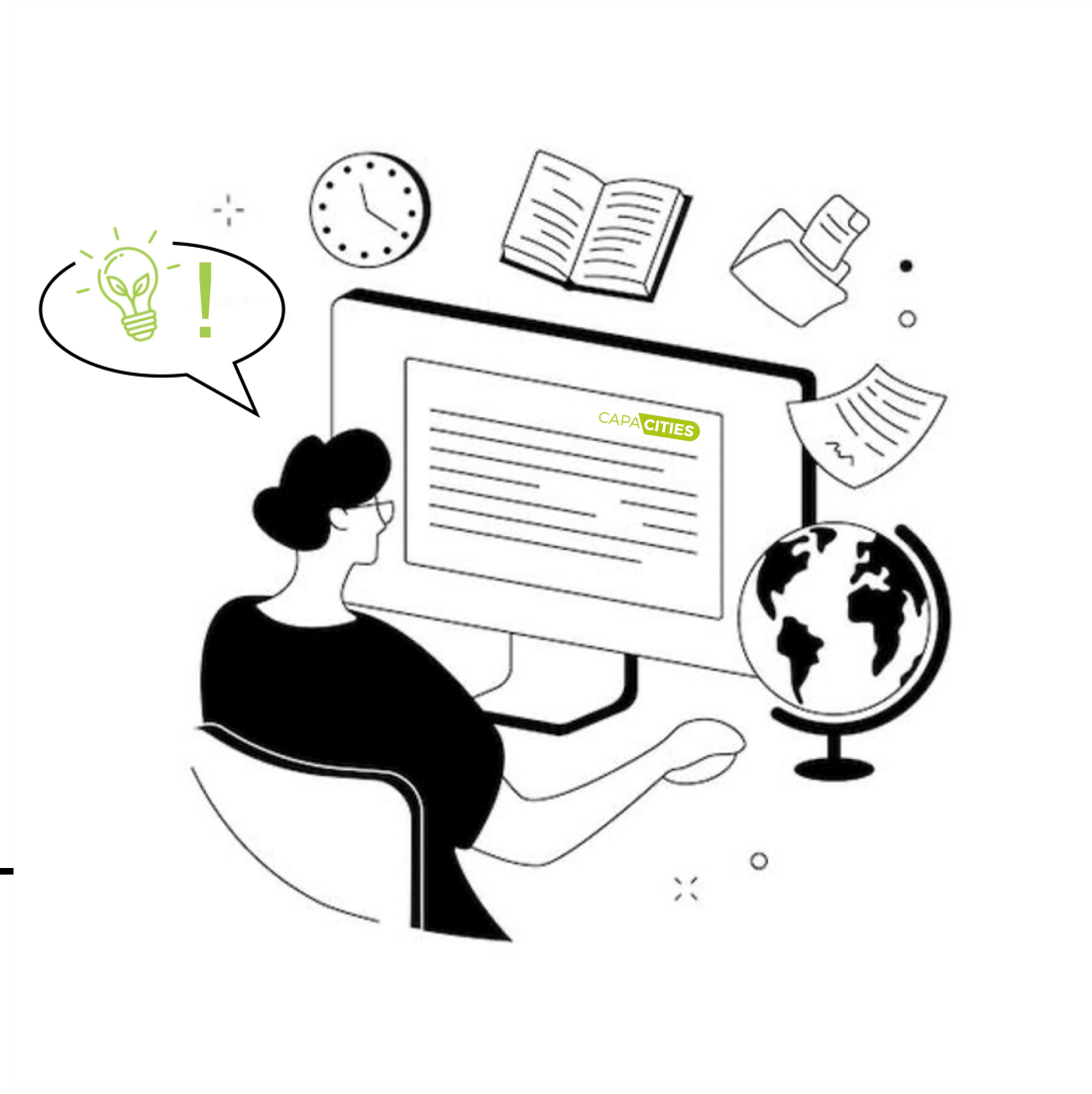


THE ANNUAL CAPACITIES LEARNING PORTFOLIO

ADVANCING NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE NEUTRAL CITIES

LAST UPDATE: 11 / 2023

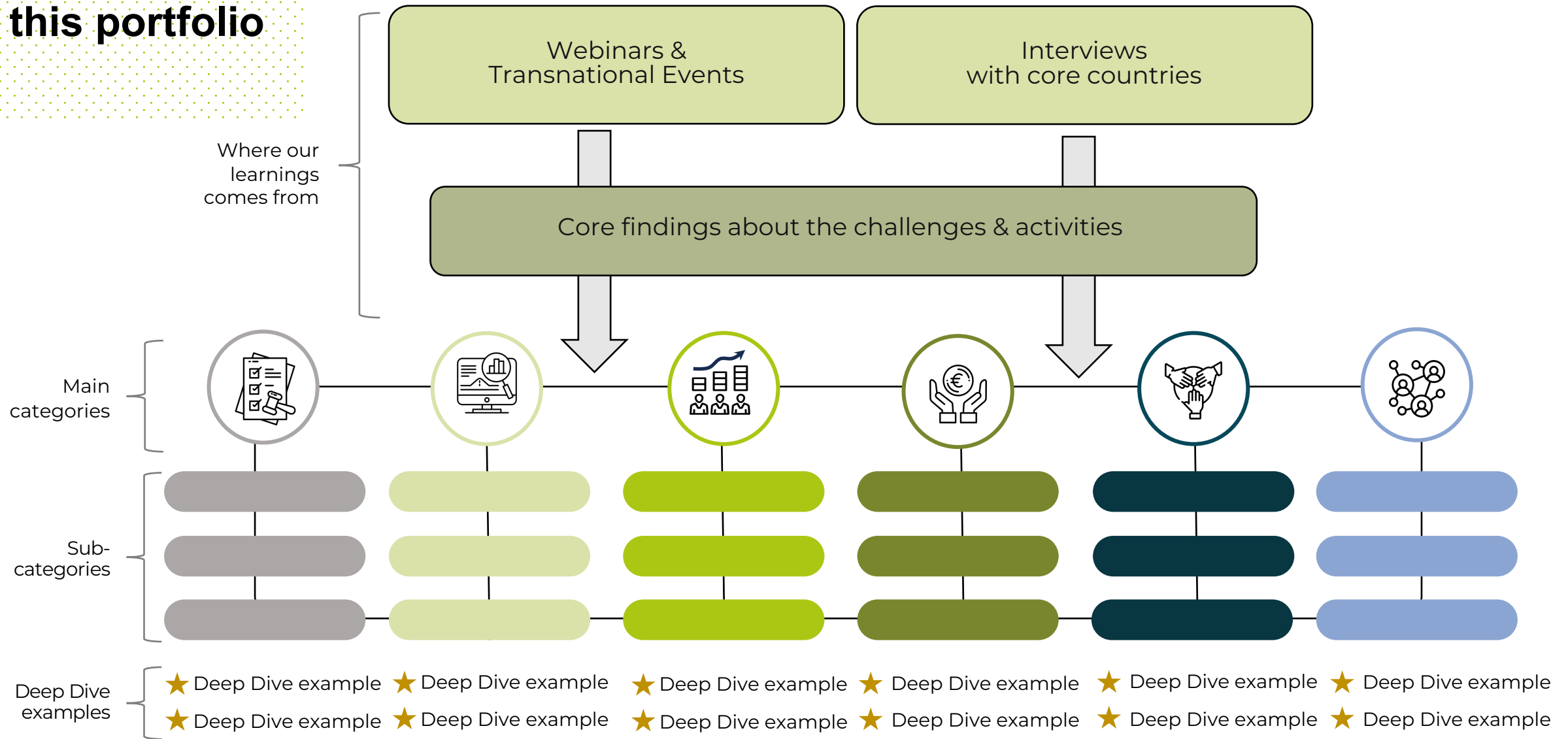


THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE CONSTANTLY UPDATED

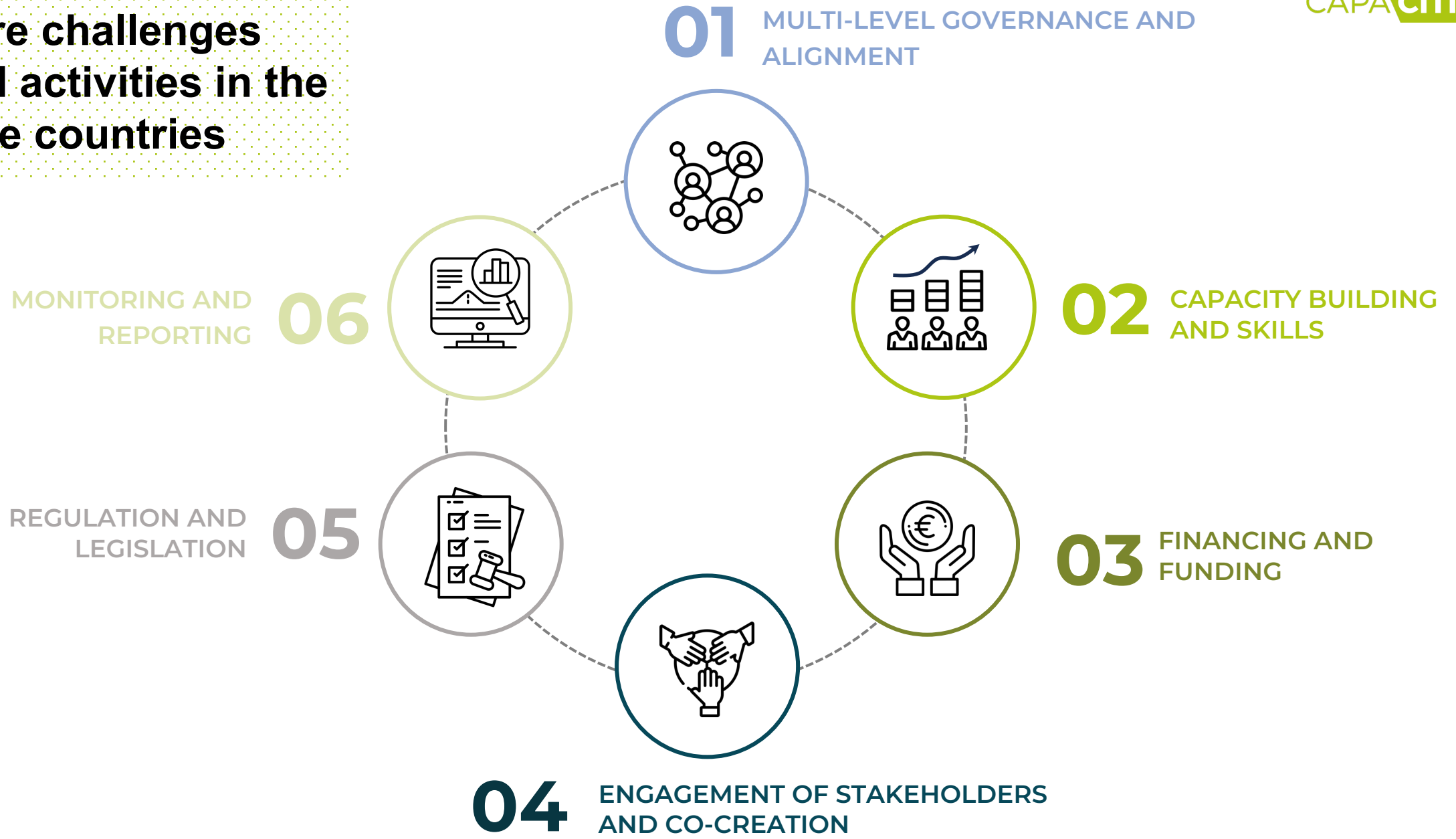
What are the key learnings resulted from the CapaCITIES project?

What type of knowledge do actors in the ecosystem need to practice and implement sustainable change in line with the Cities Mission?

Structure of this portfolio



Core challenges and activities in the core countries



01

Multi-level governance and alignment

Most activities in this category aim to foster transformation through a variety of initiatives, addressing pressing urban issues such as climate change, digitalization, and social inclusion.

The aim is to foster cooperation, coordination and effective use of resources among different levels of government, enabling holistic and impactful sustainable urban development.

02

Capacity Building and Skills

This category offers scientifically crafted guidelines on communication, strategic planning, and specialized training on accounting for greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to enhance international collaboration, overcome implementation bottlenecks, and foster a deep understanding of governance models across diverse levels.

03

Financing and Funding

EU countries face the challenge of securing appropriate funding for regional and municipal levels to realize the mission for climate-neutral cities. To address this, considering the varying situations of associated countries and membership statuses is crucial, with the need to establish clear funding guidelines and specific funding lines for city projects to bridge the gap between R&D and implementation funding.

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation

In this category of the portfolio, you will find the learning materials on engagement of stakeholders and co-creation. These aspects are important for all areas of sustained efforts to achieve climate neutrality in cities and on a national and international levels. From monitoring and reporting activities to multi-level governance, stakeholder engagement and co-creation activities and approaches serve as a vehicle for origination and implementation of strategic climate action.

05

Regulation and Legislation

Regulation and Legislation is one of the main areas where the CapaCITIES project aims to support national ecosystems. To this end, a series of events and webinars is planned for 2024.

06

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and Reporting category refers to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of the GHG emissions in line with climate change mitigation efforts and objectives. Monitoring involves collecting and analyzing data from various sources, such as energy production, industrial processes, agriculture, forestry, and waste management. Standardization and quantification of emissions helps ecosystem actors in understanding their emission profile, identifying their needs and challenges, as well as focusing on concrete objectives, time frames and measuring subsequent achievements. From transparency and accountability to comparability and target setting, MRV systems can assist in informing decision-making, resource allocation and overall policy development.

INTRODUCTIONS



About CapaCITIES

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. These constitute the "core countries" of this consortium. In addition, **associated partners** represent another 6 European countries that constitute the "supporting countries". These partners represent the core work of the consortium, while the consortium's management team (consisting of representatives from UEFISCDI, FFG, AIT, ICLEI, and Viable Cities) 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.

Who will benefit from the Learning Portfolio?

In effort to support European countries in creating **national support structures** for implementing the European Cities Mission, CapaCITIES organizes a series of webinars and transnational events. These events, along with interviewing the core countries served as the foundation for the Learning Portfolio, from identifying activities and potential challenges to collecting the learning materials discussed and referenced throughout the project.

The Learning Portfolio is aimed at a variety of audiences – from experts who are engaged in the CapaCITIES project to the public, interested in the topic, as well as anyone looking to build their expertise or educate themselves around climate neutral cities. Therefore, the portfolio will benefit all kinds of users: **cities** and **national partners**, **academia** and **research institutes**, as well as **civil society** and **industry**.

The ways in which the Learning Portfolio can be read depend on the objectives of the reader. These objectives can be roughly divided into in-depth reading and a quicker way of reading, such as referencing. More details on that can be found in the How to Use section on the next slide. Additionally, every section is referenced with its set of *#Hashtags*, which help the reader to track relevant material that might belong to separate sections or subcategories. The Hashtag Index can be referred to on the following page.

The sections where the materials are forthcoming (i.e., webinars and events planned to take place in the coming phases of the project, will be watermarked with *In Progress* and updated in due course.

HOW TO USE THE LEARNING PORTFOLIO



Identify your challenges

As a first step, you should consider where your challenges lie and where you might need support.



Define your problem statement

Then define your problem statement to narrow the problem down to an action area.



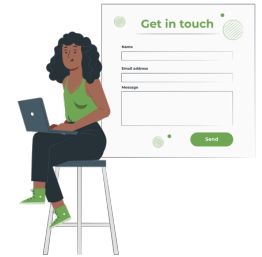
Note down key words

Take notes on key words related to this problem, e.g. the word "funding".



Scan the list of learning materials

Then go through our portfolio and based on the previous 3 steps look for the materials that are suitable and important for you.



More to say? Contact us!

Can you think of any more good learning formats that we haven't included yet? Then get in touch and help us expand this living document!

Index of Hashtags

#AccessibleInformation
#AdministrativeProcedures
#AdaptableApproaches
#AlternativeFundingMechanisms
#Alliance
#BureaucraticChallenges
#Budget
#Bottom-UpEngagement
#Bottom-UpInitiatives
#CapacityBuilding
#CityDiversity
#CitiesChallenges
#CitiesNeeds
#ClimateAction
#ClimateActionAchievements
#ClimateActionPlanning
#ClimateChallenges
#ClimateGoalSetting
#ClimateNeutrality
#ClimateNeutralityRegulations
#ClimateTimeframes
#Collaboration
#CollaborationGuidelines
#CollaborationTools
#Coordination
#Co-Creation
#CreativeApproaches
#Cross-SectoralCollaboration
#EmissionChallenges
#EmissionNeeds
#EmissionProfile
#EngageApproaches
#EngagementApproaches
#Efficiency
#EUAssociatesFinance
#EUFunding
#Exchange
#ExistingProjectsIntegration
#FinancialFrameworks
#FinancialGuidance

#Financing
#FlexibleFunding
#Fragmentation
#Frameworks
#GHGEmissions
#GHGProtocol
#GovernmentCollaboration
#GreenCityFunding
#Guidelines
#House
#Implementation
#ImplementationOptimization
#ImplementationRegulations
#InformationExchange
#Innovation
#Interdisciplinarity
#Knowledge
#KnowledgeSharing
#LanguageBarriers
#LocalAutonomy
#LocalChallenges
#LocalCommunities
#LocalEngagement
#LocalEmpowerment
#MRVChallenges
#MRVIndicators
#MonitoringEmissions
#MonitoringReporting
#Multi-LevelGovernance
#NationalClimateSupport
#NationalFramework
#NationalFunding
#OnlineCollaborationTools
#Partnership
#PolicyCoherence
#Pre-Accession
#ProceduresOptimization
#ProjectFunding
#Quantification
#RegulatoryFrameworks

#RegulatorySupport
#Regulations
#RegionalCooperation
#ResourceAllocation
#ResourceAllocation
#R&D
#Roles
#SettingClimateGoals
#SettingClimateObjectives
#StakeholderAlignment
#StakeholderEngagement
#Stakeholders
#Standardization
#StreamlinedProcurement
#Synergies
#SustainableCities
#Top-DownApproaches
#Top-DownInitiatives
#Targets

Hashtag search Windows:



Hashtag search Apple:



HOW TO DEFINE A PROBLEM STATEMENT

Understand if your challenge can be defined as ... :

1. **Simple (well-defined)** = one suitable solution (but the solution strategy can follow different paths.)
2. **Poorly defined (ill-defined)** = more than just one correct solution and different paths.
3. **Complex (wicked)** = actual issue is not obvious, so preliminary problem definitions can be achieved through partial solutions.

Define a problem statement on the right level:

1. Adjust your approach to your problem type (wicked, ill-defined or well-defined.)
2. Follow a set of WH questions for guidance, but change or ignore questions that are not relevant.
3. Try to answer all WH questions and try to find more than one answer to every question.
4. Formulate a problem statement and note down keywords.



What	Who	Why	Where	When	How
What is the problem?	Who is involved?	Why is the problem important?	Where does the problem occur?	When did the problem begin?	How could this problem be an opportunity?
What would we like to know?	Who is affected by the situation?	Why does it occur?	Where was it already resolved before?	When do people want to see results?	How could it be solved?
What are the assumptions that are scrutinized?	Who decides?	Why was it not yet solved?	Where did similar situations exist?	Where can the project be started?	What has already been tried to resolve the problem?

(Lewrick, Link & Leifer, 2018)

MEET OUR TWO PERSONAS

As you read this document, Kemal and Maria will accompany you. They both work in the CapaCITIES network and have specific questions that you may have as well and that can be answered through this portfolio.

Kemal, 49,
an urban planner, who has recently
joined his new employer in Turkey, as an
EU project coordinator. He coordinates
the CapaCITIES projects but is not a
member of the core team.

Maria, 36,
works as an EU Projects Expert in the national
funding agency in Italy and is part of the
CapaCITIES core team.



THESE ARE MARIA'S MAIN CHALLENGES & NEEDS

"Specific funding lines for the mission to better support city projects, would be great!"

"To learn more about the usage of collaborative online tools to simulate cooperation and generating new ideas would be helpful"

"We should more consider the situation of the associated countries and memberships of the countries."



"We need greater flexibility in funding instruments and joint programs"

"We need more spaces for efficient and formal dialogue between national and local authorities, including regional authorities to promote organization and collaboration."

THESE ARE KEMAL'S MAIN CHALLENGES & NEEDS

“We need more good practice examples: What governance and implementation models of different countries can we learn from?”

“We should establish a roadmap and guidelines for EU associated countries on how to access funding mechanisms.”

How can we learn from the challenges faced by others: for example, obstacles and bottlenecks during the implementation?



“To make sure that climate action is not prevented by economic growth goals, economically and financially sustainable mechanisms are needed”

“We need more practical and adaptable learning formats and some learning material which is easy to understand and not too complex!”

LEARNING MATERIAL



01

Multi-level governance and alignment

1. Cross-sectoral and cross-departmental collaboration
2. Towards lesser fragmentation - clarification of roles, budget and targets
3. Overcoming language barriers and limited resources
4. Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches for engagement
5. Better organization and concrete actions on the national level
6. Clearer understanding of the city's needs and challenges, facilitation of dialogue between cities and national level
7. National Framework Conditions & Effective Collaboration

★ Deep Dive Example



"It would be very helpful to conduct the information exchange in Italian."

1.1 Cross-sectoral collaboration

Cross-sectoral collaboration between cities and regions in different countries is crucial for capacity building as it enables the sharing of deep dive examples, resources and expertise between mission board members, fostering innovation and resilience in the face of complex challenges, such as climate change and urbanization, that transcend national borders. This collaborative approach not only enhances the collective ability to address common issues but also promotes harmonious growth and sustainable development across regions.

Keywords:

#Partnership #Knowledge
 #Alliance #Innovation
 #Synergies #Exchange
 #Collaboration #Interdisciplinarity

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- More active collaboration with citizen mission board members
- More usage of interactive collaboration tools (Menti.com, Mural, ...)
- More collaboration and knowledge transfer among cities, regions, and stakeholders on the national level
- Creation of incentives for better collaboration between countries

”


We need more spaces for efficient and formal dialogue between national and local authorities, including regional authorities to promote organization and collaboration.

— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Austrian “Cities Mission Action Group”	Austria	2021	Austrian Mission Action Groups [German] Process of the Mission Cities Action Group [German]


The **Austrian Cities Mission**, handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the Climate and Energy Fund, is one of the recently established cross-cutting pillars at the Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK) that brings together people from different departments. On the international/global scale, the BMK is a partner of the CapaCITIES project, leads the “Cities Mission Action Group” and is one of the founding countries of the IEA Cities TCP. This internal group within the government administration works together to empower Austrian cities and municipalities to achieve climate and energy targets and prevent fragmentation. This is achieved through an own agenda setting process and cross-functional teams, each focusing on various thematic pillars like energy, mobility, and circular economy, with allocated budgets for each. Comprehensive research and supportive measures drive progress toward climate neutrality. Especially for this mission, the BMK has launched among the relevant federal ministries, supporting agencies and key stakeholders for the EU Cities Mission. One crucial aspect is the role of task transformation managers, who ensure alignment with strategic objectives, such as action and implementation plans, to maintain a high level of ambition.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG)), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The French Mirror Group	France	2021	French national context [English]


To better monitor the European schemes related to sustainable cities, two French ministries (The French Ministry of Ecological Transition and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research) decided to set up a **National Mirror Group** focuses on work re-lated to the Driving Urban Transition (DUT) partnership and the EU Cities Mission and aims to support existing networks of local authorities at both national and European level. The group effectively associates national actors with approaches initiated by the European Commission, and it brings together the three main target audiences (local authorities, researchers and companies). The main goal is to build an overall vision of needs, as well as spaces for dialogue to formalize French expectations and make concerted proposals on the European work programs. Activities include, amongst others, the establishment of links with local au-thorities that applied for the 100 Cities Mission, whereby communication strategies and links with NetZeroCities are exchanged and compared. Furthermore, seminars for local authorities, researchers and companies are offered which cover, for example, transfor-mation strategies, citizen involvement and approaches for answering the European calls for projects.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: National Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME), the National Research Agency (ANR), the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CEREMA, France Ville Durable; France Urbaine; Agence Nationale de Cohésion Territoriale.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Smart Cities Network Austria	Austria	2016	Smart Cities Network Austria [English] Smart Cities Vernetzungsplattform [German]

The **Smart Cities Network Austria**, in partnership with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and Energy Fund, focuses on driving municipal innovation, emphasizing urban quality, innovative technologies, and climate adaptation. This network connects pioneer cities such as Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, Villach, Klagenfurt, Innsbruck, and Linz, all committed to advancing municipal innovation through interdisciplinary approaches and multi-level governance. Its primary goal is to support and accelerate municipal innovation processes. Through a coordination office that organizes various city-tailored networking formats, actors from municipalities can conjointly develop solutions to local challenges with stakeholders such as housing companies, businesses, city-related and research institutions. The formats further allow for conceptual discussions on approaches to strengthen organizational structures in cities and experience exchanges to generate innovative project ideas and debate strategic developments.


Unlike other networks in Austria, the Smart Cities Network actively addresses these needs and establishes direct communication between BMK and cities. Its core structure forms a triangle involving BMK, cities, and the coordination office, which can also involve other national and international stakeholders as needed.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), Energy Fund, Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing (SIR), administrations of Austrian cities

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]

The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

CapaCITIES Concept

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Concept for Ambassadors	EU level, Italy	2023	Ambassadors Concept [English]

The concept of "**Ambassadors**" in the CapaCITIES project serves as a crucial communication bridge, especially in overcoming language barriers. These Ambassadors, renowned for their expertise in climate change and achieving climate neutrality in cities, play a pivotal role in promoting the outcomes of CapaCITIES and the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities mission (CNC mission). Their mission encompasses mobilizing cities, engaging diverse stakeholders, mainstreaming knowledge, and raising public awareness about climate neutrality's urgency.

Ambassadors provide operational support, facilitate communication, and engage local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels. They champion climate neutrality best practices, support integration across various governance levels, and ensure the visibility and sustainability of project results. These Ambassadors, identified based on their expertise, reputation, and accessibility to specific target groups, bridge core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors. Their voluntary contributions encompass extensive communication and engagement initiatives, collectively advancing CapaCITIES' mission and promoting climate neutrality.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

EU funded partner project

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CrAFt (Creating Actionable Futures) platform	EU level , Italy, The Netherlands, Czech Republic	2022	CrAFt project background [English] CapaCITIES meets CRaFT Cities Webinar - May 2023 (Link will follow soon)


The project **Creating Actionable Futures – CrAFt** is part of the New European Bau-haus (NEB) initiative of the European Union. The CrAFt's Reference Cities are more than 70 municipalities that are testing and implementing local governance models. In this endeavour, they cooperate with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens. Collaborating with the Mission Board on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the NetZeroCities plat-form, CrAFt supports cities in crafting and implementing Climate City Contracts, drawing from its experience with Sandbox Cities like Bologna, Prague, and Amsterdam, along with 60 CrAFt Reference Cities. This project plays a vital role in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning various urban stakeholders, including citizens, policy-makers, artists, and academia, to collectively drive the transition toward climate-neutral cities. By providing collaborative local governance models, tools, and policy briefs, CrAFt offers a wealth of resources to support the national level in helping their cities fulfill the EU cities mission.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Italy: National Council of Research (CNR); University of Palermo (UniPA), University of Bologna (UniBO), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA). The Netherlands: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO); TKI Urban Energy (special innovation program, part of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate); Municipality of Zwolle. Czech Republic: Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Regional Development; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Transport; The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences; Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Expert working group Ministry of University and Research (MUR)	Italy	No date yet	No link yet


Ministry of University and Research (MUR) is responsible for the national coordination and supports the implementation of the Cities Mission in Italy. At the operational level, there is a working team set up by the MUR, which involves ex-perts from the University of Bologna (UniBO) and the University of Palermo (UniPA) who are national delegates in the Horizon Europe Program Committee for Cluster 5. Within CapaCITIES, the working team includes two leading Italian research organiza-tions such as National Council of Research (CNR) and the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (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 activi-ties in CapaCITIES.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: University of Bologna (UniBO), University of Palermo (UniPA), National Council of Research (CNR), Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Hungarian Informal working group	Hungary	2021	No link yet

Hungary currently lacks a dedicated platform for Climate-Neutral Cities, and the existing support structure relies on an informal cross-sectoral collaboration among governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior, NKFIH, and EMI. Cities' climate-related investments primarily receive support through calls from Operational Programs, with a notable emphasis on the Environment and Energy Efficiency Plus Operational Program (EEEOP+). Furthermore, the Hungarian Government provides financial backing for local contributions to climate projects funded through direct EU programs.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: National Research, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior, as well as national agencies as Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) and ÉMI Non-Profit Limited Liability Company for Quality Control and Innovation in Building (EMI).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

1.2 Towards lesser fragmentation - clarification of roles, budget and targets

The challenge revolves around the issue of organizational complexity and ambiguity. In these countries, the roles, budgets, and targets associated with the EU cities mission often lack clear delineation among various stakeholders. This fragmentation can lead to inefficiencies, misaligned efforts, and difficulties in tracking progress. As a result, it becomes challenging to effectively coordinate and manage urban development projects, hindering the overall success and impact of CapaCITIES initiatives in these regions. Clarifying these roles, budgets, and targets is essential to address this inherent problem of fragmentation and streamline efforts towards more coherent and efficient urban development strategies.

Keywords:

#Fragmentation #Targets #Efficiency
 #Roles #Coordination
 #Budget #Stakeholders

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Enhanced organizational clarity to mitigate organizational complexity and ambiguity
- Streamlined coordination to streamline coordination among various stakeholders to reduce fragmentation, leading to increased efficiency and better alignment
- Establishing effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms is crucial for tracking progress, ensuring accountability and facilitating informed decision-making

”


Formal organization and concrete actions are needed at the national level to support the mission effectively.

— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Multi-level governance network

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)	EU level, Brussels-based	2001	ERRIN Website [English]


The **European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)** is a prominent Brussels-based platform that unites over 120 regional organizations across more than 20 European countries. Established in 2001, ERRIN is dedicated to enhancing the research and innovation capabilities at the regional and local levels, fostering the growth of robust Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystems. With a steadfast commitment to strengthening the regional and local dimensions of EU Research and Innovation policy and programs, ERRIN maintains enduring partnerships with EU institutions and other organizations. ERRIN serves as a vital knowledge exchange hub and a catalyst for regional collaboration, providing support throughout the project development process and offering valuable project opportunities to its members. The network's activities are underpinned by its 13 Working Groups and two Task Forces, which address thematic areas and overarching policy matters, aligning with the priorities of its members and current funding opportunities. At the core of ERRIN's initiatives, Working Group meetings play a pivotal role, serving as the nexus for members to exchange information, showcase regional exemplars, forge new partnerships, co-create joint projects, and engage in extensive networking activities.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Austrian "Cities Mission Action Group"	Austria	2021	Austrian Mission Action Groups [German] Process of the Mission Cities Action Group [German]

The **Austrian Cities Mission**, handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the Climate and Energy Fund, is one of the recently established cross-cutting pillars at the Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK) that brings together people from different departments. On the international/global scale, the BMK is a partner of the CapaCITIES project, leads the "Cities Mission Action Group" and is one of the founding countries of the IEA Cities TCP. This internal group within the government administration works together to empower Austrian cities and municipalities to achieve climate and energy targets and prevent fragmentation. This is achieved through an own agenda setting process and cross-functional teams, each focusing on various thematic pillars like energy, mobility, and circular economy, with allocated budgets for each. Comprehensive research and supportive measures drive progress toward climate neutrality. Especially for this mission, the BMK has launched among the relevant federal ministries, supporting agencies and key stakeholders for the EU Cities Mission. One crucial aspect is the role of task transformation managers, who ensure alignment with strategic objectives, such as action and implementation plans, to maintain a high level of ambition.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG)), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]

The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

CapaCITIES Webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Transnational Cities Mission Alliance Webinar	Eu level	2023	CapaCITIES Transnational Cities Mission Alliance Webinar (Link will follow soon)

This **CapaCITIES webinar** was the first webinar in the series of events that will contribute to the building of the CapaCITIES Transnational Cities Mission Alliance. It focused on how to strengthen national governance for achieving the Cities Mission and presented good practice cases from Austria, France, Greece and Hungary. The event was opened to all interested stakeholders (representatives of ministries in charge of urban or sectoral transitions, R&I ministries, national urban policy agencies, city authorities, funding agencies and urban actors, who were willing to participate and engage). Policy makers shared their experiences in strengthening the national governance system for urban transitions towards climate neutrality. The webinar was organized by the CapaCITIES project in the framework of its Transnational Cities Mission Alliance.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

1.3 Overcoming language barriers and limited resources

Language diversity across the EU can impede knowledge sharing and collaboration, hindering the exchange of best practices and expertise in achieving climate neutrality. Moreover, limited (financial and human) resources in certain regions can act as a barrier to building the necessary capacities to tackle climate-related challenges effectively. Overcoming these challenges requires innovative approaches, such as multilingual training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and resource allocation mechanisms that ensure equitable access to capacity-building opportunities, fostering a collaborative environment to advance the EU's climate objectives.

Keywords:

#LanguageBarriers #LimitedResources #Innovation
#Collaboration #KnowledgeSharing #ResourceAllocation
#ClimateNeutrality #CapacityBuilding

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Language diversity hampers climate collaboration
- Resource constraints impede climate action
- Innovation is needed for climate goals

”

Ambassadors could play a role in addressing language barriers and promoting actions effectively. Involving ambassadors in the portfolio in a structured manner can ensure it fits the needs of national public officers without consuming excessive time.


— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Learning format

CapaCITIES Concept

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Concept for Ambassadors	EU level, Italy	2023	Ambassadors Concept [English]

The concept of "**Ambassadors**" in the CapaCITIES project serves as a crucial communication bridge, especially in overcoming language barriers. These Ambassadors, renowned for their expertise in climate change and achieving climate neutrality in cities, play a pivotal role in promoting the outcomes of CapaCITIES and the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities mission (CNC mission). Their mission encompasses mobilizing cities, engaging diverse stakeholders, mainstreaming knowledge, and raising public awareness about climate neutrality's urgency.

Ambassadors provide operational support, facilitate communication, and engage local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels. They champion climate neutrality best practices, support integration across various governance levels, and ensure the visibility and sustainability of project results. These Ambassadors, identified based on their expertise, reputation, and accessibility to specific target groups, bridge core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors. Their voluntary contributions encompass extensive communication and engagement initiatives, collectively advancing CapaCITIES' mission and promoting climate neutrality.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

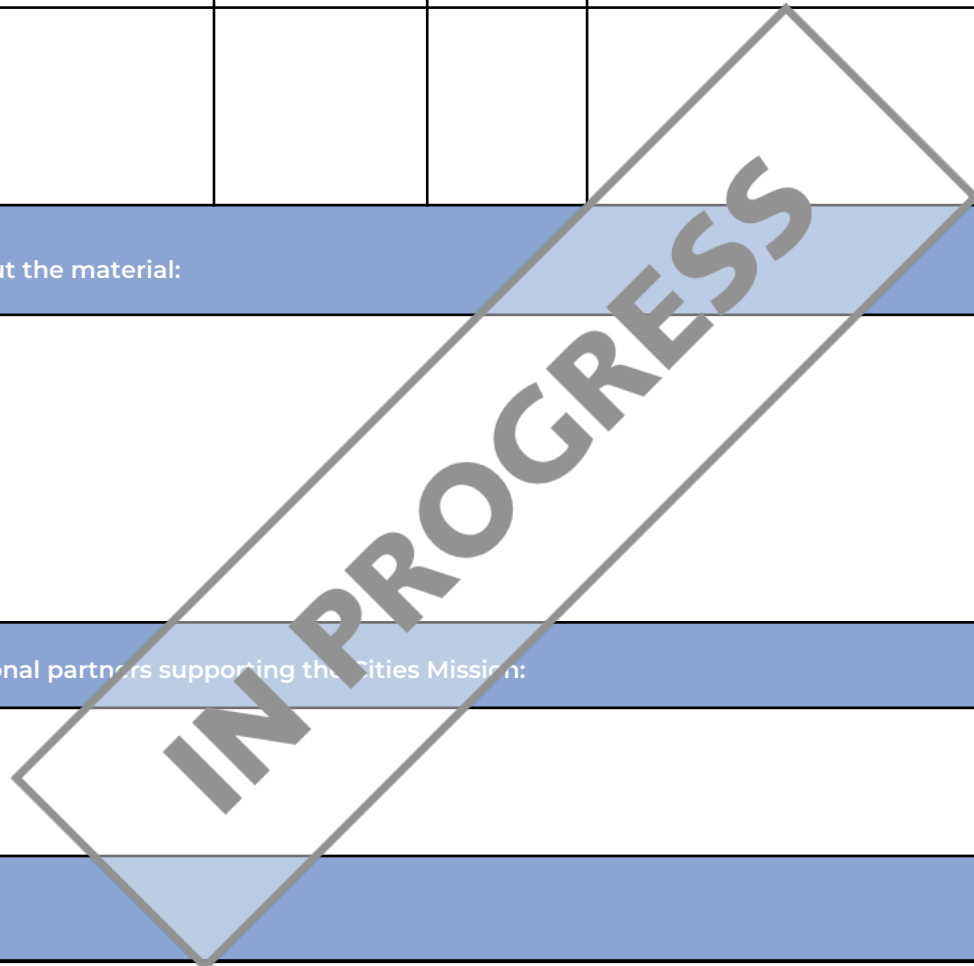
About the material:

--

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

--

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.



1.4 Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches for engagement

Top-down approaches, often driven by national or EU-level directives, must be harmonized with the diverse and context-specific needs of local communities and regions, which are characteristic of bottom-up initiatives. Striking this balance is essential to ensure that urban development strategies and responsibilities are effectively shared and implemented. The challenge lies in finding mechanisms that enable collaboration, information exchange, and decision-making processes that respect local autonomy while aligning with overarching climate-neutral objectives.

Keywords:

#TopDownApproaches #LocalCommunities
 #BottomUpInitiatives #InformationExchange
 #BottomUpEngagement #LocalAutonomy

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Balancing top-down and bottom-up approaches
- Effective urban development requires shared responsibilities
- Challenges in collaborative decision-making

”

A combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches can be valuable, like in Portugal. Here cities are organizing and formalizing a network to reach the goals of the mission, collaborating with interested cities beyond the three selected ones while Government-led initiative focused on policy-oriented support for cities, organized within the ministry and involving various stakeholders.


— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Learning format

EU funded partner project

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CrAft (Creating Actionable Futures) platform	EU level , Italy.,The Netherlands, Czech Republic	2022	CrAft project background [English] CapaCITIES meets CRaFT Cities Webinar - May 2023 (Link will follow soon)

The project **Creating Actionable Futures – CrAft** is part of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative of the European Union. The CrAft's Reference Cities are more than 70 municipalities that are testing and implementing local governance models. In this endeavour, they cooperate with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens. Collaborating with the Mission Board on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the NetZeroCities platform, CrAft supports cities in crafting and implementing Climate City Contracts, drawing from its experience with Sandbox Cities like Bologna, Prague, and Amsterdam, along with 60 CrAft Reference Cities. This project plays a vital role in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning various urban stakeholders, including citizens, policy-makers, artists, and academia, to collectively drive the transition toward climate-neutral cities. By providing collaborative local governance models, tools, and policy briefs, CrAft offers a wealth of resources to support the national level in helping their cities fulfill the EU cities mission.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Italy: National Council of Research (CNR); University of Palermo (UniPA), University of Bologna (UniBO), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA). The Netherlands: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO); TKI Urban Energy (special innovation program, part of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate); Municipality of Zwolle. Czech Republic: Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Regional Development; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Transport; The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences; Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The French Mirror Group	France	2021	French national context [English]

To better monitor the European schemes related to sustainable cities, two French ministries (The French Ministry of Ecological Transition and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research) decided to set up a **National Mirror Group** focuses on work related to the Driving Urban Transition (DUT) partnership and the EU Cities Mission and aims to support existing networks of local authorities at both national and European level. The group effectively associates national actors with approaches initiated by the European Commission, and it brings together the three main target audiences (local authorities, researchers and companies). The main goal is to build an overall vision of needs, as well as spaces for dialogue to formalize French expectations and make concerted proposals on the European work programs. Activities include, amongst others, the establishment of links with local authorities that applied for the 100 Cities Mission, whereby communication strategies and links with NetZeroCities are exchanged and compared. Furthermore, seminars for local authorities, researchers and companies are offered which cover, for example, transformation strategies, citizen involvement and approaches for answering the European calls for projects.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: National Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME), the National Research Agency (ANR), the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CEREMA, France Ville Durable; France Urbaine; Agence Nationale de Cohésion Territoriale.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

CapaCITIES Concept

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Concept for Ambassadors	EU level, Italy	2023	Ambassadors Concept [English]

The concept of "**Ambassadors**" in the CapaCITIES project serves as a crucial communication bridge, especially in overcoming language barriers. These Ambassadors, renowned for their expertise in climate change and achieving climate neutrality in cities, play a pivotal role in promoting the outcomes of CapaCITIES and the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities mission (CNC mission). Their mission encompasses mobilizing cities, engaging diverse stakeholders, mainstreaming knowledge, and raising public awareness about climate neutrality's urgency.

Ambassadors provide operational support, facilitate communication, and engage local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels. They champion climate neutrality best practices, support integration across various governance levels, and ensure the visibility and sustainability of project results. These Ambassadors, identified based on their expertise, reputation, and accessibility to specific target groups, bridge core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors. Their voluntary contributions encompass extensive communication and engagement initiatives, collectively advancing CapaCITIES' mission and promoting climate neutrality.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Spain's National Platform	Spain	2022	Article with background information [English]

The **Spanish National Platform**, a collaborative initiative, empowers Spanish cities with over 20,000 residents on their journey to climate neutrality. It's an outgrowth of CitiES 2030, a collective of Spanish cities dedicated to a comprehensive energy and ecological transition by 2030, partially funded by the national government. Launched in October 2022 by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, it's led by the Technical University of Madrid and EIT Climate KIC, advancing the European Mission in Spain and speeding up Spanish cities' progress toward climate neutrality by 2030. This grassroots initiative originated in 2020 as the El Día Despues (EDD) dialogue platform and evolved into a dynamic forum, gaining city, industry, academic, and leadership support. In 2022, seven Spanish cities joined the Climate City Contract, catalyzing the transformation of the organization into the Spanish Cities Mission Platform, supported by the Spanish government foundation Fundación Biodiversidad. This platform assumes a piv-otal role in guiding cities on their path to climate neutrality through an inclusive, bot-tom-up approach.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition; Climate Change Office; Secretary of State of Innovation; CitiES2030; Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV); Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM); Fundación Tecnalia Research&Innovation (TECNALIA); Consejo Superior de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE), Fundación Cartif (CAR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
National Cities' Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Network	Finland	2022	BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR THE CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES MISSION [English]

The **National Cities' Climate Mission Network** is led by three core ministries, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy (MEE), the Ministry of Environment (MEV) and the Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC) The National platform was organized in 2022 and is led and coordinated by the MEE. It has a network structure and includes different formations driven by different approaches: top-down, bottom-up and horizontal mechanisms with various stakeholders.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Ministry of Employment and the Economy (MEE), Ministry of Environment (MEV), Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC); Regional councils; academia (universities), Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT); Business Finland (Finnish National Innovation Funding Agency); Climate Leadership Coalition (businesses).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Innocities platform	Finland	2022	Innocities Website [English]

Innocities is a collaborative initiative and national platform involving 19 Finnish university cities and one municipality, dedicated to fostering innovation environments that drive carbon neutrality, digitalization, and various new technologies, with a focus on well-being and health innovations. These cities serve as platforms for research, development, and innovation, aiming to create an internationally attractive ecosystem for sustainable solutions. Innocities operates through ecosystem agreements with the Finnish State, and the project's overarching goal is to combine the green digital transition of industry with cutting-edge technological innovations. The platform involves various stakeholders, including research and innovation operators, companies, local development personnel, and regional councils. By coordinating activities and projects between 2021 and 2027, Innocities facilitates knowledge exchange, promotes international cooperation, and works towards the realization of comprehensive, globally significant work. The Council of Tampere Region, in collaboration with other regional councils, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, and the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport, and the Environment, oversees the coordination and implementation of this sustainable urban development initiative.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Council of Tampere Region, South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

1.5 Better organization and concrete actions on the national level

National governments need to establish clear frameworks, policies, and resource allocation strategies to support and enable local municipalities and regions in their efforts toward climate neutrality. This involves overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, setting ambitious yet attainable targets, and fostering collaboration among different government departments and agencies. The challenge lies in ensuring that national efforts align with the broader EU Cities Mission, facilitating effective coordination between various levels of government, and creating an enabling environment for cities and regions to take concrete actions towards climate neutrality.

Keywords:

#NationalClimateSupport #GovernmentCollaboration
#LocalEmpowerment #Frameworks
#BureaucraticChallenges #ResourceAllocation

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- National support is crucial for local climate neutrality.
- Overcoming bureaucratic challenges and fostering collaboration.
- Alignment of national efforts with EU Cities Mission is needed.

”


Formal organization and concrete actions are needed at the national level to support the mission effectively.

— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]


The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Austrian “Cities Mission Action Group”	Austria	2021	Austrian Mission Action Groups [German] Process of the Mission Cities Action Group [German]

The **Austrian Cities Mission**, handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the Climate and Energy Fund, is one of the recently established cross-cutting pillars at the Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK) that brings together people from different departments. On the international/global scale, the BMK is a partner of the CapaCITIES project, leads the “Cities Mission Action Group” and is one of the founding countries of the IEA Cities TCP. This internal group within the government administration works together to empower Austrian cities and municipalities to achieve climate and energy targets and prevent fragmentation. This is achieved through an own agenda setting process and cross-functional teams, each focusing on various thematic pillars like energy, mobility, and circular economy, with allocated budgets for each. Comprehensive research and supportive measures drive progress toward climate neutrality. Especially for this mission, the BMK has launched among the relevant federal ministries, supporting agencies and key stakeholders for the EU Cities Mission. One crucial aspect is the role of task transformation managers, who ensure alignment with strategic objectives, such as action and implementation plans, to maintain a high level of ambition.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG)), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
National Smart City Data Sharing Governance Platform	Turkey	2020-2023	Insights into Smart City Market in Turkey [English] National smart cities strategy & action plan Turkey [English]

The development of the **National Smart City Data Sharing Governance Platform** under the "2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan" in Turkey represents an initiative aimed at better organization on the national level and will be developed in 2023. Standard and secure mutual data exchange will be provided between the National Smart City Data Sharing Governance Platform and the Local Data Sharing Platforms.

The main stakeholders involved in developing the platform are the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change – The General Directorate of ILBANK, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye – TÜBİTAK and the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (TBB). TÜBİTAK aims to establish a synergistic alignment between the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan and the targets of the Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Spain's National Platform	Spain	2022	Article with background information [English]

The **Spanish National Platform**, a collaborative initiative, empowers Spanish cities with over 20,000 residents on their journey to climate neutrality. It's an outgrowth of CitiES 2030, a collective of Spanish cities dedicated to a comprehensive energy and ecological transition by 2030, partially funded by the national government. Launched in October 2022 by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, it's led by the Technical University of Madrid and EIT Climate KIC, advancing the European Mission in Spain and speeding up Spanish cities' progress toward climate neutrality by 2030. This grassroots initiative originated in 2020 as the El Día Despues (EDD) dialogue platform and evolved into a dynamic forum, gaining city, industry, academic, and leadership support. In 2022, seven Spanish cities joined the Climate City Contract, catalyzing the transformation of the organization into the Spanish Cities Mission Platform, supported by the Spanish government foundation Fundación Biodiversidad. This platform assumes a pivotal role in guiding cities on their path to climate neutrality through an inclusive, bot-tom-up approach.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition; Climate Change Office; Secretary of State of Innovation; CitiES2030; Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV); Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM); Fundación Tecnalia Research&Innovation (TECNALIA); Consejo Superior de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE), Fundación Cartif (CAR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

1.6 Clearer understanding of the city's needs and challenges through better dialogue between governance levels

Cities and regions are diverse in terms of size, infrastructure, demographics, and environmental conditions, which means that a one-size-fits-all approach may not effectively address their unique requirements. The challenge lies in conducting comprehensive assessments and engaging with local stakeholders to gain insights into the specific hurdles and opportunities each city faces on its path to climate neutrality. This understanding is crucial for designing targeted strategies, allocating resources effectively, and fostering community engagement to ensure that the EU Cities Mission is not only ambitious but also relevant and impactful at the city level. Striking the right balance between local autonomy and national coordination is essential to harness the collective potential of cities and ensure their alignment with the broader mission for climate neutrality. This challenge underscores the need for adaptive and responsive dialogue formats that enable cities and national agents to work together cohesively.

Keywords:

#CityDiversity
#CitiesNeeds

#CitiesChallenges
#ResourceAllocation

#LocalEngagement
#LocalChallenges

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Balancing local autonomy and national alignment is crucial for diverse city and regional needs.
- Local engagement and thorough assessments are vital for targeted, impactful strategies.
- Inclusive dialogue fosters adaptive collaboration between cities and nations for knowledge exchange.

”

There is a need for a clearer understanding of the city's needs and challenges or questions from the central government


— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Learning format

Strategic innovation programme

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Viable Cities	Sweden	2017	Viable Cities Background PDF [English] Viable Cities homepage [English] Background article about Viable Cities [English] Webinar on Viable Cities' approach on the Transition Lab [English]

Swedish Energy Agency (SWEA) is the Core Country organization and works with **Viable Cities** to develop synergies with existing and planned activities and processes in Sweden. Viable Cities is a strategic innovation programme focusing on the transition to climate-neutral and sustainable cities, with more than 100 member organizations which involves collaboration between several sectors like the public sector, civil society, academia and business. It acts as a catalyst for new forms of cooperation between cities, industry, academia, research institutes and civil society, to mobilize and change the way the Swedish cities operate in line with the national, environmental, and climate goals as well as the international commitments linked to the Global Sustainability Goals – Agenda 2030 – and the Paris Agreement.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Vinnova; Formas

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]

The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

CapaCITIES Report

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Mapping of Governance Actors and Core Elements in Core Countries (CapaCITIES Deliverable 3.1)	CapaCITIES Core Countries	2023	Mapping of Governance Actors and core elements in core countries [English]

In the **Self-assessment report**, CapaCITIES Core Countries have been asked to report information on their respective multi-level governance actors on urban climate neutrality, its existing core elements and instruments including, for example, key processes, networks, institutional infrastructure and financial instruments available to develop national networks or other support structures. The core countries have also been asked to report policy misalignment and gaps in governance structures, improvement needs and barriers to overcome. This deliverable summarizes the mapping of multi-level governance approaches across core countries to support the EU Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 (Cities Mission).


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: [CapaCITIES \(dutpartnership.eu\)](https://dutpartnership.eu)

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

1.7 National Framework Conditions & Effective Collaboration

The challenge of national framework conditions in the implementation of the EU Cities Mission for climate-neutral cities and regions emphasizes the critical need for coherent and supportive national policies. These policies, set by national governments, impact the legal, regulatory, and financial frameworks that either facilitate or hinder local climate initiatives. To overcome this challenge, harmonizing framework conditions, offering consistent support, and aligning national priorities with the EU Cities Mission's goals are crucial. Additionally, effective collaboration with research and development (R&D) entities and better coordination between different government departments is essential to achieve a comprehensive and holistic approach to climate-neutral cities, with the national level providing support.

Keywords:

#NationalFramework #BureaucraticChallenges
 #PolicyCoherence #RegulatoryFrameworks
 #RegulatorySupport #R&D
 #FinancialFrameworks #CrosssectoralCollaboration

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- National governments play a pivotal role in city and regional climate initiatives.
- Inconsistent policies, bureaucracy, and funding variations within a country pose challenges for the EU Cities Mission.
- To implement the EU Mission successfully, aligning with its objectives, enhancing collaboration between R&D and government, and fostering stakeholder cooperation are vital.

”

Increasing dialogue with our colleagues in processes and licensing is vital as people expect comprehensive solutions to the problems we encounter in the field. This is the way forward, even though it presents a challenge.

— Anonymous interview partner

01

Multi-level governance
and alignment

Learning format

Policy Group

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Mission Hub Policy Group	Portugal	No date yet	No link yet

The Mission Hub Policy Group is an initiative developed by the National Agency for Innovation (ANI), involving all the relevant public organizations within the ministries that deal with the relevant policy instruments that support the country and the cities to become carbon neutral. Pilot cities are creating **Cities' network** 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. These two structures will collaborate to help implement Cities Mission's objectives in Portugal.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Directorate General for Energy and Geology (DGEG).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

National hub

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Romanian M100 national hub	Romania	2022	Website of M100

Romania has established a **Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100)** to connect national and regional authorities in support of the Mission Cities implementation. It is set up by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (MCID) and the platform with the same name is hosted by the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI). The aim of the Hub is to connect the national and regional authorities that work to support the Mission Cities' implementation at national level. The Romanian hub plans 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. M100 will offer support to the three cities and municipalities selected within the European Mission, but more importantly, to the candidate cities, as well as to other cities in Romania that have the ambition to achieve climate neutrality. The goal is to spread the knowledge to as many cities in Romania as possible. M100 wants to become a platform for experimentation, facilitation and information, a hub of expertise for the benefit of cities that are engaged in the effort to achieve climate targets by 2030 or 2050, based on the principle of partnership, transparency and participatory governance.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Ministry of European Investments and Projects (MIPE) and Ministry of Development, Public Work and Administration (MDLPA)

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]

The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Strategic innovation programme

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Viable Cities	Sweden	2017	Viable Cities Background PDF [English] Viable Cities homepage [English] Background article about Viable Cities [English] Webinar on Viable Cities' approach on the Transition Lab [English]


Swedish Energy Agency (SWEA) is the Core Country organization and works with **Viable Cities** to develop synergies with existing and planned activities and processes in Sweden. Viable Cities is a strategic innovation programme focusing on the transition to climate-neutral and sustainable cities, with more than 100 member organizations which involves collaboration between several sectors like the public sector, civil society, academia and business. It acts as a catalyst for new forms of cooperation between cities, industry, academia, research institutes and civil society, to mobilize and change the way the Swedish cities operate in line with the national, environmental, and climate goals as well as the international commitments linked to the Global Sustainability Goals – Agenda 2030 – and the Paris Agreement.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Vinnova; Formas

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

NetZeroCities Report


Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Mapping of national and regional city collaboration (NetZeroCities Deliverable 5.9, Awaiting Validation)	AT, BE, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, AL, BA, IS, IL, ME, NO, TR, UK	2022	Mapping of national and regional city collaboration_ [English]

The report presents a mapping of collaboration initiatives between cities on climate action, both on the national and regional level, in the 27 EU Member States and the eight Associated Countries involved in the EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 (Cities Mission) – highlighting some identified gaps and success factors of such collaborations. Furthermore, it presents the current state of play regarding support structures that the regional and/or national levels have offered the Mission Cities for the implementation of the Cities Mission. The report includes information obtained through desk research, a questionnaire that stakeholders from 46 cities and regions responded to, interviews with relevant stakeholders, and consultations with NetZeroCities project partners. The findings show that there are still gaps in city collaboration on climate issues within EU Member States and Associated Countries, especially in smaller countries, in countries with complex political and administrative systems and in countries where the political will and ambition for climate action is lacking. National cities mission networks have in some countries started forming as a result of the Cities Mission, gathering national level representatives and cities, with the aim to collaborate on the national implementation of the Mission. Other support structures, mainly in the form of financial support, have also been put in place in some countries.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: [CapaCITIES \(dutpartnership.eu\)](https://capacities.eu)

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:
Will follow 2024.

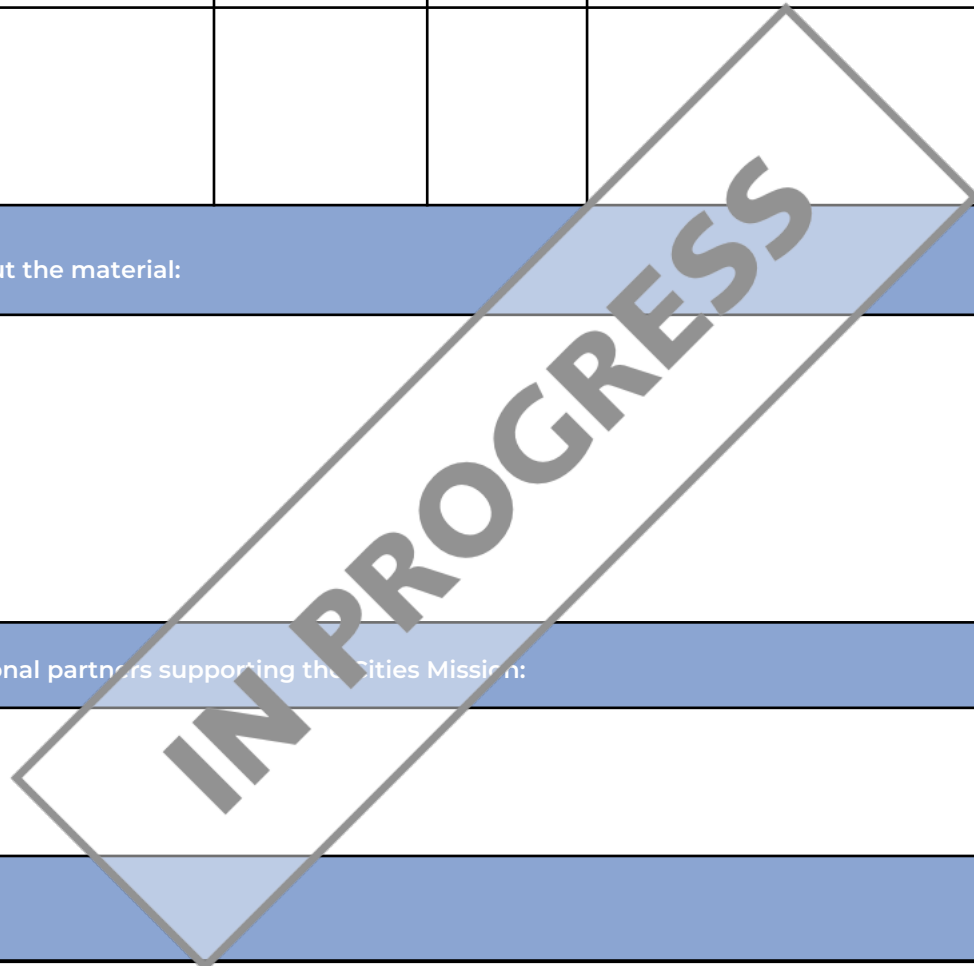
Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.



Multi-level governance and alignment

Deep Dive Example

CITIES WORKING GROUP, POLAND

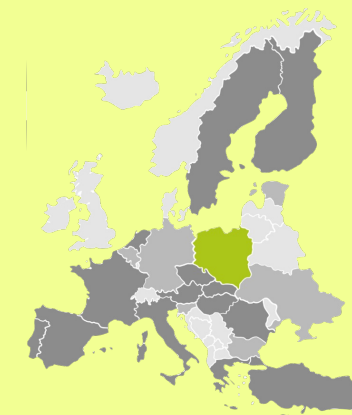
A **Cities Working Group** for cities in the Mission was established by Institute of Environmental Protection (IEP-NRI) and Warsaw University of Technology (WUT) as part of CapaCITIES project. The aim of this group is to meet on a regular basis to develop an agenda for CapaCITIES National Event – (climate neutrality round table for Polish stakeholders), which aims to offer an opportunity for cities to formally discuss with ministries, regional governances and other key stakeholders and support structures for climate neutrality in Poland.

National partner supporting the Cities Mission
Cities Mission: National Centre for Climate Changes (IOS); Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy; Minister of Development and Technology; Ministry of Climate and Environment.

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

Formation of an **Ad Hoc Working Group of experts:**

- ✓ **Create a Group of Experts:** The main recommendation is to establish a group of experts to assist cities in dealing with climate-related, city contract, and regional governance issues
- ✓ **Peer-to-Peer Discussions:** Encourage peer-to-peer discussions among cities to share knowledge and insights.
- ✓ **Upcoming Workshops:** Announce the plan to host workshops, including one dedicated to involving regional governances, with the goal of discussing these issues further.
- ✓ **National Event in Poland:** Invite participants to a national event in Poland on December 6th-7th, which aims to build a national platform. This event is expected to bring everyone together to discuss these topics in more detail.
- ✓ **Emphasize Preparedness and Briefing:** Stress the importance of being well-prepared and well-briefed for the December meeting when all discussions will converge.



"Interesting example! I like the idea of the ad-hoc working group!"

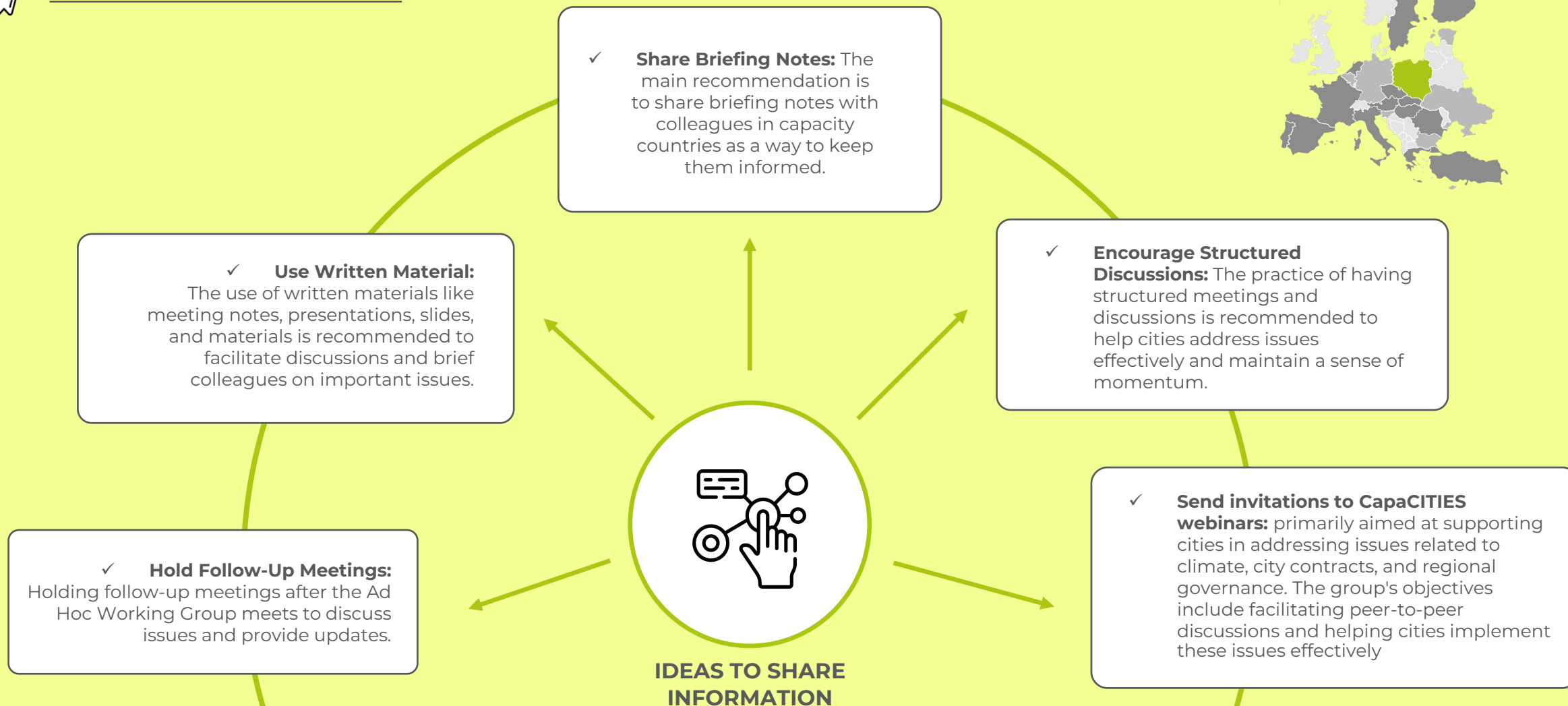
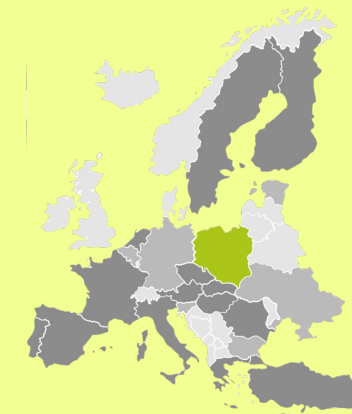


Multi-level governance and alignment

Deep Dive Example



[Click here to learn more!](#)



02

Capacity Building and Skills

1. Guidelines on communication and strategic planning
2. Training on accounting greenhouse gas emissions
3. Integration of existing projects and resources of the Cities Mission
4. Accessible international and national training events
5. Capacity building materials for better knowledge management and exchange between different governance levels and projects
6. Overcoming bottlenecks during the implementation
7. Learning about governance models of different countries

★ Deep Dive Example



"I would like to learn more about international events to meet more people from other countries and my field to exchange ideas with them!"

2.1 Guidelines on communication and strategic planning

Creating guidelines for communication and strategic planning between the national and regional levels in European countries to achieve the goals of the EU cities mission is a crucial need. These guidelines should offer clear and accessible information, ensuring they are easy to understand and not overly complex. Accompanied by practical tools that support structured activities, they aim to harmonize economic and climate action priorities, with consideration of the diverse economic conditions across national contexts. To facilitate learning and engagement, structured learning pathways should be integrated into the guideline documents, catering to the interests and roles of stakeholders. Additionally, providing translations in different languages ensures inclusivity and enhances the engagement of officials from various countries. Detailed guideline documents should furnish step-by-step instructions and best practices for planning and implementing EU cities' missions, covering aspects such as project management, stakeholder engagement, budgeting, and monitoring, thus meeting the essential needs of this collaborative effort.

Keywords:

#CollaborationGuidelines
 #ClimateActionPlanning
 #AccessibleInformation
 #InclusiveEngagement
 #StakeholderAlignment
 #SustainableCities
 #RegionalCooperation
 #MultiLevelGovernance
 #Guidelines

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Need for clear, understandable, and accessible guidelines
2. Balancing economic growth and climate action and taking diverse economic conditions into account
3. Saving stakeholder inclusivity by offering translations in different languages and providing structured learning pathways based on stakeholders' roles and interests

”

“Guidelines for climate action that is sustainable both, economically and financially are needed, given the diversity of economic conditions in various national contexts. This is to make sure that the priorities of economic growth and climate action do not clash.”


— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS


National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

2.2 Training on accounting greenhouse gas emissions

Accounting for greenhouse gas emissions in urban and national contexts poses a significant scientific challenge in the context of climate change mitigation. Robust methodologies and best practices are essential to ensure accurate emissions quantification. To address this challenge, there is a pressing need for the dissemination of exemplary approaches, such as specialized training courses and information-sharing platforms. These initiatives serve as valuable tools for enhancing the capacity of governments and municipalities to establish precise emission inventories, set science-based reduction targets, and implement evidence-based climate policies. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and methodologies, urban areas and countries can better comprehend and manage their carbon profiles, thus advancing scientific rigor in greenhouse gas accounting and bolstering climate resilience efforts.

Keywords:

#GreenhouseGasAccounting	#GreenhouseGasAccounting
#AccountingEmissions	#AccountingEmissions
#EmissionsQuantification	#EmissionsQuantification
#ClimatePolicy	#ClimatePolicy
#ClimateResilience	#ClimateResilience
#KnowledgeExchange	#KnowledgeExchange

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Good Practice examples and training courses are needed to enhance the capacity in emissions accounting and climate policy development
2. Better knowledge exchange and information sharing are needed
3. Better comprehension and management of national and regional carbon footprints is needed

”

Guidelines and structured documents can be helpful, but they should be connected to clear and accessible information, and they should be easy to understand and not overly complex. Tools accompanying these guidelines should support activities in a structured manner.


— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Institutional Website

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
ENERGY COMMUNITY MODEL (ENEA)	Italy	No date yet	ENEA Website [Italian] RECON - Tool for the Economic Evaluation of Renewable Energy Communities [Italian] Open Access Background E-Book (SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSITIONS) [Italian/English]


ENEA is the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development in Italy, a public body aimed at research, technological innovation, and the provision of advanced services to enterprises, public administration, and citizens in the sectors of energy, the environment and sustainable economic development. ENEA presented the first Italian model of Renewable Energy Community (CER), an actual urban district self-producing and sharing energy and providing services to citizens. The ENEA model “acts as a facilitator of energy and socio-environmental services, thanks to an innovative platform based on blockchain technology” (see [open access publication](#) in Italian for more details.) Its main objectives are to provide energy, economic and financial assessments of the CERs or renewable energy self-consumption groups; energy consumption monitoring; tools for managing and enhancing virtuous behavior. Data collected through sensors installed at end users and information from energy distributors and sellers enable to identify the most efficient consumption profiles. Furthermore, an exchange service for goods and services will give citizens the opportunity to exploit local resources with a view to sharing economy and reducing the environmental impact, shifting from ownership to usership.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: National Council of Research (CNR); University of Palermo (UniPA), University of Bologna (UniBO), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Institutional Website + Online resources

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
THE “PORTO ENERGY HUB” ONE-STOP-SHOP: ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Portugal	No date yet	Porto Energy Hub Website [Portuguese] Porto Energy Hub resources (manuals etc.) [Portuguese]

Porto Energy Hub was born from the Porto Energy ElevatoR (PEER) project, within the scope of the European Commission (EC) Horizon 2020 program. It aims to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects free of charge to mitigate energy poverty and improve living conditions (comfort and health) in the North region of Portugal and other territories that wish to benefit from this approach.

This material will be useful for those living in Portugal, as well as for those looking to follow the Porto Energy Hub example in their localities. It shows the ways of incentivizing private implementation of renewable energy production (for example, through the reduction of property taxes and framework agreements.)

Porto Energy Hub can provide support in all phases of implementation of your energy efficiency project. The Porto Energy Hub will function as a One-Stop-Shop for integrated services that will support the implementation of energy efficiency measures, through support in the identification of business models, financing to be used and contractual models.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Directorate General for Energy and Geology (DGEG).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Institutional Website

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
TRAINING COURSES BY LISBON ENERGY AGENCY	Portugal	No date yet	Lisboa e-nova Library [English / Portuguese]

Lisboa E-Nova – Energy and Environment Agency of Lisbon is a private non-profit association whose purpose is to promote the sustainable development of Lisbon and its metropolitan area. Lisboa E-Nova is a key player in the city in the pursuit of national and international energy and climate goals for 2030 and 2050, and is active in three broad areas: Energy, Water and Circular Economy.

This resource refers to the webinars and presentations Lisboa E-Nova have in their library: “Our library is a compilation of our story. And our story is important to us. Here you can find information about all our initiatives and events and the speakers who have given us the honour of sharing their experiences with us. Because we want it to be a useful and complete tool, we ask for your understanding as it is being constantly updated. Searching for information / presentations / videos should be carried out by selecting the initial letter of the first name of the speaker.”

With its experience and technical expertise, Lisboa E-Nova intends to be the catalyst of the city's transformation to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. To fulfill the vision and meet the ambition, Lisboa E-Nova will lead by example in the energy transition not only on a metropolitan scale (since many of the systems and technical areas in which the agency works are not limited to the municipality's borders as is the case of mobility and circular systems – water, food, and waste), but also on a national and European scale, in line with


the objectives of the 100 Smart and Climate Neutral Cities Mission.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Directorate General for Energy and Geology (DGEG)

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

2.3 Integration of existing projects and resources of the Cities Mission

The challenge of integrating existing projects and resources related to climate neutrality and the EU Cities Mission is a pressing need for EU countries aiming to achieve comprehensive climate action. As numerous initiatives and programs are being implemented at various levels, often in parallel, there's a growing imperative to consolidate these efforts. This integration serves two essential purposes: first, it prevents duplication of work, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively. Second, it provides countries with a comprehensive overview of the existing climate-related projects and resources, allowing for better coordination and alignment with the EU Cities Mission's ambitious goals. By fostering this integration, countries can leverage existing knowledge, technologies, and experiences to accelerate their transition toward climate neutrality, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for urban areas across the European Union.

Keywords:

#ResourceEfficiency

#KnowledgeLeverage

#ResourceConsolidation

#CrossSectoralCollaboration

#ResourceCoordination

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Importance of integrating existing climate-related projects and resources to avoid duplicative efforts
2. Improved coordination and alignment with the goals of the EU Cities Mission
3. Leveraging knowledge and experience

”

Integration of already existing projects related to climate neutrality is necessary.

— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Learning format

EU funded partner project

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	Click here to learn more
CrAft (Creating Actionable Futures) platform	EU level , Italy. The Netherlands, Czech Republic	2022	CrAft project background [English] CapaCITIES meets CRaFT Cities Webinar - May 2023 (Link will follow soon)

The project **Creating Actionable Futures – CrAft** is part of the New European Bau-haus (NEB) initiative of the European Union. The CrAft’s Reference Cities are more than 70 municipalities that are testing and implementing local governance models. In this endeavour, they cooperate with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens. Collaborating with the Mission Board on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the NetZeroCities plat-form, Craft supports cities in crafting and implementing Climate City Contracts, draw-ing from its experience with Sandbox Cities like Bologna, Prague, and Amsterdam, along with 60 Craft Reference Cities. This project plays a vital role in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning various urban stakeholders, including citizens, policy-makers, artists, and academia, to collectively drive the transition toward climate-neutral cities. By providing collaborative local governance models, tools, and policy briefs, Craft offers a wealth of resources to support the national level in helping their cities fulfill the EU cities mission.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Italy: National Council of Research (CNR); University of Palermo (UniPA), University of Bologna (UniBO), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA). The Netherlands: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO); TKI Urban Energy (special innovation program, part of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate); Municipality of Zwolle. Czech Republic: Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Regional Development; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Transport; The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences; Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

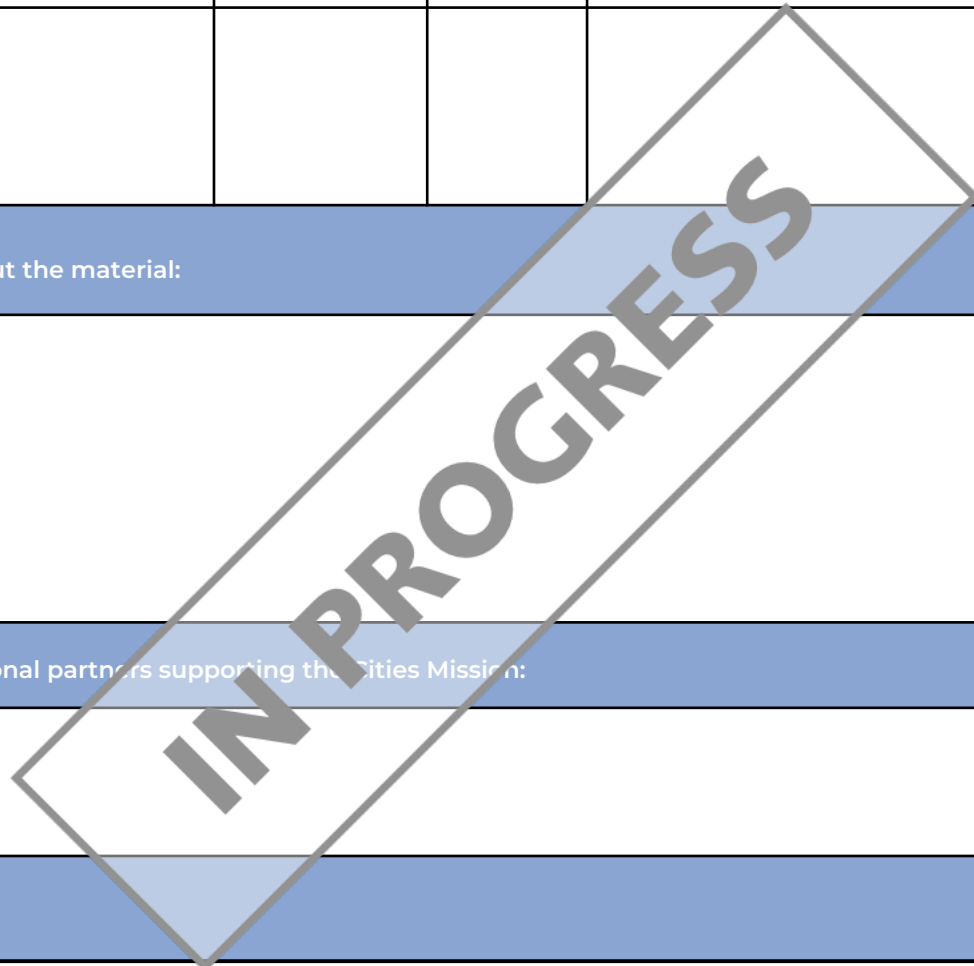
About the material:

--

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

--

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.



2.4 International and national training events

Accessible international and national training events can be helpful to support EU countries in implementing the EU cities mission for climate neutral cities. These events, especially webinars and online training, facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration across diverse backgrounds, promoting effective learning and sustainable urban development within the European Union.

Keywords:

#TrainingEvents #CrossBorderTraining
 #AccessibleLearning #InternationalTraining
 #WebinarCollaboration #NationalTraining
 #KnowledgeSharing #RegionalCapacityBuilding
 #CollaborativeLearning

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Accessible training events, including webinars can improve knowledge transfer
2. Online formats enable global collaboration and deeper understanding without the need for travelling
3. A cross-sectoral exchange is possible through international and national training events

”


Webinars and online trainings can support public officers with limited travel budgets, but ensuring active participation is a challenge.

— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]


The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Innocities platform	Finland	2022	Innocities Website [English]

Innocities is a collaborative initiative and national platform involving 19 Finnish university cities and one municipality, dedicated to fostering innovation environments that drive carbon neutrality, digitalization, and various new technologies, with a focus on well-being and health innovations. These cities serve as platforms for research, development, and innovation, aiming to create an internationally attractive ecosystem for sustainable solutions. Innocities operates through ecosystem agreements with the Finnish State, and the project's overarching goal is to combine the green digital transition of industry with cutting-edge technological innovations. The platform involves various stakeholders, including research and innovation operators, companies, local development personnel, and regional councils. By coordinating activities and projects between 2021 and 2027, Innocities facilitates knowledge exchange, promotes international cooperation, and works towards the realization of comprehensive, globally significant work. The Council of Tampere Region, in collaboration with other regional councils, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, and the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport, and the Environment, oversees the coordination and implementation of this sustainable urban development initiative.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Council of Tampere Region, South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

2.5 Capacity building materials

Enhancing capacity building materials for improved knowledge management and exchange is vital for fostering collaboration between national, regional, and municipal levels, as well as international exchanges among European countries, all aimed at achieving the EU cities mission for climate-neutral cities. This effort requires the development of accessible, multi-lingual guideline documents and learning modules that address critical aspects of project management, stakeholder engagement, budgeting, and monitoring, while leveraging collaborative tools to stimulate cooperation and innovation.

Keywords:

#CapacityBuilding

#MultiLingualLearning

#CapacityMaterial

#StakeholderEngagement

#KnowledgeExchange

#InnovationTools

#Guidelines

#Collaboration

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Capacity building and knowledge management for successful mission implementation.
2. Sharing information and facilitating effective knowledge exchange between cities and projects are key factors for successful utilization of resources
3. Collaborative (online) tools for fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange among cities.

”

Empowering cities through accessible capacity building and knowledge exchange is essential for an effective implementation of the EU cities mission, fostering cooperation across all levels, and supporting resistance to political changes


— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

CapaCITIES webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process	Eu level	2023	CapaCITIES building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process [English]

First Capacity building session on the **Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process – Deep dive into Climate City Contract: How can the national level get involved in the development of the CCCs?** The session started with exploring how the national governments can engage with the Mission Cities to develop Climate City Contracts (CCC). The participants were able to learn more about the CCC as a governance innovation tool that can facilitate multi-level collaboration. The session was built on the previous meeting with the NetZeroCities (NZC) City Advisors and presented an excellent opportunity for the CapaCITIES Core Country partners to learn more about CCCs with a focus on Action and Investment Plans and to explore how national governments can get involved in this process. It also encouraged participants to visit the [the NZC Portal](#) knowledge repository for Mission Cities rich in interesting resources and recommendations and to participate in a session of Q&A with two representatives of the NZC City Advisors group.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

2.6 Overcoming bottlenecks during the implementation

Sharing of knowledge about the bottlenecks in different projects and obstacles during implementation + advice on how to overcome these issues. As various situations arise and solutions to them emerge in due course, the materials for this section will gain visibility throughout the CapaCITIES project and beyond; therefore, this section is going to be actively updated.

Particularly because the national context is everchanging, countries might face a variety of bottlenecks and obstacles. The materials included in these sections will be updated depending on the new solutions countries come with throughout their experience of implementation.

Keywords:

#Bottlenecks

#Obstacles

#ImplementationChallenges

#ImplementationSolutions

#KnowledgeSharing

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Bottlenecks and obstacles vary depending on changes in national contexts. What worked for a given country at one point in time might not work for it again.
2. Knowledge materials should be dynamic and actively updated to reflect evolving national contexts and the emergence of new solutions as countries progress in their implementation efforts.

”

Cooperation and knowledge transfer among cities are crucial for successful implementation. Best practices should be shared among cities, and methodologies used in successful projects should be communicated.


— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more


About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

2.6 Overcoming bottlenecks during the implementation

Learning about other countries' governance models and exchanging knowledge in this aspect has been identified as a highly useful practice by the interview partners. While these learning exercises can take place either online or on site, it is access to highly experienced actors and government officials that brings value to the process of building capacity for climate action on a national level.

Keywords:

#GovernanceModels

#ModelsOf Governance

#GovernanceKnowledgeExchange

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Necessity of Alignment with EU Mission Objectives.
2. Inclusive dialogue for local-national knowledge exchange.
3. Harnessing international insights through effective communication.

”

Learning about the governance model of different countries will be inspiring. This could be an event (online) with an opportunity to invite high-level managers and other governmental stakeholders to ask questions.


— Anonymous interview partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS


National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

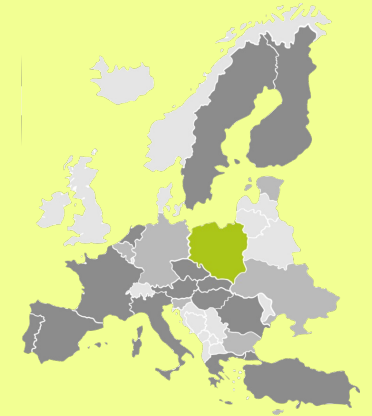
IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Capacity Building and Skills Deep Dive Example

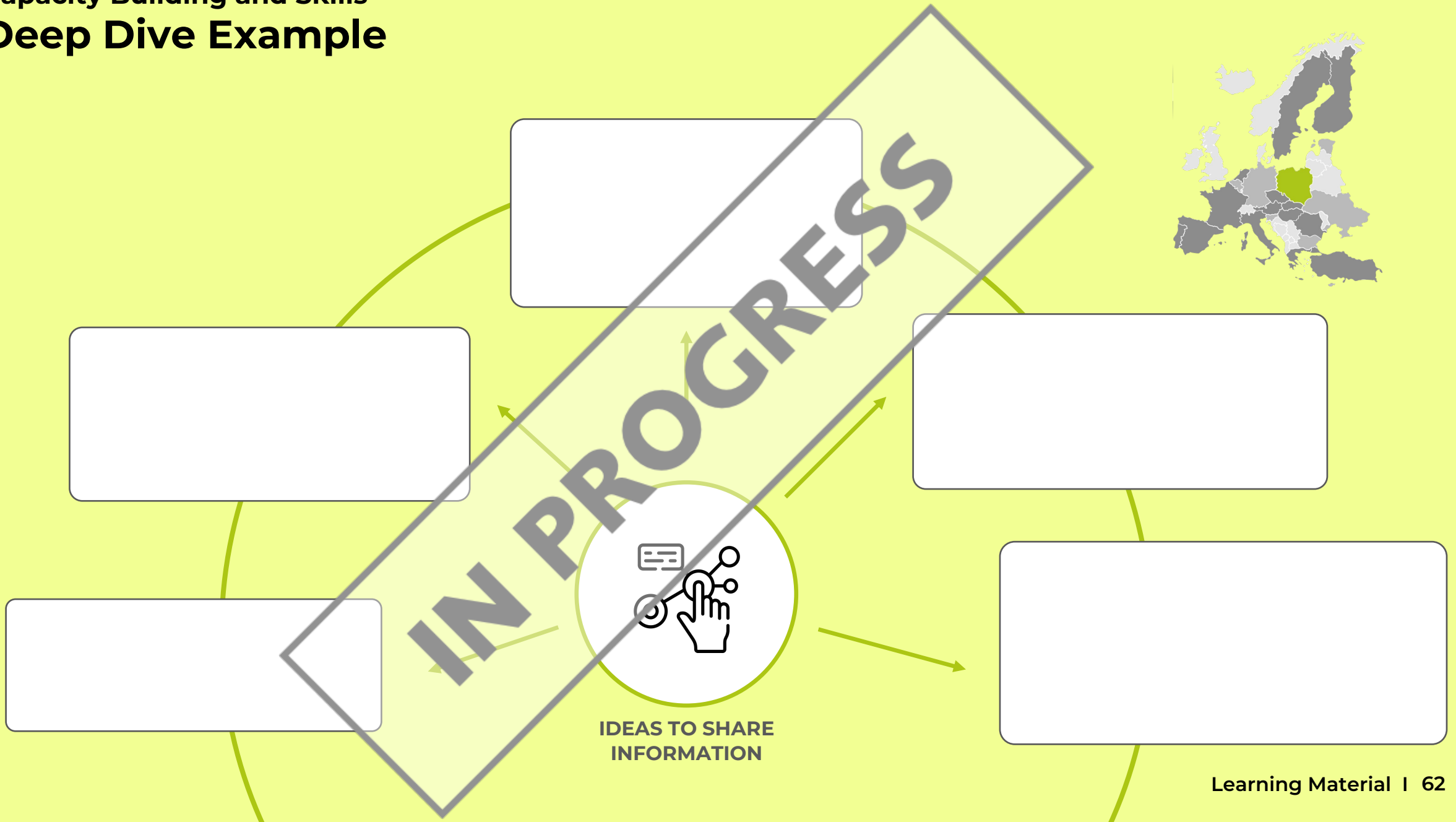
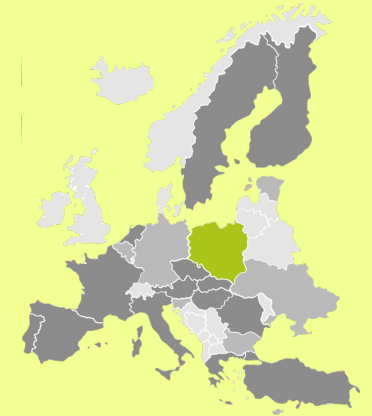


Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS

Capacity Building and Skills Deep Dive Example



03

Financing and Funding

1. EU Funding mechanisms
2. Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (Roadmap and guidelines)
3. Greater flexibility in funding instruments and joint programs



Deep Dive Example



*"Definitely something
where we need more
knowledge!"*

3.1 EU Funding mechanisms

EU countries, particularly at the regional and local levels, face challenges in securing the appropriate EU funding for the implementation of the EU Cities Mission for climate-neutral cities. Addressing these challenges requires the establishment of clear guidelines and a roadmap for EU associated countries to access funding mechanisms, along with greater flexibility in funding instruments and dedicated funding lines to support city projects, bridging the gap between R&D initiatives and vital implementation funding for cities.

Keywords:

#EUFunding #Funding
 #NationalFunding #GreenCityFunding
 #ProjectFunding #EUAssociatesFinance

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Consideration of associated countries' situations in funding allocation.
2. Establishment of clear funding access guidelines for EU associated countries.
3. Emphasis on flexibility, specific funding lines, and R&D implementation for mission success.

”

When it comes to funding especially, but also in general, the LP should consider the situation of the associated countries and membership status of countries. Establishing a roadmap and guidelines for EU associated countries on how to access funding mechanisms could help.


— Anonymous interview partner

03

Financing and
Funding

Fitting learning format

CapaCITIES webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Webinar: Funding and financing for climate neutral cities: How can the national level support cities?	EU level	2023	Webinar recording: Funding and financing for climate neutral cities [English]

How are cities planning to finance their 2030 climate neutrality objective? What are the traditional sources of funding and what are the innovative financing approaches and tools? Finally, what can the national level do to better support local governments in financing climate neutrality? These and many more questions will be addressed at the CapaCITIES webinar, during which we will explain the basics of climate investment planning at the local level as well as present good practices of the national level support for climate neutral cities from Sweden and Finland.

The webinar is dedicated to facilitators of the national support structures for climate neutral cities and all relevant stakeholders from their national ecosystems, especially the ones directly providing funding and financing to cities.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

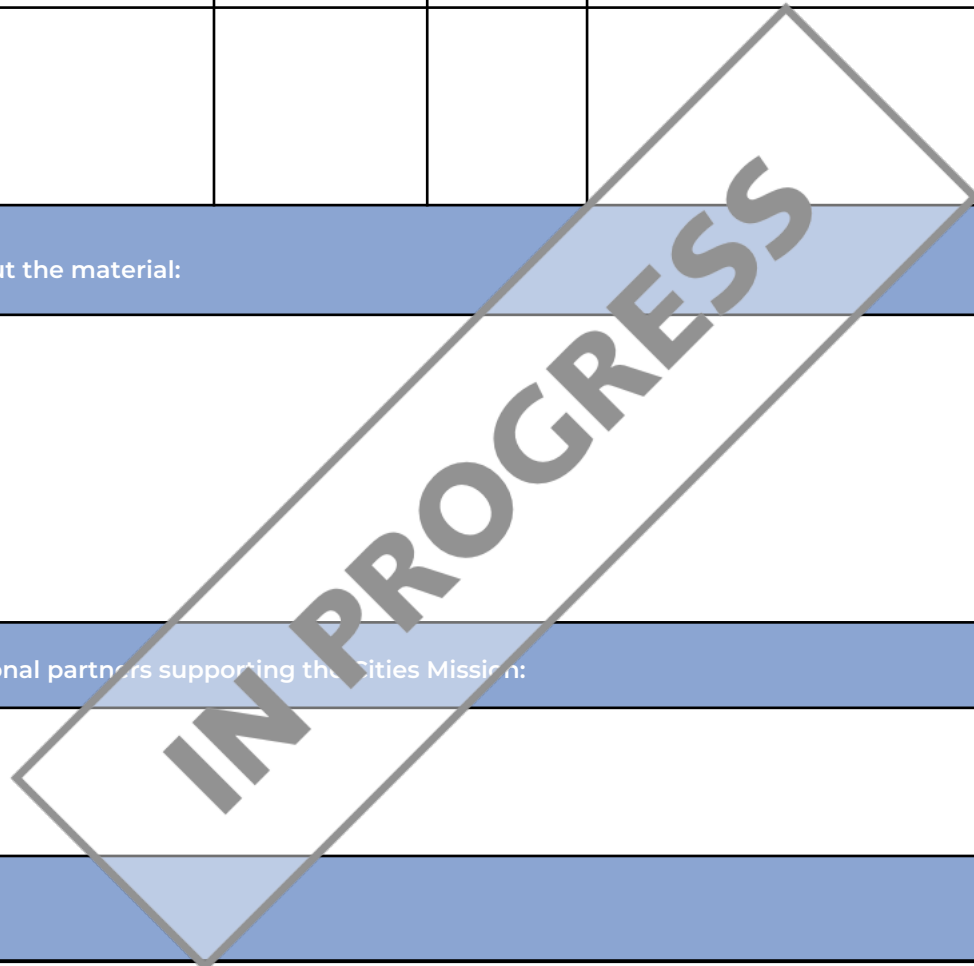
About the material:

--

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:


--

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.



Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS


National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

3.2 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (Roadmap and guidelines)

The challenge here is the difficulty associated countries and their municipalities face in accessing the necessary funds and financial guidance to support their efforts to become climate-neutral. These regions lack access to traditional EU funding sources, like the Structural Fund, and find it challenging to navigate alternative mechanisms, hindering their progress towards climate neutrality.

Keywords:

#Funding

#FinancialInstruments

#Financing

#FinancialGuidance

#Pre-Accession

#AlternativeFundingMechanisms

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Associated countries and their municipalities struggle to access funding for climate initiatives.
- Traditional EU funding sources are often unavailable, necessitating alternative approaches.
- Navigating various funding sources presents a significant challenge for local climate projects.

”

We have an instrument of Pre-accession Fund, reserved for the candidate countries, but it is difficult to access these funds. We need financial instruments and guidance for it.


— Anonymous interview partner

03

Financing and
Funding

Fitting learning format

CapaCITIES webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Capacity building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process	Eu level	2023	CapaCITIES building session on the Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process

First Capacity building session on the **Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process – Deep dive into Climate City Contract: How can the national level get involved in the development of the CCCs?** The session started with exploring how the national governments can engage with the Mission Cities to develop Climate City Contracts (CCC). The participants were able to learn more about the CCC as a governance innovation tool that can facilitate multi-level collaboration. The session was built on the previous meeting with the NetZeroCities (NZC) City Advisors and presented an excellent opportunity for the CapaCITIES Core Country partners to learn more about CCCs with a focus on Action and Investment Plans and to explore how national governments can get involved in this process. It also encouraged participants to visit the [the NZC Portal](#) knowledge repository for Mission Cities rich in interesting resources and recommendations and to participate in a session of Q&A with two representatives of the NZC City Advisors group.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

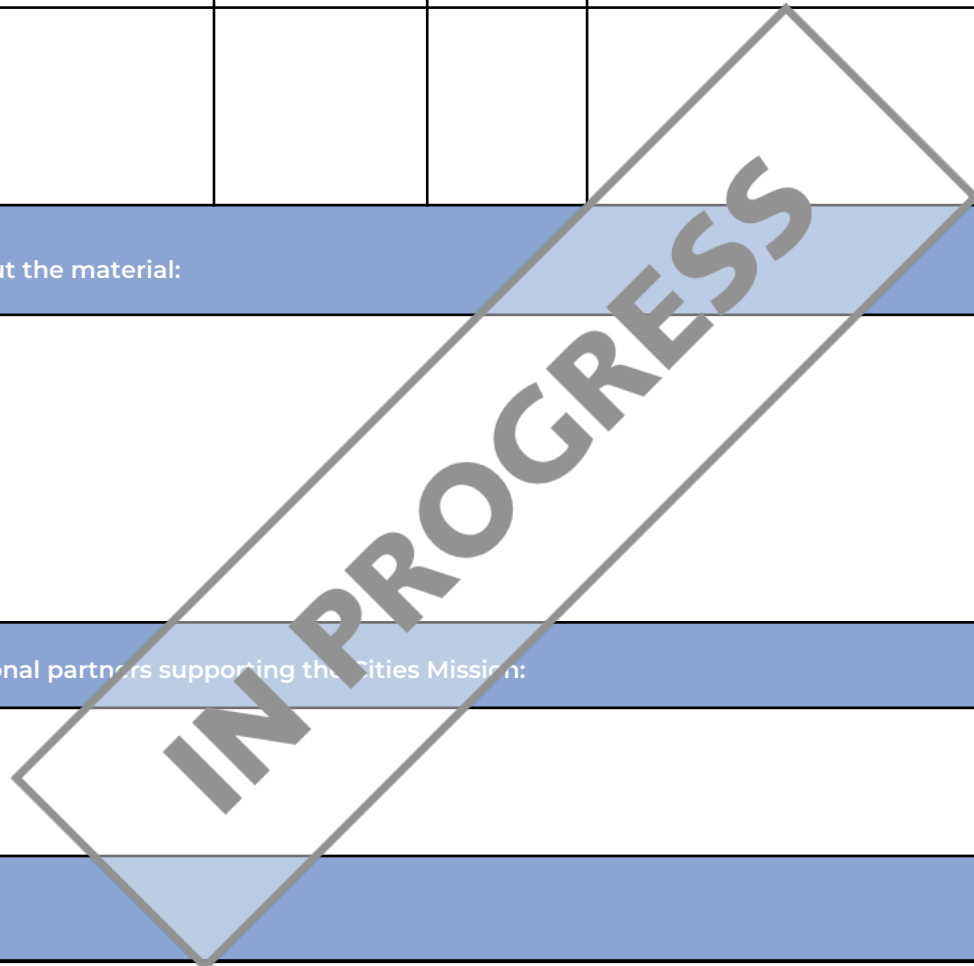
--

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

--

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

--



3.3 Greater flexibility in funding instruments and joint programs

EU countries are grappling with the challenge of securing the right funding for regional and municipal levels to advance the EU mission for climate-neutral cities. The key hurdles involve the demand for greater flexibility in funding instruments, the necessity of joint programs for capacity building and infrastructure funding, and the urgency of quick and flexible approaches for procurement and procedures.

Keywords:

#Funding

#StreamlinesProcurement

#Flexibility

#AdaptableApproaches

#FundingInstruments

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

1. Associated countries and their municipalities struggle to access funding for climate initiatives.
2. Traditional EU funding sources are often unavailable, necessitating alternative approaches.
3. Navigating various funding sources presents a significant challenge for local climate projects.

”

Greater flexibility in funding instruments and joint programs is needed to support capacity building and infrastructure funding.

— Anonymous interview partner

03

Financing and
Funding

CapaCITIES webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Fit4UrbanMission	Austria	2022	FIT4Urban Mission [English]

The "**FIT4UrbanMission**" initiative within the program "[City of the Future](#)" aims to fund the structural prerequisites in cities to significantly accelerate their paths toward climate neutrality through research, technology and innovation ("RTI"). In addition, the initiative was set up to support Austrian cities in participating in the [EU mission "100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030"](#) (but not required) as well as in the future focus of the "Climate-neutral city" supported by the BMK. The 9 biggest Austrian Cities were supported for 12 months in their preparations for their way to climate neutrality. The focus of the FIT4UrbanMission support process lay on joint learning. In an intensive year of work, the cities developed strategies, structural and capacity concepts that support them in becoming climate neutral and an accompanying team organized the transfer of knowledge and exchange and helped to design the next funding phase together with the ministry (BMK).

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Austrian funding agency, BMK, Smart Cities Network Austria, AustriaTech

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Strategic innovation programme

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Viable Cities	Sweden	2017	Viable Cities Background PDF [English] Viable Cities homepage [English] Background article about Viable Cities [English] Webinar on Viable Cities' approach on the Transition Lab [English]

Swedish Energy Agency (SWEA) is the Core Country organization and works with **Viable Cities** to develop synergies with existing and planned activities and processes in Sweden. Viable Cities is a strategic innovation programme focusing on the transition to climate-neutral and sustainable cities, with more than 100 member organizations which involves collaboration between several sectors like the public sector, civil society, academia and business. It acts as a catalyst for new forms of cooperation between cities, industry, academia, research institutes and civil society, to mobilize and change the way the Swedish cities operate in line with the national, environmental, and climate goals as well as the international commitments linked to the Global Sustainability Goals – Agenda 2030 – and the Paris Agreement.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Vinnova; Formas

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

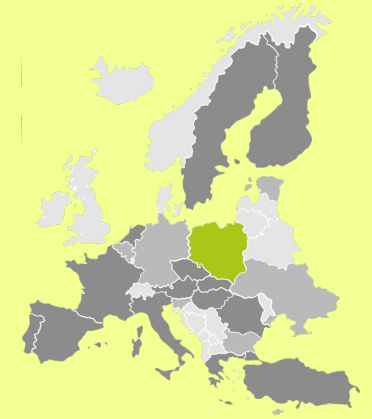
Will follow 2024.

Financing and Funding Deep Dive Example

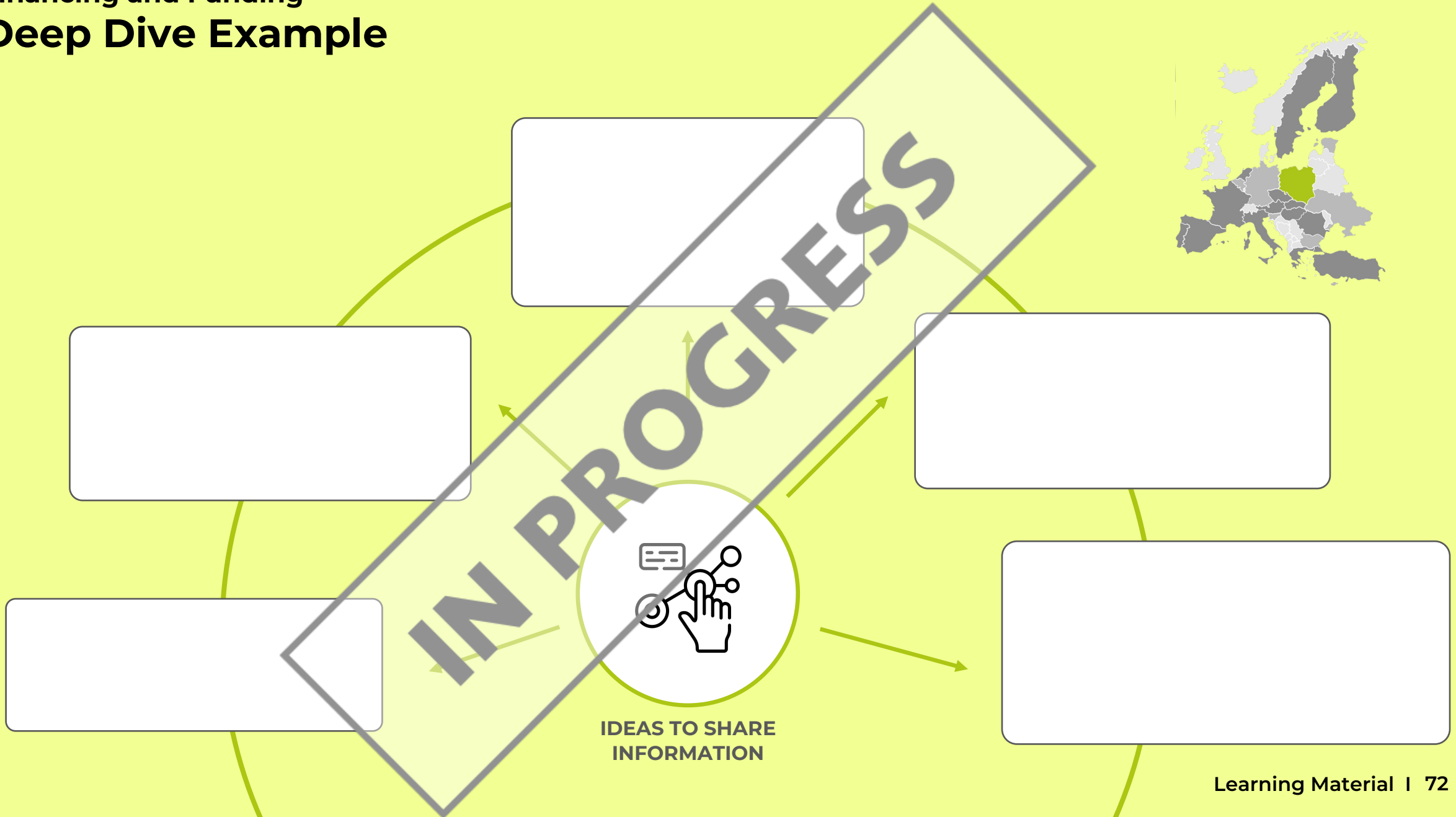
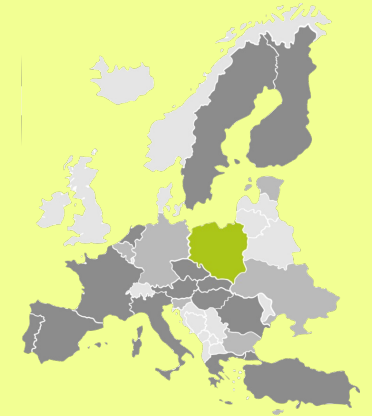
Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS



Financing and Funding Deep Dive Example



04

Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation

1. National Ecosystem Development
2. Public Engagement Approaches
3. Co-creation and Collaboration Tools On-site and Online

★ Deep Dive Example



"Having more webinars and online trainings for public officers would help!"

4.1 National Ecosystem Development

National Ecosystem Development outlines the ways of nudging regional levels, as well as organizational and institutional stakeholders and integrating them into national climate neutrality strategies. From integration of existing initiatives and previous projects to creative and unconventional approaches, development of national ecosystems calls for a systemic effort.

Keywords:

#NationalEcosystem

#StakheolderMapping

#EcosystemDevelopment

#CreativeApproaches

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Mapping of relevant stakeholders across all levels will help to expand the vision of the national ecosystem and the challenges it faces.
- Engagement of stakeholders across all levels is essential for development of a strong, inclusive, and attractive ecosystem.
- Development of national ecosystems is a multidimensional effort which requires diverse and creative approaches.

”


The support structure is still being developed, and clear requests from cities are needed for the ministry to determine how they can assist.

— Anonymous interview partner

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	Greece	2022	Press Release Teleconference MoC [English]


The Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy and the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) are collaborating to implement the Cities Mission in Greece, fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between cities and regions, and have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Ministry and 80 municipalities, with focus on climate neutrality for cities. The Greek municipalities participating in this Memorandum are committed to implement environmental and sustainable policies within the framework of the European Green Deal, to integrate local policies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the aim of making cities more humane, inclusive, safe, resilient and viable.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH); Secretary General for Research and Innovation (GRSI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Innocities platform	Finland	2022	Innocities Website [English]

Innocities is a collaborative initiative and national platform involving 19 Finnish university cities and one municipality, dedicated to fostering innovation environments that drive carbon neutrality, digitalization, and various new technologies, with a focus on well-being and health innovations. These cities serve as platforms for research, development, and innovation, aiming to create an internationally attractive ecosystem for sustainable solutions. Innocities operates through ecosystem agreements with the Finnish State, and the project's overarching goal is to combine the green digital transition of industry with cutting-edge technological innovations. The platform involves various stakeholders, including research and innovation operators, companies, local development personnel, and regional councils. By coordinating activities and projects between 2021 and 2027, Innocities facilitates knowledge exchange, promotes international cooperation, and works towards the realization of comprehensive, globally significant work. The Council of Tampere Region, in collaboration with other regional councils, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, and the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport, and the Environment, oversees the coordination and implementation of this sustainable urban development initiative.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Council of Tampere Region, South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

4.2 Public Engagement Approaches

Climate mitigation strategies are not limited to institutional efforts and national stakeholders. Engaging all actors in the ecosystem, including the public, is essential for effective climate neutrality in cities. Approaches to public engagement vary significantly, from top-down events and public participation initiatives to the bottom-up organizations and urban festivals.

Keywords:

#PublicEngagement

#StakeholderEngagement

#EngagementApproaches

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Engagement of stakeholders across all levels is essential for developing a strong, inclusive, and attractive ecosystem.
- Learning from good practice examples in various national contexts might inspire tailor-made approaches.
- Limitations such as resources and time, language barrier and attention span in case of online initiatives should be accounted for when deciding on collaboration approaches and tools.

”

Involvement- and engagement of stakeholders-related activities should be accessible to a diverse audience.

— Anonymous interview partner

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

EU funded partner project

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	Click here to learn more
CrAft (Creating Actionable Futures) platform	EU level , Italy. The Netherlands, Czech Republic	2022	CrAft project background [English] CapaCITIES meets CRaFT Cities Webinar - May 2023 (Link will follow soon)


The project **Creating Actionable Futures – CrAft** is part of the New European Bau-haus (NEB) initiative of the European Union. The CrAft's Reference Cities are more than 70 municipalities that are testing and implementing local governance models. In this endeavour, they cooperate with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens. Collaborating with the Mission Board on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the NetZeroCities platform, CrAft supports cities in crafting and implementing Climate City Contracts, drawing from its experience with Sandbox Cities like Bologna, Prague, and Amsterdam, along with 60 CrAft Reference Cities. This project plays a vital role in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning various urban stakeholders, including citizens, policy-makers, artists, and academia, to collectively drive the transition toward climate-neutral cities. By providing collaborative local governance models, tools, and policy briefs, CrAft offers a wealth of resources to support the national level in helping their cities fulfill the EU cities mission.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Italy: National Council of Research (CNR); University of Palermo (UniPA), University of Bologna (UniBO), the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA). The Netherlands: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO); TKI Urban Energy (special innovation program, part of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate); Municipality of Zwolle. Czech Republic: Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Regional Development; Ministry of Industry and Trade; Ministry of Transport; The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences; Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Innocities platform	Finland	2022	Innocities Website [English]

Innocities is a collaborative initiative and national platform involving 19 Finnish university cities and one municipality, dedicated to fostering innovation environments that drive carbon neutrality, digitalization, and various new technologies, with a focus on well-being and health innovations. These cities serve as platforms for research, development, and innovation, aiming to create an internationally attractive ecosystem for sustainable solutions. Innocities operates through ecosystem agreements with the Finnish State, and the project's overarching goal is to combine the green digital transition of industry with cutting-edge technological innovations. The platform involves various stakeholders, including research and innovation operators, companies, local development personnel, and regional councils. By coordinating activities and projects between 2021 and 2027, Innocities facilitates knowledge exchange, promotes international cooperation, and works towards the realization of comprehensive, globally significant work. The Council of Tampere Region, in collaboration with other regional councils, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, and the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport, and the Environment, oversees the coordination and implementation of this sustainable urban development initiative.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Council of Tampere Region, South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

4.3 Co-creation and Collaboration Tools On-site and Online

Depending on the objectives, various tools for practicing stakeholder engagement and co-creation activities have been explored in the context of the CapaCITIES project. While these tools can be split into on-site and online ones, the online tools are often used to ensure the continuity of the co-creation and collaboration activities.

Keywords:

#CoCreation

#CollaborationTools

#Collaboration

#OnlineCollaborationTools

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- While co-creation and collaboration activities highly depend on the national context: what is irrelevant now might become useful in the future and vice versa.
- Learning from good practice examples in various national contexts might inspire tailor-made approaches.
- Limitations such as resources and time, language barrier and attention span in case of online initiatives should be accounted for when deciding on collaboration approaches and tools.

”

More webinars and online trainings are needed to support public officers with limited travel budgets.


— Anonymous interview partner

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

Learning format

CapaCITIES Concept

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES Concept for Ambassadors	EU level, Italy	2023	Ambassadors Concept [English]

The concept of "**Ambassadors**" in the CapaCITIES project serves as a crucial communication bridge, especially in overcoming language barriers. These Ambassadors, renowned for their expertise in climate change and achieving climate neutrality in cities, play a pivotal role in promoting the outcomes of CapaCITIES and the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities mission (CNC mission). Their mission encompasses mobilizing cities, engaging diverse stakeholders, mainstreaming knowledge, and raising public awareness about climate neutrality's urgency.

Ambassadors provide operational support, facilitate communication, and engage local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels. They champion climate neutrality best practices, support integration across various governance levels, and ensure the visibility and sustainability of project results. These Ambassadors, identified based on their expertise, reputation, and accessibility to specific target groups, bridge core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors. Their voluntary contributions encompass extensive communication and engagement initiatives, collectively advancing CapaCITIES' mission and promoting climate neutrality.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: 15 CapaCITIES core countries: Romania, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.



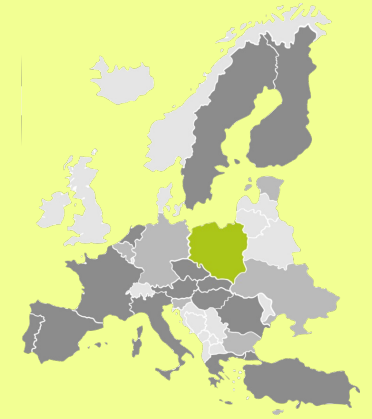
"It often works better if we exchange with national partners in Italian!"

Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation Deep Dive Example

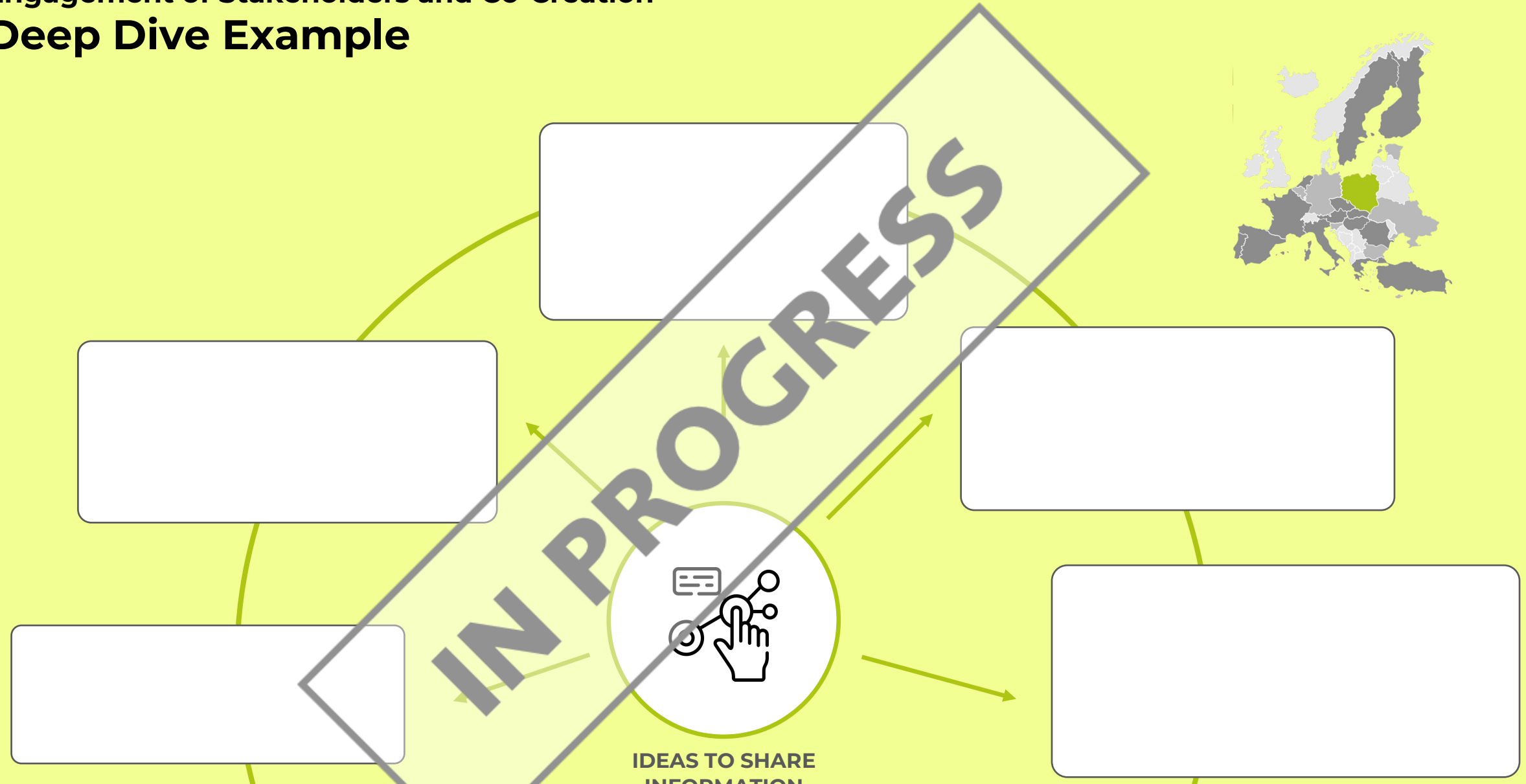
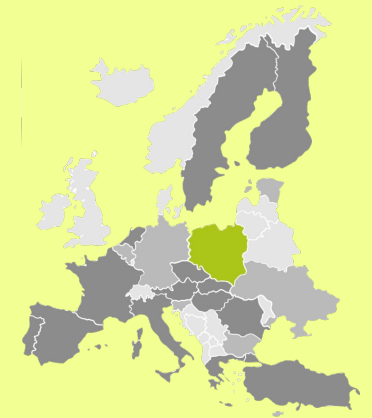
Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS



Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation Deep Dive Example



05

Regulation and Legislation

1. Regulatory integration of existing projects on climate neutrality
2. Optimization of administrative procedures to facilitate implementation

★ Deep Dive Example



"We should work on synergies between existing and new projects!"

5.1 Regulatory integration of existing projects on climate neutrality

One of the challenges identified in the interviews is related to integration of existing projects on climate neutrality on the regulatory level. Additionally, addressing regulatory barriers and providing solutions for overcoming these is important, either based on the experience of other countries or from the perspective of the EU.

Keywords:

#Regulations

#ExistingProjectsIntegration

#ClimateNeutralityRegulations

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Will follow in 2024.

”

Integration of existing projects related to climate neutrality is necessary, as well as addressing regulatory barriers and enhancing collaboration with other countries.


— Anonymous interview partner

05

Regulation and Legislation

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS


National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

5.2 Optimization of administrative procedures to facilitate implementation

Following the interviews, the need for optimization of administrative procedures has been identified as an important factor in facilitating implementation.

Keywords:

#ProceduresOptimization

#Implementation

#ImplementationOptimization

#ImplementationRegulations

#AdministrativeProcedures

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Will follow in 2024.

”

Simplification of administrative procedures is necessary to facilitate implementation.


— Anonymous interview partner

05

Regulation and Legislation

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS


National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

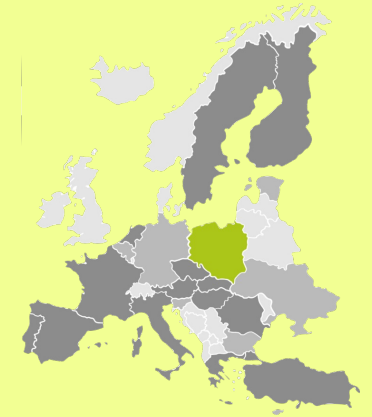
Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

Regulation and Legislation Deep Dive Example

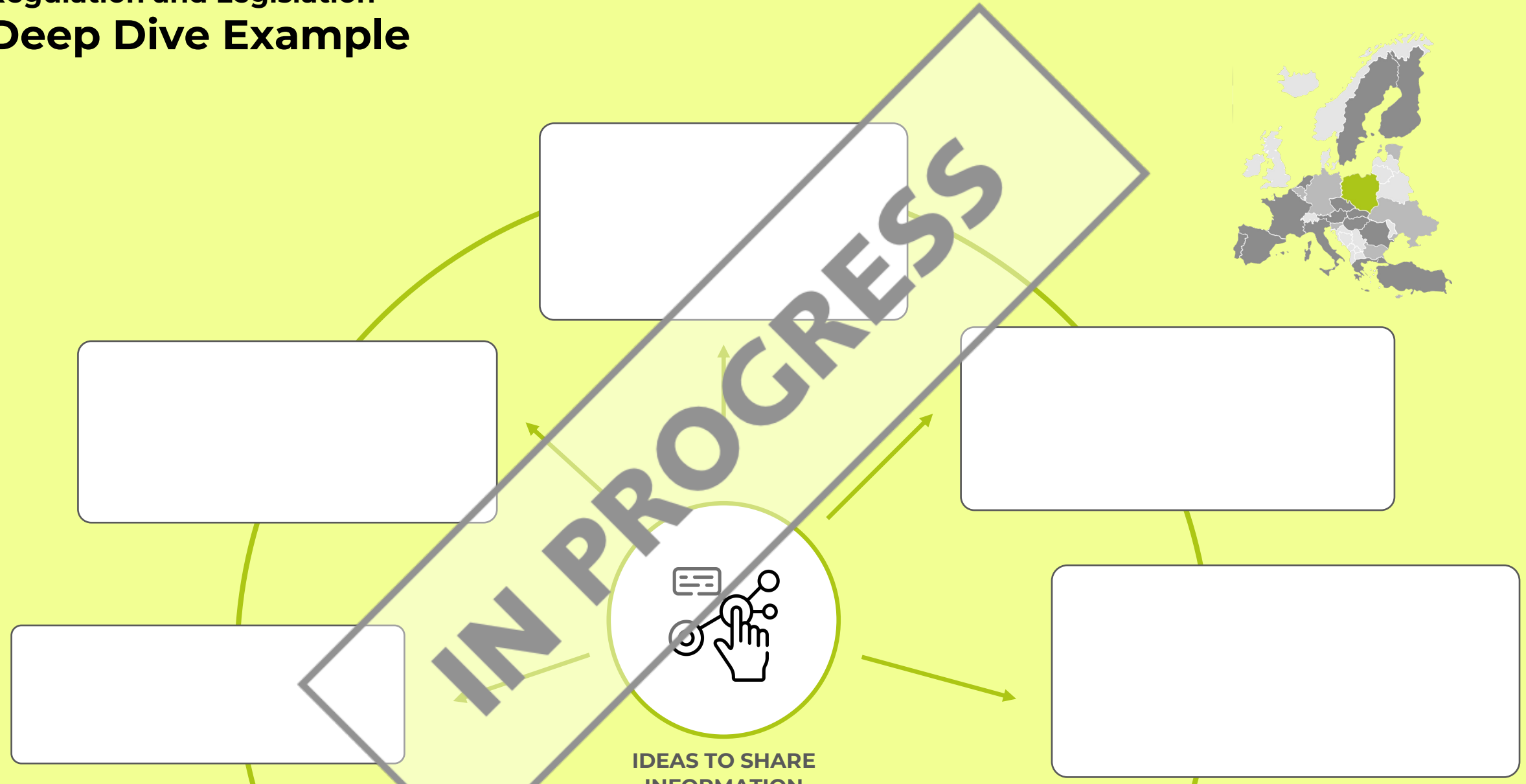
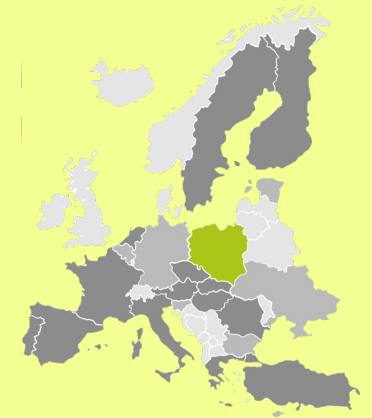
Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS



Regulation and Legislation Deep Dive Example



IDEAS TO SHARE
INFORMATION

06

Monitoring and Reporting

1. Key MRV guidelines and frameworks
2. Understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges
3. Modelling: setting concrete objectives and time frames
4. Standardization and quantification of achievements

★ Deep Dive Example



6.1 Key MRV guidelines and frameworks

While there are several guidelines and frameworks supporting monitoring and reporting activities, three main methodologies have been identified by ICLEI Europe as the most popular ones. These are GPC (2014), IPCC (2006) and the Baseline (2018). While GPC is the most used methodology in European cities, others also refer to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the Baseline methodologies. Some cities and countries have their own pre-established reporting guidelines which remain robust on the national level (e.g., BASEMIS in France, BSKO Standard in Germany.) Such diversity in approaches and methodologies signify the maturity and experience of climate action among European cities and member states.

Keywords:

#ClimateAction

#MonitoringReporting

#GHGEmissions

#GHGProtocol

#EmissionsFrameworks

#MonitoringEmissions

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Multi-level governance, aligned frameworks and standards, as well as efficient communication and information flow between different levels is essential.
- National governments should strive for better integrated and more comprehensive national GHG monitoring and reporting frameworks based on accessibility of data.
- National governments should develop clear guidelines and provide technical, as well as financial and capacity-building assistance to help cities in GHG emissions MRV efforts.

”

Learning from good practice examples, such as sharing information and methodologies for accounting greenhouse gas emissions is key.


— Anonymous interview partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Learning format

CapaCITIES Report

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Training materials on climate action MRV, modelling and innovation in impact assessment	EU	2023	Training Material on MRV [English]

CapaCITIES supports European countries in creating national structures to support the European Cities Mission at the national level. This deliverable is a handy repository of knowledge that collects key information on the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), modelling and impact assessment processes for carbon neutrality, with a specific focus on the role, opportunities, and barriers for local governments.

This deliverable aims to introduce actors in climate neutral cities ecosystem to standard climate impact reporting platforms and to equip them with the knowledge needed to support quantitative impact assessment of climate action. This knowledge repository includes key information on MRV, modelling and innovation in impact assessment, as well as links to relevant resources, guidelines, and platforms.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: not applicable

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

6.2 Understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges

Understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges is an important first step for cities and the national level in achieving their MRV goals. Learning more about the national GHG emissions monitoring and reporting framework will be helpful to identify the key areas that need to be acted upon and where potential difficulties might be.

Keywords:

#EmissionProfile

#GHGemissions

#EmissionNeeds

#EmissionChallenges

#MRVchallenges

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- National partners engaged in building national support structures should map out concrete opportunities for GHG emissions at the local level.
- National platforms can advocate for better integration of cities' by identifying and communicating concrete benefits and sharing good practices.
- Mapping of relevant stakeholders across all governance levels will be helpful in understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges, on both national and regional levels.

”

It is important to identify the actual emission profile and a clearer understanding of the city's needs and challenges in this respect.


— Anonymous interview partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Learning format

CapaCITIES Webinar

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting Webinar	EU	2023	GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting Webinar - Files - UEFISCDI [English]

As part of the CapaCITIES project, the Webinar on GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting was organized by ICLEI Europe with contributions from CDP-ICLEI, the City of Izmir, Turkey, and the RARE Observatory Network. The following topics have been discussed: Introduction to the GHG emissions monitoring and reporting at the national and local level; Multi-level GHG data management; Tools and methodologies that cities use to collect and analyse GHG data and report climate action; City perspective: Turkey; National/Regional perspective: France.

Knowledge exchange on approaches and good practices in the area of quantitative impact assessment of climate action, specifically GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: **Turkey:** The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change; **France:** National Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME), the National Research Agency (ANR), the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CEREMA, France Ville Durable; France Urbaine; Agence Nationale de Cohésion Territoriale.

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

6.3 Modelling: setting concrete objectives and time frames

All actors in national ecosystems play a role in targeting national and international climate goals. The necessity for setting concrete objectives and time frames across all levels of governance is key to achieving more robust, as well as ambitious and well-coordinated climate action. Modelling involves the use of models to estimate or project GHG emissions, assess the impact of climate policies, and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation strategies. It is an essential phase in understanding complex systems, predicting future trends, and making informed decisions related to climate action.

Keywords:

#SettingClimateGoals #ClimateTimeframes
#SettingClimateObjectives #ClimateGoalSetting

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Target Setting and Monitoring on all levels is essential in implementing climate mitigation efforts.
- Local MRV data might inform the setting of national emission reduction targets and sector-specific goals. It helps monitor progress towards these targets and supports the design of effective policy measures to achieve them.
- Estimation and projection in target setting contributes towards strategies for future action and identifying areas for improvement where objectives and time frames are not met.

”

Accelerating climate action progress highly depends on setting concrete goals and time frames.”


— Anonymous interview partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Learning format

Handbook

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
From strategy to delivery: ICLEI's GreenClimateCities Handbook for Local Governments	EU	2016	From strategy to delivery: ICLEI's GreenClimateCities Handbook for Local Governments.[English]

This handbook aims to guide the local government's approach to effectively address climate change, with a strong focus on mitigation. Yet, it can also be used for integrated sustainable development, stimulating the local green economy, and many other topics, using climate action as an entry point. It can also help to enhance the understanding of key partners of the role of local governments, especially national governments. The guidance offered here can easily connect to national processes to show how local climate action is (or can be) connected to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), potentially even to help raise the level of ambition.


National partners supporting the Cities Mission: not applicable

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

IN PROGRESS

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:

IN PROGRESS

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country: Will follow 2024.

6.4 Standardization and quantification of achievements

National governments should work to align reporting processes and minimize administrative burdens for cities. Streamlining processes enhances efficiency, encourages greater participation from cities, and improves the overall quality of reporting. Moreover, not only do these practices provide a basis for comparison in monitoring and reporting, but they also have a guidance and incentivizing functions when it comes to policy, financial and institutional efforts.

Keywords:

#Standardization #ClimateActionAchievements
#Quantification #MRVIndicators

Summary of CapaCITIES key learnings:

- Standardization and quantification of achievements encourages greater participation and improves reporting.
- National governments should work to align reporting processes and minimize administrative burdens for regions and cities.
- To maximize the benefits of monitoring data, standardized and quantified achievements will benefit from clear and appealing visualization, which will improve its potential for sharing knowledge, as well as generating political will for a sustained action.

”


Cities are encouraged to measure and report their emissions data in alignment with a global Greenhouse Gas Accounting Standard, because it helps to standardize the data and makes aggregation and comparison of city emissions possible on a global scale.

— Anonymous interview partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Online Resources (webinars, articles, etc.)

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The "Porto Energy Hub" One-stop-shop: Elimination Of Barriers To Energy Efficiency	Portugal	n.d.	https://portoenergyhub.pt/ https://portoenergyhub.pt/en/repository/ [Portugese, English]


Porto Energy Hub was born from the Porto Energy ElevatoR (PEER) project, within the scope of the European Commission (EC) Horizon 2020 program. It aims to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects free of charge to mitigate energy poverty and improve living conditions (comfort and health) in the North region of Portugal and other territories that wish to benefit from this approach. This material will be useful for those living in Portugal, as well as for those looking to follow the Porto Energy Hub example in their localities. It shows the ways of incentivizing private implementation of renewable energy production (for example, through the reduction of property taxes and framework agreements.) Porto Energy Hub can provide support in all phases of implementation of your energy efficiency project. The Porto Energy Hub will function as a One-Stop-Shop for integrated services that will support the implementation of energy efficiency measures, through support in the identification of business models, financing to be used and contractual models.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: The Directorate General for Energy and Geology (DGEG).

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

International Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CDP-ICLEI Track Platform	International	n.d.	PowerPoint Presentation (cdp.net) [English] Cities - CDP [English]

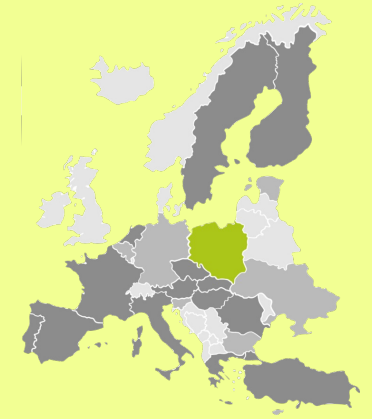
CDP-ICLEI Track is the world's leading climate reporting platform and progress accountability mechanism for cities. Tracking over 1,100 cities' climate action in 2021. These cities are reporting over 8,000 urban sustainability actions (such as energy efficiency and increased green spaces). CDP-ICLEI Track also measures their progress on the UN-backed climate campaigns, Race to Zero and Race to Resilience, which bring cities, businesses and investors together to create a zero-carbon and resilient future. Through CDP-ICLEI Track, cities are also able to report to several initiatives such as numerous ICLEI initiatives, C40, WWF and Global Covenant of Mayors at the same time. CDP-ICLEI Track provides a platform for measuring and tracking risks, hazards, emissions, sector data (such as transport, water and waste), finance and benefits/opportunities (such as improved urban health, biodiversity and social equity).

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: not applicable

Enablers / Implicit success factors in the country:

Will follow 2024.

Monitoring and Reporting Deep Dive Example

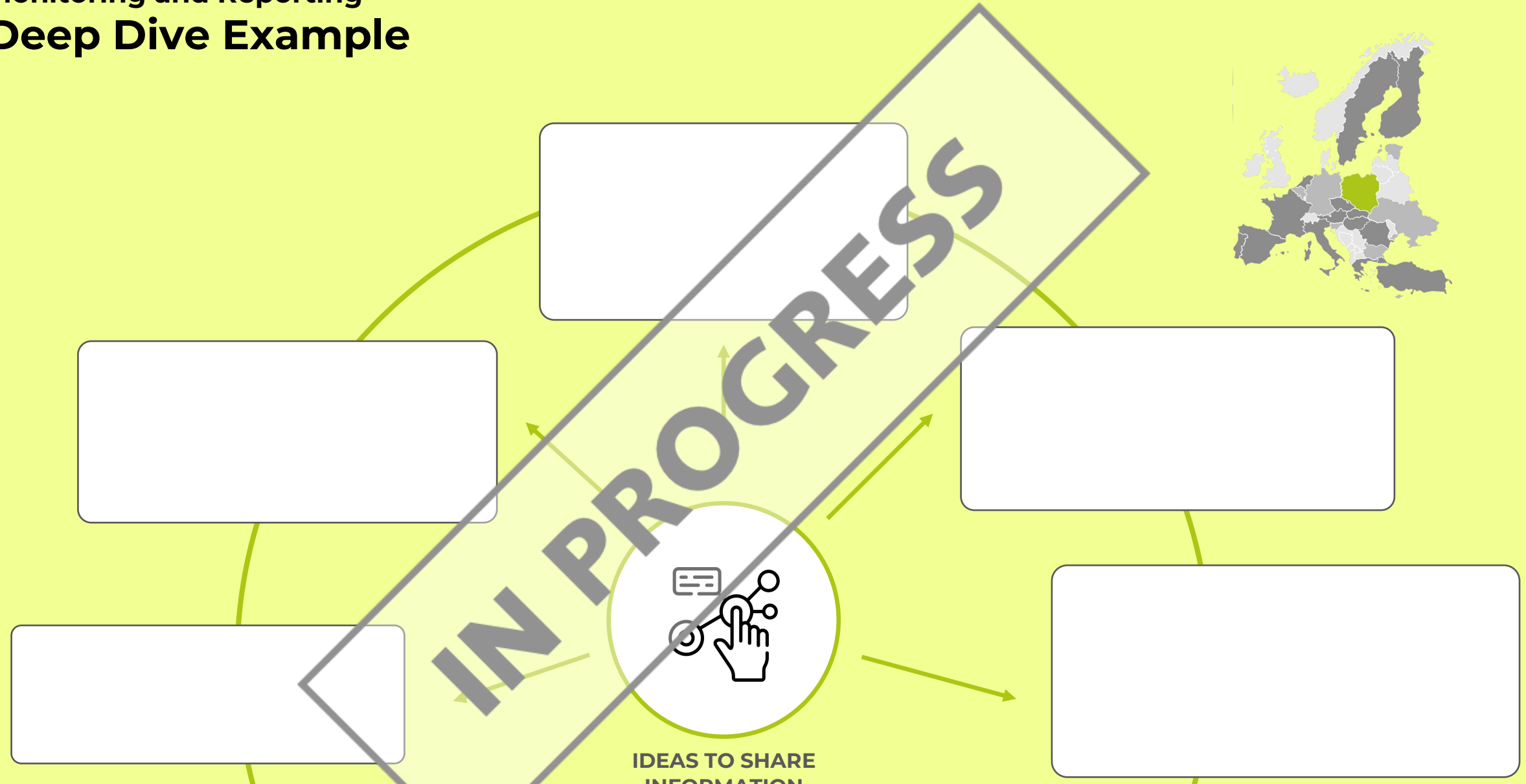
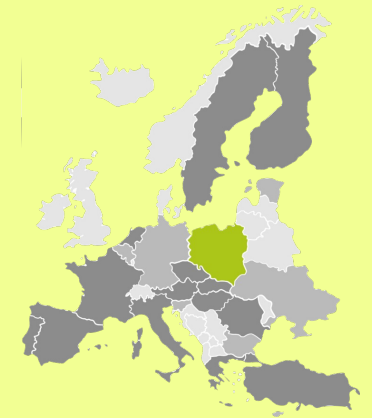


Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS

Monitoring and Reporting Deep Dive Example



RECORDED



MATERIAL

Recent webinars

CapaCITIES Webinar: Funding and financing for climate neutral cities

How can the national level support cities?

24 May 2023



click!

Webinar Funding & Financing

The webinar is dedicated to facilitators of the national support structures for climate neutral cities and all relevant stakeholders from their national ecosystems, especially the ones directly providing funding and financing to cities.

CapaCITIES Webinar: GHG emissions data monitoring and reporting for climate neutral cities

How can the national level actors get more involved?

12 June 2023



click!

CapaCITIES Webinar: GHG emissions data monitoring and reporting for climate neutral cities

On 12 June 2023 an online webinar on monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was organised with a focus on the role of the national level actors in supporting local governments. Participants had the opportunity to discover current reporting platforms and tools for cities.

CapaCITIES Webinar: Multi-level governance – a prerequisite for successful Cities Mission implementation

20 June 2023



click!

Webinar Multilevel Governance

Multi-level governance is seen as one of the key factors towards achieving the Cities Mission towards climate neutrality. Innovative approaches are needed to strengthen collaboration across governance levels and advance urban support structures. Questions will be addressed on how fruitful multi-level governance can look like and how to create an innovative ecosystem and engage with the Mission Cities.

First capacity building workshop on how to develop a Climate City Contract



click!

First capacity building workshop on how to develop a Climate City Contract

In this webinar you are able to learn more about the CCC as a governance innovation tool that can facilitate multi-level collaboration. The session was built on the previous meeting with the NZC City Advisors and is an excellent opportunity to learn more about CCCs focusing on Action and Investment Plans and explore how national governments can get involved in this process.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN



ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE OR HAVE ANOTHER GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE?

Send us your suggestions and inputs!

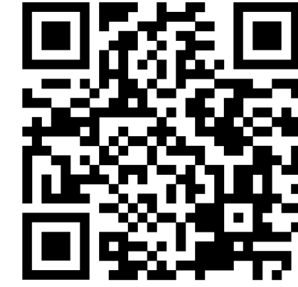
capacities@dutpartnership.eu



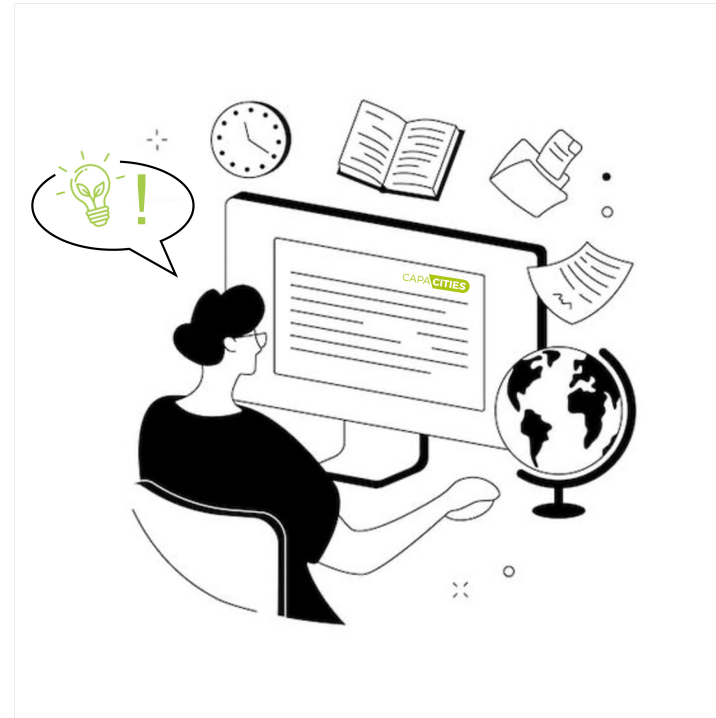
POST CARD IDEA

**READ OUR
ANNUAL
CAPACITIES
LEARNING
PORTFOLIO!**

CAPACITIES Advancing national support
for climate neutral cities



Scan me
to download
the portfolio!





“Stay tuned for more!”

THANK YOU.

CAPACITIES

Advancing national support
for climate neutral cities



**Funded by
the European Union**

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

Copyright graphics ©2022 Freepik Company S.L.
All rights reserved.