison of CO2 accounting methods (particularly in the field of mobility) and monitoring approaches (Level 3)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”, Smart Cities Network Austria, Mobility policy lab

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Go from Level 2 to Level 3 and compose a solid comparison that can be used in Austria as well as other countries to improve and harmonize current accounting methods

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize feedback loop for developed comparison

Action 6: Share knowledge on the development of our international structures (Smart Cities Network, Mobility policy lab) (Level 2) and learn from other countries to improve national structures (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”, Smart Cities Network Austria, Mobility policy lab

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The aim of this activity is to support countries with fewer structures to develop them based on lessons-learned. These exchanges will also contribute to the improvement of national structures

Parties involved in implementation: Countries interested in improving national structures and countries with existing networks (in particular Sweden, France, Spain, etc.)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a workshop (provide space for exchange and discussion); moderate; meeting minutes

Action 7: Compile successful approaches of moving from R&D to implementation funding (Level 2), exchange on investment management of cities (concepts, roles, etc.), and discuss the successful coordination and cooperation approaches of funding at federal and state level (and cities) (e.g. structural funds - framework conditions) (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”



Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: One main focus of the Austrian approach is the transition from R&D funding to the implementation. This transition is critical but often related to national funding structures (and the responsibilities of the federal and the state level funding) and the tasks of different funding agencies.

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with successful transition examples

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a workshop (provide space for exchange and discussion); moderate; meeting minutes

Action 8: Discuss the role of communication and public relation and exchange on ideas and approaches of city networks (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Communication is a key enabler of the transition in cities. Current approaches in Austria are not goal oriented and lack a proper coordination. The consortium aims to learn from successful communication and public relation approaches in other countries.

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with successful approaches and countries interested in the topic

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a storytelling event and a common workshop on successful basics for communication approaches.

Action 9: Discuss the role of innovation -framework conditions (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The definition of innovation is a critical topic in Austria, which might be hindering in some occasions. Therefore, the consortium would like to discuss current definitions and viewpoints

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with interest in the topic and open definitions

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a workshop (provide space for exchange and discussion); moderate; meeting minutes

Action 10: Exchange on the development of transferable solutions / building blocks for the transformation of the energy and mobility systems (Level 2)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission “Climate Neutral Cities”

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: One goal of the Austrian mission is the development of transferable solutions / buildings blocks for the energy and mobility system transformation. We would like to initiate a discussion with other interested countries on their experiences with transferable solutions (form, communication, impact analysis)

Parties involved in implementation: Countries with interest in the topic or experiences

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize a workshop (provide space for exchange and discussion); moderate; meeting minutes



Annual Action Plan for the Czech Republic

Status as of: 02.12.2022

Committed Team:

Organizations which are part of the CapaCities project:

- Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic: Blanka Dvorakova, dvorakova@nszm.cz (coordinator of Czech team)
- Ministry of Regional Development of the CR: Dominik Opálka, dominik.opalka@mmr.cz (main contact point for the Ministry regarding the CapaCITIES project)

Other organizations that we cooperate with that contribute to the topic addressed by the project:

- Ministry of Industry and Trade of the CR
- Ministry of Transport of the CR
- The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the CR
- Technology Agency of the Czech Republic
- Further stakeholders to be addressed shortly including universities regarding research projects (as specified in chapters below)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

The Work Group on Smart Cities under the Council of the Government for Sustainability: Work Group that meets periodically (about 3 times per year) and discusses relevant issues regarding the implementation of Smart Solution in the municipalities. Work Group consists of all relevant stakeholders from the public and academic sector and most of the cooperation is done via contacts in this Group. Members were regularly informed about the project, when it was being prepared and when it was launched. Internal informal Work Group was established for the Horizon Europe Missions with several stakeholders working together on implementing the Horizon Europe Missions. Ministry of Industry and Trade has prepared a new amendment to the Energy Law that allows the formation of energy communities. This amendment to the law is supposed to give boost to the implementation of community local energy in cities. The amendment is currently being approved by the Government of the CR. Ministry of Regional Development is supporting research projects funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. Currently the new research projects are pending evaluation and Ministry for Regional Development is supporting (beside other projects) a project that will support community local energy (and other innovative green solutions within the energy sector) in the municipalities together with cities. A methodology will be developed and tested in cities. By this activity the Ministry appreciates the cooperation with the academic sector through the applied science projects. A close cooperation is being developed with the Ministry of Industry and Trade where this Ministry wants to actively participate in an Interreg fund and use this fund to allocate funding for innovative solutions within cities. By this activity cities should become living labs for new innovative solutions. More ongoing activities focusing on community local energy as it is currently a very popular topic with the new legislation pending approval. Ministry of the Environment is actively supporting the implementation of renewable energy resources not only for cities, but also for individual citizens. The number of applications for subsidies for solar panels or heat pumps has risen in the first 3 quarters of 2022 to a triple of the amount in the entire 2021. A special focus is also being given for the new position under the municipal offices



and that is the position “energy manager”. Special funds dedicated to support of clean energy include for example the EFEKT Programme, Just Transition Fund, Modernization Fund and more ESIF funds. The Ministry of Regional Development has a National Smart City Strategy which is implemented via an Implementation plan. This Implementation plan contains 64 measures that are to be implemented until 2030 in order to support the development of smart cities including the measures supporting climate neutrality. The Ministry of Regional Development coordinates the fulfilment of the Implementation plan and the specific outputs of the measures are mostly dependant on other ministries responsible for areas such as energy, mobility, environment etc.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in the Czech Republic, we define the following objectives:

- Use the project to engage all relevant stakeholders and introduce the transition to the climate-neutrality in broader context as currently each stakeholder is working on its own activities and there is lack of coordination.
- *Bring all relevant stakeholders to the same table and jointly coordinate actions.*
- *Using the project activities for the medialization of the theme of climate-neutrality and gaining proper political support.*
- *Provide events and materials for the municipalities regarding the new innovative ways of energy production (with the focus on community local energy), clean mobility etc. so that municipalities are aware of the new available tools.*
- *Learn from more advanced countries on how to effectively promote new solutions in municipalities, what kind of new legislation and new tools and mechanisms are necessary.*
- *Cooperation, coordination and transfer of knowledge from the Czech city that is part of the “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission”.*

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Coordination of national stakeholders (relevant ministries and other organizations)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Connection according to the activities listed in chapters above (Work Group on Smart Cities, Implementation of Smart City Strategy, support of research projects...)

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Lack of personal capacities for all relevant ongoing activities. Lack of expert personnel

Parties involved in implementation: All relevant ministries, dimensional partners (Association of Municipalities etc.), research organizations

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Coordination of actions (and similar city programmes) at international level, share of experience



Action 2: Cooperation with Liberec (city part of the 100 Climate Neutral Cities Mission) and its support and transfer of experience into other municipalities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Ministry of Regional Development provides methodological support and informational support towards municipalities

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Lack of personal capacities for all relevant ongoing activities. Lack of expert personnel

Parties involved in implementation: Municipalities

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Coordination of actions (and similar city programmes) at international level, share of experience

Action 3: National conference in January 26-27 addressing community energy and other sustainable energy related topics, with expert speakers from ministries, etc.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Cooperation with the Ministry of Re. development on the event

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Lack of concrete examples and active cities at local level in the programmes 100 Climate Neutral Cities, Mission Cities

Parties involved in implementation: The event is primarily oriented to cities and regions

Support needed from CapaCITIES: The event will be partly financially supported by the project budget. Would appreciate international good practice and case studies to be able to disseminate them



Annual Action Plan for Finland

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team:

Taina Tukiainen, Vaasa University on the behalf of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region;
 Liisa Perjo, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council; Mari Hukkalainen, NetZeroCities/VTT; Isabel Pinto-Seppä, VTT; Anna Huttunen, NetZero Cities; Ulla Karvo, Kuntaliitto; Senni Raunio, CLC; Karin Wikman, Decarbonized Cities/BF, Olli Voutilainen, TEM; Mari Vaattovaara, Urbaria; Markku Markkula, President of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region and missions cities (selected Helsinki, Espoo, Turku, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Tampere and applied Vaasa, Joensuu, Vantaa)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, associated with National network of Finnish cities promoting local innovation ecosystems, representing a Finnish country team with Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Urbaria with Aalto University, Vaasa University and Climate Leadership Coalition hereby express our interest to support the Finnish project consortium as one of the CapaCITIES CORE COUNTRIES in case CapaCITIES is awarded for funding in the proposed Coordinating and Support Action (HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-01-01). In the following we want to underline our commitment to the objectives of the project and outline the synergies with existing and planned activities, our concrete intended contributions and the involvement of additional stakeholders needed for supporting, planning and organising the implementation of the EU Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities in FINLAND.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Finland, we define the following objectives:

1. Synergies with existing and planned activities
2. Activities to be implemented in the project and organisations carrying out activities
 - * Activity cluster 1 - Identification of needs, existing measures and intervention portfolios at national, regional and city levels with the effective contributions by industry and research organisations
 - * Activity cluster 2 - Co-design (between actors from national / city level) and implementation of the EU Mission governance change processes
 - * Activity cluster 3 - Mobilisation of other cities
3. Additional stakeholders to be involved and mobilised

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Synergies with existing and planned activities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: National Network of Finnish Innovation

Ecosystems within cities

- 6Aika follow up activities by the 6 major cities in Finland
- Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council to accelerate achieving carbon neutrality by 2035.
- Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under grant agreement no 101056927

- Climate Leadership Coalition (CLC) supported by industrial involvement.
- Finnish University Network represented by Urbaria, Aalto University & Vaasa University
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

Activity cluster 1

- National roundtable with relevant stakeholders to identify needs, interests and common topics
- Relevant national strategies and EU mapping
- Initiatives, platforms and ongoing actions.
- National and regional processes, practices, instruments, and models

Forerunner initiatives of climate neutrality and smart city urban development

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

Identification of needs and measures at national and city level (regulatory framework, funding and financing, urban morphology and governance) (WP 3, 4)

Identification of intervention portfolios (processes, practices, instruments and models) for urban mission governance at national level (WP 3)

Activity cluster 2

Workshops and collaboration with stakeholders (incl. private sector and citizens)

National task force for the co-design of mission governance

Strategy for the change with the piloting cities

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

Co-design governance structures to prepare the EU Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities on national and local level (WP 3, 4)

Activity cluster 3

Partnerships and co-creation within Baltic Sea Region (+ other cities)

Twinning and partnering programs

Workshops, seminars, and European level events to showcase experiences

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

Mobilization and preparation of additional cities in our country (WP 3)

Action 2: Involve and mobilise additional stakeholders and engage all applicable cities with partners



Annual Action Plan for France

Committed team: Pierre Pacaud (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) - Carole Pourchez (Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion), Luc Faraldi (National Agency for Territorial Cohesion), Delphine Bourdin & Maeva Fleytoux (France urbaine - “urban France”, network of metropolis and functional urban areas) Marion Gonzales, Christophe Leikine & Tara Goodwin (France Ville Durable)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

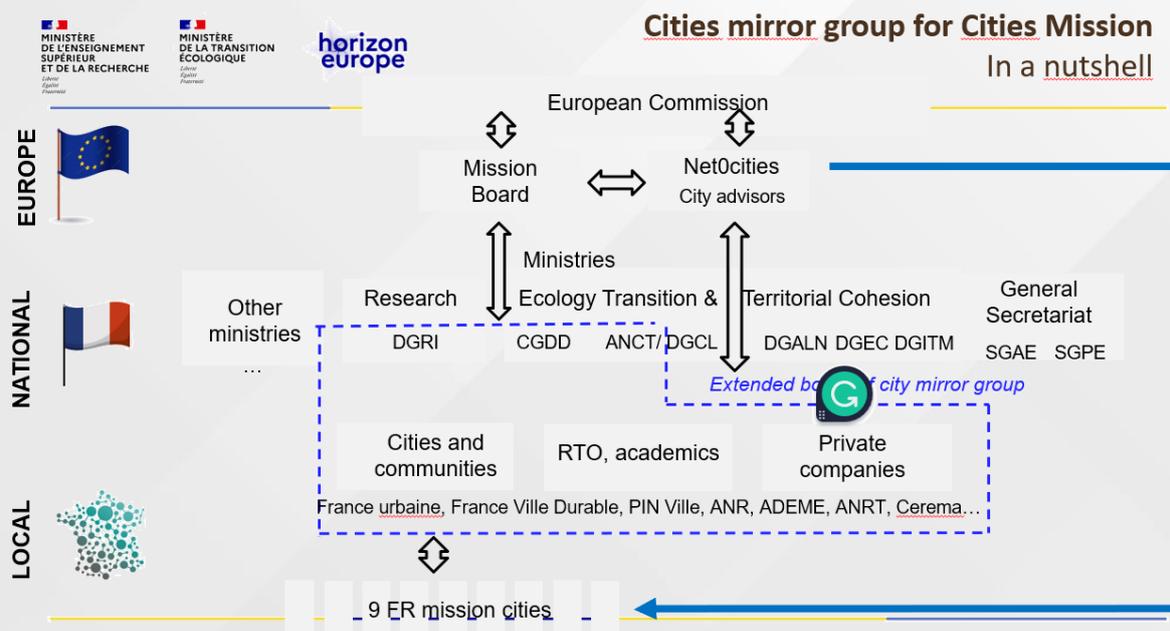
As with other European instruments (in particular partnerships, co-financed or institutional), a "mirror group" allows national actors to be fully involved in the approaches initiated by the European Commission. **The City mirror group focuses on work related to the DUT (Driving Urban Transition) partnership and the Cities Mission.**

In particular, it contributes to:

- A **space for dialogue** between the various stakeholders linked to the sustainable city to consolidate expectations, enrich the national position and make concerted proposals on the work programs.
- A **basis for capitalizing on and promoting the various approaches**, making it possible to build an overall vision of French and European research on ecological transition and the urban environment, and thus multiply the impact of European projects on the national territory (and vice versa)
- A place for debates between **the different axes of European and French public policies**, in order to **build the articulation between these two fields of action.**

The City mirror group thus aims to support existing networks of local authorities at both national and European level, and to prepare future networks at the level of states and territories (regions, local authorities) established within the framework of the Cities Mission. Faced with the urgency to accelerate the transformation of territories to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, the challenge is to make a bridge between R&I and implementation. That is why the Mirror group brings together all relevant public and private professional stakeholders and will benefit from CapaCITY to structure the collective action according to an operational roadmap in the short term.





Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in FRANCE, we define the following objectives:

- France, as a Core Country involved in the CapaCITIES consortium, aims to capitalize on activities and ongoing works at the consortium level to support and guide all French territories toward accelerating their sustainable transformation to meet European objectives by 2050. That is to say **activities conducted within CapaCITIES will involve all relevant public and private stakeholders, beyond the mere context/ framework of the call “100 Climate-neutral Cities by 2030”**.
- As one of the first short-term objectives, we plan to gather information, materials, resources and operational tools already existing in the field of decarbonization in France to start reflecting on specific needs and remaining lacks/obstacles to speed up the transformation of territories (*working group on decarbonization, governance mapping / SWOT analysis...*)
- Another objective will be to involve and encourage the commitment of all relevant public and private stakeholders, specifically at the political level (within French ministries)
- Finally, CapaCITIES team for France wishes to act jointly and in a coordinated way with representatives of the Mission Board and NetZeroCities so as to work alongside and in a complementary fashion when identifying specific needs and obstacles at the territory level.

Our shared objective is:

- to understand, on the basis of practical use cases, what the typical obstacles are
- to synthesize the typical obstacles at the national level and to involve the stakeholders in order to remove these obstacles
- to see on a European scale if such barriers have been encountered, and perhaps to have avenues for resolution in other European countries
- to avoid cross-solicitation of the 9 French Cities Mission laureates for a smoother process.



Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Working on FR City Mission projects, by regular joint- meetings with NET0 City and the 9 French local authorities laureate of the Mission to identify specific needs/ difficulties for implementation at the national and local levels.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Links have already been established between the 9 laureates, the “French national mirror group for Horizon Europe” and Net0Cities to work together. These regular meetings are currently starting.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: This activity is relevant to all WP and specifically WP4 and will help to articulate CapaCities and Net-0 actions in France. The difficulty mainly lies in the lack of time / heavy workload of services who are already engaged in many national calls for projects (PIA4 etc)

Parties involved in implementation: Committed team for CapaCities, Net0Cities, the Mission Board and the representatives from the 9 laureates of the Cities Mission in France. Enlarging the working group to include experts in the issues being addressed is necessary.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Possibility to exchange on this ongoing process during Core Country meetings to identify the best process to set up in this dialogue, the added value of our activity, share knowledge and see how to go further with the 9 cities for the duration of the CapaCities project.

Action 2: Working group on the multi-level governance of the Cities Mission In France and associated public policies and regulations (WP3.1)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: A lot is done in France in terms of public policies and regulations for climate adaptation and decarbonization objectives (PCAET; CRTE...) Nonetheless a broad overview and picture of the governance of said public policies and existing tools will be highly beneficial to all. It will also help define how CCC can better articulate with existing policy instruments at the local/regional and national levels.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The commitment to accelerate the sustainable transformation of territories raises new challenges for multi-level governance and entails new work methodologies to remove administrative and sectoral silos.

Parties involved in implementation: Committed team for CapaCities, with a specific involvement of France urbane as a network of cities, involvement of Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, General Secretariat for Ecological Transition and public agencies: ADEME, ANCT, few metropolises involved in the National Mirror group (Pau, Nantes, Grenoble...) and if possible, representation of regions.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Methodologies / process to complete the mapping. Examples of EU good practices to involve relevant public actors for the implementation of the Mission in France. Identify agencies in partner countries working on similar fields/map existing structures at the EU level and make the connection between peers, for instance, ANCT in France working on territorial cohesion and its counterpart in other countries; or ADEME working on the ecological transition.



Action 3: Working group on the state of art on decarbonisation and climate neutrality

Connection to already ongoing national activity: All relevant public and private stakeholders will participate in a working group to pull together already existing materials in the field of decarbonization at national level.

This activity will both contribute to CapaCities and the ongoing call for projects initiated by ADEME “Planning and developing the Transition of Territories in the face of climate change”

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: This activity can contribute to the “learning portfolio” deliverable as part of WP2. The difficulty lies in limiting the perimeter for intervention and find relevant connections between ongoing work at the French level (MAP 2050 project) and specific needs identified within CapaCities.

It will be necessary to go beyond the focus on energy to assess other key aspects to achieve decarbonization in the longer term.

Parties involved in implementation: Steering committee of the working group involving committed team for CapaCities + Efficacity (R&D centre dedicated to energy transition) , ADEME, CEREMA, Université Gustave Eiffel, i4CE, Mosaïque Environment

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Discussion, experience sharing, feedback on the deliverable of the working group to synthesize and translate materials collected in a relevant and understandable way for all CapaCities’ partners.

Financial support to hire external experts or additional human resources if needed.

Action 4: SWOT Analysis and mapping of breaks and levers for action to accelerate the transition toward carbon neutrality

Connection to already ongoing national activity: This activity will be facilitated by the result of the working group on the state of the art on decarbonisation, as several studies have already been conducted - Net0Cities report, Shift Project works on resilience/decarbonisation, France Ville Durable study with Sciences Po Urban School students... The aim is to capitalize on all these existing materials and survey a number of territories to complete the mapping.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Expected deliverable for WP4.1

The difficulty may lie in overcoming specific local/ political context to identify what is truly lacking and identify common grounds to bridge implementation gaps. It is also a question of prioritizing the blockages, according to their impact or the complexity of removing them.

Parties involved in implementation: For the assessment

- A number of French territories, of different size and beyond the laureates of the Cities Mission to reflect on carbon objective for 2050
- Research and training organizations or similar, allowing to take a step back on the issues and propose solutions
- public and private stakeholders (if needed on specific concerns)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Shared methodology, template and guidance to conduct the SWOT analysis

Financial/ operational means to conduct workshops and seminar with relevant territories



Action 5: Inter-ministerial meeting to inform/acclurate / involve all relevant public stakeholders and encourage commitment at the political level

Connection to already ongoing national activity: The Citymirror group already involves two ministries (in charge of Ecological Transition and Research), agencies and associations representing stakeholders (including cities and communities). This is a good basis that needs to be enlarged to include other stakeholders who have an impact on the definition of the conditions necessary for climate neutrality.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The mirror group has this objective of supporting and accompanying the City Mission.

The challenge is to find how to better articulate and capitalize on the work already done by services, in a complementary fashion with the Cities Mission

Parties involved in implementation: The mapping is in progress . The DGs in charge of energy and climate (DGEC), transport (DGITM), regional planning (DGALN) and local authorities (DGCL) are particularly targeted, as is the new SGPE in charge of ecological planning.

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

1. To know the means that have allowed to involve all the actors, the current process of dialogue
2. help to make tighter connections between national public policies and EU programs/policies

Action 6: France Ville Durable online hub as the showcase for dissemination of CapaCITIES progress in France and abroad

Connection to already ongoing national activity: This hub is already designed as a tool box and a showcase of operational demonstrators to capitalize on and share best practices / methodologies to speed up the sustainable transformation of territories.

The Pin VILLE, partner of the National Mirror Group is also a tool to share information on activities of the Mirror group.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Contributing to WP5 –

A lot of information is available in the field of decarbonization but can appear scattered. As a referral tool FVD's hub will help as an entry point toward all relevant materials.

Parties involved in implementation: France Ville Durable Pin Ville and associated partners (France urbaine, relevant public operators etc)

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

Innovative dissemination formats in order to reach the stakeholders

Dissemination materials (wording, info kit...)

Financial support to make necessary improvements to existing platforms.

For more information on the online hub see here: <https://francevilledurable.fr/>



Annual Action Plan for Greece

Status as of: 07.12.2022

Committed team: Matina Loukea (CERTH), Dr. Antonios Gypakis (GSRI)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Different actors are involved in the process towards the implementation of the Cities Mission goals for achieving climate neutral and smart cities in Greece, including different Ministries, whose competences are related to this, such as the following:

- Ministry of Development and Investments, including the General Secretariat of Research and Innovation (GSRI).
- Ministry of Environment and Energy
- Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure

Additional actors that are also heavily involved (in national level) in this effort are the following:

- The Associations of Greek cities and Municipalities (KEDE - <http://www.kedke.gr>)
- The Association of Greek Prefectures (<https://enpe.gr/el/>)
- The six (6) Greek cities (Athens, Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani, Thessaloniki and Trikala) that have been selected by the European Commission among 377 cities to participate in the EU Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030.
- Additional Greek cities that have participated in this process (and haven't been elected) or are interested in achieving climate neutrality → An MoU has been signed among (nearly 80) different Greek cities.
- Universities and Research Institutes, such as Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH).
- Private companies (e.g., consultants), such as Deloitte that is creating a strategic development plan new comprehensive strategy for small, non- interconnected Greek islands that will support their efforts to tap into the benefits of green economy, energy autonomy and digital innovation.
- Private sector in general, such as companies that are related to the whole process of CapaCITIES targets.
- Civil society, such as various non-profit organizations, citizen associations, etc.
- Moreover, Greece's Public Power Corporation, and industry representatives are also involved in relevant national initiatives (e.g., GRECO islands).

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in GREECE, we define the following objectives:

- Definition and organisation of a specific national team that will include representatives from the different actors and key players (mentioned also above), facilitating the process of achieving common understanding and common goals and strategy.
- Definition of the country's key processes, networks, institutional infrastructure and financial instruments
- Definition of specific thematic challenges and opportunities.
- Development of appropriate citizen engagement and co-creation strategies and tools, in order to enhance public engagement and demand on these issues and change the current public behaviour



(e.g., from vehicle ownership towards vehicle use; as well as to accept much more goods/services sharing across all sector domains).

- Co-development of training and awareness raising schemes for local/national authorities, cities and prefectures, policy makers, as well as the general public.

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Organisation of national event (also in the context of DUT) at early February 2023.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Communication and coordination with the relevant secretariats of the different Greek ministries, as well on-going contacts with the 6 Greek cities of the Cities Mission (as well as of many more interested ones).

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Effort to merge relevant actions and constitute one relevant national team.

Difficulty to coordinate the big number of different actors and stakeholders into one common action.

Parties involved in implementation: All relevant national stakeholders and key actors (as described above).

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Participation of CapaCITIES coordination team, WP leaders and/or additional partners in order to provide information on the project and its short-term activities, while also initiate and facilitate the transfer of know-how and good practices.

Action 2: Identification of key processes, networks, institutional infrastructure and financial instruments.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Communication and coordination with the relevant secretariats of the different Greek ministries, as well on-going contacts with the 6 Greek cities of the Cities Mission (as well as of many more interested ones).

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Effort to merge relevant actions and constitute one relevant national team.

Difficulty to coordinate the big number of different actors and stakeholders into one common action.

Parties involved in implementation: All relevant national stakeholders and key actors (as described above).

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

Know-how transfer & good practices from other countries.

Architecture of smart cities, with emphasis on islands.



Action 3: Organisation of citizen engagement and co-creation actions, in order to enhance public engagement, with emphasis on the Greek cities participating in the Cities Mission.

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

- "Smart Cities" program, with a total budget of 90,000,000 euros, concerning 16 large municipalities with a population of over 100,000 inhabitants plus the Municipality of Trikala, as a model of a "smart Municipality".
- The GReco Islands initiative that aims to transform the islands of Greece into models of green economy, energy self-sufficiency, digital innovation & sustainable mobility.
- 2 emblematic actions in interdisciplinary scientific areas have been published by the General Secretariat of Research and Innovation (GSRI), concerning architecture of Smart Cities and energy communities (focusing on green islands). Results for the respective projects will be published on appr. 3 months.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

- Collect information and experience from these initiatives, focusing on gaps, barriers and opportunities.
- These initiatives are at early stage.

Parties involved in implementation: Focus on citizen and local stakeholders.

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

Know-how transfer & good practices from other countries.

Architecture of smart cities, with emphasis on islands.

Action 4: Coordination of actions among the different Greek cities (e.g., for exchange of experiences, challenges, know-how, opportunities, etc.).

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

- "Smart Cities" program, with a total budget of 90,000,000 euros, concerning 16 large municipalities with a population of over 100,000 inhabitants plus the Municipality of Trikala, as a model of a "smart Municipality".
- The GReco Islands initiative that aims to transform the islands of Greece into models of green economy, energy self-sufficiency, digital innovation & sustainable mobility.
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Parties involved in implementation: Focus on citizen and local stakeholders.

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

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Architecture of smart cities, with emphasis on islands.

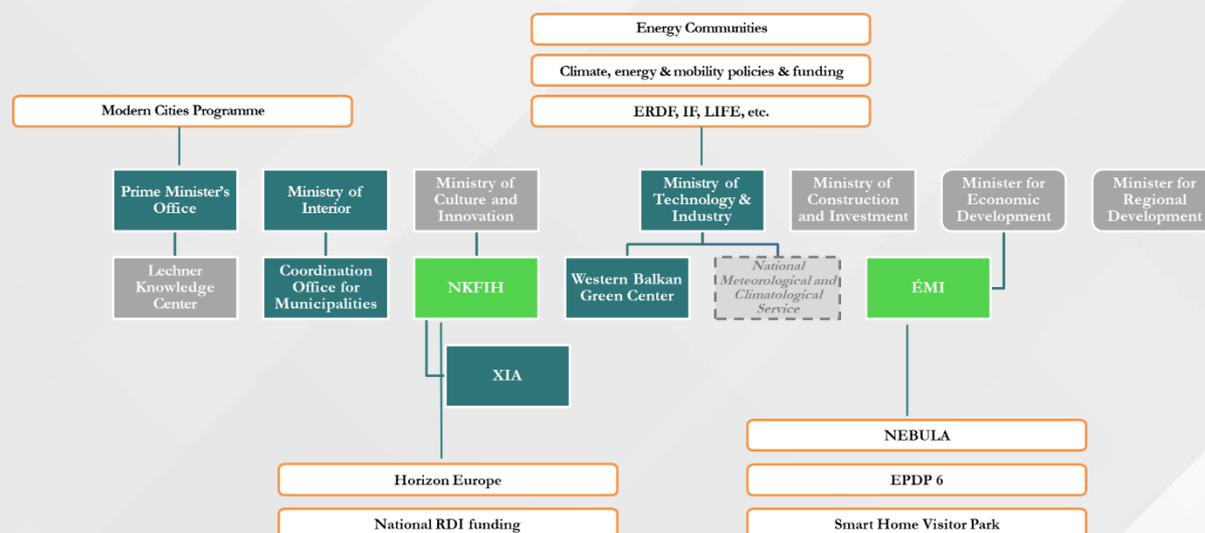


Annual Action Plan for Hungary

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team: Orsolya Küttel (NKFIH), Dr. Krisztina Ligetvári (ÉMI), Viola Kelemen (ÉMI)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission



* As of 1 December 2022, the Ministry of Technology and Industry will cease to exist, and a new Ministry of Energy will be established. However, for the time being it is not yet known which exact duties and departments of the former Ministry will be migrated to the new Ministry of Energy. We will keep you updated.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in HUNGARY, we define the following objectives:

- map, contact and involve all relevant stakeholders
- identifying needs and barriers (SWOT analysis)
- set up a working group with core relevant stakeholder
- organize bilateral and small group meetings

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: involving relevant stakeholders

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Inter Ministerial Working Group on Cities Mission

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: difficulty in engaging stakeholders

Parties involved in implementation: 3 selected cities, 6 interested cities, ministries, NGO, intermediate bodies, research centres

Support needed from CapaCITIES: best practice regarding collaboration of different stakeholders



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under grant agreement no 101056927

Action 2: elaborate a SWOT analysis

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Long-term Renovation Strategies

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: lack of access to all the relevant information, lack of synergies between relevant programmes and projects

Parties involved in implementation: 3 selected cities, 6 interested cities, ministries, NGO, intermediate bodies, research centres

Support needed from CapaCITIES: best practice of national cooperation network system

Action 3: setting up working groups

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: national implementation system is continuously changing, because of that we need to start from zero.

Parties involved in implementation: 3 selected cities, 6 interested cities, ministries, NGO, intermediate bodies, research centres, relevant actors of the sector (public utility providers, public transport companies)

Action 4: implement bilateral and small group meetings

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Local development plans and strategies

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: willingness to cooperate

Parties involved in implementation: 3 selected cities, 6 interested cities, ministries, NGO, intermediate bodies, research centres, relevant actors of the sector (public utility providers, public transport companies)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: tools and practices to engage participants

Action 5: National info day on Cities Mission WP2023

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Regular Horizon Europe info days

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Raising awareness of the HE WP possibilities

Parties involved in implementation: Potential applicants (cities, universities, research centres, industry, NGOs) and cooperation with other related initiatives – DUT, EUI



Annual Action Plan for Italy

Status as of: 12.12.2022

Committed team:

- MUR: Rachele Nocera, Carlo Alberto Nucci (UniBO), Eleonora Riva Sanseverino (UniPA), Francesco Luca Basile (UniBO), Gaetano Zizzo (UniPA)
- ENEA: Paola Clerici Maestosi; Gilda Massa
- CNR: Monica Salvia, Filomena Pietrapertosa

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Governance level

In Italy, national coordination and support to the implementation of the Mission Cities is in the responsibility of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR).

At date, the governance structures are being set up with the following building blocks, as presented in Pre-KoM meeting:



Nomination of a National Representative in the Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Cities



Establishment of a ministerial Working Group at MUR (2021) with national experts

- outreach and engagement of cities
- 9 cities selected for the Mission out of 37 eligible: Bergamo, Bologna, Firenze, Milano, Padova, Parma, Prato, Roma, Torino



Inter-ministerial Working Group (MUR, MIMS, MiSE, MiTE) for coordinating support actions for the EU Missions:

- Shadow Subgroup 'Mission 100 cities' involving the 9 cities selected
- Proposal to establish a Technical Committee in order to coordinate future research and implementation activities of the Mission 100 CN&SC



Participation in EU mission-related projects:

- NetZeroCities > Politecnico di Milano
- CapaCITIES > MUR, ENEA, CNR, UniBo and UniPa
- CRAFT > UniBo



Participation in EU projects and networks on climate neutral cities:

- DUT Partnership (MUR as FA + ENEA, UniPa)
- COST Action EU - NETPositive Energy Districts European Network (ENEA)
- The EURO – LCP Initiative on Local Climate Planning (CNR)
- EU networks



Due to the new political cycle after the election round in September, resulting in a new government, the inter-ministerial coordination is currently on hold, pending new orientations to be defined and dialogue to be revamped.

Nevertheless, under the auspices of MUR Ministerial Working Group, an important step in terms of coordination has been achieved, with the 9 selected 'Mission Cities' establishing internal coordination and nominating a Coordinator City.

Operational level

At the operational level, the Mission 'Cities' is currently supported by a working team set up by the Ministry of University and Research as a result of the participation in the CSA **CapaCITIES**. The working team involves experts from the University of Bologna (UniBO) and the University of Palermo (UniPA) who are national delegates in the Horizon Europe Programme Committee for Cluster 5. This fosters a coordinated approach to the various actions close or complementary to the Mission Cities deployed at both national and EU level. Prof. Nucci is also the National Representative in the Mission Cities, thus ensuring a direct link between strategic (decision making) and operational level.

Within CapaCITIES, the working team includes two leading Italian research organizations such as CNR (National Council of Research) and ENEA, which are playing a relevant role in terms of capacity building activities and outreach to target stakeholders groups at the national level, besides their involvement in the project activities in CapaCITIES.

Complementary projects

Italy participates in the **NetZero Cities** (NCZ) network with Politecnico di Milano (Polytechnic University of Milan) as a project partner. Several Italian cities have submitted a project to the NZC cities first calls for pilot cities. The selected pilots will be announced in 2023, and in case there are Italian cities, they will be considered in the priority target group.

UniBO is involved also in the **CRAFT** (Creating Actionable Futures) project that is testing collaborative local models in the framework of the New European Bauhaus transformations in three 'sandbox cities' (Amsterdam, Bologna and Prague). CRAFT is intended to provide guidance on collaborative local governance models to harness the value of inclusiveness, aesthetics and sustainability.

MUR is involved as Funding Agency in the **Driving Urban Transitions Partnership**, along with ENEA, and this gives the opportunity to provide funding for mission-related projects, thus indirectly supporting the selected Mission Cities and in general cities that are piloting new solutions for sustainability and climate neutrality. ENEA, thanks to their role in capacity building activities, is developing a specific toolbox to enhance capacities in public administrations (civil servants, practitioners, executives) to manage transitions processes to climate-neutrality. This know-how will be capitalized also in specific activities at the national levels, targeting Mission cities.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in ITALY, we define the following objectives:

- **Coordination and alignment of ongoing national activities:** structuring the national governance (formal and informal) of the Mission 'Cities' and connecting the various funding or regulatory agencies that have a role in terms of supporting/enabling the deployment of climate-neutral policies and solutions at the city level.
- **Connecting with the selected cities:** setting up a monitoring exercise that is instrumental to assess the state of play in the selected 9 Mission cities and the specific needs in terms of support and/or capacities.
- **Building capacities:** Building capacities: providing context-specific capacity-building activities, tailored to the peculiar administrative, regulatory and funding framework in Italy. On this basis, a multilevel governance model will be designed to support climate-neutral cities in their pathway.

Whilst the governance building is centred on MUR as well as general coordination with the selected Mission Cities, the capability to support the cities in terms of the capacity building lies more on ENEA and CNR, due to their technical expertise.



Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Multilevel governance:

Relaunch the inter-ministerial dialogue on the Mission 'Cities' and set up a WG for synergies with other initiatives (i.e.: Cohesion Funds, RRF) and identification of enabling regulatory frameworks and involve actors at all decision levels

Connection to already ongoing national activity: MUR Ministerial WG (national representative, experts, Mission cities)

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Getting recognition by the other ministries

Change in government responsibilities

Parties involved in implementation: Other Ministries involved in regulatory or funding aspects in relation to climate-neutrality pathways

Other main decision-making entities and local governments' associations (Agenzia della Coesione, Conferenza delle Regioni, ANCI)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: (Indications from the sensemaking map on possible links and synergies with other national and international bodies???)

Action 2: Input collection:

Connect to selected Mission cities to collect inputs for decision making and needs for support.

Set up a regular dialogue with Mission cities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: MUR Ministerial WG

Parties involved in implementation: CapaCITIES Italian WG

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Methodologies

Exchange with other Mission cities

Connection and exchange (participation in meetings, exchange of documents and practices) with other Core Countries on all action points to understand how they are working (governance, relationship with cities, relationship with other EU projects, collection of documentation and practices etc...)

Action 3: Connecting capacities

Connect complementary initiatives (CapaCITIES, NZC, CRAFT, DUT) and related pilot cities for synergetic action (focus on multilevel governance)

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Political endorsement

Parties involved in implementation: CapaCITIES Italian WG, NZC, CRAFT, DUT, Other complementary project initiatives (national focus)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Organize twinning meetings for the different DM levels with other countries' networks [medium-term: 9 months]



Action 4: Disseminating examples

Collecting the Italian Mission Cities contracts (to be delivered by June 2023) in order to highlight examples of doable actions for transitioning to climate-neutrality at the city level, to be used for dissemination to “follower” cities

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Resources to commit

Parties involved in implementation: CapaCITIES Italian WG

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Connection and exchange (participation in meetings, exchange of documents and practices) with other Core Countries on all action points to understand how they are working (governance, relationship with cities, relationship with other EU projects, collection of documentation and practices etc...)

Action 5: Practical guidelines

Collect information and monitor projects and initiatives for green transition on cities within other funding initiatives (i.e.: Cohesion funds, RRF) so to identify funding opportunities and practical example on decarbonisation pathways at the city level

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Fund to support urban planning competitions and ideas on territorial cohesion (Cohesion Policy) National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Established dialogue with Cohesion Agency

Limited resources

Parties involved in implementation: CapaCITIES Italian WG

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Create a cross national WG on energy communities in CapaCITIES

Action 6: Work on both dimension (national and international)

Connection to already ongoing national activity:

Recovery Funds

Cohesion Funds

Parties involved in implementation: National stakeholders

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Transition team and transition lab



Annual Action Plan for Netherlands

Status as of: 06.12.2022

Committed team: Core Country of the Netherlands, consisting of Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties (Min BZK, Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations), Regieorgaan SIA, Platform31

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

In the Netherlands, seven cities were selected to become part of the Cities Mission. Based on a recent analysis, the advice is to set up a National Support Structure (NSS) that will provide support to the seven cities in their transition towards climate neutrality in 2030. Currently, the advice is being debated among the Dutch partners and cities. If a positive decision is made on going ahead with the development of an NSS, the Core Country Team will cooperate with various other Dutch partners, including the cities selected for the mission.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in The Netherlands, we define the following objectives:

- Develop support framework for Mission cities' activities
- Develop connection between Dutch Mission cities and international community
- Develop strategy for comparing Dutch experiences to ones of other Mission cities

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Define the appropriate format for supporting the work of the Mission cities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Advice to set up NSS

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Relevance: critical for picking up new knowledge to be shared with other countries

Current barrier: defining and assigning responsibilities among various partners involved in monitoring

Parties involved in implementation: Min BZK, SIA, Platform31, other Dutch partners

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Stand-by for providing input on examples of other countries' monitoring frameworks



Action 2: Develop appropriate connection between Dutch support structure for Mission cities and international community (CapaCITIES)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Advice to set up NSS

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Relevance: establishing two-way communication of experiences between the Netherlands and the rest of the Mission cities

Barrier: agreement needed between Dutch partners on how to support Mission cities

Parties involved in implementation: Min BZK, SIA, Platform31, other Dutch partners

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Stand-by for providing input on examples of other countries' connection between national and international level of knowledge sharing

Action 3: Monitor Dutch Mission cities' activities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Advice to set up NSS

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Relevance: developing lessons learned to be shared with other Mission cities

Barrier: agreement needed between Dutch partners on how to support Mission cities

Parties involved in implementation: Min BZK, SIA, Platform31, other Dutch partners

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Stand-by for providing input on examples of other countries' monitoring frameworks

Action 4: Develop appropriate strategy for comparing Dutch experience to the ones of other countries

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Advice to set up NSS

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Relevance: enable Mission cities in NL and other countries to learn from each other's experiences

Barrier: agreement needed between Dutch partners on how to support Mission cities

Parties involved in implementation: Min BZK, SIA, Platform31, other Dutch partners

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Stand-by for providing input on examples of other countries' learning frameworks



Annual Action Plan for Poland

Status as of: 11.12.2022

Committed team: Izabela Juszko, Patrycja Zając, Klaudia Chruściel (IOŚ-PIB), Katarzyna Rędzińska, Agnieszka Wendland (WUT)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

National level

- **National strategies:** Poland's energy policy 2040; Strategic Adaptation Plan for sectors and areas sensitive to climate change 2020 (2030); State ecological policy 2030; National Urban Policy 2030; Strategy for Sustainable Development of Transport 2030
- **Sectoral agreements** (Sectoral agreement for the development of the hydrogen economy in Poland; Strategy for Responsible Development; Agreement on cooperation for the development of the photovoltaic sector; Cooperation agreement for the development of the biogas and biomethane sector)
- **Roadmap for the development of the Circular Economy in Poland**
- **The National Centre for Research and Development**
- **Klimada 2.0** – climate education project led by the Institute of Environmental Protection – National Research Institute (IOŚ-PIB)
- **Working groups** attached to Ministries
- **Youth Climate Council**
- **National funds** supporting green investments

Regional level

- **Regional funds** (Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management;
- **Hydrogen valleys**
- **Energy clusters**

Local level

- **Local strategies, plans and programmes** (Environmental Protection Program (obligatory, on local and regional level); Plan for supply of heat, electricity and gaseous fuels; Low Carbon Management Plan; Electromobility development strategy; Anti-smog resolution; Waste Management Plans; Green Management



Plans)

- Strategic actions, bottom-up initiatives (participatory budgets)
- Low Emission Zones

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Poland, we define the following objectives:

- In-depth diagnosis in terms of the implementation of the Cities Mission at the multi-level and cross-sector governance in the scope of:
 - needs (e.g. financial, implementation)
 - opportunities (e.g. synergy of activities in cross-sector, internal and external coordination, possible integration of activities with other EU Missions)
- Recognition of the possibility of creating a facilitator organisation (national platform)
- Exchange of knowledge on activities related to climate neutrality in Polish cities between ministries and supervised units

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Organizing a workshop with cities to identify their needs and barriers for the implementation of Cities Mission_National

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Implementation of applicable strategic documents at the European, national, regional and local level

Active utilization of funding programs

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Communication between stakeholders (e.g. citizens, NGOs, academia, business)

Internal communication in city offices

Lack of evaluation tools and indicators

Lack of knowledge and coordination Barrier: agreement needed between Dutch partners on how to support Mission cities

Parties involved in implementation: Polish cities participate in the Mission

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Workshop methodology, guidance to achieve desired outcome



Annual Action Plan for Portugal

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team: Rui Frazão, Maria Fátima Veiga and João Mariz Graça from DGEG – Portuguese DG for Energy and Geology.

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Pilot cities are creating a network of cities to share experience, know-how and learnings in their work to achieve the goals of Cities Mission. Other interested cities are also being invited to participate in the network, which was launched at the end of November. The National Agency for Innovation (ANI) started a process to create a Mission Hub Policy Group involving all the relevant public organisations within the ministries that deal with the relevant policy instruments that support the country and the cities to become carbon neutral. The first meeting of this group is planned for January.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Portugal, we define the following objectives:

- Identification of needs, measures, and intervention portfolios through the dialogue between cities, government organisations and other relevant stakeholders
- Creation of a governance structure based on the inputs of all stakeholders

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Creation of a national governance structure.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Cities network and Mission Hub Policy Group.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Common understanding of the most adequate model of governance structure among all relevant stakeholders.

Parties involved in implementation: Mission Hub Policy Group; cities network

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Information on different models of governance structures.

Action 2: Creation of a dedicated portal with links to all the existing materials that cities can use.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mission Hub Policy Group.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Identification of existing tools and training materials provided by public organisations, universities, and research centres.

Parties involved in implementation: Mission Hub Policy Group; Mission Board; NZC; universities and research centres; NGOs.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Identification of existing tools and training materials and how to make them available to cities.



Action 3: Creation of a platform of living labs.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Cities network and Mission Hub Policy Group.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Using the platform as a space for discussion and sharing of experiences and difficulties in the work going on in the cities.

Parties involved in implementation: Mission Hub Policy Group; cities network; NZC.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Information on useful methodologies like the transition's labs process.

Action 4: Organisation of national roundtables.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Cities network and Mission Hub Policy Group.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Identification of needs, measures, and intervention portfolios; balance between research and innovation at local level

Parties involved in implementation: Cities network; Mission Board, NZC and ANI.



Annual Action Plan for Romania

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team: Elena Simion, Alex Dinu, Anamaria Ravar (UEFISCDI), Corina Dumitru (MCID)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

In late summer 2022 the **Mirror Mission Cities Hub Romania (M100)** was set up by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (MCID), hosted by UEFISCDI, with the aim to connect the national and regional authorities that work to support the Mission Cities implementation at national level.

The Romanian hub is aiming to reach out and facilitate the dialogue between the authorities, academia and civil society that support cities in their fight towards climate neutrality with the ultimate goal to reach to all cities in Romania that aim to join the climate neutrality objectives, following the principle of ‘twinning’ and “no one is left behind’.

Currently, through UEFISCDI and MCID, Romania is funding research & innovation solutions for sustainable urban development and urban transformation under the framework of Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, but the landscape of national and regional funding available linked to climate neutrality has enlarged and diversified, offering a huge potential of synergies that the Mirror Mission Cities Hub hopes to support together with other activities.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Romania, we define the following objectives:

- Official Launch event of M100 as part of the CapaCITIES network of national initiatives working towards supporting the Mission Cities implementation at national level – spring 2023
- Organize national meetings with authorities and cities to identify together some immediate needs that the authorities could answer through joint measures (e.g.: capacity building activities for cities, support mechanisms and advice for cities aiming to design their climate action plans)
- Mutual learning exchanges between M100 and other CapaCITIES national initiatives/hubs/working groups.

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Signature of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between three ministries and the three municipalities selected in the Mission Cities.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: M100

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The MoU is the first formal step towards joint political commitment in Romania.

Barrier: Busy political agenda for the targeted ministries (MCID, Ministry of European Investments and Projects, Ministry of Development, Public Work and Administration, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests)

Parties involved in implementation: Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization - MCID, Ministry of European Investments and Projects - MIPE and Ministry of Development, Public Work and Administration – MIPE, the three selected municipalities in Romania (Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest – District 2 and Suceava);

A core group of stakeholders that support cities in their journey towards climate neutrality (Associations of Municipalities, Regional Development Agencies, academia and urban communities)



Support needed from CapaCITIES:

- 1 Transition lab workshop, thematic capacity building workshop(s), transnational mission alliance events.
- Mutual learning exchanges with other CapaCITIES national working groups/initiatives.
- Joint transnational awareness and back-up as part of CapaCITIES alliance.

Action 2: Mapping of national resources available for the cities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Budget available from MCID through UEFISCDI to fund R&I solutions for cities through the participation in DUT Call 2022

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: a central point (virtual hub) where cities can find their way through different funding resources and other available support mechanisms

Parties involved in implementation: M100 working team in UEFISCDI

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Examples of similar initiatives in other national CapaCITIES initiatives / platforms / working groups.

Action 3: Development of the web page for M100 - m100.uefiscdi.ro

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Cooperation between M100 and other stakeholders (existing urban communities)

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Relevance: central source of relevant information (funding, process, events, relevant events)

Barrier: time-consuming compared to the urgent need expressed by cities

Parties involved in implementation: M100 team

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Examples of similar initiatives in other national CapaCITIES initiatives / platforms / working groups.

Action 4: Cooperation with the Centre of Competence for the Mission Cities set-up through NPRR

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Mutual support in advancing the Mission Cities at national level

Joint ambition and commitment to work together to reach to all the cities in Romania

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Relevance: complex source of relevant information (funding, process, events, relevant events) for cities;

the center will implement the concept of 'smart campus' in three universities from the selected cities

Parties involved in implementation: M100 team

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Support cooperation and networking with other connected initiatives in Europe or beyond.



Annual Action Plan for Slovakia

Status as of: 12.09.2022

Committed team: University of Žilina (UNIZA) and the Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS)

On behalf UNIZA:		On behalf of UTCS:	
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Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

The main challenge for Slovakia is that currently there is no single entity in charge for coordinating climate neutrality efforts at national level. One key task is therefore to determine the pathway to create/formalise such an entity (governance barriers and enablers, including mapping of stakeholders already involved with this agenda). Those identified so far are:

- the Slovak Ministry of the Environment <https://www.minzp.sk/> responsible for climate laws and Fitfor55 legislation
- Climate Coalition: a platform of environmental organizations supporting strong climate law <https://klimatickakoalicia.sk/>
- The Interest Association of Cities and Municipalities for Sustainable Energy Efficiency <https://citenergo.sk/>
- Bratislava and Kosice, both part of the 100 climate neutral cities by 2030

UTCS is already a key partner involved with several climate-related initiatives:

- Adopted the resolution of the climate crisis as one of its core focus areas (Oct 2020)
- Takes an adviser role and initiated cooperation with expert partners on climate policies
- Actively involved in the reviewing processes of climate legislation affecting municipalities (Climate Act, Air Protection Act, Energy Act, Adaptation Strategy of the Slovak Republic,...)
- Supports the climate agenda both in the media and in communications towards cities and the public
- Engages in meaningful green projects and supports actors
- Provides regular support in the field of environmental and climate education

Based on the DUT framework, we also identified the following actors which may be relevant for providing the required knowledge to cities on their way to transition:

1) Positive Energy Districts (PED) Transition Pathway

- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) offers free advice to the public sector <https://www.siea.sk/bezplatne-poradenstvo/bezplatne-poradenstvo-pre-verejny-sektor/#>
- Citizen organisation <https://cepa.priateliazeme.sk/>
- Current UTCS projects:



- Presidential Green Seal – comprehensive renovation of buildings
- SUSTO - LIFE Energy of Communities - Developing integrated service

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2) Circular Urban Economies (CUE) Transition Pathway

- Institute for circular economy (with focus on waste management)
<https://www.incien.sk/projekty/samospravy/>
- the Presidential Green Seal, which can act as a motivator for cities, both for energy and circularity <https://www.zelenapecat.sk/>

-

3) 15-minute City (15mC) Transition Pathway

- Independent expert organisation Carpatian Development Institute
<http://www.kri.sk/gb/home/>
- Smart Mobility Slovakia <https://smartmobility.gov.sk/en/>
- Current UTCS project: PSS – Grant for the adaptation of public space with an appeal to address the consequences and causes of climate change

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in SLOVAKIA, we define the following objectives:

Key overarching goal for CapaCITIES (level 1): Create support for cities on their NetZero journey e.g. apply to DUT/NetZeroCities calls

Key overarching goal for Slovakia (level 2): From fragmented to effective multi-level governances schemes for cities mission implementation:

- *Develop/formalise a national mission to take part in the transnational alliance (SO1)*
- *Co-design change processes to establish effective city mission support structures (SO2)*
 - *One national network with approx. 8 core members*
- *Identify country specific challenges and actors to address key topics for change (SO3)*
 - *Develop a solution roadmap for Slovakia*
 - *Develop national transition labs*
 - *Organise capacity building events e.g. local action, funding, impact measurement*
- *Establish joint actions with related / neighbouring initiatives (SO4)*
- *Increase project impact by delivering targeted communication and dissemination (SO5)*

Level 1 – *Exploit synergies with existing initiatives within UNIZA and UTCS to support interested cities on their transition towards carbon-neutrality, with focus on 15min City and sustainable urban mobility transitions (WP4)*

UNIZA (lead)	UTCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide learning opportunities for inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities from own resources and ongoing initiatives</i> • <i>Enroll 1 or more cities as case studies for summer/winter schools</i> • <i>Apply for grants: support 1 or more interested cities to submit a 15mC/mobility proposal to available funding mechanisms</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify / select cities interested to take part towards Net Zero goals, and who can operate in english</i>



<i>(based on the NetZeroCity call)</i>	
<i>Optional</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organise local urban transition lab to support the above activities with citizen/stakeholder input (co-creation)</i> 	
Level 2 - Build synergies with existing Slovak stakeholders to create a national mission / support platform (WP3)	
UNIZA	UTCS (lead)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review best practices from WP2 and help design Slovak ,ecosystem‘ together with CapaCITIES and UTCS</i> • <i>Support with ,sensemaking‘ map for Slovakia (WP3)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify and enroll relevant organisations and stakeholders to become part of a national platform</i> • <i>Set up transition labs to identify national barriers and co-design appropriate and effective national governance model</i>

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Level I

Action 1: Identify/select Slovak ‘pilot’ candidates

Connection to already ongoing national activity: NZC pilots for Bratislava and Kosice

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Key starting point

Parties involved in implementation: UTCS and other contacts

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Criteria to look for, if any

Action 2: Setup knowledge & funding ‘ideation’ workshops/trainings

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Language barrier

Parties involved in implementation: Synergy with UNIZA projects and existing faculty teaching

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Best practices to get cities interested by net zero goals

Level II

Action 3: Map (document) current relevant SK stakeholders

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Open

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Unclear where Slovakia is; very fragmented/overlapping stakeholders, not covering all areas

Parties involved in implementation: UNIZA/UTCS and stakeholders already identified (above)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Input from WP2/WP3 on best practices



Action 4: Prepare concept for a Slovak national platform (how should it look like)

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Open

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Unclear who should have the mandate for this; need for national support

Parties involved in implementation: UNIZA/UTCS and stakeholders already identified (above)

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Input from WP2/WP3 on best practices



Annual Action Plan for Spain

Status as of: 15.12.2022

Committed team: Guillermo Palau Salvador (UPV), Jaime Moreno (UPM-Viable Cities), Julio Lumbreras (UPM), Valentina Oquendo (EIT Climate-KIC)

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

The Spanish National Platform is an initiative designed to support all Spanish cities (over 20.000 inhabitants) committed to achieve climate neutrality, including those selected by the European Mission of climate neutral and smart cities, through:

- The development and facilitation of multi-stakeholder ecosystem aimed at the implementation of the Mission.
- The development and facilitation of spaces for dialogue and the co-creation of initiatives and multi-city programs.
- A range of services adapted to the commitments that cities are assuming.
- The alignment of public policies (especially the Horizon Europe program of the EU) and the interconnection of initiatives at different territorial levels (local, regional, national, EU).

The operation of the platform responds to a double strategy. On the one hand, a strong institutional governance to ensure the representativeness and alignment of all the actors involved. On the other hand, it is complemented by networking spaces which favor creativity, collective interpretation and the interconnection of projects and actors involved.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in SPAIN, we define the following objectives:

- *Systematize the creation of the platform for inspiring other countries in the consortium in collaboration with other pioneer initiatives such as Viable Cities in Sweden.*
- *Experiment different innovative practices in the innovation arena of the Spanish platform.*
- *Foster the collaboration between the cities and the universities, creating binomial agreements for the implementation and evaluation of the mission.*



Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Formal creation of the National Platform

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Connected to both, Cities platform and the “Mirror Spanish Group” of the Cities Mission

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: It is very important to support the cities and the barriers are time and future political changes

Parties involved in implementation: Spanish Cities, Climate-KIC, UPM, Other Universities, Other Stakeholders.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Exchange of information. Contrast with Viable Cities and other platforms.

Action 2: Elaboration of materials for the implementation of multistakeholder governance groups in the innovation arena of the mission

Connection to already ongoing national activity: Collect and gather several studies and research regarding the implementation of multistakeholder governance groups in Spain

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: It could help other cities and countries to create this kind of approaches.

Parties involved in implementation: UPV, UPM

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Exchange of information. Connection with Viable Cities

Action 3: Creation of a network of universities to support the mission activities and plans, fostering the binomial agreements between local universities and cities.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: There are several initiatives for the creation of this binomial, but there is not a network to coordinate these activities. It can be supported by the National Platform, specifically through the multi-city programs.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: The importance of university support of the implementation of the mission.

Parties involved in implementation: Universities, Cities, Spanish National Platform.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Exchange of information



Annual Action Plan for Sweden

Status as of: 20.01.2023

Committed team: Emina Pasic, SWEA & Olga Kordas KTH/Viable Cities

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Swedish Energy Agency (SWEA) together with Swedish Strategic Innovation Program **Viable Cities** continue work on development of synergies with existing and planned activities and processes in SWEDEN, through the initial nine Swedish Climate City Contracts signed by 23 Swedish cities and four governmental agencies signed in December 2020, facilitated and coordinated by Viable Cities. Viable Cities is a Strategic Innovation Program in Sweden focusing on the transition to climate-neutral and sustainable cities, with more than 100 member organizations from public sector, civil society, academia and business. The program's mission is climate-neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for everyone within the planet's boundaries. Viable Cities is a catalyst for new forms of cooperation between cities, industry, academia, research institutes and civil society. This is to mobilise to change the way our cities operate in line with our national, environmental, and climate goals as well as our international commitments linked to the Global Sustainability Goals – Agenda 2030 – and the Paris Agreement. The programme's timeframe is 2017-2030 and has a budget of €100 million, and is implemented with support in a concerted effort by Swedish Innovation agency (Vinnova), the Swedish Energy Agency and Swedish Research Council for Sustainable development (Formas), where the **Swedish Energy Agency – SWEA** is the responsible authority. KTH, The Royal Institute of Technology is the host organization for Viable Cities. The 23 Swedish cities(Borlänge, Borås, Enköping, Eskilstuna , Gävle, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Järfälla, Kalmar, Karlstad, Kristianstad, Linköping, Lund, Malmö, Mariestad, Nacka, Skellefteå, Stockholm , Umeå, Uppsala, Växjö, Örebro, Östersund)and their partners and six governmental agencies (Swedish Energy Agency -SWEA, Swedish Innovation Agency -Vinnova, Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development -Formas and Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – Tillväxtverket, Swedish Transport Authority, Trafikverket and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Naturvårdsverket) are part of the programme's flagship initiative: Climate Neutral Cities 2030. The twenty-three cities have taken it upon themselves to test new ways of working and solutions, to learn from each other and to work for the mission: to create cities that work well for the people who live in it, that are good for the economy of citizens, businesses and society – and – that are good for the climate. The authorities support the mission-driven work aimed at switch to climate-neutral cities by 2030 and provides a framework for collaboration through the strategic innovation program Viable Cities.

The national authorities intend to cooperate on the following developments during 2023 to support the municipalities' climate transition:

- Coordination of lessons learned and regulations,
- Research, Innovation and Development,
- Coordinated financing and
- Work on the European Research and Investment Program, Horizon Europe.



The Swedish Energy Agency is initiated the joint work of the governmental agencies on the Climate City Contract 2030 based on mission driven approach in 2021. The governmental agencies developed joint agencies innovation team with representatives of each agencies own innovation team focusing on development of common national authorities responsibilities in Climate City Contract 2030.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Sweden, we define the following objectives:

Sweden, through the Swedish Energy Agency as a Core Country organisation, and Viable cities, will contribute to and support all work packages of the proposal.

In addition, Viable cities will lead the work package on Multi Level Stakeholder Governance (WP3).

Another objective is to accelerate learning and best practice between different national platforms and the European and global dimensions of Cities Mission.

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Take part in relevant Capacities meetings and activities

Connection to already ongoing national activity: National Climate City Contracting processes

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Ongoing process

Parties involved in implementation: National and local stakeholders in Sweden

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Connecting the national and European/International ecosystems

Action 2: Actively connect the efforts within CapaCities with other projects supporting the Cities Mission, such as NetZeroCities and DUT Partnership.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: National Climate City Contracting processes

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Ongoing process

Parties involved in implementation: National and local stakeholders in Sweden

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Connecting the national and European/International ecosystems

Action 3: Identify four countries (Spain, Romania, France and Austria) in a function as demo countries but still be able to serve as inspiration for others. Since we like to work together with the other WPs and not in a culvert, the choice of countries is something we do in consultation with the other WPs/consortium.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: CapaCITIES development work in WPs

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Ongoing process

Parties involved in implementation: National and local stakeholders in Sweden

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Connecting the national and European/International ecosystems



Action 4: Activities on analysis of the planned national activities in all CapaCITIES countries to see if there are national events to go back-to-back with and which countries have a sufficiently mature infrastructure to implement a Transition Lab Forum.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: CapaCITIES development work in WPs

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Ongoing process

Parties involved in implementation: National and local stakeholders in Sweden

Support needed from CapaCITIES: Connecting the national and European/International ecosystems



Annual Action Plan for Türkiye

Status as of: 04.11.2022

Committed team: TÜRKİYE BİLİMSEL VE TEKNOLOJİK ARAŞTIRMA KURUMU (TUBITAK) and Union of Municipalities of Turkey as Associated Partner

Current national structures in place to support the Cities Mission

Different actors are involved in the process toward the implementation of the Cities Mission in Türkiye, including different ministries.

Objectives within CapaCITIES

For the first phase of CapaCITIES in Türkiye, we define the following objectives:

- Türkiye, as a Core Country involved in the consortium, targets to resort on activities and ongoing works at the consortium level to support and guide Turkish ecosystem for sustainable transformation.
- Türkiye aims to become climate-neutral by 2053 and cities are among the most important actors for achieving this ambitious target. There are different public institutions and ministries related to or responsible from the actions taken within the cities, in addition to the local authorities. Therefore, it is important to provide coordination between all relevant stakeholders for determining a roadmap and establishing governance model for cities that will help them while implementing necessary actions to become climate-neutral.
- Thanks to CapaCITIES project, we aim to put “Climate-neutral cities” concept on the agenda of decision makers local authorities, share the examples of the coordination and governance models of the other countries as inspirational best practices.

Actions within CapaCITIES over the next 6-9 months

Action 1: Mapping the national actors and ongoing endeavours about climate-neutrality of the Turkish cities and set a national working group for CapaCITIES project and make periodic meetings with the CapaCITIES project national working group.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: There are general ongoing activities regarding to become a climate-neutral country at policy and legal level such as the preparation of Climate-Change Law.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Relevance: It is aimed to create synergies between the activities of the CapaCITIES project and becoming a climate-neutral country target.

Barrier: Although there is an ultimate aim of becoming a climate-neutral country, no specific targets and agenda defined and announced for cities. Similarly, there is no single body responsible from the governance of the actions undertaken within the cities.

Parties involved in implementation: In January 2023, it is planning to organize meetings with the several departments of The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change which is among the main national public institutions dealing with both climate –neutrality and local authorities. Additionally, there will be meetings with Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, which is an associated partner of the CapaCITIES project, for determining the relevant actors and composition of the working group and relevant financial tools that will be used by the municipalities.

National Working Group Members will be involved of the periodical meetings that will be held on within 2023.

Support needed from CapaCITIES: -Providing examples of CapaCITIES project core-country working/mirror group



such as the member's composition and operation model. Additionally, CapaCITIES project will introduce the portfolio of the financial authorities that providing fund or credit to the city's planning to be climate-neutral.

The core-country representatives of the CapaCITIES project will be invited to join at least one of the online national working group meetings for sharing their experience.

Action 2: Organizing a national high level physical information day for raising awareness of climate-neutrality target among cities of Türkiye with the participation of European Commission.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: -Cities are among the active players of the EU Framework Programmes in Türkiye. It is important to guide and direct the local authorities to the funding programmes in order to find enough resources and opportunities to solve city challenges, fulfil the city targets and maximize the social, environmental impact of their activities via research and innovation activities. Information days and brokerage events have been organized by TUBITAK as the National Coordinator of the Horizon Europe within Türkiye about the calls of Climate –Neutral and Smart Cities Mission of EU. The events have targeted just the Horizon Europe related calls of City Mission.

The aim of planning activity is to organize a more comprehensive event to the Turkish local authorities which have shown interest to be climate-neutral and explain them about the concept of climate-natural city mission, share examples of climate city contract actions inform them about most relevant calls, platforms, financial tools of EU.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action:

Relevance: The event will motivate the cities showing interest to become climate-neutral.

Barrier: It is difficult to arrange the schedule of the high-level representatives of all relevant stakeholders.

Parties involved in implementation: In February 2023, it is planning to organize an event with the participation of European Commission, NetZeroCities Platform, the Turkish local authorities applied or selected for the call for EoI Expression to join the Mission, Turkish CapaCITIES Working Group and all relevant public authorities. National Working Group Members will be involved of the periodical meetings that will be held on within 2023.

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

- The CapaCITIES budget may be used for organizing the event.
- The CapaCITIES project will help to connect and invite the representatives of European Commission, NetZeroCities Platform and international financial organizations.
- The CapaCITIES project could provide the promotion materials of project that will be used within the event.

Action 1: Organizing national workshop and make roundtable discussions to determine main the obstacles that cities face while becoming carbon-neutral and suggest possible solutions to overcome.

Connection to already ongoing national activity: The results of the event will be an useful feedback for the policy makers dealing with adaptation to climate change in cities.

Activity relevance and the associated current barrier for this action: Relevance: It is important to understand the major problems of cities to become climate-neutral and generate solutions accordingly.

Barriers: Several cities may be reluctant to attend the event and share opinion about the main barriers.

Parties involved in implementation: CapaCITIES national working group, interested local authorities and selected cities for sharing their process as an examples.

Support needed from CapaCITIES:

A core-country representative of the CapaCITIES project will be invited to event for sharing experience.

CapaCITIES project may suggest a methodology for getting better output from the event.

