

THE CAPACITIES 2.0 LEARNING PORTFOLIO

ADVANCING NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE NEUTRAL CITIES



THE CAPACITIES 2.0 LEARNING PORTFOLIO

2026 Learning Portfolio:

This is a living document and is updated on a regular basis in line with the development of the CapaCITIES 2.0 project. The *In Progress* sign (on the right) marks the material that will follow.

Disclaimer

This document was developed as part of CapaCITIES – Building capacities for the climate neutral and Smart Cities Mission. The CapaCITIES project receives funding from the European Union's HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-02-01 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n° 101203247. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.



About CapaCITIES 2.0

CapaCITIES 2.0 advances **national support for climate-neutral cities** by strengthening and expanding **a transnational alliance** of public authorities and creating **a shared learning environment** for ministries, agencies and national platforms. The project builds on the first CapaCITIES initiative and deepens the connection between the EU Cities Mission and ongoing transition processes at national and regional level.

Vision of CapaCITIES 2.0

CapaCITIES 2.0 will help shape a European environment that enables urban climate-neutrality transitions by building capacity and preparedness among public authorities at national, regional and local levels. It focuses on addressing **regulatory, financial and governance challenges** through shared learning and practical guidance, while creating stronger links between **research, innovation and practice**, including close collaboration with the *Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership* and *NetZeroCities*, the EU Mission Platform.

The project is designed around specific **national challenges and needs**, supporting countries in translating the Mission's goals into **concrete local and regional action** and in **accelerating their transitions** toward climate neutrality. Through tested formats, a **challenge-based learning portfolio**, transnational **peer learning** and **regular workshops**, CapaCITIES 2.0 brings together stakeholders across sectors to **co-create knowledge, exchange experiences** and **develop effective governance and capacity-building processes** at multiple levels. CapaCITIES 2.0 supports the Mission by:

- Strengthening and expanding **a transnational alliance** of public authorities to accelerate urban transitions toward climate neutrality.
- Co-designing and developing effective **multi-level and cross-sectoral governance structures**, along with tailored, demand-driven interventions that respond to **country-specific needs and barriers**.
- Drawing on complementarities with national, European, and international initiatives on climate-neutral and smart cities, ensuring **the long-term sustainability** and **uptake of project outcomes**.

Learning Portfolio 2.0: What is New?

The Learning Portfolio in CapaCITIES 2.0 will be evolving into an online version on the project website, which is currently in development. The new format will prioritise the quality of materials, as well as easy navigation and accessibility of the learning formats. The input from project partners will be streamlined with the help of an online feedback form (currently a work-in-progress.)

New Format:

The online version of the Learning Portfolio will include materials developed during CapaCITIES 2.0 with a focus on the following:

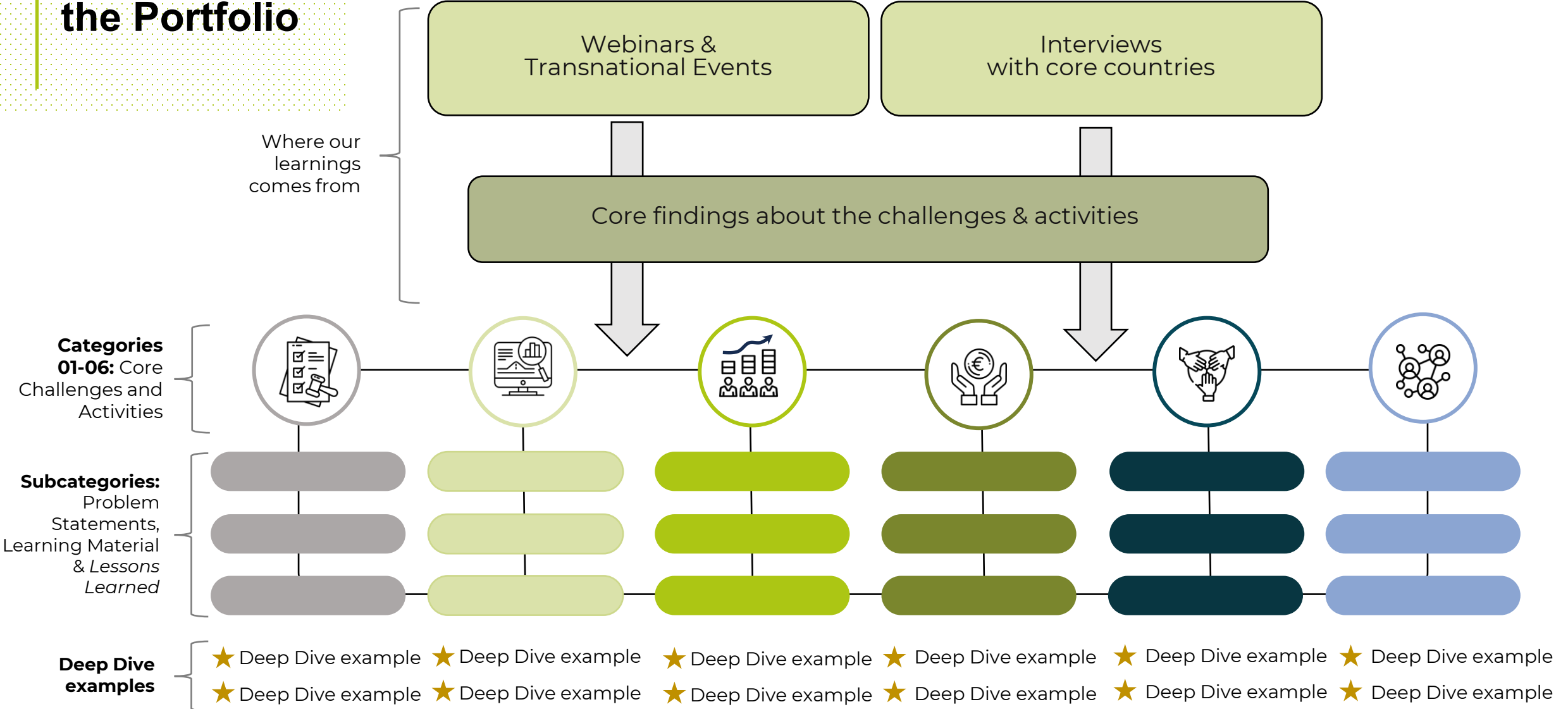
- New Content: materials will reflect the challenges and needs of new project partners.
- Additional formats: old learning materials will be adapted to the website and new format of materials will be included (e.g. *Glossary of Terms*, embedded webinar recordings, etc.)
- Improved navigation: overview, search and relevance to be streamlined via the website features and use layers.



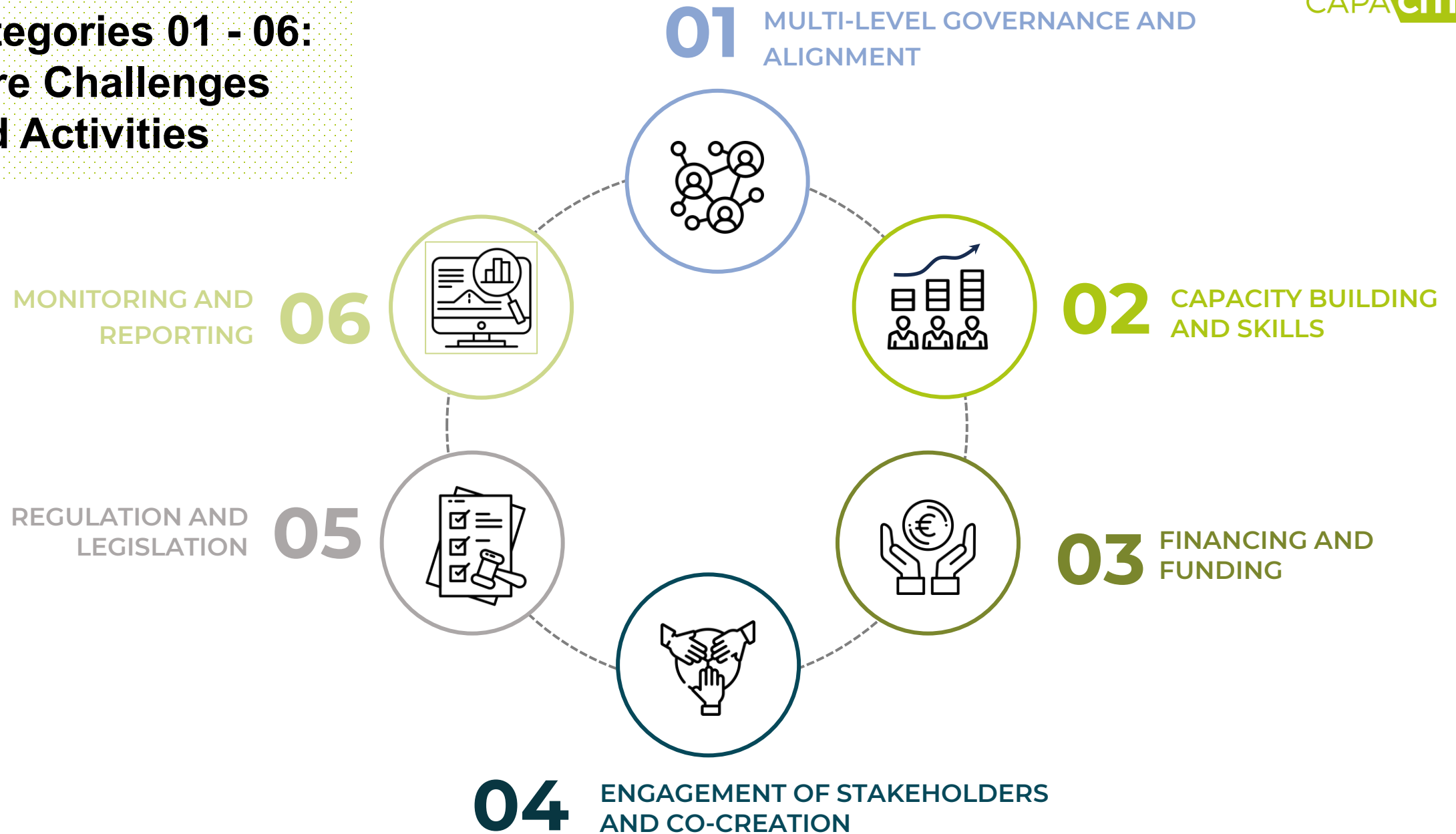
What are the key learnings resulted from the CapaCITIES project?

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

Structure of the Portfolio



Categories 01 - 06: Core Challenges and Activities



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 achieve stronger 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 deeper understanding of governance models across diverse levels.

03

Financing and Funding

This chapter addresses the challenge of securing appropriate funding for regional and municipal levels to realize the mission for climate-neutral cities. Considering the varying situations of associated countries and membership statuses it is also crucial to establish clear 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 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 on both, national and international levels. From monitoring and reporting activities to multi-level governance, stakeholder engagement and co-creation activities 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. This chapter's content draws on a series of events and webinars from the second phase of the project.

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 analysing 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.

Chapters and Content:

01 Multi-level Governance and Alignment

- 1.1 Cross-sectoral and cross-departmental collaboration
- 1.2 Towards lesser fragmentation: clarification of roles, budget and targets
- 1.3 Overcoming language barrier and limited resources
- 1.4 Concrete actions: better organization on the national level
- 1.5 Understanding city's needs: facilitating dialogue between cities and the national level
- 1.6 National Framework Conditions & Effective Collaboration

02 Capacity Building and Skills

- 2.1 Guidelines on communication and strategic planning
- 2.2 The Cities Mission: integration of existing projects and resources
- 2.3 National and international training events
- 2.4 Capacity building materials and knowledge management and exchange
- 2.5 Overcoming bottlenecks during implementation
- 2.6 Governance models examples

03 Financing and Funding

- 3.1 EU Funding mechanisms
- 3.2 Pre-Accession Assistance: roadmap and guidelines
- 3.3 Flexible funding instruments and joint programs

04 Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation

- 4.1 National Ecosystem Development
- 4.2 Public Engagement Approaches
- 4.3 Citizen / Stakeholder Engagement
- 4.4 Engaging Local Businesses and SMEs
- 4.5 Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches for engagement
- 4.6 Co-creation and Collaboration Tools

05 Regulation and Legislation

- 5.1 Regulatory integration of existing projects on climate neutrality
- 5.2 Optimization of administrative procedures to facilitate implementation

06 Monitoring and Reporting

- 6.1 Key MRV guidelines and frameworks
- 6.2 Understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges
- 6.3 Modelling: setting concrete objectives and time frames
- 6.4 Standardization and quantification of achievements
- 6.5 Training on accounting greenhouse gas emissions

INTRODUCTIONS



CapaCITIES 2.0 Objectives

CapaCITIES 2.0 aims to strengthen national support systems for climate-neutral cities by expanding a transnational alliance of public authorities, improving multi-level governance, and building practical capacity for ministries, agencies and city partners. It focuses on addressing country-specific regulatory, financial and organisational barriers, while creating shared learning formats and guidance that help translate the EU Cities Mission's goals into concrete national and local action.

The Learning Portfolio supports you by:

- Identifying key challenges
- Offering ideas on how to overcome these challenges
- Showcasing best practice examples
- Providing access to webinars and other relevant resources



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. From identifying activities and potential challenges to collecting the learning materials discussed and referenced throughout the project, these events, along with interviewing the core countries served as the foundation for the Learning Portfolio.

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 knowledge or expertise around climate neutral cities. Therefore, the portfolio will benefit **cities** and **national partners, academia** and **research institutes**, as well as **civil society** and **industry**.

Depending on the objectives of the reader, the Learning Portfolio can be read in a variety of ways, from deep reading to referencing. *Categories 01-06* address **Core Challenges and Activities** identified during the CapaCITIES project. They diverge further into better defined **Problem Statements** in the form of *Subcategories (1.1, 1.2, 2.3 etc.)*, with corresponding **Learning Materials**. While some of the Learning Materials are seen more than once, their focus changes depending on the subcategory and a particular challenge. Each category is summarized as **Key Lessons** and complemented by a **Deep Dive example**. Additionally, every subcategory is referenced with a set of **#Hashtags**, which help track relevant material throughout the document. **The Hashtag Index** can be referred to on the following page. The categories where the materials are forthcoming will be watermarked with *In Progress* and updated in due course. More tips can be found in the *How to Use* section.

Cities Mission Mapping

The EU Cities Mission for climate-neutral and smart cities features a structured governance framework, as shown in the Cities Mission Landscape graphic. The independent **Mission Board for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities** provides expert advice on implementation, while **the Mission Owners' Group** -- a steering committee of 12 European Commission Directorates-General -- coordinates efforts. **Task-based collaborations** involve the EC Joint Research Centre, the European Investment Bank, Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI, NetZeroCities, and other EU stakeholder platforms, with the CapaCITIES network now expanded from the previous 15 core countries (AT, CZ, FI, FR, EL, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, ES, TR) to wider Europe.



[Click here to learn more!](#)



HOW TO USE THE LEARNING PORTFOLIO



Identify your challenges

As a first step, consider where your **challenges** lie and where you might need support. Refer to the description of the **six categories** to see which one seems to be the most relevant.



Define your problem statement

As a next step, **define your problem statement** to narrow the problem down to an actionable area. Check out the **subcategories** of your chosen category, following its table of contents.



Note down key words and look for them

Take notes on **key words** related to your problem statement, e.g. the word "funding", or scan **the Hashtag Index** (next page) and mark the ones that seem relevant. Look for your key words in **the subcategory description** and in its set of **#Hashtags**.



Look into the Material and Lessons Learned

Once you are in the most suitable subcategory, zoom into the learning material, following external links where needed. **Lessons Learned** is a summary of the learning materials in each subcategory.



More to say? Contact us!

Are there any suitable learning formats that we have not included yet? Get in touch and help us expand this living document!

Index of #Hashtags

Hashtag search Windows:



Hashtag search Apple:



#Adaptation
 #Administration
 #AlternativeFunding
 #BottomUp
 #Budget
 #CapacityBuilding
 #CitiesNeeds
 #Collaboration
 #Communications
 #Coordination
 #Emissions
 #Engagement
 #EUFunding
 #Financing
 #Fragmentation
 #GHG (*Greenhouse Gases*)
 #Implementation
 #InformationExchange
 #Interdisciplinarity
 #KnowledgeExchange
 #LanguageBarrier
 #LocalChallenges
 #LocalCommunities
 #MRV (*Monitoring, Reporting and Verification*)
 #MultiLevelGovernance
 #NationalClimateSupport
 #NationalFramework
 #NationalFunding
 #NonEU
 #OnlineTools
 #Optimization
 #Participation
 #Partnership
 #Policy
 #PPP (*Public Private/Public Partnership*)
 #PreAccession
 #Quantification
 #R&D (*Research & Development*)
 #RegulatoryFrameworks
 #Regulations
 #RegionalCooperation
 #SettingClimateGoals
 #Stakeholders
 #Standardization
 #StreamlinedProcurement
 #Synergies
 #Targets
 #TopDown



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.

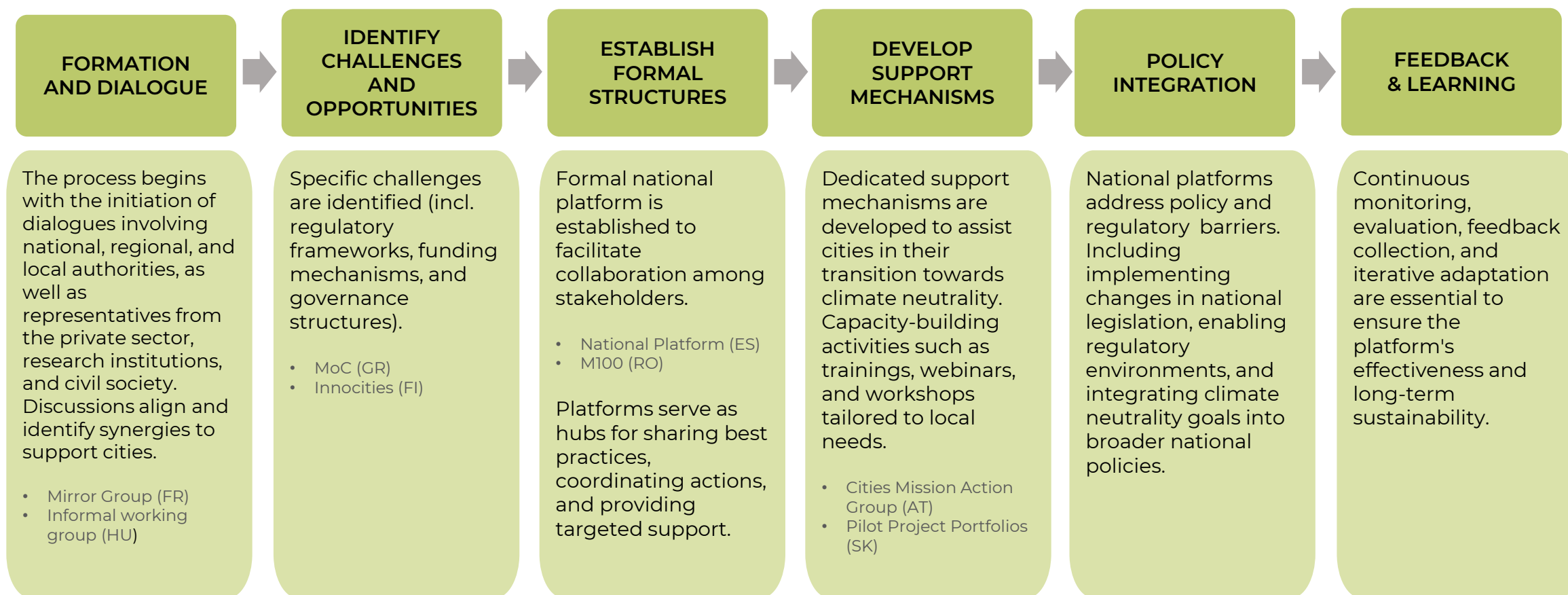


What	Who	Why	Where	When	How
What is the problem?	Who is involved?	Why is the problem important?	Where does the problem occur?	When did the problem begin?	How could this problem be an opportunity?
What would we like to know?	Who is affected by the situation?	Why does it occur?	Where was it already resolved 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)

How to Establish a National Platform:

The CapaCITIES Learning Portfolio is divided into specific best practices and can be used as an inspiration for how to address the obstacles on the road to establishing a national platform. All beginnings are hard, but there are challenges to overcome at every stage of the process. Here you can find links to the portfolio connected to the specific stage you find yourself at in the process.



MEET OUR THREE PERSONAS

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

Rosalia, 39, is a writer and a journalist. After working and reporting from Brussels for many years, she moved back to her hometown where she writes for the local newspaper and is actively involved in the local community.



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!”

THESE ARE ROSALIA'S MAIN CHALLENGES & NEEDS

“It would be helpful to know more about the practical and useful activities: what can we learn from implementation strategies in smaller cities and with local communities?”

“Given the multiple EU projects, what would really help is a blueprint for capacity building and communication workshops to inform various audiences.”

Bring EU Mission to the citizens and strengthen democracy and the commitment to prioritize climate action.



“It would be great to create a storytelling model on how to communicate activities and reach broader audience with climate action goals and activities and to hear different perspectives.”

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 barrier and limited resources
4. Concrete actions: better organization on the national level
5. Understanding city's needs: facilitating dialogue between cities and the national level
6. National Framework Conditions & Effective Collaboration

→ Lessons Learned

★ Deep Dive Example



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

1.1 Cross-sectoral and cross-departmental collaboration

Cross-sectoral collaboration between cities and regions in different countries is crucial for capacity building. In the face of complex challenges that transcend national borders, it enables participants to share deep dive examples, resources and expertise between mission board members, fostering innovation and resilience. A collaborative approach enhances collective ability to address common issues, while also promoting harmonious growth and sustainable development across regions. It can, however, be hindered by the lack of time and space for exchange, as well as institutional and political obstacles.

Hashtags:

#Partnership #KnowledgeExchange #Synergies
 #Collaboration #Resilience
 #Cooperation #Interdisciplinarity

Key Challenges:

- Lack of collaboration with citizen mission board members
- Limited collaboration and knowledge transfer among cities, regions, and stakeholders on the national level
- Lack of incentives for better collaboration between countries and national platforms
- Lack of time and space to exchange
- Institutional and political obstacles

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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

01

**Multi-level governance
and alignment**

Governance Initiative

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


The **Austrian Climate-Neutral Cities Mission**, handled by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Climate and Energy Fund, is one of the established cross-cutting pillars at the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)* that brings together people from different departments. On the international/global scale, the BMIMI is a partner of the CapaCITIES project, leads the “**Cities Mission Action Group**” and represents Austria as 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 BMIMI 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. Some of the national partners supporting the Cities Mission: Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), AustriaTech (ATE).

*former Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK)

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ A monthly *climate breakfast* for exchange and updates on progress
- ✓ Bimonthly partnership meeting on legal regulations and funding opportunities
- ✓ A larger meeting for developing a joint voice towards the ministry

Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The French Mirror Group	France	2021	French national context Recordings of the annual meeting of Sustainable Cities Action (2023)

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 and spaces for dialogue to formalize French expectations and to make concrete 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: Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, CEREMA, Energy Cities Association, Île-de-France Region, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CSTB, Scientific and Technical Center for Building.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Developing a common vision of needs through formal dialogue spaces
- ✓ Capacity-building aspect: seminars for local authorities, researchers and industry
- ✓ Linking national actors (authorities, researchers, industry) with EC initiatives via proposal development for European work programs

Governance Initiative

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

The **Smart Cities Network Austria**, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)* 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 BMIMI and the administrations of Austrian cities. Its core structure forms a triangle involving BMIMI, cities, and the coordination office within the Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing (SIR), which can also involve other national and international stakeholders as needed.

*former Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Connecting pioneer cities: interdisciplinary approaches, multi-level governance
- ✓ City-tailored networking formats with diverse stakeholders
- ✓ Addressing issues via direct communication between ministry and cities
- ✓ Development of an online platform "Cities-Hub": exchange between national partners and cities

Governance Initiative

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

The Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN) 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 a 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Fostering a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative between ministries, cities, regions
- ✓ Formalising collaboration via signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)
- ✓ Linking local policies to SDGs and the European Green Deal

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year	 Click here to learn more
Expert working group Ministry of University and Research (MUR)	Italy	2021	n/a

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 experts 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 organizations 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 activities 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)

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Setting up a working team of experts/national delegates in the Horizon Europe
- ✓ Capacity building and outreach to target stakeholders' groups on national level
- ✓ Linking national level to the project activities in CapaCITIES

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year	 Click here to learn more
Hungarian Informal working group	Hungary	2021	n/a

In 2021, Hungary lacked 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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Informal cross-sectoral collaboration among governmental bodies
- ✓ Financial backing from the government for local contributions to climate projects funded through direct EU programs

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.

Hashtags:

#Alignment #Fragmentation #Targets
 #Budget #Efficiency
 #Coordination #Stakeholders

Key Challenges:

- Lack of clarity leads to organizational complexity and ambiguity
- Lack of streamlined coordination among stakeholders to reduce fragmentation, improve efficiency and better alignment
- Lack of established monitoring and reporting mechanisms 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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

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, Türkiye, United Kingdom.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Fostering the growth of robust Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystems
- ✓ Aligning members' priorities with policy and current funding opportunities
- ✓ Serving as a knowledge exchange hub and a catalyst for regional collaboration

Governance Initiative: A New Approach

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


The **Austrian Cities Mission** (more information in subcategory 1.1 *Cross-sectoral and cross-departmental collaboration*) is an internal group within the government administration works together to empower Austrian cities and municipalities to achieve climate and energy targets and prevent fragmentation. Through setting own agenda and cross-functional teams, each focusing on various thematic pillars, their comprehensive research and supportive measures drive progress toward climate neutrality. 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.

In general, there are three ambition levels: capacity building and governance, developing a climate neutral district and getting it on the way, education and exchange of knowledge in cities. Key aspects and internal structure are discussed in a larger meeting with cities, thus develop a joint voice towards the ministry. Following these key aspects, a process was developed: a monthly climate breakfast to exchange and update one another on processes; partnership meetings every two months on legal regulations, funding opportunities, emissions monitoring, etc. A co-creation approach to the process is achieved by informing national partners about the content cities want to develop. Additional formats include dialogue forums, official and political start of the mission, signing official documents, such as a climate contract, a partnership agreement or memorandum of cooperation (MoC) that would be followed by stakeholders on the goals they set forth.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Transformation managers ensure action and implementation plans alignment
- ✓ An established process with formalized time and space for effort alignment
- ✓ A co-creation approach by involving cities in agenda and content development

Governance Initiative: A New Approach


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

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. Involving both national and local authorities in the development of strategic plans and programs, the MoC contributes to the establishment of national framework conditions. The cities are invited to submit strategic plans which can be used to better organise climate action efforts at the national level and take concrete actions toward climate neutrality. One important strength of the MoC is that it is designed to scale from the beginning and is characterised by a multi-level governance approach. 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ MoC contributes to the establishment of national framework conditions
- ✓ Organises climate action efforts at the national level for taking concrete actions
- ✓ Designed to scale from the beginning given its multi-level governance approach

Webinar: Transnational Cities Mission Alliance

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES “Capacity-building session” series	EU level	2023	Webinar: Transnational Cities Mission Alliance Download presentation slides

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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Strengthening national governance for achieving the Cities Mission
- ✓ Presenting good practice cases from Austria, France, Greece and Hungary
- ✓ Open to all interested stakeholders

Learning format

Systemic governance solution

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	Click here to learn more
Territorial Transition Clusters	Albania	2026	n/a

Small and medium-sized cities often lack the critical mass, institutional capacity and financial leverage to implement Mission-oriented transitions on their own. Fragmented governance structures, uneven technical expertise and weak links between policy ambition and investment capacity further limit their ability to translate strategic alignment into coherent and scalable action. These challenges, while particularly visible in accession contexts such as Albania, are common across many European territories dominated by smaller urban centres.

Territorial Transition Clusters have emerged as a **systemic response**. Rather than adding a new administrative layer, they operate at territorial scale, creating a functional space where municipalities, sectoral actors, SMEs and institutions **align around shared transition objectives**. By integrating territorial vision-setting, coordinated action and investment mobilisation, clusters move beyond isolated projects towards structured, portfolio-based approaches. This enables project bundling, improves investment readiness and connects public, private and blended finance to strategic priorities.

Clusters also **address structural barriers** identified in the Country Action Plan by strengthening coordination across governance levels, embedding feedback and learning mechanisms, and broadening participation. Overall, Territorial Transition Clusters offer a transferable governance model for regions seeking durable, integrated and financially viable Mission delivery beyond individual programmes or funding cycles.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Territorial clusters and portfolio-based approaches
- ✓ Systemic governance mechanisms (not only coordination across existing administrative levels)
- ✓ Bridging functions between policy ambition and financial feasibility
- ✓ Remain adaptive beyond project and programme cycles



“Avoid regional fragmentation by building territorial clusters and project bundling.”

1.3 Overcoming language barrier 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

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**Multi-level governance
and alignment**

CapaCITIES Concept


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

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, Türkiye, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Overcoming language barriers via operational support by climate experts
- ✓ Engaging local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels
- ✓ Bridging core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors

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 Crafting Climate Neutral Cities with the Next Generation Webinar - October 2022

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 endeavor, 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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Testing and implementing local governance models, tools and policy briefs
- ✓ Cooperating and aligning with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens

1.4 Concrete actions: better organization 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- National support is crucial for local climate neutrality.
- Bureaucratic challenges hinder 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

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**Multi-level governance
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National Platform: A New Approach

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
"Climate-neutral Cities" Mission	Austria	2021	Austrian Climate-Neutral Cities Mission

[More information on the Austrian Cities Mission is in subcategory 1.1 Cross-sectoral and cross-departmental collaboration.]


By setting their own agenda, including climate goals and attainable targets, the Austrian Cities Mission enables effective collaboration and coordination between various levels of government, thus creating a supportive environment for cities and regions to develop concrete steps towards climate neutrality and act upon them.

The Austrian national platform operates on three ambition levels: **capacity building** in the cities and the **governance** aspect (setting up all the processes within the city to reach climate neutrality), developing a climate neutral district (getting actual developments on the way, an ongoing effort) and creating a **learning environment** and an exchange process that supports cities and aims to help them exchange ideas and grow together. National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Austria Tech (ATE).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Setting own agenda, including climate goals and attainable targets
- ✓ Creating a supportive environment for cities & regions to develop concrete steps
- ✓ Setting up governance processes within the city to reach climate neutrality

National Event

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Dialogue Forum Mission Climate-Neutral City / Austrian "CapaCITIES national event"	Austria	2023, 2024, 2025	Dialogue Forum (2023) [German] Dialogue Forum (2024) Dialogue Forum (2025) [German]

In November 2023 in Vienna, the Austrian climate ministry and representatives from ten pioneer cities formally committed to the Mission Climate-neutral City, advancing research-driven solutions for energy, mobility, and circular economy towards urban climate neutrality.

At the October 2024 forum in Salzburg, small and medium towns celebrated completed climate neutrality roadmaps, welcomed new cities into the mission, and exchanged practical strategies on finance, stakeholder engagement, mobility, energy, and governance over two days of dialogue and networking.


The November 2025 event in Innsbruck brought together all **47 Austrian pioneer cities** to discuss sustainable mobility, renewable energy, community participation and administrative capacity building, reinforcing joint innovation and implementation pathways for climate-neutral urban futures.

Organizers include: Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR) and AustriaTech (ATE).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Coordinated efforts between governance structures and stakeholder engagement
- ✓ Fostering long-term public-private climate partnerships
- ✓ Scaling up and replicating successful policies on system level

National Platform

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


The development of the **National Smart City Data Sharing Governance Platform** under the "2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan" in Türkiye 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Aiming for better organization on the national level
- ✓ Providing space for standard and secure mutual data exchange
- ✓ Aligning the National Strategy and Action Plan with targets of the Cities Mission

National Platform

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

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, catalysing 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, bottom-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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Advancing the Cities Mission in Spain and speeding up progress by 2030
- ✓ Evolving from a grassroots dialogue platform into an established dynamic forum
- ✓ Inclusive bottom-up approach in guiding cities to climate neutrality

1.5 Understanding city's needs: facilitating dialogue between cities and the national level

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.

Hashtags:

[#CityDiversity](#)

[#CitiesChallenges](#)

[#LocalEngagement](#)

[#CitiesNeeds](#)

[#ResourceAllocation](#)

[#LocalChallenges](#)

Key Challenges:

- 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.
- Lack of inclusive dialogue hinders adaptive collaboration for knowledge exchange between cities and nations.

”

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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

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**Multi-level governance
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Strategic innovation programme


Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Viable Cities	Sweden	2017	Website The Viable Cities Transition Lab European Viable Cities Day 2025 among other material on their YouTube Channel

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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Develop synergies with existing and planned activities and processes
- ✓ Collaboration between public sector, civil society, academia and business
- ✓ A catalyst for new forms of cooperation

Governance Initiative


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

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. Involving both national and local authorities in the development of strategic plans and programs, the MoC contributes to the establishment of national framework conditions. The cities are invited to submit strategic plans which can be used to better organise climate action efforts at the national level and take concrete actions toward climate neutrality. One important strength of the MoC is that it is designed to scale from the beginning and is characterised by a multi-level governance approach. 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Facilitating cooperation between national level (Ministry) and 80 municipalities
- ✓ Involving both national and local authorities in the development of strategic plans
- ✓ Inviting cities to submit the strategic plans for climate action on national level

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 CapaCITIES (dutpartnership.eu)


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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Mapping multi-level governance approaches, core elements and instruments: key processes, networks, institutional infrastructure and financial instruments available
- ✓ Reporting policy misalignment and gaps in governance structures in core countries

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
M100 Annual Convention	Romania	2024	Mirror Mission Cities Hub M100 Climate Neutrality Convention 2025 [Romanian]

The M100 Convention is a two-day European-level event and a flagship moment of the M100 initiative, dedicated to supporting Romanian cities in their transition toward climate neutrality. It convenes a diverse group of stakeholders, including ministries, representatives of the European Commission, local and national authorities, cities, international experts, civic organizations, and European partners.

With a strong focus on policy coherence and multi-level governance, the Convention offers a shared platform for dialogue, coordination, and exchange across governance levels. Through a mix of high-level panels, thematic workshops, exhibitions, and applied sessions, the event connects policy and practice, links Romanian cities to European debates and networks, and contributes to shaping coordinated pathways toward climate-neutral urban transformation.

“See & Apply” sessions showcased concrete climate neutrality projects, such as urban living labs and city-level innovations, presented by the organizations implementing them. Participants analysed these real examples and explored how similar solutions could be transferred and applied in their own cities or institutions to accelerate climate action.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Two-day international event
- ✓ Multiple interactive formats such as panels, workshops and exhibitions
- ✓ “See & Apply” Sessions

1.6 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

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NetZeroCities Report


Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Mapping of national and regional city collaboration (NetZeroCities Deliverable 5.9)	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

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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Mapping of collaboration initiatives between cities on climate action, both on the national and regional level
- ✓ Presenting the state of play on support structures on regional/ national levels

Governance Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of Release	 Click here to learn more
"Climate-Neutral City" Mission	Austria		Climate-neutral City Innovation Labs

With the Mission "Climate-Neutral City", the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)*, in cooperation with the Climate and Energy Fund, is supporting Austrian cities in becoming climate neutral more quickly through research and development. Pioneer Cities are leading the way together and developing practical, climate-friendly solutions for the energy and mobility transition as well as the circular economy, which are to be implemented and disseminated quickly. Comprehensive research activities and accompanying actions pave the way for the climate-friendly development of cities. This will lead the way for a better quality of life, health, secure supply and social cohesion for citizens.

With the research policy priority "Climate-neutral city", the BMIMI and the Climate and Energy Fund are supporting urban pioneers on their way to a climate-friendly future. The mission accelerates the rapid development and demonstration of innovative solution modules via a research, technology, and development program called "Technologies and Innovations for the Climate Neutral City". National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG), Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR), Urban Innovation Vienna (UIT), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Austria Tech (ATE).


*former Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Supporting cities in becoming climate neutral more quickly through research and development
- ✓ Accompanying actions support cities' climate-friendly development

Learning format

Policy Group

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Mission Hub Policy Group	Portugal		n/a

The Mission Hub Policy Group is an initiative developed by the National Agency for Innovation (ANI), supported by the Directorate General for Energy and Geology (DGEG), involving all the **relevant public organizations** within the ministries that deal with the relevant policy instruments that support the country and the cities to be-come 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Involving all the relevant public organizations within the ministries
- ✓ Sharing experience, know-how and learnings via pilot cities experience in Cities' Network with other interested cities

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.

M100 is actively working with a growing cohort of 13 cities to accelerate their pathways toward climate neutrality: three that are part of the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities" and ten additional municipalities that were selected and supported in the development of their Climate City Contracts (CCCs). Through **tailored support, capacity-building activities, and multi-stakeholder collaboration**, M100 helps these cities refine their strategic planning, strengthen governance, and pilot integrated climate solutions adapted to local contexts. Building on this momentum, the initiative aims to extend its reach by engaging 20 more cities over the next year, broadening its impact and fostering a national community of practice around climate neutrality, innovation, and inclusive urban transformation.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Ministry of European Investments and Projects (MIPE) and Ministry of Development, Public Work and Administration (MDLPA), Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Connecting national and regional authorities in Mission implementation
- ✓ Facilitating the dialogue between authorities, academia and civil society
- ✓ Principle of partnership, transparency and participatory governance

Learning format

Model for collaboration

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
DK2020	Denmark	2024	DK2020: A model for multi-level cooperation CONCITO

DK2020 is a Danish collaborative climate initiative designed to support multi-level climate governance and local climate action across the whole of Denmark. It brings together nearly all Danish municipalities, national partners (Local Government Denmark and the five Danish regions), the philanthropic association Realdania, the global city network C40 Cities, and the Danish green think tank CONCITO.

The project helps municipalities to develop ambitious **climate action plans** aligned with the Paris Agreement and C40's Climate Action Planning Framework. Through coordinated technical assistance, peer-learning, and political commitment, DK2020 enables municipalities to commit to long-term greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience **targets**, share **best practices**, and build institutional **capacity** for climate planning. It has been extended into a broader structure called the **Climate Alliance** to support implementation and ongoing collaboration. National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Concito, Local Government Denmark (KL), The five Danish regions, Realdania, C40 Cities.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Involving all the relevant public organizations within the ministries
- ✓ Sharing experience, know-how and learnings via pilot cities experience in Cities' Network with other interested cities



“A model for collaboration helps to develop a climate action plan”.

Multi-level governance and alignment

Lessons Learned

→ Key Take-Aways:

Effective Cross-Collaboration: to enhance collective ability to address common issues, it is important to create regular time and space for exchange and joint action towards overcoming institutional and political obstacles

Concrete Actions and Reduced Fragmentation: clarifying roles, budgets, and targets is essential to streamline efforts, reduce organizational complexity, align efforts and jointly track progress

Developing a Common Language and Shared Resources: innovative approaches, such as multilingual training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and resource allocation mechanisms ensure equitable access to capacity-building opportunities

Better Organization and Regular Exchange: creating an enabling environment for cities and regions to take concrete actions is achieved through fixed meeting formats to promote effective coordination between various levels of government

Understanding Cities' Needs and Facilitating Dialogue: adaptive and responsive dialogue formats should be developed to enable cities and national agents to work together cohesively, striking the right balance between local autonomy and national coordination

Creating an Enabling Environment and Favourable National Framework Conditions: offering consistent support and aligning national priorities with the EU Cities Mission's goals can be aided by coherent and supportive national policies, as well as collaboration with research and development (R&D) entities



Multi-level governance and alignment

Deep Dive Example



[Click here to learn more!](#)

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.

HOW TO...

Form 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!”

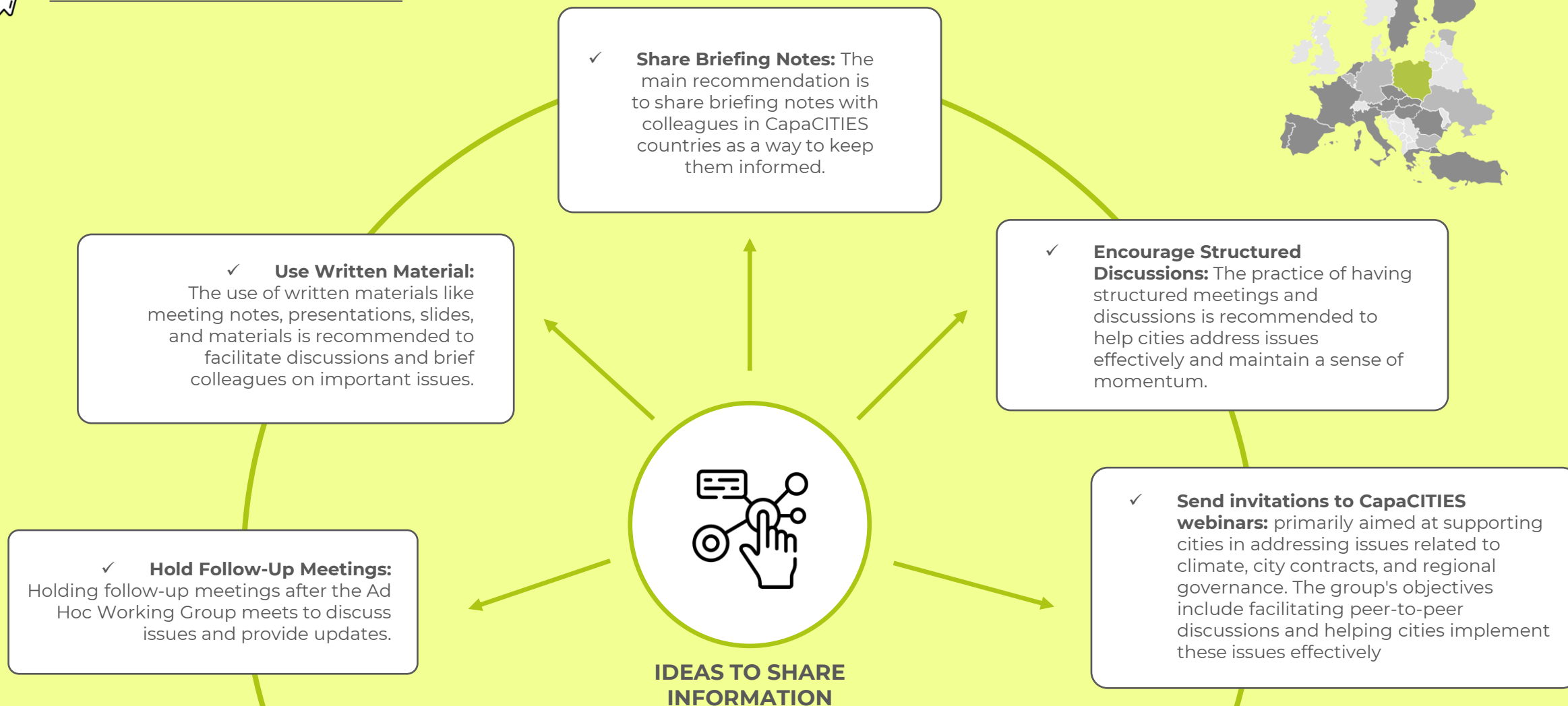


Multi-level governance and alignment

Main Working Principles:



[Click here to learn more!](#)



02

Capacity Building and Skills

1. Guidelines on communication and strategic planning
2. The Cities Mission: integration of existing projects and resources
3. National and international training events
4. Capacity building materials for better knowledge management and exchange between different governance levels and projects
5. Overcoming bottlenecks during implementation
6. Governance models in different countries

➔ Lessons Learned

★ 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- Need for clear, understandable, and accessible guidelines
- Balancing economic growth and climate action and taking diverse economic conditions into account
- 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.”


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Toolkit for integrated urban transformation

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
“Possible Cities” – Integrated Toolkit for Climate Neutrality	Romania	2025	Download handbook

Possible Cities – Integrated Toolkit for Climate Neutrality is an extensive resource published in 2025 that supports cities and urban practitioners in planning, implementing, and monitoring climate-neutral strategies. Designed as a practical, modular toolkit, it offers guidance across key thematic areas that are essential to integrated urban transformation. These include the built environment, energy systems, mobility, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, waste management and circular economy, urban planning, digitisation and urban data, administrative instruments, and participatory governance.


The toolkit combines conceptual frameworks with actionable insights and real good practice examples drawn from European city experiences, helping local authorities and stakeholders translate ambition into context-specific action. Supplemented by a glossary of terms and biographies of contributing experts, the resource serves both as a reference and a learning guide. By bringing together diverse thematic lenses within a single integrated framework, *Possible Cities* enhances capacities for holistic climate neutrality planning and fosters knowledge exchange across cities and sectors.

Key Features and *Formats*:

- ✓ Comprehensive toolkit
- ✓ Thematic modules
- ✓ Practical guidance
- ✓ Good practices
- ✓ Glossary

Fitting learning format

Learning Guide (Curriculum)

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
“Continuous Professional Development” Curriculum for Climate-Neutral Cities	Romania	2025	Download document

The *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Curriculum for Climate-Neutral Cities* is a structured learning guide designed to strengthen the role of architects and urban professionals in advancing climate neutrality in Romanian cities. Released in 2025, the curriculum responds to current urban, environmental, and policy challenges, aligning professional education with national and European climate objectives.

The guide/curriculum is organised around six thematic modules covering sustainable mobility and urban transport, the built environment and climate-responsive architecture, energy systems and renewable integration, nature-based solutions and green infrastructure, circular economy and zero-waste strategies, and policy, governance, and community development. Each module combines theoretical foundations with applied knowledge, highlighting their relevance within the Romanian context.

Key Features and *Formats*:

- ✓ Professional training curriculum
- ✓ Modular structure
- ✓ Blended learning framework
- ✓ Policy-oriented content
- ✓ Evaluation and impact framework

2.2 The Cities Mission: integration of existing projects and resources

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.

Hashtags:

#ResourceEfficiency

#KnowledgeLeverage

#ResourceConsolidation

#CrossSectoralCollaboration

#ResourceCoordination

Key Challenges:

- Integrating existing climate-related projects and resources to avoid duplication of efforts
- Improved coordination and alignment with the goals of the EU Cities Mission
- Leveraging knowledge and experience

”


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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

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 Website


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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning various urban stakeholders
- ✓ Knowledge sharing (local governance models, tools, and policy briefs)

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Pilot Project Portfolios	Slovakia		n/a

The Union of Slovak Cities (ÚMS), a member of the CapaCITIES project, focuses on practical approaches to the climate agenda, supporting activities cities can realistically address. ÚMS has developed a portfolio of pilot projects in energy community establishment, building renovation, transportation, and resident communication and collaboration. This portfolio approach facilitates experience sharing within the country and provides an overview of activities, enabling a holistic approach for continuous learning between projects. Constantly monitoring and adjusting the portfolio to meet city needs is crucial, ensuring it contains relevant activities and support for their implementation.

One advantage of this approach is its flexibility; it allows for adjustments based on ongoing and completed project outcomes. However, a significant challenge is the lack of resources for pilots to address numerous queries about solutions and the limited capacity among other cities to implement these new concepts. This means the portfolio must be complemented by other supporting instruments to create a substantial and lasting impact. Despite these challenges, the transformative portfolio approach of ÚMS represents a robust framework for fostering climate action, enhancing the capacity of cities to address climate issues, and promoting sustainable development across Slovak cities.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Focusing on practical approaches and drawing on portfolio of pilot projects
- ✓ Enabling a holistic approach for continuous learning between projects

National funding programme

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	Click here to learn more
Decarbonized Cities Finland	Finland	2023	Decarbonized Cities

The *Decarbonized Cities Program* supports developing competitive Finnish solutions to cities' carbon neutrality challenges in Finland and abroad. Launched in 2023, by Business Finland and Team Finland, the program targets Finnish start-ups, SMEs, large companies, research institutes, universities, public administration bodies, and international financiers. It has initiated international cooperation with cities like Madrid, Los Angeles, Singapore, and several Swedish cities.


Supported by Business Finland, a public-sector operator and part of the Team Finland network and Team Finland, the program leverages existing incubators often owned by municipalities and local universities, key players in climate mitigation. It also collaborates with national platforms like Viable Cities to expand internationally. One challenge is the potential bias towards technology push in promoting SMEs, which can be mitigated by combining with other instruments like cross-border innovation and system demonstrators. This approach may be more feasible in smaller countries with a homogeneous business structure focused on export.

The Decarbonized Cities program offers a variety of services that support the program's objectives to the actors involved. Some of the services are only aimed at companies that meet Business Finland's customer relationship criteria.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ National funding for private sector and research
- ✓ Growth services
- ✓ Events & workshops
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Peer support & cooperation

Tailored activities for municipalities

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
M100 Platform	Romania	2025	Project 'Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities: Planning, Piloting, Inspiring'

The *Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities: Planning, Piloting, Inspiring* project was the second initiative developed under the M100 National Hub and was implemented between July 2024 and April 2025. The project focused on strengthening the capacity of the three Romanian cities selected for the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030": Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest – District 2, and Suceava.

The initiative supported these municipalities through tailored activities aligned with their local climate action plans, combining strategic planning, piloting, and inspiration. A core component was mutual learning and knowledge exchange with partner cities in Norway and Iceland—Oslo, Reykjavík, Trondheim, and Stavanger—through study visits, workshops, and expert collaboration.


Activities ranged from new university programmes on climate resilience, urban labs, ideathons, and public policy labs, to administrative capacity-building workshops, design competitions, IT development programmes, and the creation of net-zero dashboards. The project also included communication and awareness campaigns targeting citizens, using creative formats such as podcasts and urban festivals. Supported by EEA and Norway Grants, the initiative contributed to stronger governance capacities, innovation, and data-driven approaches for advancing climate neutrality in Romanian cities.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Capacity-building programme
- ✓ International exchanges
- ✓ Urban labs, ideathons, workshops, policy labs
- ✓ University programmes
- ✓ Design competitions
- ✓ IT tools
- ✓ Awareness campaigns

Learning format

EU Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
The New European Bauhaus (NEB)	EU	2024	NEB_About the Initiative New European Bauhaus Festival

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a think-do tank. A design lab, accelerator and network at the same time. A creative and interdisciplinary movement, convening a space of encounter to recuperate and revisit sustainable practices from, empower the most inspiring practices of today, and design future ways of living, at the crossroads between art, culture and science.

In its dissemination phase, the New European Bauhaus will focus on diffusing good ideas and concepts to a broader audience, not only in Europe but also beyond. This will be about networking and sharing knowledge between practitioners on the best available methods, solutions and prototypes. We want to help all frontrunners to replicate their experiences across cities, rural areas and localities and to inspire a new generation of architects and designers. Also, the initiative will support the emergence of lead markets for new ways of living in buildings that are in harmony with the natural environment and the climate.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Interdisciplinary approach to knowledge production and dissemination
- ✓ Emphasis on empowerment and practical collaboration
- ✓ Forward-thinking, future-oriented perspective



2.3 National and international 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- Accessible training events, including webinars can improve knowledge transfer
- Online formats to enable global collaboration and deeper understanding without the need for travelling
- Making a cross-sectoral exchange possible through national and international training events

”


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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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


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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Integrated climate action, resilience, and adaptation
- ✓ Promotion of biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- ✓ Deployment of smart city technologies
- ✓ Sustainable finance and investment
- ✓ Development of Climate-Neutrality Action Plans

Cities as platforms for innovation ecosystems

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

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, supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ 16 “ecosystem agreements” for cities acting as platforms for competence and research, development and innovation activities, as well as investments
- ✓ Strengthen innovation ecosystems (the development of innovation activities based on collaborative networks)

2.4 Capacity building materials and knowledge management and exchange

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.

Hashtags:

#CapacityBuilding	#MultiLingualLearning
#CapacityMaterial	#StakeholderEngagement
#KnowledgeExchange	#InnovationTools
#Guidelines	#Collaboration

Key Challenges:

- Capacity building and knowledge management for successful mission implementation
- Sharing information and facilitating effective knowledge exchange between cities and projects for successful utilization of resources
- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

02

Capacity Building
and Skills

Fitting learning format

Webinar: Climate City Contract

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES "Capacity-building session" series	EU level	2023	Webinar: Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process

This marked the first capacity-building session of the 15 core countries on: "Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process – Deep dive into the 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 [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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Background information on the CCCs as a governance innovation tool
- ✓ Resources for the CCCs
- ✓ Focus on Action and Investment Plans (financial planning and operational delivery)
- ✓ Learning from NZC Portal knowledge repository

Fitting learning format

Technical Manual

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Manual of designing transformative conversations	Spain	2020	Manual [Spanish]


The *Manual of designing transformative conversations* (has been developed by the integration team of the Centre for Innovation in Technology for Human Development of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (itdUPM) based on its experience in the design and production of virtual dialogues (in the framework of The Day After) and face-to-face dialogues (improbable dialogues, co-creation workshops, international conferences, UPM seminars). It is intended as a guide to facilitate the organisation of events of different formats and purposes, with the aim of having dialogical and transformative conversations. This manual is accompanied by a set of tools to manage, organise and communicate events in an efficient and orderly way. They can all be freely customised to the specifics of each session. The handbook aims to promote dialogic conversations¹ between a variety of actors, sectors and disciplines, between science and decision-makers, with the aim of achieving listening, understanding and consensus that will have a positive impact on public policy, citizenship and the common good. For all these reasons, the handbook focuses on the design of the context, on the care of spaces and language.

National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Centre for Innovation in Technology for Human Development of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (itdUPM), EL DÍA DESPUÉS SERÁ

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Handbook for dialogue and conversations with practical tips and examples
- ✓ Tools for efficient administration, organisation and communication of events

Real-Life Experiment

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
System Demonstrator Program	Sweden	2024	Systemdemonstrator

The System Demonstrator Program, supported by Viable Cities, Vinnova, and the Swedish Energy Agency, funds initiatives in Lund and Stockholm to address climate challenges in mobility and energy through a system-oriented approach. These cities form consortia in a quadruple helix model to implement scalable, radical measures with the potential to create a "new normal" in the transition to climate neutrality. The program aims to build a portfolio of actions, engage key actors, and plan for broader adoption and impact.


System demonstrators pave the way for large-scale transformation of systems and communities by illustrating in practice how a neighborhood or area can look, feel and function differently. A System Demonstrator is a **real-world demonstration** and transformation project **that simultaneously changes several structural dimensions** within a defined geographical or functional system in order to **demonstrate the feasibility** and scalability of systemic transformation (e.g. climate neutrality).

With an investment of approximately 1.9 million EUR per city, the System Demonstrator Program supports various funding agencies in different contexts, fostering a community of actors working on extendable projects. Cities must contribute their own resources, enhancing the sustainability of chosen measures. The program, akin to EIT Climate KIC's Deep Demonstration, also aids cities in developing digital competence through collaboration with the Urban Twin Transition Center, although this advanced support is resource-intensive.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Four-step model: mission, mapping, barriers, measures

Visual insights

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Visual insights of the „Austrian Dialogforum” and Austrian pioneer cities	Austria	2025	Insights to go (postcards) of Dialogforum 2025 [German] Infographics and graphic targets of pioneer cities [German]

The Austrian Dialogue Forum (see more in section 1.4.) brought together 47 pioneer cities to share experiences, strategies, and lessons for achieving climate neutrality by 2040. The initiative produced **postcards, graphic recordings, and other visual materials** that capture city visions, ongoing projects, and "learnings to go" (e.g. outcomes) from the event.

The Austrian mission "Climate-neutral City" has produced a set of infographics, called "target images" that illustrate objectives for future climate-neutral urban development. These visual materials highlight how the pioneer cities are reshaping their urban futures, with renewable energy systems, expanded green spaces, climate-friendly mobility, circular-economy practices, and improved quality of life. The target images developed by the ten largest pioneer cities (including Vienna, Graz, and Innsbruck) depict cities that combine renewable energy, sustainable transport, resilient infrastructure, and liveable neighbourhoods as core elements of climate neutrality.

The visual outputs make complex data accessible, highlight successes, and illustrate pathways for sustainable urban transformation. They serve as practical tools for **knowledge exchange**, stakeholder engagement, and inspiration for other cities seeking to implement climate-neutral strategies. Also, they are a practical tool for communications and distribution, spreading the main messages of the Mission.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Postcards and graphic recordings capturing city visions
- ✓ Infographics highlighting project outcomes and progress
- ✓ Visual representation of climate-friendly mobility and renewable energy
- ✓ Documentation of best practices across 47 Austrian pioneer cities
- ✓ Tools for stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing
- ✓ Accessible, illustrative materials for inspiration and policy guidance

Strategic guidance for smaller municipalities

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
M100 Platform project	Romania	2025	Project 'Towards Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities through Mutual Learning, Engagement and Capacity-Building'

The project *Towards Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities through Mutual Learning, Engagement and Capacity-Building* was the first flagship initiative of the M100 National Hub, inspired by the EU Mission to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. Implemented between April 2024 and April 2025, the project supported small and medium-sized Romanian cities that were not part of the EU Mission, helping them advance their transition toward climate neutrality.


Following an open call, ten cities were selected by an international jury to receive tailored technical assistance, training, and strategic guidance. The project addressed common challenges faced by smaller municipalities—such as limited financial resources and insufficient experience with emissions monitoring—through targeted capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.

The initiative also strengthened mutual learning by facilitating exchanges with cities and experts from Norway and Iceland, including workshops, study visits, and best-practice sharing. Through coaching sessions and dedicated resources, participating cities developed climate action and investment plans, contributing to stronger local governance capacities and long-term climate action pathways.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Capacity-building programme
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Coaching sessions
- ✓ Mutual learning exchanges
- ✓ Study visits
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Awareness-raising campaigns

Resources

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
M100 Resource Library	Romania	2025	Resource Library

The M100 Resource Library is an ongoing, curated knowledge hub that supports cities and stakeholders working toward climate-neutral and sustainable urban development. Released in 2025 and continuously updated, the library brings together handbooks, reports, research papers, and practical tools developed by a wide range of organisations, programmes, and initiatives at national and European level.

The resources focus on advancing climate neutrality in cities and exploring innovative approaches to urban transformation, including governance models, financing mechanisms, technical solutions, and participatory processes. Designed to support municipal representatives, practitioners, civil society actors, and other urban stakeholders, the library facilitates access to relevant, high-quality knowledge.

The Resource Library also functions as a collaborative space within the M100 Community of Practice, encouraging contributions from partners and experts to ensure shared learning, knowledge exchange, and continuous improvement of urban climate action.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Curated knowledge hub
- ✓ Handbooks, reports, research papers
- ✓ external resources, open contributions

2.5 Overcoming bottlenecks during 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 subcategory will gain visibility throughout the CapaCITIES project and beyond; therefore, this subcategory 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 subcategories will be updated depending on the new solutions countries come with throughout their experience of implementation.

Hashtags:

#Bottlenecks

#Obstacles

#ImplementationChallenges

#ImplementationSolutions

#KnowledgeSharing

Key Challenges:

- Various bottlenecks and obstacles depending on changes in national contexts. What worked for a given country at one point in time might not work for it again.
- Dynamic knowledge material, 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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

Key Features and *Formats*:

IN PROGRESS

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

Key Features and *Formats*:

IN PROGRESS

2.6 Governance models examples

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.

Hashtags:

#GovernanceModels

#ModelsOfGovernance

#GovernanceKnowledgeExchange

Key Challenges:

- Necessity of Alignment with EU Mission Objectives.
- Inclusive dialogue for local-national knowledge exchange.
- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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

Key Features and *Formats*:

IN PROGRESS

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

Key Features and *Formats*:

IN PROGRESS

Capacity Building and Skills Lessons Learned

→ Key take-aways:

Guidelines on communication and strategic planning: should offer clear and accessible information accompanied by practical tools that support structured activities

The Cities Mission: integration of existing projects and resources: consolidation of efforts provides countries with a comprehensive overview of existing climate-related projects and resources, allowing for better coordination and avoiding duplication of efforts

National and international training events: knowledge transfer and exchange online fosters global collaboration and deeper understanding without the need for travelling

Capacity building materials for better knowledge management and exchange between different governance levels and projects: foster a community of actors working on relevant projects

Overcoming bottlenecks during implementation: tbc

Governance models in different countries: tbc

IN PROGRESS



Capacity Building and Skills Deep Dive Example

NATIONAL PLATFORM SUPPORT IN CHALLENGING POLITICAL CONTEXTS

In contexts where national political leadership is not supportive of the Mission Cities agenda, the role of the national platform shifts from policy alignment to **capacity building, safeguarding continuity, and strengthening city-led momentum.**

The objective is to provide a **structured space** where Mission Cities can coordinate, exchange knowledge, and collectively navigate governance, financing, and regulatory barriers, even when formal national endorsement is limited or inconsistent. This could be a Working Group which functions as a stability mechanism, ensuring that progress toward climate neutrality continues through technical cooperation, peer learning, and engagement with non-governmental stakeholders. Transnational cooperation with platforms from other European countries also proved historically effective.

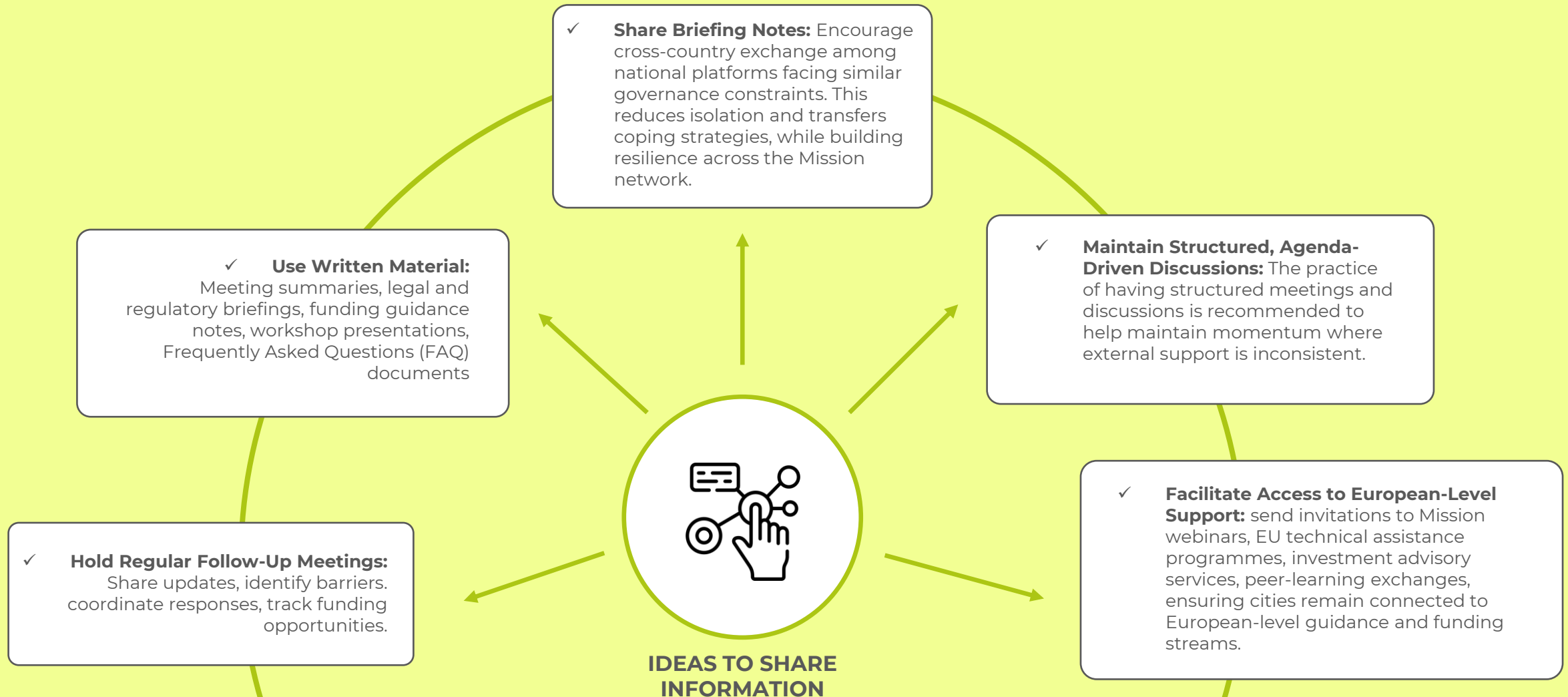
HOW TO...

Form an Ad Hoc Expert & City Coordination Group:

- ✓ **Create a Core Expert Group:** a small, but technically strong group can consist of climate and energy experts, legal and governance specialists, EU funding experts, city contract advisors, representatives of Mission Cities.
- ✓ **Encourage Structured Peer Exchanges:** Organize regular city-only coordination calls, share templates for Climate City Contracts, exchange solutions to administrative or regulatory barriers and develop joint position papers when needed.
- ✓ **Organize Technical Workshops** focusing on EU funding, climate investment strategies, public procurement, data and monitoring systems.
- ✓ **Emphasize Preparedness and Strategic Communication:** Prepare clear, evidence-based briefing notes, align communication with EU frameworks and funding priorities, avoid confrontational narratives

Capacity Building and Skills

Main Working Principles:



03

Financing and Funding

1. EU Funding mechanisms
2. Pre-Accession Assistance: roadmap and guidelines
3. Flexible funding instruments and joint programs
4. Approaches to Funding

➔ Lessons Learned

★ 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- Consideration of associated countries' positions in funding allocation.
- Establishment of clear guidelines for funding access for EU associated countries.
- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

03

Financing and
Funding

Webinar: Funding and financing

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES "Capacity-building session" series	EU level	2023	Webinar: Funding and financing for climate neutral cities . How can the national level support cities?


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 are addressed in the CapaCITIES webinar, of the 15 core countries. The basics of climate investment planning at the local level are explained, as well as a presentation of 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Consider mixing traditional and innovative funding sources
- ✓ Systematic and strategic financial planning vs. project-based fundraising
- ✓ Cross-country exchange of good practices

Funding Mechanism

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
KLIEN: Climate Neutrality Roadmaps in Small Austrian Cities	Austria	2022	Website of KLIEN

The Austrian Climate and Energy Fund (KLIEN) established a dedicated funding mechanism to support smaller cities (10,000–50,000 inhabitants) in developing climate neutrality roadmaps as part of the national Mission "Climate Neutral City." A total of 38 smaller cities received funding to create scientifically grounded transition plans, including greenhouse gas inventories, sectoral mitigation strategies, and implementation pathways. The initiative aims to strengthen institutional capacity and enable smaller municipalities to actively contribute to Austria's national and EU climate neutrality targets. In addition to financial support, cities benefit from technical guidance, methodological frameworks, and integration into national innovation and governance networks. These roadmaps serve as strategic instruments for long-term climate investment planning and implementation.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Dedicated funding
- ✓ Financial and technical support for climate neutrality roadmaps
- ✓ Development of GHG inventories and sector-specific transition strategies
- ✓ Integration into Austria's national Mission "Climate Neutral City" framework
- ✓ Strategic basis for long-term climate investments and implementation

3.2 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.

Hashtags:

#Funding

#FinancialInstruments

#Financing

#FinancialGuidance

#Pre-Accession

#AlternativeFundingMechanisms

Key Challenges:

- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

03

Financing and
Funding

Fitting learning format

Webinar: Climate City Contract

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES "Capacity-building session" series	EU level	2023	Webinar: Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process

This marked the first capacity-building session of the 15 core countries on: "Mission Cities Climate City Contract's process – Deep dive into the 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 [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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Background information on the CCCs as a governance innovation tool
- ✓ Resources for the CCCs
- ✓ Focus on Action and Investment Plans (financial planning and operational delivery)
- ✓ Learning from NZC Portal knowledge repository

Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

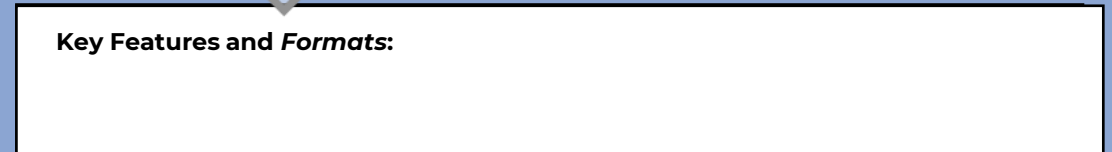
About the material:



National partners supporting the Cities Mission:



Key Features and Formats:



3.3 Flexible 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.

Hashtags:

#Funding #StreamlinesProcurement
#Flexibility #AdaptableApproaches
#FundingInstruments

Key Challenges:

- 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.

”

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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

03

Financing and
Funding

Structural funding

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Fit4UrbanMission	Austria	2022	FIT4Urban Mission City of the Future EU mission "100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030"

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 Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)*.

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 (BMIMI).

*former Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK.)

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Joint learning on developed strategies, structural and capacity concepts
- ✓ Transfer of knowledge and exchange
- ✓ Co-design of the next funding phase

Strategic innovation programme

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Viable Cities	Sweden	2017	Website The Viable Cities Transition Lab European Viable Cities Day 2025 among other material on their YouTube Channel

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

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Develop synergies with existing and planned activities and processes
- ✓ Collaboration between public sector, civil society, academia and business
- ✓ A catalyst for new forms of cooperation

3.4 Approaches to funding

The challenge addressed here concerns countries and their municipalities operating in contexts where access to funding is structurally or politically constrained. In some cases, national priorities may not fully align with the Mission Cities objectives, resulting in limited strategic guidance, fragmented financial frameworks, or reduced coordination between levels of government. This creates additional complexity for cities striving to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

Hashtags:

#Funding #FinancialInstruments
 #Financing #FinancialGuidance
 #Pre-Accession #AlternativeFundingMechanisms

Key Challenges:

- Limited alignment between national funding programmes and local climate objectives
- Insufficient technical support to structure bankable climate investments
- Administrative barriers accessing EU and international funding mechanisms
- A lack of national co-financing instruments to complement European funds
- Reduced policy coherence between national legislation and local climate ambitions

”

TBC


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

#Funding #StreamlinesProcurement
 #Flexibility #AdaptableApproaches
 #FundingInstruments

03

Financing and
Funding

Business cases for private investment

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Dutch 100CNSC Cities Pilot	Netherlands	2025	Netherlands Pilot Activities

“The main purpose of the pilot is to structure projects, so they are bankable, attract private capital, reduce risks, and become scalable.”



The *District Investment Platforms* are aiming to close the financial gap to invest into natural gas-free districts, in different neighbourhoods of the seven Dutch cities. With their respective business cases, the seven cities will jointly reach out to the unusual suspects of alternative funding to leverage investments from pension funds, insurance companies, etc.


The pilot will test how local public climate finance could maximise leverage from alternative/innovative financial sources to achieve natural gas-free districts in seven cities.

The result of this pilot is a district-based Investment Platform from multiple testing grounds and plurality of solutions, making possible the transferability of the platform. This helps cities to overcome structural barriers for mobilising private investments for climate change actions and helps align public and private investments. This creates an innovative way of working that advances systemic change.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Engaging citizens & public/private investors
- ✓ Financially restructure sectoral district level projects
- ✓ Removing barriers of innovative financing models

Model for collaboration

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
DK2020	Denmark	2024	DK2020: A model for multi-level cooperation CONCITO


DK2020 is a Danish collaborative climate initiative designed to support multi-level climate governance and local climate action across the whole of Denmark. It brings together nearly all Danish municipalities, national partners (Local Government Denmark and the five Danish regions), the philanthropic association Realdania, the global city network C40 Cities, and the Danish green think tank CONCITO.

The project helps municipalities to **develop ambitious climate action plans** aligned with the Paris Agreement and C40's Climate Action Planning Framework. Through coordinated technical assistance, peer-learning, and political commitment, DK2020 enables municipalities to commit to long-term greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience **targets**, share **best practices**, and build institutional **capacity** for climate planning. It has been extended into a broader structure called the **Climate Alliance** to support implementation and ongoing collaboration. National partners supporting the Cities Mission: Concito, Local Government Denmark (KL), The five Danish regions, Realdania, C40 Cities

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Involving all the relevant public organizations within the ministries
- ✓ Sharing experience, know-how and learnings via pilot cities experience in Cities' Network with other interested cities

Strengthening financial capacity

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Territorial Transition Clusters -	Albania	2026	n/a

Small and medium-sized cities often lack the financial scale, investment readiness and institutional capacity required to attract and deploy funding for Mission-oriented transitions. Individual municipalities frequently present projects that are too small, fragmented or insufficiently mature to meet the requirements of public funding programmes or private investors. This results in a persistent gap between policy ambition and financial feasibility, particularly in accession contexts such as Albania, but also across many European territories dominated by smaller urban centres.

Territorial Transition Clusters have emerged as a **financing-enabling mechanism** operating **at territorial scale**. By aggregating projects across multiple municipalities and sectors, cluster structure fragmented initiatives into coherent territorial investment portfolios. This portfolio-based approach increases scale, reduces risk and improves bankability, making it easier to mobilise public, private and blended finance. Clusters also strengthen investment readiness by providing coordination, technical support and strategic alignment, ensuring that projects are embedded within credible long-term transition pathways rather than standalone interventions.

Importantly, clusters function as financial bridging mechanisms between local transition needs and funding sources. They enable project bundling, pipeline development and coordinated investment planning, allowing smaller municipalities to collectively reach the scale and credibility required by investors and funding institutions. By aligning territorial priorities with financing strategies, Territorial Transition Clusters improve access to capital, enhance financial predictability and support sustained investment flows.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Project bundling across municipalities
- ✓ Public-private co-investment frameworks
- ✓ Portfolio-based funding applications
- ✓ Territorial investment roadmaps

Financing and Funding Lessons Learned

→ Key take-aways:

EU Funding mechanisms: tbc

Pre-Accession Assistance roadmap and guidelines: tbc

Flexible funding instruments and joint programs: tbc

Approaches to Funding: tbc

IN PROGRESS



Capacity Building and Skills Deep Dive Example

PUBLIC PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP (PPP)

In Austria, the public-public partnership for the EU Cities Mission is a collaborative framework that brings together national ministries, federal agencies, regional governments, and municipal authorities to support cities in achieving climate neutrality by 2030. A key focus of this partnership is the **mobilization and coordination of public financing**, ensuring that federal and state funds are effectively aligned with city-level Climate City Contracts.

By pooling resources and providing guidance on funding mechanisms, the partnership enables pilot cities to implement projects in energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and urban resilience. It also supports technical assistance and capacity building to maximize the impact of public investments.

This coordinated financing approach not only accelerates the deployment of climate solutions but also ensures transparency, accountability, and scalability across Austria's participating cities.

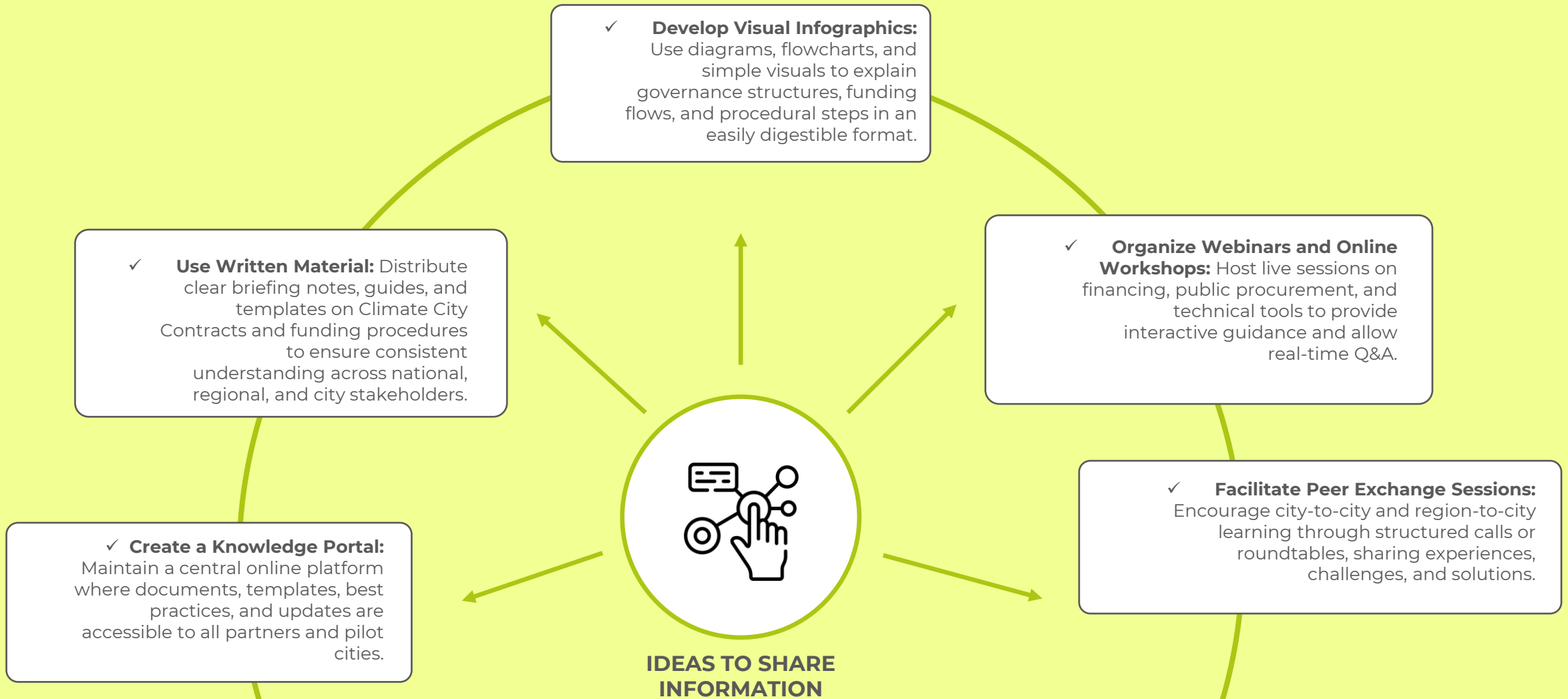
HOW TO...

Set up a Public-Public Partnership for Climate-Neutral Cities:

- ✓ **Establish a Core Coordination Team:** Include representatives from national ministries (climate, energy, urban development), federal agencies, regional governments, and pilot cities. Ensure technical expertise in climate policy, energy planning, financing, legal frameworks, and EU Missions governance.
- ✓ **Align Funding and Resource Allocation:** Map existing federal and state funding streams, define priorities for Climate City Contracts, and create mechanisms to channel resources efficiently to participating cities. Develop guidance for cities on applying for and combining public funds.
- ✓ **Facilitate Regular Multi-Level Exchanges:** Schedule periodic coordination meetings, workshops, and webinars to share best practices, harmonize administrative procedures, and discuss policy alignment. Include knowledge-sharing on financing models, investment strategies, and public procurement.

Capacity Building and Skills

Main Working Principles:



04

Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation

1. National Ecosystem Development
2. Public Engagement Approaches
3. Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement
4. Engaging Research and Innovation, Businesses
5. Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches of engagement!
6. In-person and Online: Co-creation and Collaboration Tools

➔ Lessons Learned

★ Deep Dive Example



"It is essential to care for synergies between local communities and large-scale EU projects!"

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.

Hashtags:

#NationalEcosystem

#StakheolderMapping

#EcosystemDevelopment

#CreativeApproaches

Key Challenges:

- 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 the 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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


The Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy (MEEN) and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (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); General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI); Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure; The Association of Greek Prefectures (EN.P.E).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Integrated climate action, resilience, and adaptation
- ✓ Promotion of biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- ✓ Deployment of smart city technologies
- ✓ Sustainable finance and investment
- ✓ Development of Climate-Neutrality Action Plans

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

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

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, supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ 16 "Ecosystem agreements" for cities acting as platforms for competence and research, development and innovation activities, as well as investments that are important for the future.
- ✓ Strengthen innovation ecosystems (the development of innovation activities based on collaborative networks).

Local Climate Agreement

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Hague Climate Agreement	Netherlands	2024	Hague Climate Agreement [Dutch]

The *Haags Klimaatakkoord* is a local climate agreement by the municipality of The Hague aimed at significantly reducing CO₂ emissions and making the city healthier and greener for the future. It was signed on 10 April 2024 and brings together over 100 residents, businesses, the municipality, and organisations in cooperation on practical climate actions.

The agreement currently **contains 44 climate deals** on topics such as the transition from natural gas to renewable energy, clean mobility, circular economy, climate-resilient urban living, and The Hague's role as an international city of peace, justice, and climate action.

It emphasizes **collaboration across sectors** to accelerate innovation, scale sustainable solutions, and involve citizens directly in the energy transition. The agreement also supports knowledge exchange, subsidies, and tailored measures to improve effectiveness and inclusivity.


More than 120 parties participate, working together to prepare the city for climate change and contribute to broader climate goals.

Overall, the Hague Climate Agreement serves as a strategic roadmap to reduce emissions, enhance climate resilience, and ensure a healthy, sustainable urban future.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Multi-stakeholder climate agreement
- ✓ Sector-based structure (f.e. energy, mobility, circular economy)
- ✓ Public-private-civil society collaboration
- ✓ Bottom-up participation and co-creation
- ✓ Networking platform
- ✓ Action-oriented

Urban Sustainability Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Climate Mission for Eindhoven and Helmond	Netherlands	2023	KNAPHE

The *Climate Mission for Eindhoven and Helmond* is a joint urban sustainability initiative in the Netherlands that aims to accelerate the transition toward fossil-free, circular, and climate-resilient cities by 2030. It emerged in 2023, when both cities structured their climate ambitions into **clearly defined mission pathways** supported by experimentation, pilot projects, and stakeholder engagement.


It brings together local governments, companies, research institutions, organisations, and residents to **define shared city themes** and **mission pathways** that address climate neutrality, circular economy, sustainable mobility, green public space, and energy efficiency, among other goals. Through a network of projects and commitments, partners work on concrete actions such as raw-materials recycling, circular construction, green infrastructure, and community engagement.

Overall, the *Climate Mission* serves as a governance and coordination framework that aligns local actions with European climate objectives, strengthens regional innovation capacity, and accelerates Eindhoven and Helmond's transition toward long-term climate neutrality and urban sustainability.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Structured mission pathways
- ✓ Pilot and demonstration projects
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder collaboration (cities, industry, academia, civil society)
- ✓ Public-private innovation partnerships
- ✓ Scalable and replicable solutions framework

Equity lense for climate planning frameworks

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Assessment tool: Climate equity	Denmark	2024	Methodology Paper

The *Copenhagen Climate Equity Assessment Tool* helps the city assess how climate actions affect different social groups. It supports decision-makers in identifying potential unequal impacts and in avoiding measures that place a disproportionate burden on vulnerable populations. The (Excel-)tool combines existing strategies, demographic data and selected indicators to understand who benefits from climate actions and who might be negatively affected. The central focus of the tool is to promote equitable climate action by explicitly asking: “What does it mean for the people of Copenhagen to thrive?” It does this by combining local policies with data on social and wellbeing conditions.

It is applied during the planning and implementation of climate initiatives to ensure that equity is considered alongside emission reductions. As such, the tool provides a practical way to integrate social fairness into climate governance and supports more inclusive and balanced climate action at city level.

Overall, the tool provides a structured equity lens that can be used alongside climate planning frameworks. It enhances transparency, supports better decision-making, and helps ensure that climate initiatives benefit all residents and do not disproportionately burden already vulnerable groups.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Status mapping and needs assessment of groups that might be affected by climate policies
- ✓ Assessment template to evaluate individual climate actions



“The Assessment Tool combines local policies with data on social and wellbeing conditions.”

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.

Hashtags:

#PublicEngagement

#StakeholderEngagement

#EngagementApproaches

Key Challenges:

- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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


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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Large Network of Reference Cities
- ✓ Cross-Sectoral Governance Approach
- ✓ Bridges climate policy, governance and urban cultural transformation

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

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

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, supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ 16 “Ecosystem agreements” for cities acting as platforms for competence and research, development and innovation activities, as well as investments that are important for the future.
- ✓ Strengthen innovation ecosystems (the development of innovation activities based on collaborative networks).

4.3 Citizen / Stakeholder Engagement

Enhancing citizen stakeholder engagement is crucial for national-level support of European cities and regions in their green transition. Governments should prioritize transparent communication channels and incentivize community-driven sustainability projects to actively involve citizens in shaping and implementing environmentally conscious policies. In the following, a selection of projects that have already successfully strengthened citizen engagement.

Keywords:

#CitizenEngagement #StakeholderEngagement
#Engagement #OnlineCollaborationTools

Key Challenges:

- Limited Citizen Engagement in the Green Transition
- Insufficient Transparent Communication
- Weak Incentives for Community-Driven Action
- Bridging National and Local Levels
- Scaling Successful Engagement Models
- The overarching challenge is creating governance systems that move beyond consultation toward active co-creation, designing and implementing climate-neutral solutions.

”

Governments should prioritize transparent communication channels and incentivize community-driven sustainability projects to actively involve citizens.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

Learning format

Online Session

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CrAft at the 4th Public Participative and Deliberative Democracy Festival	EU level	2024	CrAft project background “Crafting Climate Neutral Cities with the Next Generation” - October 2024

“Crafting Climate Neutral Cities with the Next Generation” was an online session held at the 4th Public Participative and Deliberative Democracy Festival, on 20-21 October 2022. This session was organised by ELIA, a European network of higher arts education schools, to present nine urban sustainability projects that several groups of students are working on in different European cities.

This initiative is part of CrAft, a three-year project (2022-2025) financed by the European Union’s Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme. The project is a bridge between the EU Cities Mission, the NetZeroCities Platform and the New European Bauhaus. The project supports cities to not only become climate neutral, but—in the spirit of the New European Bauhaus—also inclusive, beautiful and sustainable. To achieve this, the project brings together key stakeholders such as policy makers, local and regional authorities and city developers with property owners and tenants, the cultural and creative sectors and higher arts education institutions to jointly shape the transition to climate neutrality.


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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Testing and implementing local governance models, tools and policy briefs
- ✓ Cooperating and aligning with various stakeholders such as civil society, the arts and cultural sectors, property owners and tenants, universities and citizens

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 Recordings of the annual meeting of Sustainable Cities Action (2023)

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: Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, CEREMA, Energy Cities Association, Île-de-France Region, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CSTB, Scientific and Technical Center for Building.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Developing a common vision of needs through formal dialogue spaces
- ✓ Capacity-building aspect: seminars for local authorities, researchers and industry
- ✓ Linking national actors (authorities, researchers, industry) with EC initiatives via proposal development for European work programs

4.4 Engaging Research and Innovation & Local Businesses and SMEs

Enhancing local businesses and SMEs engagement is helpful for national-level support of European cities and regions in their green transition. Governments incentivize community-driven sustainability projects to actively involve local businesses and SMEs in shaping and implementing environmentally conscious policies.

Hashtags:

#CitizenEngagement #StakeholderEngagement
 #Engagement #OnlineCollaborationTools
 #SMEs #PPP

Key Challenges:

- Limited Awareness and Strategic Alignment
- Financial and Capacity Constraints
- Complexity of Incentive Schemes
- Weak Integration into Policy Design
- Balancing Regulation and Incentives
- Scaling and Replicating Good Practices
- Creating an enabling ecosystem where local businesses and SMEs become partners in shaping and implementing policies and are supported by accessible incentives.


”

tbc

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

SMEs as co-creators for regional solutions

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Territorial Transition Clusters	Albania	2026	n/a

Territorial Transition Clusters are territorial-scale governance frameworks that align multiple municipalities, public authorities and economic actors around shared transition objectives. By integrating strategic vision, coordinated action and investment planning, they create a **structured environment for delivering Mission-oriented change beyond isolated projects** (see also 1.2.).


Within this architecture, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a central economic role. Rather than being treated as passive recipients of funding, SMEs are positioned as co-creators of territorial strategies, co-designers of practical solutions and implementers of mission-driven investments. Their participation ensures that transition priorities are grounded in real production systems, supply chains and local labour markets.

This strengthens the **feasibility of transition pathways** and accelerates innovation uptake, particularly in sectors such as energy, construction, mobility and circular economy services. SME engagement also improves **investment readiness**. By bundling SME-led projects into territorial portfolios, clusters **reduce fragmentation** and create bankable pipelines that attract public, private and blended finance. In contexts marked by low institutional trust or weak collaboration cultures, tangible SME-driven pilots provide visible proof of progress. Demonstration projects, joint ventures and local value-chain initiatives help build **credibility**, foster cross-sector cooperation and sustain long-term commitment. In this way, SMEs act not only as economic beneficiaries but as key agents anchoring Mission implementation in the real economy and reinforcing durable transition dynamics.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Territorial scale coordination across municipalities instead of single-city action
- ✓ Portfolio-based approach bundling projects into coherent transition pipelines
- ✓ Cross-sector alignment (energy, mobility, industry, skills, finance)
- ✓ SMEs as implementation agents & co-designers
- ✓ Shared technical support units for project development

Business models at municipal level

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Climate Neutral Cities Challenge 2025 Innovation Programme	Greece	2025	Climate Neutral Cities Challenge

The Climate Neutral Cities Challenge 2025 Innovation Programme, implemented by the General Secretariat for Spatial Planning and Urban Environment of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, fostered strong engagement and constructive dialogue among innovative teams, local authorities, and institutional stakeholders. Delivered within the framework of the Green City Hackathon, the Programme aimed to identify and promote **innovative, scalable solutions** that accelerate the **transition of six Greek cities**—Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani, and Trikala—towards climate neutrality by 2030. The initiative focused on **solutions combining environmental and social impact** with viable **business models applicable at the municipal level**.

Following a series of Open Info Days, 131 proposals were submitted by startups, SMEs, research laboratories, and students nationwide. A specialised evaluation committee shortlisted 40 high-potential solutions, of which 15 teams were awarded for excellence in innovation, technological maturity, environmental impact, and applicability. Awards were granted across key thematic areas, including energy efficiency, clean energy, sustainable mobility, waste management, and water management. The Programme also facilitated intensive **networking** and targeted one-to-one meetings between solution providers and municipal representatives. Overall, the Climate Neutral Cities Challenge reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to leveraging urban innovation and strengthening collaboration with the national innovation ecosystem to support the climate-neutral transition of Greek EU Mission Cities.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Solutions for a combination of environmental and social impacts
- ✓ Open Info Days
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Networking

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

Top-down initiatives, 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 approaches. 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, knowledge and information exchange, and decision-making processes that respect local autonomy while aligning with overarching climate-neutral objectives.

Hashtags:

#TopDownApproaches	#LocalCommunities
#BottomUpApproaches	#InformationExchange
#BottomUpEngagement	#LocalAutonomy
#BottomUpInitiatives	#CollaborationMechanisms

Key Challenges:

- 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.*

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

04

Engagement of Stakeholders and
Co-Creation

CapaCITIES Concept

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

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, Türkiye, Poland, France, Finland and 6 supporting countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Overcoming language barriers via operational support by climate experts
- ✓ Engaging local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels
- ✓ Bridging core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors

National Platform


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

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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Multi-stakeholder collaboration space
- ✓ Meeting, Training, and Implementation to support city transformation processes
- ✓ online "Climate Breakfasts", summer courses, workshops, and community events
- ✓ guidance and co-creation processes to design, draft and monitor CCCs with cities
- ✓ Networking and shared learning tools: community portal, knowledge repository, access to European Mission tools and examples

National Platform

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Climate mission Finland 2030 - Finnish Cities Mission Network	Finland	2022	Finnish Mission Cities Network


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), Mission Cities (Espoo, Helsinki, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Tampere, Turku) and Mission applicant cities (Vaasa, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Vantaa), Sitra (Finnish Innovation Fund); Kuntaliitto (Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities), DEMOS Helsinki.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Multi-governance level dialogue
- ✓ Peer-to-peer exchange
- ✓ Ministries have provided a supportive annex to Finnish Cities' Climate City Contracts.

Collaborative Initiative & National Platform

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

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, supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ 16 "Ecosystem agreements" for cities acting as platforms for competence and research, development and innovation activities, as well as investments that are important for the future.
- ✓ Strengthen innovation ecosystems (the development of innovation activities based on collaborative networks).

4.6 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.

Hashtags:

#CoCreation

#CollaborationTools

#Collaboration

#OnlineCollaborationTools

Key Challenges:

- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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

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Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Overcoming language barriers via operational support by climate experts
- ✓ Engaging local stakeholders at the national and subnational levels
- ✓ Bridging core countries and the broader transnational network of Ambassadors



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

Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation

Lessons Learned

→ Key take-aways:

National Ecosystem Development: The main recommendation is to establish a group of experts to assist cities in dealing with climate-related, city contract, and regional governance issues

Public Engagement Approaches: Encourage peer-to-peer discussions among cities to share knowledge and insights.

Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement: tbc.

Co-creation and Collaboration Tools On-site and Online: tbc.

Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches for engagement: tbc.

Citizen / Stakeholder Engagement: tbc



Engagement of Stakeholders and Co-Creation Deep Dive Example

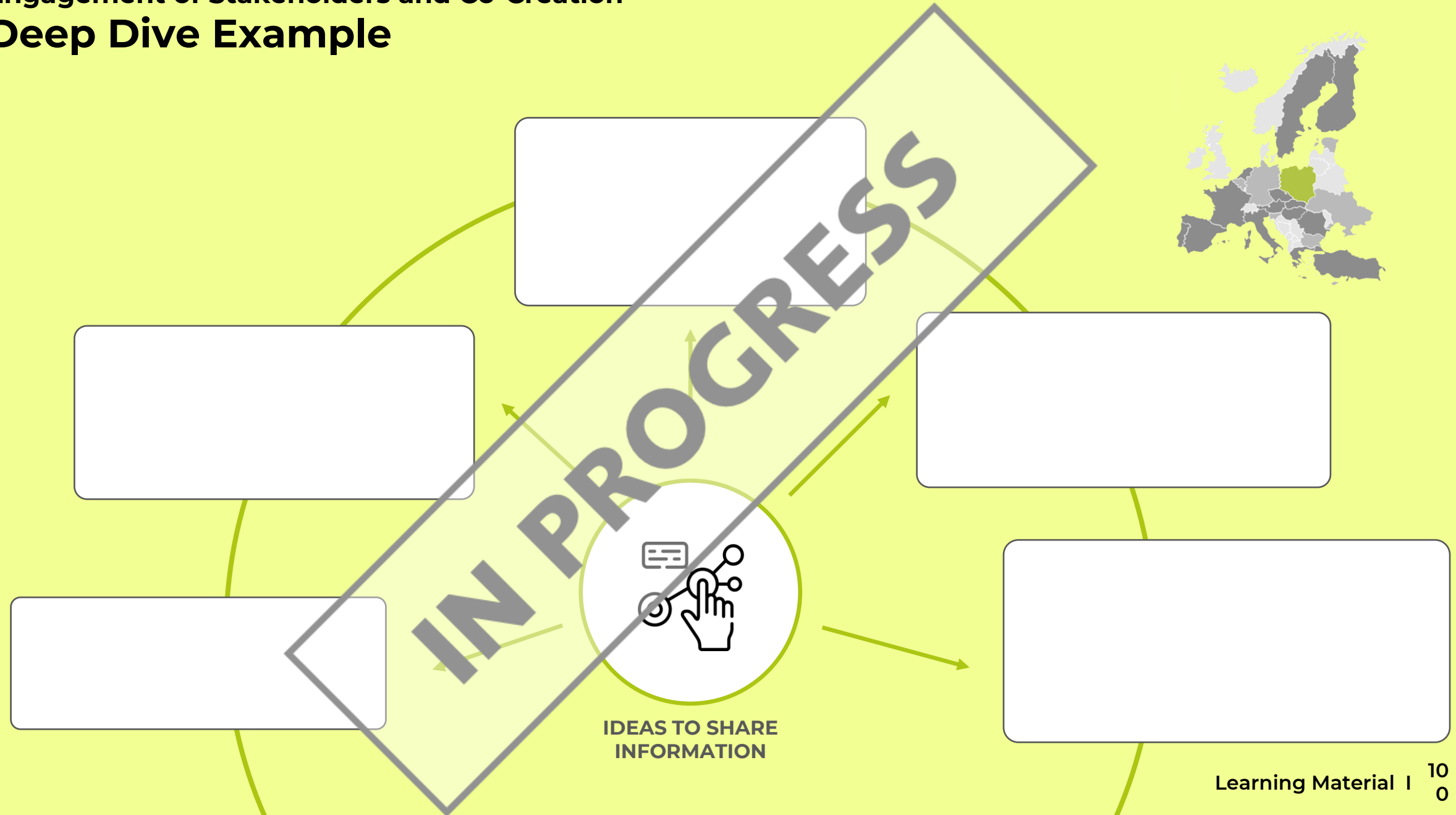
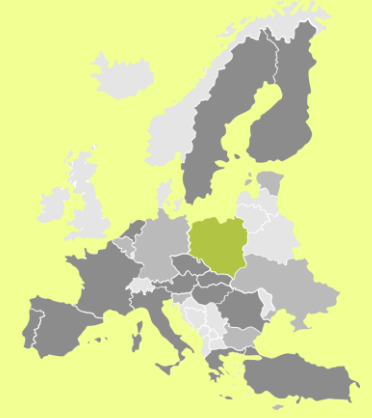
Title, Country

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. Facilitating implementation: optimization of administrative procedures

→ Lessons Learned

★ Deep Dive Example



“Is there any material you can recommend on Regulation and Legislation?”

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.

Hashtags:

#Regulations

#ExistingProjectsIntegration

#ClimateNeutralityRegulations

Key Challenges:

- Will follow

”

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

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner


IN PROGRESS

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

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

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.

Hashtags:

#ProceduresOptimization

#Implementation

#ImplementationOptimization

#ImplementationRegulations

#AdministrativeProcedures

Key Challenges:

”

Simplification of administrative procedures is necessary to facilitate implementation.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

IN PROGRESS

05

Regulation and Legislation

Regulation and Legislation Deep Dive Example

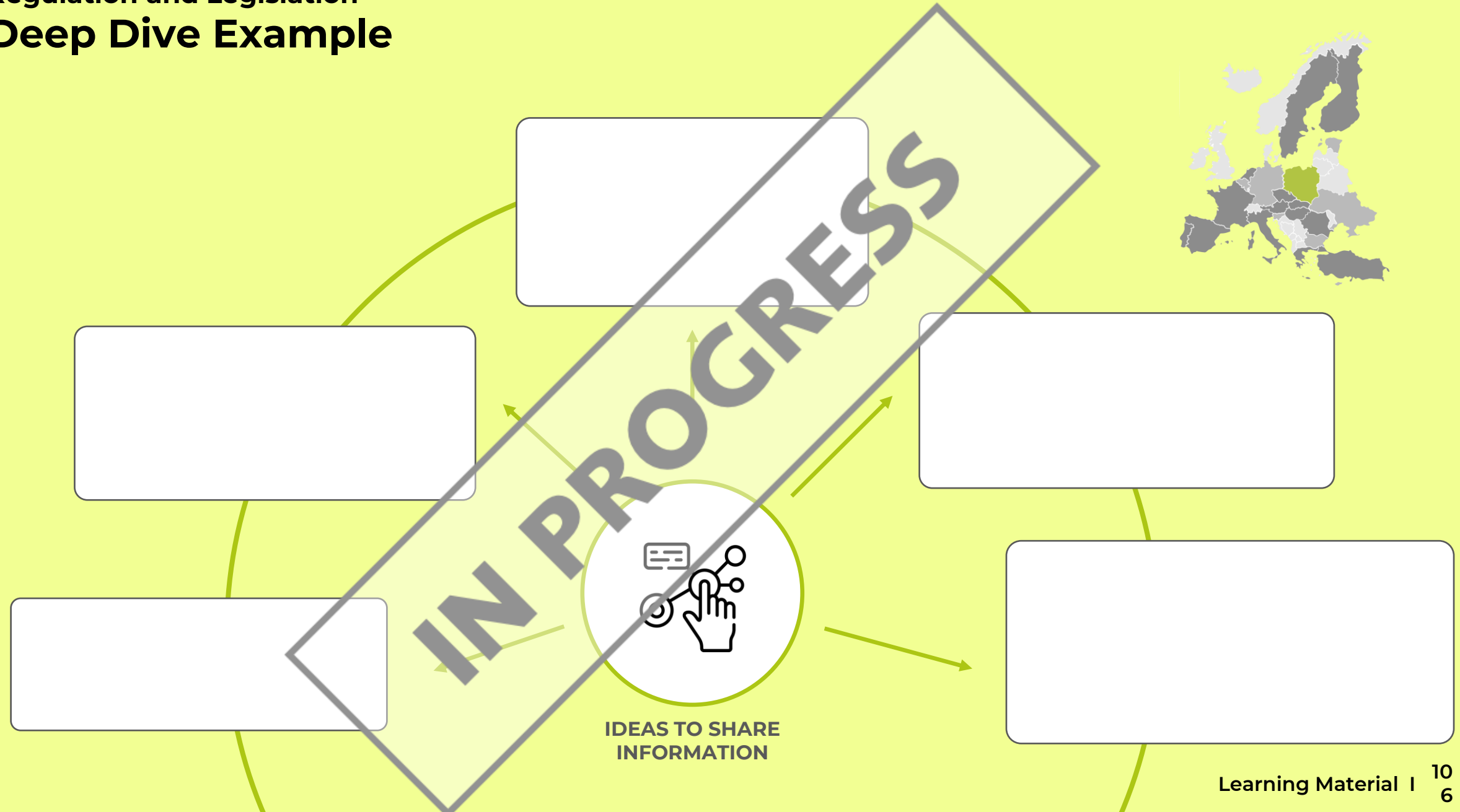
Title, Country

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

IN PROGRESS



Regulation and Legislation Deep Dive Example



Regulation and Legislation

Lessons Learned

→ Key take-aways:

Regulatory integration of existing projects on climate neutrality: The main recommendation is to establish a group of experts to assist cities in dealing with climate-related, city contract, and regional governance issues

Facilitating implementation: optimization of administrative procedures: Encourage peer-to-peer discussions among cities to share knowledge and insights.

Who does what? Announce the plan to host workshops, including one dedicated to involving regional governances, with the goal of discussing these issues further.



→ Key take-aways:

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.

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.




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
5. Training on greenhouse gas emissions accounting

→ Lessons Learned

★ Deep Dive Example



“An accessible learning tool for emissions accounting is what we are missing in our team!”

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.

Hashtags:

#ClimateAction

#MonitoringReporting

#GHGEmissions

#GHGProtocol

#EmissionsFrameworks

#MonitoringEmissions

Key Challenges:

- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

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


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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Collection of resources and explanations
- ✓ Case Studies

International Initiative

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Cities TCP (by International Energy Agency (IEA))	International (members as of 2024: AT, NL, NO)	N/A	Cities TCP

Cities TCP is a new IEA collaborative international cross-cutting initiative that helps cities speed up their decarbonisation efforts.

Recognising the importance of helping cities to speed up their decarbonisation efforts the International Energy Agency has established a new *Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) Cities*. This is an international cross-cutting initiative from the IEA family of technology programmes. It pools together all relevant information from the IEA cities-related Technology Collaboration Programmes and helps to reach out to the local level. The focus is on cities in transition, and several high priority tasks have been initiated.

The main benefits arising from participating in TCP Cities are those gained by national programmes, such as leverage of R&D resources, technology transfer, training and capacity building. Countries lacking knowledge can benefit from experiences of those with more expertise thereby avoiding duplication of research efforts.


Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Scientific and evidence-based information
- ✓ tools, and recommendations to support urban decarbonisation efforts
- ✓ international forum and communication channel

Learning and Decision-Support Tool

“The monitoring system is a follow-up to the DK2020 initiative, through which almost all municipalities adopted climate action plans”.



Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Monitoring Municipal Climate Action (former DK2020)	Denmark	2025	Concito Monitoring Report

Denmark has established a joint national monitoring system to track progress in municipal climate action. The system supports municipalities in moving from climate planning to concrete implementation. It is part of the follow-up to the DK2020 initiative, through which almost all Danish municipalities adopted ambitious climate action plans aligned with the Paris Agreement.

The monitoring system is designed as a **learning and decision-support tool**. It does not rank or control municipalities. Instead, it helps identify progress, challenges and support needs at both local and national level.

The system combines four core elements. First, it maps the content of all municipal climate action plans, including targets and planned measures. Second, it tracks the implementation status of climate initiatives through annual surveys of municipalities. Third, it uses transition indicators to assess structural change in key areas such as energy, transport and buildings, going beyond total greenhouse gas emissions alone. Fourth, it monitors cross-municipal projects and activities of the Climate Alliance.

In the first year, the focus was on building a solid data framework and establishing a baseline for future assessments. Over time, the system will allow trends to be identified and the impact of municipal action to be better understood. This joint monitoring approach reduces fragmentation, improves transparency and supports learning across municipalities. It also helps national actors target support more effectively and strengthen the overall framework for climate-neutral urban transitions.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Mapping the content of climate action plans (targets, measures)
- ✓ Tracking the implementations status through annual survey
- ✓ Transition indicators to assess structural change
- ✓ Monitors cross-municipal activities

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.

Hashtags:

#EmissionProfile

#GHGemissions

#EmissionNeeds

#EmissionChallenges

#MRVchallenges

Key Challenges:

- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Learning format

Webinar: GHG Emissions Data

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES “Capacity-building session” series	EU	2023	Webinar: GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting

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, Türkiye, 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: Türkiye; 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: Türkiye: 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Quantitative impact assessment
- ✓ Learn about reporting platforms and tools

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

IN PROGRESS

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.

Hashtags:

#SettingClimateGoals #ClimateTimeframes
#SettingClimateObjectives #ClimateGoalSetting

Key Challenges:

- 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.”

— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

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	Handbook

The *GreenClimateCities (GCC) Handbook* by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability provides a structured methodology to help local governments plan, implement, monitor, and scale **low-emission urban development strategies**. It guides cities through a complete **climate action cycle**—from assessing emissions and setting targets to implementing policies, financing projects, and monitoring results.


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.

The handbook emphasizes integrated governance, stakeholder engagement, and transparent measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) to ensure effective and credible climate action.

Key Features and Formats:

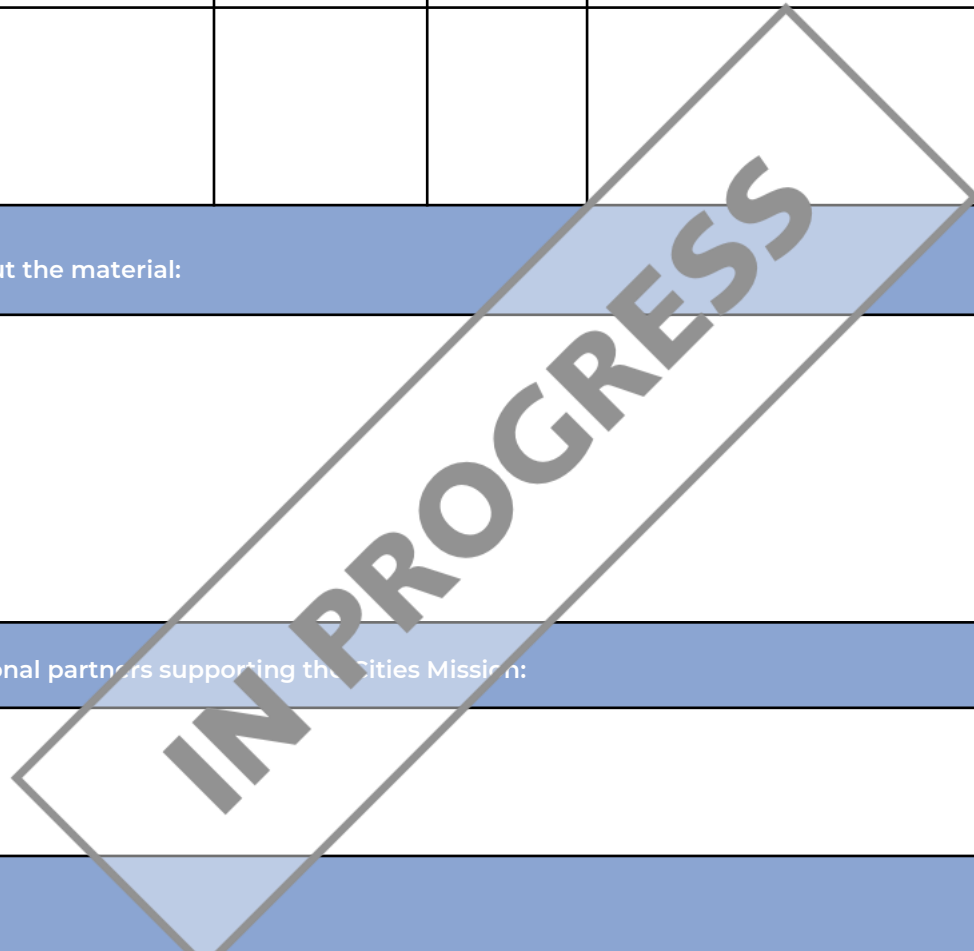
- ✓ Step-by-step methodology for cities to plan, implement, and scale low-emission urban development
- ✓ Three-phase action cycle: Organised into Analyze, Act, and Accelerate phases
- ✓ Includes tools, checklists, and defined outputs to support real-world implementation by local governments

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:



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.

Hashtags:

#Standardization

#ClimateActionAchievements

#Quantification

#MRVIndicators

Key Challenges:

- 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.

— Interview with a CapaCITIES 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.	Porto Energy Hub Repositório [Portugese]


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 the 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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Technical, financial and administrative support for energy efficiency projects
- ✓ Promotion of renewable energies and energy saving measures
- ✓ Support for building renovation (e.g. insulation, photovoltaics, efficient heating systems)

International Platform

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

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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ One-stop reporting
- ✓ Standardised platform to measure, report, benchmark, disclose, track, and improve climate actions.

6.5 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.

Hashtags:

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

Key Challenges:

- Good Practice examples and training courses are needed to enhance the capacity in emissions accounting and climate policy development
- Better knowledge exchange and information sharing are needed
- 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.


— Interview with a CapaCITIES partner

06

Engagement of Stakeholders
and Co-Creation

Learning format

Webinar: GHG Emissions Data

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
CapaCITIES "Capacity-building session" series	EU	2023	Webinar: GHG Emissions Data Monitoring and Reporting

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, Türkiye, 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: Türkiye; 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: Türkiye: The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change; France: Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, CEREMA, Energy Cities Association, Île-de-France Region, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CSTB, Scientific and Technical Centre for Building.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Quantitative impact assessment
- ✓ Learn about reporting platforms and tools

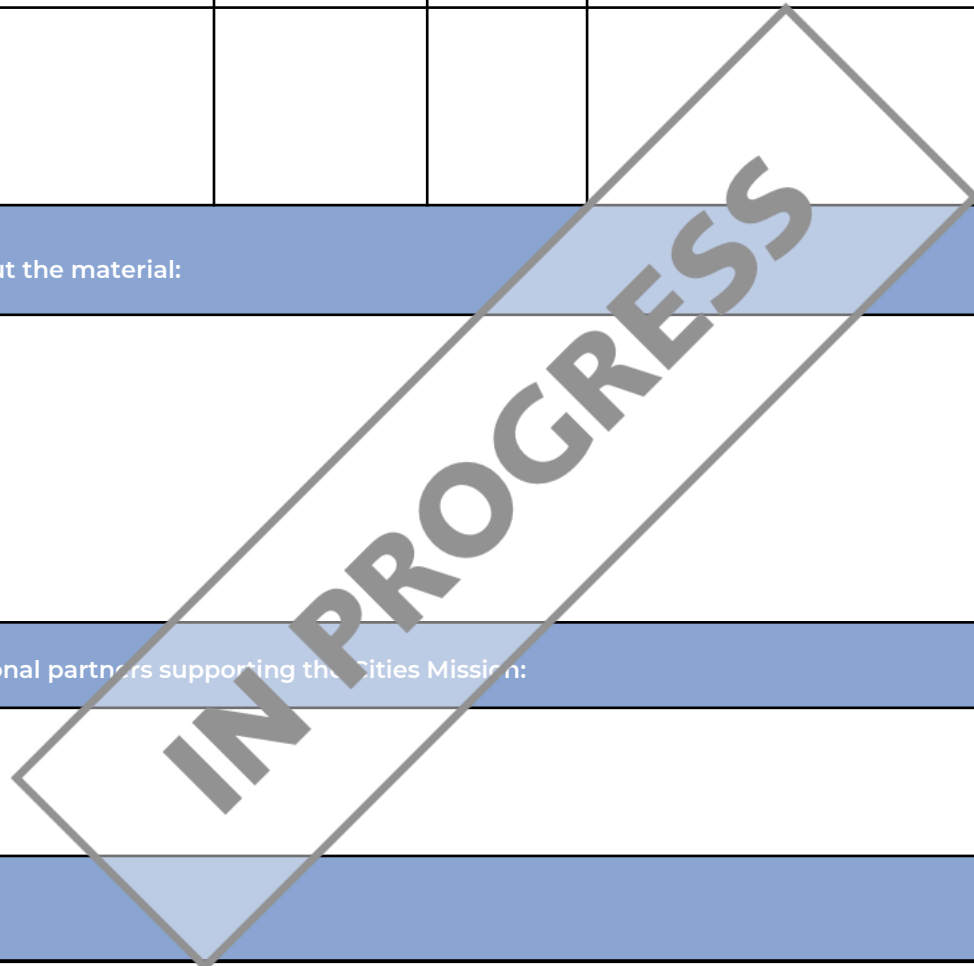
Learning format

Type of learning format


Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:



Energy Community

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Energy Community Model (ENEA)	Italy	N/A	ENEA Website RECON - Tool for the Economic Evaluation of Renewable Energy Communities [Italian] *See: 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”.*

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 behaviour. 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Multi-energy approach
- ✓ Data-driven monitoring and optimisation
- ✓ Decentralised renewable energy and energy communities
- ✓ Advanced digital and predictive modelling tools
- ✓ System-level optimisation and flexibility

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	2021	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 in an 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).

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Technical, financial and administrative support for energy efficiency projects
- ✓ Promotion of renewable energies and energy saving measures
- ✓ Support for building renovation (e.g. insulation, photovoltaics, efficient heating systems)

Fitting learning format

Institutional Website

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more
Training Courses by Lisbon Energy Agency	Portugal		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 fulfil 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.

Key Features and Formats:

- ✓ Downloadable guides, case studies, and tools for energy-related learning
- ✓ Cross-sector audience support: resources for educators, students, and community stakeholders to build energy literacy
- ✓ Multimedia formats: videos, presentations, newsletters to support learning and awareness

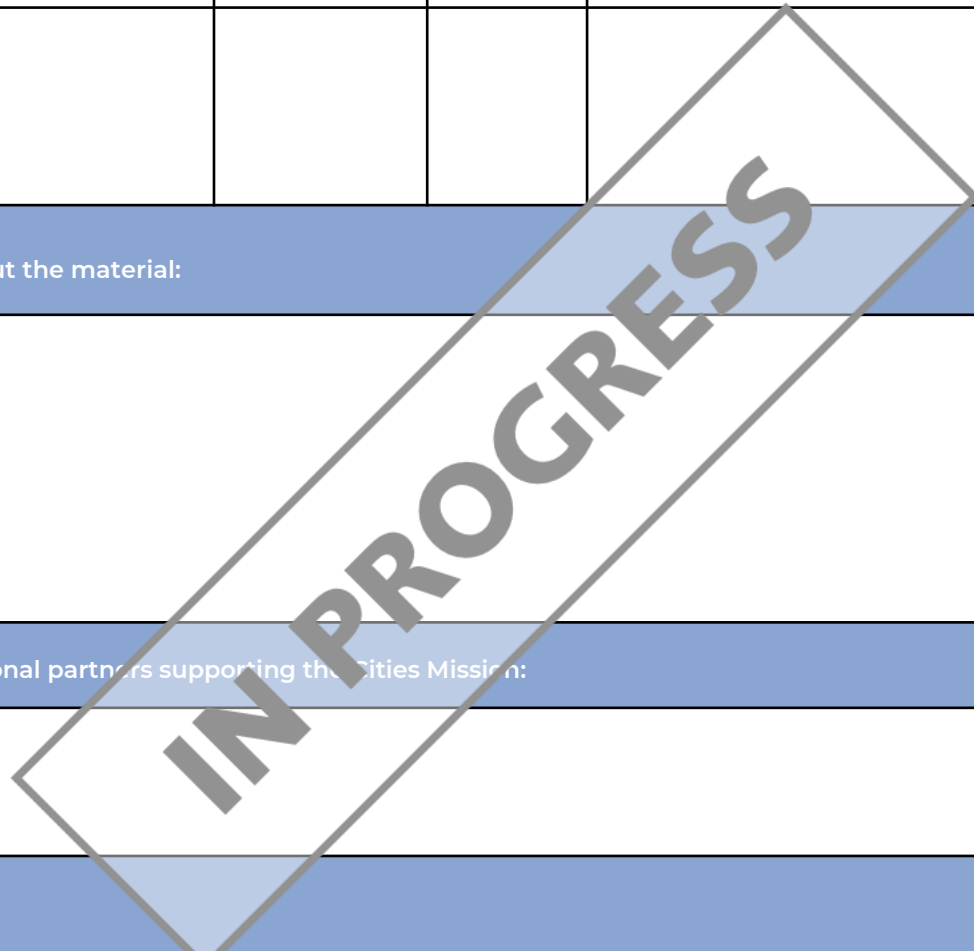
Fitting learning format

Type of learning format

Learning Material	Country	Year of release	 Click here to learn more

About the material:

National partners supporting the Cities Mission:



Monitoring and Reporting

Lessons Learned

→ Key take-aways:

Key MRV guidelines and frameworks: National governments to develop clear guidelines and provide technical, as well as financial and capacity-building assistance to help cities in GHG emissions MRV efforts.

Understanding one's emission profile, needs and challenges: 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.

Modelling: setting concrete objectives and time frames: Local MRV data helps monitor progress towards targets and supports the design of effective policy measures to achieve them.

Standardization and quantification of achievements: standardized and quantified achievements benefit from clear and appealing visualization, which will improve its potential for sharing knowledge, as well as generating political will for a sustained action.

Training on greenhouse gas emissions accounting: 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.



Monitoring and Reporting Deep Dive Example

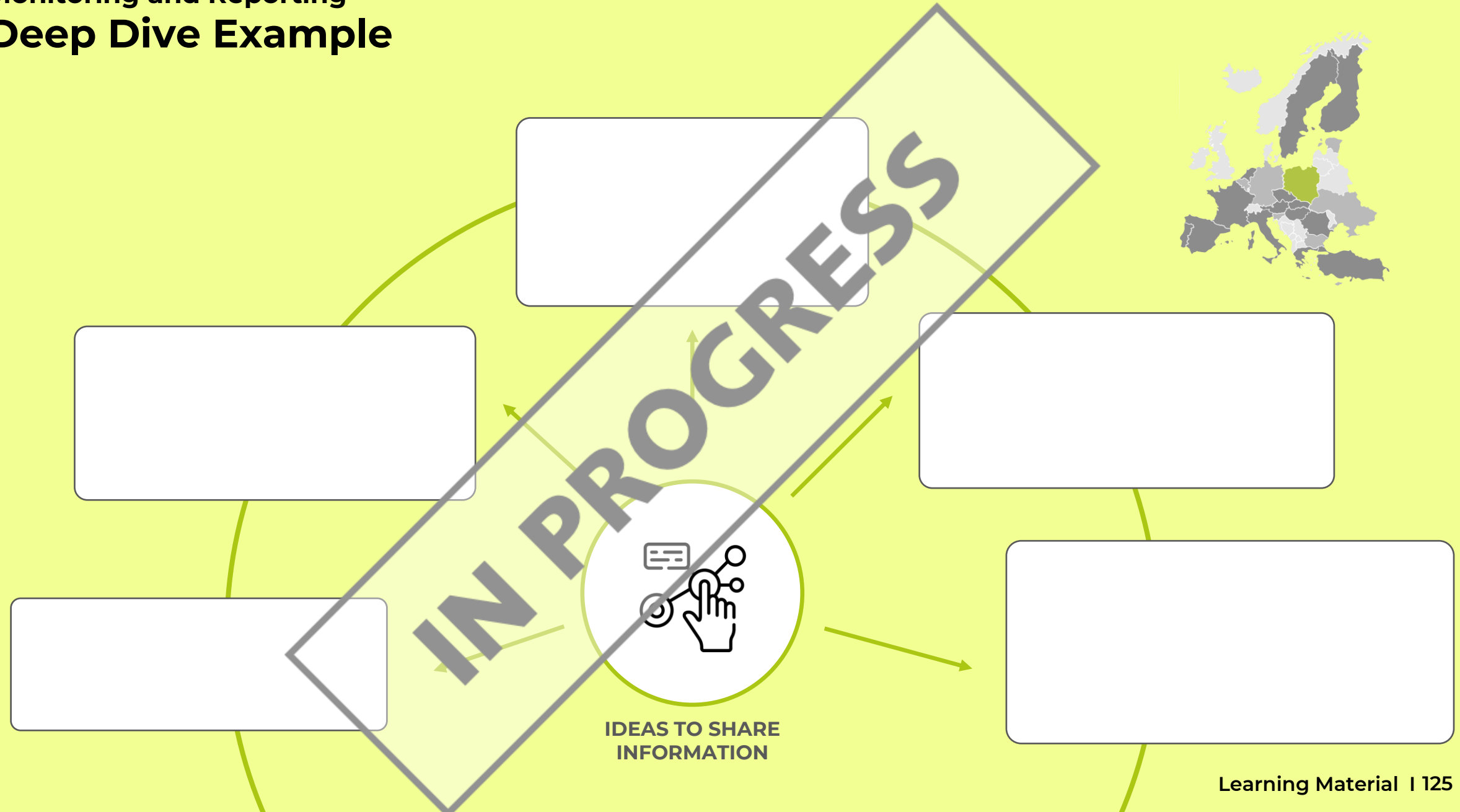
Title, Country

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.

Other online meetings, events and learning materials



click and use English subtitles!

French Mirror Group - Sustainable Cities Action

The annual meeting of the Horizon Europe French Mirror Group provided an opportunity to assess the “100 climate-neutral and smart cities in 2030” European Mission’s progress, share difficulties and levers for actions identified, and also operational tools, methods and best practices implemented by the 9 French laureated of the Cities Mission to speed up the decarbonization process.



click!

Viable Cities - European Viable Cities Day 2023

At this event Viable Cities and the EC will discuss how to accelerate the transition from several perspectives: the mobilisation and capacity building for climate transition, creating competitiveness and jobs through climate transition, radical implementation and upscaling.



click!

Viable Cities – Good examples from Climate neutral cities 2030

Within Viable Cities, a growing number of cities are mobilizing to address the climate crisis. They do so together with a wide range of stakeholders - businesses, researchers, civil servants, experts, citizens and politicians. In this video, they highlight local efforts in four Swedish cities that trigger action that contributes to the mission: climate-neutral cities by 2030 - with a good life for all within the limits of the planet.



CAPA **CITIES**

Advancing national support
for climate neutral cities

Snapshot Profiles of the National Platforms



Core Country: Austria

Facilitator:	Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) – (former Federal Ministry for Climate Policy, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK)).
National Level Actors:	<p>Core team: Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) Climate and energy fund (KLIEN) Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)</p> <p>Accompanying team: Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing (SIR; city management, climate governance) AustriaTech GmbH (ATE; mobility, stakeholder engagement) Austrian Society for Environment and Technology (ÖGUT; energy and buildings)</p>
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	<p>10 large pioneer cities (50k+ inhabitants): Dornbirn, Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg, St. Pölten, Villach, Wien, Wiener Neustadt</p> <p>38 small to mid-sized cities (10-50k inhabitants): There were three waves of small- and medium-sized pioneer cities: the first two waves with 13 cities, the last wave (until the end of November 2025) with 12 cities. Wiener Neustadt is considered as both a medium and a large city.</p>

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	At the national level, the BMIMI (former BMK) created the Mission "Climate-Neutral Cities" (administered through the FFG and the Climate and Energy Fund). The Mission funds large and medium-sized cities and aims at accelerating transition to climate neutrality. In addition to the Mission, the BMIMI funds <i>the Smart Cities Network Austria</i> and <i>the Policy Lab</i> .
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	<p>Cooperation agreements between the Climate and Energy Fund and 11 small and medium-sized cities for three years (2026-2028) to support cities in advancing climate neutrality, climate adaptation, and the circular economy through innovative initiatives, while strengthening capacities, resources within city administrations, and knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Funding for 38 small to mid-sized towns to develop local climate strategies. Discussions with small cities regarding capacity building and funding opportunities.</p>
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	<p>Pioneer cities signed cooperation agreements (contracts) with the BMIMI, with funding up to €2 million per city – exclusively for the necessary personnel capacity and competence development to achieve climate neutrality faster. Cities receive support through a needs-based exchange process with different formats organised by SIR, ATech and ÖGUT.</p> <p>Three waves of in total 38 small and medium-sized pioneer cities were financed to develop local climate strategies. Cooperation agreements amount to €3,6 million. Cities also participate in an exchange process, comparable to the process for the large pioneers</p>



Core Country: Czech Republic

Facilitator:	Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic & Ministry of Regional Development
National Level Actors:	Ministry of Regional Development Links made to Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Technological Agency, Academy of Sciences.
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	Liberec + 140 cities & counties from the Czech Healthy Cities network.

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	Internal informal Work Group in the Ministry of Regional Development for the EU Missions. Working Group on Smart Cities - meets periodically (3 times per year.) Small informal working groups between relevant ministries.
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Special support for Liberec in form of consultations and facilitations; Identifying, elaborating and disseminating of good practice examples; National seminars and conferences on climate, energy.



Core Country: Finland

Facilitator:	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
National Level Actors:	<p>Ministries: 1) Economy and Employment; 2) Environment; 3) Transport and Communication</p> <p>National agencies: Business Finland (Innovation funding and growth services); VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd, SYKE (Finnish Environmental Institute), LUKE (Natural Resources Institute), Kuntaliitto Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities)</p> <p>Climate Leadership Coalition (business)</p>
Regional Level Actors:	Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
Cities:	6 Mission Cities (Espoo, Helsinki, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Tampere, Turku) and Mission-minded cities (Vaasa, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Vantaa)

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	<p>Network structure</p> <p>A collaborative network that meets regularly. National level has given supportive formal appendixes to Finnish Mission Cities' Climate City Contracts to support their climate work.</p>
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	



Core Country: France

Facilitator:	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Higher Education and Research
National Level Actors:	CEREMA, Energy Cities Association, Île-de-France Region, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), CSTB, Scientific and Technical Center for Building.
Regional Level Actors:	Banque des Territoires, Representatives of the regions in Brussels <i>(Reflection is ongoing to better involve the regional level in the works)</i>
Cities:	/

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	Following the previous practice of the weekly stand-up meeting of the CapaCITIES partners and thematic seminars, online and on site in response of the key priorities of Cities Mission the format now evolved into a wider stakeholders' assembly with regular but less involved partner and onthly meetings of the Board members entities officially involved in DUT or Cities Mission.
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Operational CCC seminars <i>There is currently no financial support dedicated to this platform, and the human resources involved in the running of the platform are doing it on top of other missions.</i>



Core Country: Greece

Facilitator:	Ministry of Environment and Energy
National Level Actors:	<p>Ministry of Environment and Energy</p> <p>Linked ministries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development and Investments; 2) Infrastructure and Transport; 3) Digital Governance; 4) Interior <p>Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE); Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH)</p>
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	80 municipalities (incl. Mission Cities: Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani, Trikala)

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	Memorandum of Cooperation between the ministry and cities.
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	<p>Smart Cities program for the digital transformation of municipalities for 17 cities (total budget 90 mil. EUR);</p> <p>Technical assistance through Praxis Network</p> <p>The GREco Islands initiative that aims to transform the islands of Greece into models of green economy, energy self-sufficiency, digital innovation & sustainable mobility.</p>



Core Country: Hungary

Facilitator:	
National Level Actors:	<p>Ministry of Energy, Department for International Climate Policy</p> <p>Ministry for Public Administration and Regional Development</p> <p>Ministry of Construction and Transport</p>
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	<p>Budapest, Miskolc, Pécs (Mission Cities)</p> <p>Applicants: Érd, Kaposvár, Kecskemét, Nyíregyháza, Szeged</p> <p>Association of Climate-Friendly Municipalities</p>

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	<p>Informal inter-ministerial working group started in 2021. Due to re-organisation in ministries and in NKFIH the working group is currently inactive.</p>
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	<p><i>Capacity building:</i> Horizon Europe Info Days for Cities Mission (NCP support)</p> <p><i>Financing:</i> Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme Plus Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus Integrated Transport Development Operational Programme Plus</p>



Core Country: Italy

Facilitator:	
National Level Actors:	Ministries, National agencies
Regional Level Actors:	Regional offices and agencies
Cities:	

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	City working groups, regional working groups, inter-ministerial working groups; Standing meetings National Ambassadors Network
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Dedicated funding, dedicated expert support, capacity-building for cities



Core Country: Netherlands

Facilitator:	Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO)
National Level Actors:	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO); Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG); TNO (CapaCITIES) Platform 31 (CapaCITIES)
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	Amsterdam, Eindhoven & Helmond, Groningen, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht (Mission Cities)

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	Dutch National Cooperation Structure. Intermediate level of formalisation
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	Working groups on specific topics (financing, Europe, knowledge exchange) Biweekly meetings among Mission Cities, RVO and TNO Workshop planned connected to NZC (national Dialogues), Capacities (Deep Dives) or TSI
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	National support structure (NSS) Overall support on CCCs More specific sessions with E-H (CA, TNO,& CSG) Funding: Ministries until mid 2026 directly, afterwards indirectly through RVO Capacity building via workshops NZC, CapaCITIES or TSI Overall support on CCCs, more specific sessions with E-H (CA, TNO,& CSG) Coordination of Dutch cities and their interests towards EC



Core Country: Poland

Facilitator:	National Institute of Environmental Protection and Warsaw University of Technology
National Level Actors:	Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy Ministry of Climate and Environment National Centre for Research and Development
Regional Level Actors:	Institute for Territorial Development - Lower Silesia Marshal's Office for Małopolska Voivodeship (Department of the Environment) Marshal's Office for Mazovia Voivodeship (Department of Waste Management, Emissions and Integrated Permits, Department of Ecological Policy) Marshal's Office for Łódzkie Voivodeship (Department of Regional Policy) Office for Spatial Planning of the Łódź Voivodeship Marshal's Office for Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Department of the Environmental Protection)
Cities:	Kraków, Łódź, Warsaw, Wrocław, Rzeszów (Mission Cities)

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	MoU?
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	Monthly meeting of the Polish national platform.
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	<p>Short-term goal (March 2024): How to involve the government and regions in signing climate contracts - (Developing the scope and content of the declaration of cooperation) Chairman of the steering committee with the rank of Representative of the Council of Ministers. Involvement of parliamentarians who come from cities.</p> <p>Medium-term goal (March-December 2024): Developing demands for the Executive Council of the National Urban Policy Alignment of regional instruments, use of the environmental protection fund to finance energy quarters (NEEST project)</p> <p>Long-term goal (5 years): Updates of national policies - indication in the city's strategic documents, which will facilitate the creation of legislation and programs dedicated to them - so that they include tasks dedicated to city presidents/mayors related to financing.</p>



Core Country: Portugal

Facilitator:	Directorate General of Energy and Geology – DGT
National Level Actors:	Directorate General for Energy and Geology, Directorate General for Territories Links to: Energy Agency Environmental Agency Innovation Agency
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	Guimarães, Lisbon, Porto (Mission Cities) + network of interested cities initiated by Braga

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	in-person workshops to connect relevant stakeholders: cities, national DGs and agencies, research institutes DGT to lead a Policy Hub for the Cities Mission and inter-sectoral group on sustainable urban development
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Research centre (IN+) received funding to support cities in 2024.



Core Country: Romania

Facilitator:	UEFISCDI
National Level Actors:	<p>Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization</p> <p>Ministry of Investment and European Projects</p> <p>Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests</p> <p>Ministry of Energy</p>
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	<p>Cluj-Napoca</p> <p>Bucharest, Sector 2</p> <p>Suceava</p>

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	MoU. The Mirror Mission Cities Hub Romania (M100) was set up by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization (MCID), and is hosted by UEFISCDI, with the aim to connect the national and local authorities that work to support the Mission Cities implementation at national level.
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	The work of the M100 will be overseen by a Coordinating Committee, which will include a representative of each of the signatories of a Memorandum of Understanding (UEFISCDI, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, Ministry of Investment and European Projects, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Education. UEFISCDI will ensure the secretariat for the Coordination Committee formed of delegates from all the mentioned ministries, led by the state secretary from MIPE, Ovidiu Cimpean. This Coordination Committee includes representatives from the three selected Romanian Mission Cities: Cluj-Napoca, District 2 – Bucharest and Suceava. They on a regular basis to decide the next actions of the Hub.
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	<p>NGOs and Associations:</p> <p><i>Smart City & Climate Neutral Competence Center in POLITEHNICA University of Bucharest;</i></p> <p><i>Association of Municipalities in Romania;</i></p> <p><i>Smart Cities of Romania Cluster – SCOR;</i></p> <p><i>Urbanize Hub;</i></p> <p><i>Urban Scope (Cluster)</i></p> <p><i>The Romanian Smart City Association</i></p>



Core Country: Slovakia

Facilitator:	Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS)
National Level Actors:	Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS) University of Žilina
Regional Level Actors:	N/A
Cities:	Bratislava, Kosice (Mission Cities); Nove Zamky

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	



Core Country: Spain

Facilitator:	Technical University of Madrid and EIT Climate KIC
National Level Actors:	Ministry of Ecological Transition
Regional Level Actors:	
Cities:	7 Mission Cities: Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zaragoza + Murcia, Alicante, Pamplona, Fuenlabrada, Logroño, Mataró, Avilés, Benidorm, Soria

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	Concrete commitments in the CCCs (before "pre-CCC") multi-stakeholder events: online meetings, breakfasts, events, 4-day summer course NZC pilot program with all 7 Spanish mission cities
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Offering diverse services clustered as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity building • support to develop local systemic innovation platforms • peer learning • incubation of multi-city projects; • citizen engagement • support to finance the transformation • strategic communication • monitoring and evaluation



Core Country: Sweden

Facilitator:	Viable Cities , a long term national strategic innovation program led by KTH together with partner Lund University , RISE and Stockholm Environment Institute
National Level Actors:	<p>Viable Cities are funded by 3three national authorities: Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas.</p> <p>The Viable CCC is signed by the authorities above AND the Swedish Transport Administration, The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency</p>
Regional Level Actors:	Viable Cities collaborate with the various regional actors (21 regions and County Councils in Sweden), but has no formal structure for this. Some of the recently funded pre-studies include a regional perspective. Collaboration is also close with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Cities:	<p>currently 23 cities:</p> <p>Incl. 7 Mission Cities: Gävle, Göteborg, Helsingborg, Lund, Malmö, Stockholm and Umeå,</p> <p>but new call will open this spring, see list</p>

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	Iterative CCC process with cities and authorities including PolicyLabs; " Transition Lab " an interactive learning environment with several kinds of activities; Membership (for public sector, business, academia and civil society)
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	<p>Check out the calendar for activities such as City Labs, Climate Breakfasts, Forums; A blog with articles by researchers and cities (LinkedIn account); A report series and a newsletter;</p> <p>Regular meetings are held for the 7 Swedish Mission Cities, where the NZC City Advisors are invited Monthly informal meetings are organized with all 23 process managers in the climate neutral cities program;</p> <p>Each year three big conferences are held called Transition Lab Forums in different cities on different themes (2024 climate smart tourism in Östersund, fair energy transition in Örebro, climate smart mobility in Gothenburg) In December each year the international conference "European Viable Cities Day" is held when the CCCs are signed by the authorities and the chairmen of the municipal boards.</p>
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Dedicated funding through calls from the national platform; information about other funding opportunities, dedicated expert support, capacity-building for cities through the Transition Lab, an iterative CCC process including Policy Labs to drive policy changes; International work.



Core Country: Türkiye

Facilitator:	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)
National Level Actors:	Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Union of Municipalities of Türkiye Marmara Municipalities Union
Regional Level Actors:	Marmara Municipalities Union Regional Development Agencies
Cities:	Istanbul and Izmir (Mission Cities) + other interested cities Twin Cities

Level of Formalisation (MoU):	In the framework of CESF Türkiye, Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) has established a network titled "Climate-Neutral Cities Network" (INSA) which includes 54 municipalities of various scales, regions and provinces. Also, with the help of Climate Neutral, Smart and Resilient Cities IPA III project, a National Cities Mission Hub will be constructed.
Key collaboration formats and channels (working groups, standing calls, workshops):	
Dedicated support (funding, capacity building, technical support):	Horizon Europe Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future Partnership

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