

CapaCITIES 2.0

Country Action Plans

WORK PACKAGE 2: MAKE NATIONAL STRUCTURES AND
GOVERNANCE WORK

UPM, SIR, ICLEI, WITH THE VALIDATION OF ALL COUNTRY PARTNERS

CapaCITES Country Action Plans, by country

This section presents the Country Action Plans (CAPs) developed and validated by country partners of the CapaCITIES 2.0 process.

The aim is to consolidate all country strategies into a common structure that includes the following parts: 1) a description of the national Mission ecosystem, 2) a summary of key proposed activities, 3) thematic priorities, 4) a table outlining each plan's approach according to the Self-Assessment methodology dimensions; and last 5) highlighted areas where the CapaCITIES 2.0 project can provide support aligned with countries' specific needs and interests.

Albania

Activities Tags:



Multilevel dialogue and governance; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies); Mobilising actors (social organisations); Finance, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV); Joint-cities' projects.

Description

The initiative aims to establish the **AL Missions HUB** as a national platform in Albania to coordinate climate and sustainability transitions across governance levels and sectors. In 2026, it will move from structuring to pilot implementation, becoming fully operational by May 2027. The platform will bring together cities, academia, industry, and civil society in Territorial Transitions Clusters to enable place-based collaboration.

Three key priorities guide this phase:

Building strong multi-level governance and collaboration structures through clusters and transition arenas that enable joint decision-making and long-term partnerships. Second, **developing clear, investable project pipelines** by translating Mission approaches into concrete territorial pathways and improving access to public, private, and blended finance. Third, **strengthening capacity, learning, and replication**, ensuring that knowledge feeds into policy and can be scaled across regions.

Next steps include launching pilot clusters, developing initial project portfolios, establishing governance mechanisms, and creating feedback loops between local implementation and national policy to support scaling and long-term impact.

The implementation of the AL Missions HUB has been activating a structured set of actors across governance levels and sectors, building on collaboration dynamics that we have been developing on the ground since 2022 in the framework of mission-oriented activities and of the CapaCITIES project.

To maximise the impact of resources and actions, and in light of the heterogeneous capacity across actors and the fragmented nature of the system (including at institutional level), the approach prioritises system-relevant actors as a first layer of engagement. These actors are part of recent national efforts to strengthen coordination and accelerate EU integration, to which the AL Missions HUB contributes by providing additional alignment, structuring and delivery support.

Public and governmental actors include:

- National Economic Council (NEC), coordinated by the Ministry of Economy and Climate Business;

- Minister of Energy and Infrastructures, including Albanian Energy Efficiency Agency;
- Ministry of Finance and its agencies, including Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA);
- Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, leading EU integration processes;
- Albanian Investment Corporation (AIC), public-owned commercial entity.

Private sector, industrial and socio-economic actors include:

- Albanian Manufacturing Union (AMU);
- Chambers of Commerce and business associations;
- Kastrati Group, as an industrial actor increasingly active in energy transition and renewable investments;
- Shansi Invest, as a private investment and development company active in real estate, infrastructure and strategic projects;
- Durana Tech Park, connecting SMEs, start-ups and academia.

Civil society and vocational education actors include organisations and training providers engaged in vocational education and skills development, contributing to workforce alignment, reskilling and inclusive participation in transition processes.

Financial actors include:

- Albanian Development Bank;
- Albanian Development Fund;
- Albanian Investment Corporation (AIC) and AIDA, also acting as investment facilitators;
- Bilateral Investment Banks (under NDA).

Academia and research organisations include:

- University of Tirana;
- Polytechnic University of Tirana;
- Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës;
- Sports University of Tirana;
- Regional Innovation Center for Raw Materials.

Local actors have been engaged at different levels since 2022. They include EU Missions Cities (Elbasan till the handover to the NZC Advisor in 2023), and UTM and mission-minded municipalities: Tirana, Lezhë, Shkodër, Sarandë, Fushë-Arrëz, Mat, Vlorë, Lushnjë, Berat, Gjirokastrë, Vau Dejës, Librazhd, Përrenjas, Pukë and Rrogozhinë, representing diverse territorial contexts.

At the current stage, the priority is the launch of the first Territorial Transition Cluster (TTEC) and the progressive grouping of municipalities around TTECs.

Activities

The activities implemented under the CapaCITIES framework have been structured as a progressive sequence, moving from structuring and co-design to pilot implementation and consolidation.

To this end, three empathizing, ideation and prototyping workshops have been implemented as targeted co-design processes to engage key European, macro-regional, national, territorial and socio-economic actors.

In 2025, the focus has been on co-design, alignment and positioning. This has included consolidating the AL Missions HUB conceptual and governance model, aligning it with ongoing

national reforms related to EU integration and reinforcing coherence with EU Missions objectives. The approach developed has been recognised as a Good Practice under the INTERREG Europe Programme.

During this phase, priority territories and strategic partners have been progressively identified, and the Territorial Transitions Clusters model has been designed, including its deployment approach and priority working areas.

From late 2025 to April 2026, activities have focused on structuring the first Territorial Transitions Cluster, refining the engagement model and operational approach. The initial cluster concept has been presented and validated at international level, including at the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) Summit in Rio, with the participation of the Mayor of Lezhë as a priority territory.

The launch of the first Territorial Transitions Cluster will take place on 18th of May 2026, formally initiated during a macro-regional event in North Macedonia, representing a key milestone for positioning, validation and stakeholders' alignment.

The following phase includes the establishment of the operational coordination structure, ensuring committed engagement of key actors and enabling place-based deployment capacity aligned with national priorities, EU Missions and macro-regional strategies. In parallel, an initial mission-aligned project pipeline and investment portfolio will be developed, based on territorial priorities, assets and opportunities already partially assessed.

In 2027 (by May), the focus will be on further consolidation and scaling. This includes strengthening the AL Missions HUB as a fully operational national platform, also coordinating the TTECs, supporting the expansion of mission-aligned projects within the Territorial Transitions Clusters, and strengthening access to public, private and blended finance.

Territorial Transitions Clusters will be progressively expanded and replicated to additional territories in Albania and across the macro-regional context.

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Albania Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- a) Financing opportunities
- b) Policies & regulations

Approach by Dimension:

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	- Existence of the National Platform - Degree of formalization - Diversity of roles played by the platform - National narratives aligned with the EU Cities Mission - Multilevel collaboration - Community of Practice amongst cities - Working areas - Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source - Political support - Links with the adaptation mission hub	By May 2027, we aim to consolidate the AL Missions HUB as a fully operational national mission-oriented platform, anchored at national level and serving as a reference coordination interface for multi-level and cross-sectoral actors	- Consolidate the AL Missions HUB as Albania's national Mission-oriented platform coordinating stakeholders and activities linked to EU Missions. - Establish a formal governance model, including a SPV and structured membership through a Transitions Alliance of public and strategic partners. - Position the platform as a coordination interface, governance orchestrator, project portfolio developer, and investment enabler across Mission-related initiatives. - Align national transition narratives (e.g., climate neutrality, NDCs, competitiveness) with the EU Missions, supported by policy dialogue, advocacy, and awareness activities. - Engage national actors through a Transitions Core Team and involve regional and local authorities via Territorial Transitions Clusters, ensuring bottom-up input into national priorities. - Strengthen the decision-making mandate of the Core Team while enabling co-creation with stakeholders through the Transitions Alliance membership. - Develop clusters as structured communities of practice among cities to promote peer learning, experimentation, and coordinated action. - Define priority working areas aligned with EU Missions and national transition priorities to guide collaboration and project development. - Secure diversified funding sources (EU projects, national funding, partnerships) and maintain strong political support to sustain the platform's coordination role. - Build links with other EU Mission initiatives, including the Adaptation Mission Hub, to ensure coherence and avoid duplication.
Dimension 2: Networking	- Engagement of Mission Cities - Engagement of Mission-minded cities	Develop and scale mission-driven Territorial Transitions Clusters	Integrate the Albanian Mission City and other mission-oriented cities into Territorial Transitions Clusters, enabling peer learning, joint

	• Multilevel stakeholder engagement • Private sector involvement		planning, and shared project development across cities of different sizes. • Establish structured dialogue and coordination with national and regional authorities through the Transitions Core Team and Transitions Alliance to align territorial needs with national priorities and EU Missions. • Engage businesses and solution providers around cluster-based project pipelines, supporting investment readiness and implementation partnerships. • Mobilise academia, civil society, and NGOs through events and collaborative activities that feed into cluster-based project development and co-design. • Move from one-off networking events to long-term, delivery-focused engagement, anchored in Territorial Transitions Clusters and shared project portfolios.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	• Public funding for implementation of projects in cities • Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for the implementation of projects • Strengthening local transition teams • Data, monitoring, and knowledge • Capacity building • Policy & regulation	By May 2027, the AL Missions HUB is expected to be fully operational, with an initial set of Territorial Transitions Clusters delivering concrete mission-aligned actions, including project bundling, portfolio structuring and access to public, private and blended finance instruments, in line with EU sustainable finance and ESG frameworks	• Support cities within territorial clusters in identifying and accessing EU and national funding instruments for mission-aligned projects. • Develop structured project pipelines and investment portfolios to improve investment readiness and attract public, private, and blended financing aligned with EU sustainable finance and ESG frameworks. • Help cities establish dedicated urban transition teams and build institutional capacity for mission-oriented implementation. • Promote access to data, monitoring, reporting, and knowledge frameworks to support evidence-based decision-making and implementation. • Support cities and territorial clusters in co-developing projects and portfolios, strengthening their legitimacy and role as drivers of transformation. • Establish transition arenas within clusters to facilitate co-design, coordination, and implementation of Mission-oriented activities. • Provide mentoring and training for city teams and other stakeholders to strengthen systemic thinking, project design, and participation in mission processes.

			• Assist clusters in developing transition pathways, action plans, and investment portfolios, aligned with national priorities and EU Missions. • Feed lessons from territorial implementation into national and EU policy discussions. • Develop and apply impact-oriented monitoring approaches to assess progress, learning, and scalability of Mission-aligned actions.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	• Instruments for deep collaboration • Multi-city and thematic projects • Monitoring, learning, and replication • Capacity to influence policies at the local, regional, and national level • Engagement with financial actors	Territorial Transitions Clusters act as the primary units of collaboration and delivery	• Develop and apply instruments such as co-design processes and portfolio-based approaches to enable deep collaboration across cities, regions, national institutions, and other stakeholders within territorial clusters. • Promote joint projects among cities within clusters to address shared transition challenges and scale solutions collectively. • Establish mechanisms for shared monitoring, learning, and knowledge exchange to replicate and adapt successful approaches across territories. • Strengthen the ability of clusters to collectively inform and influence local, regional, and national policy processes through evidence generated from implementation. • Facilitate collaboration between clusters and financial stakeholders to align project portfolios with funding and investment opportunities.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

The **AL Missions HUB's** ecosystem is interested in targeted support that can reinforce the implementation of the AL Missions HUB as a multi-level governance structure, building on the process developed so far by pooling diverse resources and expertise.

In particular, interest is focused on the following priority areas:

- **Financing opportunities:** support in identifying and accessing relevant EU programmes, funding opportunities and initiatives, as well as relevant partners, consortia and blended finance instruments;
- **Policies and regulations:** support in organizing public events, workshops and initiatives aimed at:
 - raising awareness on the AL Missions HUB's role, opportunities and engagement modalities.
 - addressing policy and regulatory aspects relevant to the development and implementation of the project pipelines coordinated by the AL Missions HUB also through the Territorial Transitions Clusters (TTECs).

This support is expected to become particularly relevant following the launch of the first *Territorial Transitions Cluster (TTEC)*, when activities move more concretely into implementation, project development and investment structuring.

Austria

Activities Tags:

Policy labs- workshops; Connection with Adaptation



Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

Austria's National Platform "Climate Neutral City Mission" ("Klimaneutrale Stadt", KNS) supports 47 cities through capacity building and peer learning, strategic planning (including climate neutrality roadmaps), and innovation funding. It is coordinated nationally by the Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure with the Climate and Energy Fund and the Research Promotion Agency and implemented via a structured support process delivered by specialised organisations (Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing, ÖGUT and AustriaTech), while formal agreements with "pioneer cities" provide dedicated R&I funding to strengthen local capacity, governance, and city-level innovation projects.

The Austrian CapaCITIES 2.0 Action Plan focuses on strengthening multi-level governance, regional networking, implementation capacity, and deep collaboration to advance the national "Climate-Neutral City" Mission in alignment with EU Cities Mission goals. The plan prioritizes formalizing exchange between national, regional, and local actors; enhancing impact assessment and knowledge transfer; and fostering joint funding and replication of successful urban transition projects. Coordination with NetZeroCities and other EU/national frameworks (e.g., DUT, CATALYSE) is embedded to avoid duplication and maximize synergies.

Among these priorities the Country Action Plan identifies three main objectives to be achieved by May 2027: (1) strengthening the links between the national platform and the regional programmes and establishing structured exchanges between the national platform, federal provinces and cities; (2) developing an Austrian guideline for climate neutrality roadmaps and improving GHG-monitoring capabilities; (3) Motivating cities to jointly apply for RTI-funding and bridging the gap between R&D and implementation.

Activities

(1) Strengthening links between national platform, regions, and cities

- Second half of 2026: Structured exchanges between the national platform, Pioneer Cities, regional programmes, and federal provinces (preparatory work coordinated by the Climate and Energy Fund).
- 3 November 2026: High-level exchange with regional actors at the flagship "Dialogforum" event.

(2) Developing roadmaps & improving monitoring, verification and evaluation

- Since December 2024 (ongoing): GHG Accounting Working Group (coordinated by SIR) supports 10 large Pioneer Cities via monthly exchanges to improve GHG accounting and develop common approaches.
- 2026 (ongoing): Climate Change Centre Austria develops a national guideline for climate neutrality roadmaps.
- From April 2026 (onwards): SIR provides exchanges and online best-practice sessions for large pioneer cities on governance, processes, and tools for climate neutrality to support administrative transformation and roadmap implementation, with similar formats extended to smaller cities and towns from July 2026 onwards.

- 2026 (ongoing): SIR is working with a group of cities on developing a list of indicators for an operational impact assessment framework

(3) Promoting RTI funding & linking R&D with implementation

- Ongoing (2026): FFG, the Climate and Energy Fund, and partners offer formats to support joint RTI funding applications and connect research with implementation.
- Second half of 2026: SIR and FFG run targeted exchanges to improve smaller cities' access to RTI funding, and workshops for larger cities on capacity funding for climate adaptation teams.

Thematic Focus

A. Multi-level governance & formalization of national-regional-city exchange

B. Impact assessment, monitoring, and knowledge transfer systems

C. Private-sector engagement and funding mobilization (especially RTI and blending finance)

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	- Strengthen formal multi-level governance and alignment with EU missions. - Align KNS with EU Cities Mission, CapaCITIES, and NetZeroCities.	- Formalised exchange mechanism between federal provinces and cities established - KNS mission fully connected to regional programmes and Adaptation Hub	- Intensify exchange between KNS and EU projects. - Strengthen knowledge transfer to Austrian stakeholders. - Initiate contact with federal provinces and regional energy agencies - Facilitate funding exchanges and adapt KNS formats for regional stakeholders - Support the collaborative development of the national Adaptation Hub process
Dimension 2: Networking	- Mobilise federal provinces and private sector actors - Connect Innovation/Mobility Labs with cities - Involve private sector	- Strengthening links between the KNS mission, regional programmes, and the Adaptation Mission Hub. - Strengthen links between labs and cities - Active participation of regional authorities and key private stakeholders (e.g., ÖBB, WKÖ)	- Establish information channels and invite regional stakeholders to KNS events - Develop networking activities with business sectors focusing on mobility, energy, building, and finance - Gain insights from other platforms on private sector engagement mechanisms
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	- Enhance impact assessment & GHG-monitoring - Develop national guidelines & transition support structures	- Austrian guideline for climate neutrality roadmaps available - Advanced GHG-working group and operational impact assessment framework - City-Hub platform fully equipped for knowledge exchange and management	- Develop operational guidelines for climate neutrality roadmaps - Advanced GHG-working group and explore Climate View adoption - Learn from international partners on indicators, monitoring, and knowledge transfer - Advance the City-Hub (online exchange platform) as central database and knowledge management tool
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Enable joint funding applications and policy influence	Motivating cities to jointly apply for RTI-funding and bridging the gap between R&D and implementation.	Motivate joint RTI-funding applications via webinars and good practice sharing

	• Systematise knowledge transfer & replication • Address policy barriers via federal states	• Structured knowledge transfer process across city sizes and ministry • Policy barriers addressed through federal state involvement	• Compile strategies for transitioning from R&D to implementation funding • Establish formal knowledge transfer loops between small/large cities and ministry • Engage federal states to resolve specific policy hurdles • Benchmark financial stakeholder collaboration models
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: linked to capacity-building activities (Expert Facility and learning components)

- Establish bilateral dialogues

WP3: structured around its three key areas (financing, regulatory framework, and MRV)

- Learn about and eventually implement Smart Policy Labs
- Learn about funding and financing framework
- Learn about other countries' frameworks
- Learn about enabling conditions for involvement of the regions

WP4: aligned with national ecosystem coordination.

WP5: focused on stakeholder engagement.

Belgium

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance, Mobilising actors (national and regional governments), Mobilising actors (private stakeholders/companies), Mobilising actors (Social organisations), Multi-city exchange workshops, Workshops – cities and private stakeholders/companies; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

The CapaCITIES partners are the Knowledge Centre for the Flemish Cities (**KCFC**) and the Association of Flemish cities and municipalities – Climate Network (**VVSG Climate Network**), both **Flemish organisations**. The KCFC is an inter-local association of the **13 major Flemish cities** that supports urban development, with climate transition as one of its five core programmes. The VVSG Climate Network **helps 285 Flemish municipalities achieve their climate targets by sharing knowledge, providing practical examples and representing their interests**. The network focuses on topics such as energy, renovation, mobility and social climate policy.

The Climate Network team is supported in its work by an Advisory Group comprising cities and municipalities on the one hand, and an Operational Consultation Group on the other. The role of this Advisory Group is to ensure that the work of the Climate Network meets the needs of local authorities. It is open to municipal climate officials or policymakers who wish to contribute their ideas and help set the direction. The Climate Network's Operational Consultation Group comprises local, provincial and Flemish authorities and partner organisations (including AGORIA, Flux 50, ODE, VEB and Fluvius) that meet monthly to monitor and support the implementation of the Climate Network's work programme.

The four Belgian Mission Cities operate across three regional policy frameworks: two in Flanders (Antwerp, Leuven), one in Wallonia (La Louvière), and one in the Brussels-Capital Region. Within the KCFC, 13 Flemish cities exchange knowledge and cooperate on urban climate governance, financing climate targets (regulations and commitments), monitoring and impact, and developing long-term local renovation strategies for public and private patrimony.

The establishment of the **Structural Dialogue Platform for Climate in 2026, an initiative of the Flemish Minister of Home Affairs**, offers opportunities to create a regional platform to support Flemish cities. This Country Action Plan has a strong focus on this specific region but with engagement plans with the Belgium ecosystem mobilised by NZC.

The following initiatives and stakeholders are mentioned as key and require stronger coordination:

- The Flemish Agency for Energy and Climate, the Flemish Ministry of Environment, the Flemish Agency for Home Affairs.
- Private sector: AGORIA, Flux 50, ODE, VEB for breakthrough projects or regional deals.
- Regional landscape organisations, housing associations and citizens' cooperatives and also knowledge and policy partners such as Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Beweging.net.
- The Environment and Nature Council for Flanders (MINA-Council).

The Country Action Plan is centered on **three priorities**: establishing a regional Structural Dialogue Platform for Climate to strengthen multi-level governance in Flanders; selecting a collective challenge with the Belgian National Platform NetZeroCities to develop breakthrough projects or regional deals with the private sector; and strengthening data-driven climate policy, innovative financing and capacity building across the 13 Flemish cities.

Activities

- Thematic consultation with the Climate Network's Operational Consultation Group (*1 half-day workshop*)
- Provide guidance and advice on the incorporation of a Structural Dialogue Platform for Climate (*4 meetings with policy advisers to the Minister for Home Affairs*)
- Strengthen the Community of practice working areas between 13 Flemish cities (*2 meetings per work package*):
 - Work package "Basic funding framework"
 - Work package "Just transition"
 - Work package "Data-driven climate policy"
- Selection of one collective challenge by the Belgian National Platform NetZeroCities and development of a roadmap (*To be confirmed*)

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Belgium Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- Topic LIFE IPBE: sustainable renovations to achieve an emission-free housing stock by 2050 in Belgium.
- Topic VVSG Climate Network: Sustainable heating, renewable energy and the Local Energy and Climate Pact.
- Green heating/energy districts (regulations, multi-layer finance, and stimulating opportunities for integration in terms of time and space))
- The link between climate, vulnerable groups, housing, energy and mobility.

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Consolidate multi-level regional involvement, Involvement in decision making of other actors (membership) ; define joint working areas.	• A Structural Dialogue Platform for Climate in 2026 (regional platform) to be established. • A formalised coalition to be established (regional authorities, the private sector, scientific and research institutes and financial actors and other parties, together with the cities) to tackle a challenge selected by the cities. And a potential regional deal (Regio Deal); distributed responsibility for joint objectives related to the challenge. • Strengthen the Community of practice working areas between 13 Flemish cities.	• Preparatory process together with cities and municipalities. Regular consultation meetings to provide information about the Mission concept CAP actions to actively seek to involve Flemish government agencies. • Selection of one collective challenge by the Belgian National Platform NetZeroCities and development of a roadmap. Tentatively: green heating/energy districts • Work package “basic funding framework”. Mobilising private/blending funding for project implementation. • Work package “just transition”: the link between climate, vulnerable groups, housing, energy and mobility and will set up several actions: Knowledge sharing and development; Drawing up an overview of relevant stakeholders and improving coordination. • Work package “data-driven climate policy” to strengthen data and monitoring.
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of regional authorities, businesses and private sector, and others (academia, civic organisations, citizens)	• Move from City ad-hoc project - based financial commitments towards breakthrough projects or regional deals with covenants involving the business and private sectors and looking for multilevel financing. • Work on the role for the Flemish authorities in terms of regulation, planning and financial opportunities.	• (refer to actions in the Governance section). • Identification of useful stakeholders in the Flemish and Belgian context. • During the monthly consultation meetings, of the Climate Network's Operational Consultation structure (40 administrations + other partners), we will provide information about the Mission concept and other CAP

			actions and will actively seek to engage relevant partner organisations.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	• Consolidate assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for implementation of projects • Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation • Capacity-building to support the work of the transition team in cities (consolidating level)	• In 2026 the Knowledge Centre will work on the implementation of the Basic funding framework Work Package. • Strengthen data policy and monitoring in cities. • Cities ´ learning from each other on key figures, impact measurements, benefits resulting from projects and approaches, lessons learned and pitfalls, etc. • Re-run the climate governance analyses in the cities, now that multi-year planning and budgeting have been reinstated in their action plans through 2031 so as to strengthen the functioning of urban climate transition teams and understand how to foster stronger institutional and political support.	• Inventory of financing options will be made, and they will make use of the possibilities offered by Smart Cities Marketplace. • Sharing knowledge and inspiration (good practices, new insights, innovative financial solutions, etc.) making the most of the practices and models shared under CapaCITIES 2.0 WP3 and by NetZeroCities services. • The Knowledge Centre will coordinate the implementation of the “Data-driven climate policy” (to start in Spring 2026) Tentative activities: start scoping; study of needs and barriers to the use of data on apartment buildings; coaching session/training on measuring the impact of climate policy) • Feasibility study to expand existing practice databases in cities and draw inspiration from information and practices shared via WP3 of Capacities 2.0. • Encourage cooperation between the various disciplines departments in the city, particularly spatial planning, energy and mobility (as it happens with the Local Energy Action Plan in cities). • Explore the engagement of VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research) to set up and supervise transition teams and their employees in cities.

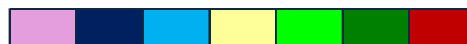
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	• Multi-city projects (Advanced level) • Capacity to influence policies at local, regional and national level (Consolidating level) • Capacity to work collaboratively with financial stakeholders (Incipient level)	• Breakthrough projects or Regio Deals around one challenge. • Strengthen a timely coordinated consultation/advocacy on regulations, projects, implementation with the Flemish government. Work on the launch of the Structural Dialogue Platform. • Develop capacity to work collaboratively with financial stakeholders.	• Selection of one challenge by the Belgian National Platform NetZeroCities and development of a roadmap. Potential themes/challenges for collaboration are currently being explored in bilateral consultations. • Confirm and expand the remit of the Climate Network and focus on continuing the Climate Transition Programme in the work of the Knowledge Centre until 2031. • Establish cooperation with the Belgian National Platform NetZeroCities to bring their expertise more broadly, to local authorities in Flanders and Belgium.
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- **WP1.**Cities ´ Climate governance.
- **WP1+WP2.** Platform governance and the link between climate, vulnerable groups, housing, energy and mobility and will set up several actions.
- **WP3.**Mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation-Capacity to work collaboratively with financial stakeholders ; “data-driven climate policy” to strengthen data and monitoring; Monitor, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation.
- **WP5.** Stakeholder engagement

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors (private stakeholders/companies); Mobilising actors (Social organisations); Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures (Romanian Model); Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV); Joint-cities' projects; Fit-for Mission -piloting.

Description

FUA Sarajevo is part of the NetZero Mission of climate-neutral and smart cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Platform for Climate Neutrality exists in a strategic sense, but in the practice and implementation of climate neutrality there are certain problems due to the institutional and constitutional limitations of BiH. The cantonal level (Sarajevo Canton) is currently the most functional level of coordination and should act as a "translator" between local needs and higher policies. The vision corresponds with a functional mechanism of vertical coordination (connected state-entity-canton-city level), where cities are the key bearers of climate neutrality.

Key actors include state ministries related to energy, transport, environment and finance; entity-level ministries; Sarajevo Canton; municipalities within FUA; public companies (water, waste, heating, forests); private sector alliances; academia; civil society; IFIs; donors; and citizens via participatory tools. Engagement will be implemented through structured working groups, policy dialogues, public consultations, and multi-level coordination councils.

The CAP acknowledges that, although the political will exists, BiH faces constitutional and structural constraints, such as the lack of a uniform climate neutrality law at the state level, therefore, the plan serves as an inter-institutional mechanism to overcome these barriers.

The Country Action Plan defines as key objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of city transition teams through targeted training, peer-to-peer cooperation, and digital tools.
- Actively integrating the private sector into governance and project delivery to mobilize investment through PPP and ESCO models
- Establishing a centralized MRV system that consolidates utility data and digital monitoring to support effective climate planning and reporting.

Activities

- Event organised by Sarajevo FUA, where one panel will be dedicated to supporting national platforms (with the participation of several partners of the CapaCITIES 2.0 project)- **Last week of April 2026.**
- Working groups that will bring together relevant stakeholders, with the aim of jointly working on the implementation of priority activities from the Action Plan- **end of May onwards.**

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- a) Platform governance and multi-level coordination
- b) Private sector engagement and investment models
- c) Capacity building and centralized MRV systems
- d) Joint multi-city projects and regulatory harmonization

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen multi-level governance, decision-making capacity, and institutional coordination across state, entity, cantonal, and Functional Urban Area (FUA) levels	Establish a functionally coordinated, partially formalized national platform for climate neutrality aligned with EU Cities Mission principles. Strengthen multi-level governance, decision-making capacity, and institutional coordination across state, entity, cantonal and FUA levels.	-The joint position and plan of the CapaCITIES team of SERDA and the representatives of the NetZeroCities Mission for FUA Sarajevo is the application of the model that Romania used when establishing the National Platform. The Romanian model is largely applicable to Bosnia and Herzegovina. - Work on the formalization and institutionalization of the platform to define its mandate, structure, and roles, ensuring consistent state-level involvement - Looking for domestic funds to finance the platform. - Establish an operational secretariat (minimum 5-7 people), introduce procedures for preparing materials, and define an annual "Climate Transition Management Plan"
Dimension 2: Networking	Increase structured engagement with state authorities, the private sector, academia, and civil society	Develop a strong community of practice among mission and mission-minded cities, increase structured engagement with state authorities, private sector, academia, and civil society, and institutionalize stakeholder participation mechanisms.	- Establish a BiH "mission cities coalition" to expand the network beyond Sarajevo FUA, providing initial support to new cities that demonstrate readiness to join - Focus on the inclusion of key ministries, primarily MOFTER (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations), as well as the Ministries of Transport and Finance - Include business alliances, chambers of commerce, and investors in project teams and investment forums - Form permanent advisory groups for the academic community and NGOs, utilizing digital participatory tools for engagement
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Strengthen Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, enhance access to funding, and operationalize Climate City Contract (CCC) processes	Improve financial, institutional, and data capacities for climate transition implementation through strengthened MRV systems, enhanced access to funding, dedicated transition staff, and operationalized CCC processes.	-Advocate for strengthening environmental funds and develop public-private partnership (PPP) and ESCO models to mobilize private capital - Establish a centralized MRV system for the FUA, standardizing data from public utility companies (water, heating, waste) into a single governance framework. (Very high priority because without reliable data there is no planning, reporting or decision-making). - Establish a Transition Arena at the FUA level . - Highest priority is to strengthen the capacity of the Transition Team and develop a continuous training program for TT (including study visits and peer-to-peer learning with EU cities) and create a digital handbook and toolkit.

			- Strengthening the capacities of other relevant stakeholders throughout the organization of: Trainings for public utilities, private sector, civil society and citizens. -Work on integrating the CCC into budget planning. - Establish a Regulatory Working Group to align legislation between entities and cantons and accelerate permits for renewable energy projects.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Operationalize learning and replication systems and engage financial stakeholders more strategically	Establish instruments and systems for deep collaboration, foster joint multi-city projects, operationalize learning and replication systems, and engage financial stakeholders more strategically	Launch 2–3 pilot multi-city or thematic projects (in public transport or energy management) using Sarajevo FUA as a core model for expansion Establish a common Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework to systematically transfer successful practices between cities. Develop joint investment platforms and a multi-city project pipeline to standardize cooperation with financial actors.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: Capacity Building. Highest priority: strengthening the capacity of transition teams over the next two years.

WP3: Financing, Regulatory Framework, and MRV. Harmonizing regulations, (Task of establishing a centralized and standardized MRV system for Functional Urban Areas (FUA) to enable data-driven decision-making.

WP4: National Ecosystem Coordination. Establishment of the National Platform as an inter-institutional mechanism for vertical coordination. Strengthening collaboration

WP5: Stakeholder Engagement. Private sector, national authorities (like MOFTER), and the academic community.

Bulgaria

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance, Mobilising actors (national and regional governments), Mobilising actors (private stakeholders /companies); Mobilising actors (social organisations); Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Workshops – cities and social organisations; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)

Description

Bulgarian partners will build a cohesive ecosystem connecting cities, regions, national authorities, and expert organisations, using national and regional events as key coordination spaces rather than formal structures. This flexible approach supports collaboration while strengthening the community of practice through training, peer learning, and thematic exchanges, with a strong focus on funding.

Three key priorities guide this work. First, improving **coordination and collaboration** across governance levels through structured exchanges, thematic groups, and alignment with the Climate City Contract process. Second, strengthening **capacity and implementation**, supporting cities in moving from plans to action through better data, monitoring (MRV), project preparation, and dedicated transition teams. Third, enhancing **access to finance**, by equipping cities with practical tools, examples, and guidance to navigate funding opportunities.

Next steps include scaling peer learning activities, launching targeted training on finance and implementation, supporting the development of project pipelines, and reinforcing multilevel cooperation to ensure cities can effectively deliver and finance their climate transition actions.

Activities



Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Bulgaria Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- A. Funding: project maturity and financing readiness
- B. MRV: professionalisation of MRV and energy data governance, starting from buildings
- C. Governance: Local transition teams

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of a National Platform National narratives aligned with the EU Cities Mission Working areas Political support	Create a cohesive, functional ecosystem connecting cities/municipalities, regional and national authorities, and expert organisations. Use national and regional events as coordination spaces rather than formalising a dedicated structure at governmental level.	Sustain a network-driven coordination ecosystem anchored by EcoEnergy, EnEffect, NTEF, and SEDA, together with other NGOs working on sustainable energy. Bulgaria demonstrates that mission progress requires trusted expert-municipal networks that already work and dedicated financial support quality assured by CCCs and equivalent verifiable investment concepts. Climate neutrality advances fastest when cities are empowered through practical platforms, not constrained by unstable national governance. Without reliable data, climate neutrality remains political rhetoric. EU Cities Mission will support the professionalisation of MRV and energy data governance, starting from buildings - the weakest but most impactful sector. The real bottleneck for Bulgarian Mission cities is not ambition, but project maturity and financing readiness. The Platform close this gap by connecting MRV, transition teams, and blended finance into a single delivery logic. Local and regional political support through mayors and regional governors and targeting advocacy towards Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of Environment and Waters
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of: - Mission City - Mission-minded cities - National authorities - Financial actors, selected companies - Academia	Strengthen the community of practice through regular training, peer learning, and thematic exchanges specifically on funding so municipalities and regions gain practical tools and examples, using	Invite Mission cities (Sofia and Gabrovo) and Mission-minded cities (EcoEnergy Network Members, Adaptation Mission participants and others) representatives to all 2026–2027 events. Targeted outreach through EcoEnergy Network, NTEF and Association of Bulgarian Energy Agencies.

		national and regional events as key engagement mechanisms.	Invite representatives of the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Sustainable Energy Development Agency, Environment Executive Agency, Executive Agency “Electronic Governance Infrastructure”, National Statistical Institute to relevant 2026–2027 events. Invite and encourage active participation of regional authorities in all 2026–2027 events, especially the Gabrovo’s Forum “Mayors Talk” and Annual EcoEnergy Conference, to leverage their monitoring role in annual EE and RES reporting to SEDA and strengthen regional-municipal coordination. Invite relevant companies to thematic sessions. Include NGOs, universities, and energy agencies in training sessions.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities. Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation Support to cities for the incorporation of staff dedicated to urban transition Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification, and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation	Support cities/municipalities in turning plans into action by focusing on better collection and identification of data , monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRV), funding, project preparation, and transition teams through hands-on training and peer support.	Provide guidance for success stories in combined funding - public and private - share good practices from thematic projects (BeSMART, SMAFIN, SMAFIN Expanded) and the practice of specialised public funds during training sessions. Include funding modules in 2026-2027 trainings engaging all dedicated funding institutions - NTEF, FLAG Fund, National Decarbonisation Fund, Fund of Funds, Urban Development Funds. Create an inventory of public, private, and blended finance options (EU programmes, national grants, NTEF, commercial banks, ESCOs, guarantees, technical assistance) and OSS mechanisms. Promote peer examples, support cities in energy & building sector transition and consultation (one-stop-shop) teams with relevant examples (projects: LEEAN-CET, SHEERenov+, etc.) during Annual EcoEnergy Conference and Gabrovo’s Forum “Mayors Talk”.

	The platform provides cities with legitimacy to implement transformative actions Capacity-building to support the work of the transition team in cities Support to the Climate City Contract process: development, iteration and implementation Policy & regulation Impact assessment		Organize specific sessions in regular annual events for discussing improvement of methods for collecting energy, climate and architectural data for the purposes of energy planning and target setting (especially in building renovation). Organise energy management-focused trainings and practical sessions for application of dedicated energy management systems. Strengthen national visibility through social media, TV, radio and online media engagement. Active participation in mutual thematic trainings with the support of energy agencies. Provide guidance to mission-minded cities with the support of Sofia and Gabrovo experts during 2026–2027 sessions. Dedicated sessions Annual EcoEnergy Conference, Gabrovo's Forum "Mayors Talk" and ABEA annual conference targeting direct impact on policy instruments and financing mechanisms as the National Building Renovation Plan, National Decarbonisation Fund and the Social Climate Plan. Support for implementation of advance method for annual reporting to SEDA in view of the annual 1,9% final energy savings and 3% building renovation targets.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Instruments for deep collaboration Monitoring, learning, and replication Capacity to influence policies at local, regional and national level Capacity to work collaboratively with financial stakeholders	Enable structured horizontal collaboration among municipalities and functional multilevel support (energy agencies, and expert organisations, national executive agencies) through events, thematic groups, and peer learning cycles aligned with the Climate City Contract process.	Supporting the establishment and operation of transition teams in mission cities and mission-minded cities (followers) with professional expertise mobilised through platform's activities Document good practices and share through EcoEnergy, EnEffect and NTEF communication channels; organise replication workshop in 2027. Support municipalities and regions in articulating shared needs during multilevel meetings.

			Engage NTEF, FLAG Fund and other financial actors in 2026–2027 training and multilevel meetings.
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: capacity-building activities: peer learning and training sessions

WP3: thematic groups (financing, regulatory framework, and MRV)

WP4: National consultation panel and Pan-European Consultation Panel in 2026

WP5: focused on stakeholder engagement.

Croatia

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Policy labs- workshops; Connection with Adaptation Mission; ; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies; Multi-city exchange workshops Exchanges with other country support structures; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

Croatia's national platform builds on the **NECPlatform**. It is coordinated by REGEA and formally recognised and supported by several ministries. Croatia aims to consolidate the platform and establish it as a permanent national multilevel governance platform that supports the transition towards climate-neutral and climate-resilient cities.

The country action plan prioritises strengthened multilevel coordination, with a clear role for the platform in linking national policy, city-level implementation, and EU initiatives, while ensuring coherence across NECP governance, EU Missions, and adaptation frameworks. It promotes an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation, supported by a national community of practice, stronger stakeholder engagement, and enhanced peer learning and exchange.

Key priorities also include improving cities' access to funding, reinforcing capacities for Climate City Contracts and transition processes, and providing operational tools alongside systemic, action-oriented collaboration beyond consultation.

Activities

Within the framework of the CapaCITIES project, Croatian stakeholders are planning a coherent set of activities running through to May 2027, focused **on strengthening multilevel governance, mobilising a broad range of actors, and accelerating implementation capacities for climate-neutral and climate-resilient cities.**

The approach combines multilevel dialogue, policy labs, multi-city exchange workshops, and targeted engagement with national and regional governments, private sector actors, and social organisations.

A central pillar is the further development of the national platform as a permanent governance mechanism, positioned to connect EU-level initiatives such as the EU Cities Mission with national frameworks like the NECP and the National Adaptation Hub.

This includes formalising coordination structures, strengthening interministerial cooperation, and establishing thematic working groups on finance, governance, MRV, adaptation, and just transition. At the same time, a strong emphasis is placed on networking and community-building - expanding beyond Zagreb as a Mission City to include a wider group of "mission-minded" cities, while fostering peer learning through workshops, exchanges, and collaboration with stakeholders across sectors.

On the implementation side, activities are designed to improve access to finance, strengthen local capacities for Climate City Contract (CCC) delivery, and promote practical tools for integrated mitigation and adaptation. This includes training programmes, application of research to real city projects, exchanges with other national support structures, and alignment with the Adaptation Mission. A particular effort is being made to engage mission-minded cities through a more flexible or "lighter" CCC approach - allowing cities with varying levels of capacity

and readiness to progressively align with Mission objectives without the full administrative burden of a complete CCC. This enables broader participation, supports incremental capacity building, and helps create a pipeline of cities that can transition toward more comprehensive climate governance frameworks over time. Across all dimensions, the project aims to move beyond consultation toward deep, systemic collaboration - establishing long-term partnerships, shared tools and data systems, and continuous learning processes that link policy development with on-the-ground implementation.

A national event will be organised in Croatia, most likely in Q3 2026 or Q1 2027, bringing together key stakeholders from all governance levels, as well as private and civil society actors, to consolidate results, strengthen collaboration, and define next steps for scaling climate action.

Thematic Focus

A – Multilevel governance & institutionalisation

B – Climate finance & implementation

C – Capacity building & tools for systematic collaboration

D – Climate mitigation and adaptation integration

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Enhance coordination across governance levels; Clear role in linking national policy, city implementation, and EU initiatives; Integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation	- Establish the national platform as a permanent multilevel governance mechanism, for climate mitigation and adaptation, aligned with EU and national frameworks (EU Cities Mission, Croatian NECP and National Adaptation Hub) - Strengthen institutional anchoring and central coordination role of the platform	- Position the platform as national multilevel platform for EU Cities Mission - Clarify Platform's role (dialogue facilitation/advisory body/connector) - Strengthen formal recognition and interministerial cooperation (working group for mitigation and adaptation) - Connect with national adaptation Hub and Platform for sustainable finance - Align communication with EU Cities Mission narrative - Expand participation of ministries, regions, cities, and stakeholders - Recommendations and policy briefs for climate-neutral cities - Define thematic priorities for dialogue (finance, MRV, governance, adaptation, just transition) - Secure resources and advocate for national funding support
Dimension 2: Networking	Build a national community of practice; Engage cities, national and regional authorities, and stakeholders; Strengthen peer learning and exchange	Develop a national community of practice for climate-neutral and climate-resilient cities by connecting Mission City Zagreb, mission-minded cities, regional authorities, and key stakeholders	- Engage Mission City Zagreb as a core platform actor - Expand network of mission-minded cities - Organise peer-learning sessions, workshops, and exchanges - Ensure participation of national and regional authorities - Engage private sector and financial actors (e.g. sustainable finance dialogues) - Involve academia, NGOs, and civil society in events and co-creation
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Improve access to funding for cities; Strengthened city capacities for CCCs and	Build local and national capacity for CCCs implementation, integrated adaptation and climate action, with stronger access to	- Advocate alignment of national funding programmes with city needs - Facilitate dialogues on private and blended finance

	transition processes; Operational support tools for implementation	finance and alignment with EU and national frameworks • Facilitate integration of mitigation and adaptation and promote operational tools (MRV, risk assessments, financing models)	• Provide access to tools and knowledge, and exchange of experience (MRV systems, national and EU data initiatives, impact assessment) • Organise targeted training and peer-learning for city teams and stakeholders • Promote creation of city transition teams and “transition arenas” through thematic working groups with stakeholders • Support Mission City Zagreb and Mission-minded cities in development and implementation of CCCs • Support policy and regulatory discussions through platform outputs
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	• Functioning systemic collaboration beyond consultation; strong integration between NECP governance, EU Missions, and adaptation policies; increased joint initiatives and knowledge sharing	• Establish systemic, long-term multilevel collaboration mechanisms • Position the platform as a bridge between NECP governance, EU Missions, and adaptation policy	• Formalised multi-level working groups and integration in inter-ministerial working group for adaptation and mitigation • Operationalize agreements for institutional cooperation • Support use of shared digital tools (dashboards, indicators, risk assessments) • Facilitate multi-city exchanges and thematic collaboration • Support monitoring, learning, and replication processes • Engage financial stakeholders and explore cooperation opportunities • Contribute to policy discussions at all governance levels

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

From the perspective of Croatian stakeholders, capacities support under Topics B and D is high on the list. It is important to state that is not starting from a blank slate but rather building on a foundation that is already relatively well developed, while addressing specific gaps related to scaling, coordination, and operational delivery.

In the area of Topic B – Climate finance and implementation, Croatia has already established a strong institutional basis for sustainable finance, most notably through the national platform for sustainable finance led by the Ministry of Finance. This platform provides a structured framework for aligning financial flows with climate and sustainability objectives and represents a significant step toward integrating EU taxonomy principles, green budgeting practices, and investment planning into national systems.

However, despite this progress, the key need identified is not the creation of new financial mechanisms, but the strengthening of implementation capacity across all governance levels. This includes improving the ability of cities and regions to translate strategic priorities into mature, bankable projects, as well as enhancing coordination between national funding frameworks and local investment pipelines. Croatian stakeholders emphasise the importance of bridging the “last mile” of climate finance - ensuring that available funds are effectively absorbed, projects are delivered on time, and measurable climate impacts are achieved. In this sense, future capacity support should focus on project preparation, aggregation of smaller-scale interventions, and reinforcing administrative and technical capacities for procurement, monitoring, and reporting.

With regard to Topic D – Climate mitigation and adaptation integration, there is already concrete experience in aligning these two dimensions within strategic frameworks. A key example is the work of REGEA in the development of the Climate City Contract for Zagreb, where mitigation and adaptation measures have been systematically combined into a single, coherent pathway. This approach demonstrates that integration is not only conceptually feasible but operationally achievable, particularly when supported by strong technical expertise and cross-sector collaboration.

At the same time, stakeholders recognise that such integrated approaches are not yet consistently embedded across all sectors and levels of governance. The main capacity need lies in mainstreaming this integrated logic into everyday planning and decision-making processes - especially in spatial planning, infrastructure development, and sectoral policies. This requires tools and methodologies that allow institutions to simultaneously assess emissions reduction potential and climate resilience benefits, as well as governance arrangements that facilitate coordination between traditionally siloed departments.

Overall, the Croatian perspective underscores a transition from capacity building in principle toward capacity deployment in practice. In both finance and integration, the foundations are in place; the challenge now is to scale, replicate, and institutionalise these practices across the system. Capacities support should therefore prioritise operationalisation - ensuring that existing frameworks, platforms, and methodologies are fully utilised to deliver tangible and sustained climate outcomes.

Czechia

Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Policy labs- workshops;

Connection with Adaptation Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV); Fit-for Mission - piloting



Description

Czech partners aim to strengthen governance, capacity, and implementation for climate neutrality by building on the National Adaptation Platform (NAPF) hosted by the Ministry of the Environment. Climate transition topics will be integrated into this platform, while a national community of practice will connect cities, experts, and public authorities across governance levels.

Three key priorities guide this approach. First, enhancing **governance and coordination** by embedding climate neutrality within the NAPF and strengthening collaboration between ministries and national institutions. Second, building **capacity and knowledge exchange** through a community of practice that supports cities' participation in projects and mission-oriented approaches. Third, supporting **implementation at scale** through cooperation with the Regional Development Centre (CRR), enabling nationwide roll-out and stronger regional support.

Next steps include integrating mitigation and adaptation into the NAPF, activating the community of practice, and operationalising collaboration with CRR to support cities in developing and implementing climate actions. Key stakeholders include the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development, CRR, and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.

Activities

- Major national. Urban Forum, focusing on stakeholder engagement and innovative financial instruments for climate-neutral urban development- April 2026.
- Capacity-building activity at the URBIS fair (Innovative and blended financing solutions for urban climate projects and strengthening cities' capacities to address climate-related disinformation as part of broader awareness-raising and communication efforts related to the climate transition.)

Thematic Focus

- A. Mobilizing banking and financial sector: innovative financing instruments beyond grants
- B. Capacity-building for municipal staff
- C. Linking mitigation and adaptation

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform Multi-level collaboration: Regional involvement Multi-stakeholder collaboration: Academia Community of practice between cities	To build on the emerging National Adaptation Platform (NAPF).	Initiate a structured dialogue on expanding the mandate of the NAPF to encompass the broader climate transition agenda, integrating mitigation and adaptation at the city level. Initiate collaboration with the Regional Development Centre (CRR) to strengthen links between the platform and regional and municipal development instruments, support capacity-building of local authorities, and leverage existing implementation structures. Engage regional authorities, ITI functional areas, and energy centres in strategic dialogue to ensure regional participation and alignment with the climate transition agenda. Collaborate with academia; new cooperation with the Regional Development Centre (CRR) agency. Increase interest among Czech cities to participate in webinars and workshops co-organized by NetZeroCities, specifically ICLEI.
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of: • Mission City • Mission-minded cities • National authorities • Financial actors • Academia	To further develop the community of practice.	Further develop cooperation with the Mission City of Liberec through joint activities and regular strategic dialogue. Facilitate and expand a community of practice by actively engaging mission-minded cities through targeted outreach, regular peer-learning events, and structured exchange of best practices, aiming to increase participation and collaboration. Change the “formal declarations” to the “real support” at the national level; preparing joint projects or fostering a community of practice. Engage with the financial actors. Engage with academia.

Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation Support to cities for the incorporation of staff dedicated to urban transition Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification, and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation	Partnership with the Regional Development Centre (CRR) and its regional branches.	Shaping national public funding to support implementation of climate-neutral and innovative urban projects, particularly through influencing funding priorities and calls of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) and coordination with the Ministry of the Environment. Raising awareness of innovative private and blended financing instruments through targeted events. Organizing capacity-building events and raising overall awareness. Strengthening cities' capacity to appoint staff for urban transition through continuous capacity-building and training initiatives.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Instruments for deep collaboration Multi-city projects or thematic projects for actual collaboration	To increase collaboration with the emerging National Adaptation Platform (NAPF) and the Regional Development Centre (CRR).	Support for research calls and development of multi-level education system via the increasing the importance of applied research (involvement to the HE projects on the government-academia based). Involving the academia expertise as a solution validator or project, stakeholder's evaluator (creation of an evaluation methodology).

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- **WP1.**Cities ´ Climate governance.
- **WP1+WP2.** Platform governance.
- **WP3.** Financing: Shaping National public funding. Strengthening cities' capacity to appoint staff for urban transition through continuous capacity-building and training initiatives.
- **WP5.** Stakeholder mobilization and engagement and enhance collaboration with National Adaptation Platform (NAPF) and the Regional Development Centre (CRR).

Denmark

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Connection with Adaptation Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ;Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

Denmark's national platform was initiated by **CONCITO** and is currently coordinated by Local Government Denmark. The strategy focuses on supporting all municipalities in Denmark in implementing, revising and recertifying their climate action plans on mitigation, adaptation, and climate equity. The platform operates in a context where regions were forced to withdraw from the Danish Climate Alliance due to new legislation, prompting the platform to take over regional support functions. A critical priority is securing long-term anchoring and funding after 2028, as current philanthropic funding from Realdania runs out.

By May 2027, the platform aims to secure funding sources through new projects (e.g., EU LifeACT), make new attempts at connecting with national authorities following the 2026 elections, and reduce the reporting burden for municipalities. Key actions include coordinating with NetZeroCities for multi-level governance dialogues, collaborating with C40 Cities on learning materials, and continuously improving the MERL system for monitoring.

The Country Action Plan defines as key objectives:

- Secure the long term operation of the platform by connecting with national authorities and investigating new funding sources
- Support all municipalities in revising and recertifying their climate action plans by publishing guidance material and commenting on drafts.
- Reduce the reporting burden for monitoring and increase the usefulness of the monitoring system (MERL) for municipalities.

Activities

Specified in the table below.

Thematic Focus

- Funding Security Post-2028 (LifeACT, Philanthropy)
- Multi-level Governance Dialogue (Post-Election, CHAMP Declaration)
- Monitoring System Optimization (MERL, Reduced Burden, Adaptation Data)
- Climate Action Plan Revision Support (C40 Collaboration, Guidance Material)
- Funding Facilitation (Better Funding Dialogue)

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	- Secure funding sources post-2028 (e.g., LifeACT) - Connect with national authorities' post-election - Coordinate with Adaptation Mission Hub (Klimatorium)	- New projects developed to replace expiring philanthropic funding (Realdania) - Dialogue with national authorities initiated once government is formed - Regular exchange and coordination with Klimatorium established	- Develop new projects and map available funding sources - Make new attempts at connecting with national authorities after 2026 elections - Exchange with NetZeroCities to support organization of multi-level governance dialogues - Publish analyses and articles advocating for local climate action importance
Dimension 2: Networking	- Support municipalities in plan revision - Organize stakeholder dialogues on housing/transport	- All municipalities supported in revising/recertifying climate action plans - Events organized on housing, green transition, and/or road pricing	- Publish guidance material on Cities Climate Transition Framework and comment on draft plans - Coordinate with C40 Cities to develop learning materials and support plan revision - Organize stakeholder dialogues on housing, role of cities, and/or just road pricing
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	- Reduce reporting burden & improve MERL system - Facilitate access to funding (Better Funding Dialogue) - Provide data extracts to municipalities	- Reporting burden reduced and data usefulness increased for municipalities - Better Funding Dialogue organized in Denmark - Second and third status report published and online data platform updated	- Continuously improve MERL approach for higher relevance and lower burden - Publish second and third status report on municipal climate action and update transition indicators - Provide each municipality with an extract of all relevant data - Exchange with NetZeroCities to support organization of a Better Funding Dialogue
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	- Establish data-driven adaptation monitoring - Influence policy via CHAMP declaration & EU engagement	- Transparent data-driven monitoring system for adaptation operational - Multi-level governance promoted via CHAMP declaration advocacy	- Support establishment of adaptation monitoring system via in-house work and dialogue with Danish Meteorological Institute - Promote CHAMP declaration to push for more multi-level governance

			Use EU engagement as argument to secure support from national authorities
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

The Danish platform is particularly interested in:

- Support in getting recognition / involvement from national authorities;
- Joining forces in doing outreach beyond the EU and trying to support the global CHAMP agenda

Finland

Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Policy labs- workshops;

Connection with Adaptation Mission; Multi-city learning exchange; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Exchanges with other country support structures; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies;



Description

The Finnish Mission Cities Network operates as a network facilitating dialogue and exchange among ministries, cities, and relevant stakeholders under the lead of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The network's activities rely on in-kind contributions from participating organisations in the absence of a dedicated governance structure and budget. Finland's Country Action Plan focuses on strengthening coordination, collaboration, and facilitation capacity of the network. Strong alignment with national actors and the NetZeroCities (NZC) and CapaCITIES frameworks underpins the strategy.

By May 2027, the focus of the platform is on facilitating regular peer-to-peer exchanges and collaborative events, enhancing knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement, and supporting coordinated city actions to address key decarbonisation challenges, particularly in mobility and logistics.

The Country Action Plan focuses on strengthening the national platform's coordination and facilitation capacity, enhancing alignment of urban climate action through improved knowledge sharing, joint planning, and peer-to-peer exchange, and increasing city engagement through networking and collaboration. It also prioritizes targeted action on mobility and logistics emissions by implementing policy innovation labs with NetZeroCities to support coordinated and effective urban solutions.

Activities

Described in the table below.

Thematic Focus

- A. Focused capacity-building and collaboration on mobility, transport, and logistics-related emissions
- B. Policy alignment, activation of national actors and multi-level collaboration
- C. Creation of collaborative arenas and structured peer-to-peer learning among cities and ministries
- D. Integration with NetZeroCities (NZC) for policy labs and coordination
- E. Supportive role for Facilitation, Convening and Coordination role of the national platform
- F. Stakeholders engagement (industry)

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthened coordination and facilitation of the national platform; focus on key strategic themes	- Consolidate community of practice among cities - Facilitate regular exchanges, with strategic thematic priorities and structured formats for peer-to-peer exchange - Stronger multi-level governance engagement	- Communicate cities' needs and foster multi-level dialogue for policy alignment - Define strategic themes (mobility, transport, buildings) for collaboration - Facilitate 4 in-person meetings and regular online-exchanges between Mission cities experts and political leaders
Dimension 2: Networking	Increased engagement of mission cities, mission-minded cities, and key stakeholders	- Strengthen participation and collaboration across cities, national authorities, and private sector actors - Increase the engagement of Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities through structured networking activities and joint events	- Organise joint events for Mission cities (e.g. Eurooppafoorumi, Ilmastofoorumi, August 2026) - Organise a joint session for Mission-minded cities - Engage national authorities (ministries) in events - Facilitate city-industry dialogue (with NZC) - Extend collaboration with network's members
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Coordinated knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising	- Enhance knowledge sharing and coordinated communication efforts, including awareness-raising activities - Implement, in collaboration with NZC, policy innovation labs aimed at addressing key emission gaps, particularly in mobility and logistics	- Promote joint messaging and awareness raising - Support peer-to-peer dialogue on external collaboration in cities - Support organisation of peer-to-peer dialogue formats and policy innovation labs (mobility & logistics) with NZC on 12th of May 2026
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Enable cities to collaboratively address key challenges	Facilitate structured, coordinated, and results-oriented collaboration to address systemic bottlenecks in urban decarbonisation, as e.g. workshop with ministries and cities about the multi-level governance, collaboration and strategic needs for supporting decarbonisation at cities in April 2026.	- Create arenas for dialogue, exchange on good practices, and learnings (i.e. on carbon emission compensation, carbon goals, climate action planning) - Facilitate peer-to-peer exchange with Mission Cities and beyond (NZC) - Collaborate with NZC on policy innovation labs on mobility and logistics - Organise high-level events with national decision-makers (2026-2027)

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: Finnish ministries' representatives leading the network are interested to have exchanges between other Nordic countries mission networks (ministries and agencies), discussions ongoing to arrange exchange with Viable Cities (status in April 2026): exchange supported by VTT from the Finnish side as a part of CAPACITIES work.

WP2: VTT: Supporting to facilitate multi-level governance structures and make progress towards Mission implementation on the national and regional level visible; co-develop with cities and ministries a joint narrative and summary of strategic actions that would be needed at different governance levels to speed up city's climate actions (spring 2026)

WP3: CAPACITIES will collaborate with NZC to support organizing policy lab on mobility on 12th of May 2026.

WP4: supporting dialogue with/across relevant national ecosystems in Finland (e.g. FISU, KUUMA, Innocities / Ecosystem contracts)

WP5: organising public events to share knowledge and learnings (e.g. Eurooppafoorumi in August 2026). Communication and dissemination about Finnish Mission cities to different audiences

France

Activities Tags:



Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies); Multi-city exchange workshops; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

The National Groupe Miroir Ville (**GMV**) is France's national platform for the Cities Mission, bringing together a wide range of actors, including national ministries, public agencies, research organisations and regional authorities, to support the implementation of climate actions in cities. The platform aims to improve coordination across this ecosystem and strengthen alignment between national frameworks and local initiatives.

France's Country Action Plan focuses on reinforcing collaboration between **Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities**, with a strong emphasis on **knowledge transfer** and capacity-building activities. It also prioritises the development of digital **tools** and **data** systems, (e.g. Local Digital Twins) to **support decision-making for the climate change mitigation**, monitoring and reporting.

In addition, the plan aims to facilitate access to **financial opportunities** and **improve collaboration** between cities, institutions and financial stakeholders. The approach also emphasises co-design with cities, strong coordination with national stakeholders and continued engagement despite political transitions.

The Country Action Plan defines as key objectives:

- Strengthening coordination across the national ecosystem by improving alignment among ministries, agencies, regions, and cities
- Enhancing knowledge transfer and capacity-building between Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities
- Developing robust tools, data systems, and financial mechanisms to effectively support and implement coordinated climate action.

Activities

- Mission events *to transfer knowledge from Mission Cities to Mission-minded cities (physical events in **March 2026** , **June 2026**, and in **2027**, as well as online events like Policy Labs).*
- **Monthly** meetings with French cities engaged in the Mission, starting with Mission Cities and cities involved in the twinning program of NetZeroCities.
- **Monthly** coordination meetings with the organisation members of the platform.
- **Monthly** coordination meetings with the core team.
- Organise exchanges for transition teams in cities to learn from each other, based on best practices for example: Bilateral meetings with Mission Cities between **July 2025 and March 2026**.
- A national event held in the Paris area (Saint-Ouen) in **March 2026**, featuring various workshops.

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the France Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- a) Financing for urban climate transition
- b) Multilevel governance for climate action
- c) Use of data and digital tools to support evidence-based urban policies.
- d) Circular economy in the construction and built environment sector.
- e) Vacant and underused buildings as a lever for urban regeneration and land-use efficiency.
- f) Climate change mitigation and adaptation in cities (thermal comfort in buildings, low-carbon and resource-efficient solutions)
- g) Food supply chains at local and metropolitan scales
- h) Individual and collective approaches to behavioural change

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen the coordination of the national ecosystem supporting the Cities Mission, bringing together ministries, national agencies, research organisations and territorial actors.	Consolidate multilevel collaboration and reinforce the national platform's capacity to coordinate actors, support cities and align national initiatives with the EU Cities Mission.	-Contact different stakeholders, including key national agencies and ministries which support local authorities and develop decarbonisation actions, to develop synergies. -Check whether the CCCs have found their rightful place in the functioning of French multilevel governance and strengthen collaboration between the various departments and agencies and cities on this issue + Mobilize territorial agencies (and other stakeholders) to support climate objectives and ensure robust, locally specific data. - Formalise the priority working areas - Reinforce the links between cities, by organising capacity building sessions and collaborative actions. - Provide information to the national funder to support decision-making on resource allocation and Encourage cities and intermunicipal authorities to request the decentralized services of the State for specific investments. Convince national decision-makers to support the Mission approach in France. At the regional level: utilize international networks to connect the City Mission and the Adaptation Mission, where operational objectives are aligned.
Dimension 2: Networking	Expand the network of cities and institutional actors engaged in the Cities Mission and strengthen knowledge exchange within the national ecosystem.	Extend the number of Mission-minded cities engaged in Mission activities and strengthen knowledge transfer between cities and institutional stakeholders.	-Identify and engage Mission-minded cities at regional level. -Organise capacity-building sessions to transfer learning from Mission Cities. -Develop synergies with national programmes supporting cities to disseminate knowledge. -Engage new national representatives in the activities of the platform. -Ensure Mission objectives are shared within regional networks and international networks of regions focused on climate action.

Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Strengthen cities' capacity to implement climate actions by improving access to data, knowledge exchange and capacity-building activities.	Improve cities' ability to monitor, report and implement climate actions while strengthening knowledge transfer between cities and institutional stakeholders.	-Identify indicators and data sources for the "carbon layer" of Local Digital -Twins to monitor, report and verify climate actions. -Communicate the learnings from Mission-related activities. -Organise exchanges between city transition teams to share best practices. -Disseminate findings from Mission Cities to regional decision-makers to support their integration into regional policies and strategies.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Strengthen collaboration between cities, institutions and financial stakeholders through shared tools, joint initiatives and financial innovation.	Improve collaboration on tools and methodologies for climate action and facilitate access to financial opportunities for cities.	-Develop indicators and metadata to use Local Digital Twins as decision-making tools. -Define needs and specifications and seek funding for shared tools supporting climate action. -Identify financial opportunities and support stakeholder applications. -Disseminate innovative financial practices and connect cities with financial experts.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1. Capacity-building and knowledge transfer between Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities.

WP3. Three main topics in which the French partners are highly involved:

1) Policy and regulatory framework (France/CSTB as co-lead, with Austria/AIT as lead): Development of a conceptual framework on Smart Policy Labs (M12, delivered in April 2026) and organisation of a series of Smart Policy Labs and Policy Dialogues until the end of the CAPACITIES 2.0 project (M24, April 2027).

2) Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) Framework (France/Cerema as co-lead, with Germany/ICLEI as lead): Framework mapping and identification of good practices for MRV (M1–M18, October 2026), as well as capacity building and knowledge sharing (M24, April 2027), including "Data-driven climate action" through the development of Local Digital Twins and strengthening MRV, decision-making and knowledge production.

3) Identification of financial opportunities and support to stakeholder applications.

WP4. National ecosystem coordination, strengthening collaboration between ministries, agencies, regions and cities.

WP5. Stakeholder engagement and communication, including dissemination of knowledge and mobilisation of key actors.

Germany



Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Policy; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors (private stakeholders /companies); Workshops – cities and private stakeholders / companies; Finance; MRV.

Description

Germany's participation in the EU Cities Mission is characterized by a consolidated coordination framework that brings together national and European initiatives under NetZeroCities and CapaCITIES 2.0. This arrangement supports a streamlined approach, enabling close coordination, regular communication, and alignment of activities across governance levels. Ongoing interaction between Mission Cities, Mission-minded cities, and national government representatives is embedded in this setup, alongside regular national coordination meetings that bring together City Advisors, City Support Facility partners, and NetZeroCities partners to ensure coherence, information exchange, and joint progress.

The strategy is structured around three interconnected pillars: building strong alliances with key national stakeholders to advance coordinated action, supporting stronger cities—particularly by reinforcing their interaction and alignment with the national level—and delivering targeted capacity-building activities to empower mission-minded cities in the implementation of their climate objectives.

Key barriers identified include limited capacity within Mission Cities, insufficient dedicated budgets within ministries to support Mission activities, and the need for a strong national champion to advocate for the Cities Mission within government. To address these challenges, ongoing efforts focus on strengthening relationships across governance levels and establishing new working approaches that empower cities to contribute more effectively to national policy discussions.

Key national actors involved in the process include Federal Ministry for Research, Innovation, Technology, and Space Activities; Federal Ministry for housing Policy, Urban Development, and Spatial Planning; Projektträger Jülich.

Activities

Activities planned for 2026 are being developed in consultation with stronGER cities and government representatives to ensure effective engagement and multilevel collaboration.

- Annual event 2026 – autumn 2026 (tbc)
- Better Funding Dialogue 2026 – face-to-face meetings at regional level in Q1 & Q2, workshops Q3 & Q4
- Steering Committee meetings 2026 – end June (in Berlin) & November (online)
- F2F visits in regions - North-Rhine Westphalia (May / June 2026), Baden-Württemberg (Feb 2026)
- City-Industry Dialogue - Workshop 1 (summer 2026), Workshop 2 (autumn 2026)
- Monthly coordination meetings with Federal Ministry for Urban Development
- CapaCITIES webinars on Transnational Alliance
- Thematic Groups on Policy Regulation
- Thematic Groups on Funding
- Thematic Groups on Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
- Thematic Groups on Regional Approach
- Pan-European Consultation Panel - scheduled to take place in-person at the Cities Mission Conference in Torino, in May 2026

Thematic Focus

- A. Financing opportunities
- B. Policies & regulations
- C. MRV

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform Degree of formalization Diversity of roles played by the platform Multi-level collaboration: National involvement Multi-level collaboration: Regional involvement Capacity for decision making Working areas Community of practice between cities Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source	Institutionalise new ways of working to facilitate effective MLG, e.g. establishment of regular dialogue formats on funding and policy development (between stronGER cities and national ministries / agencies).	Mission Cities and Mission-minded Cities benefit from new multi-level cooperation via 1) formalised / institutionalised policy dialogue processes 2) formalised / institutionalised finance dialogue processes 3) knowledge exchange / ongoing learning opportunities. Context-specific needs are fulfilled (i.e. not an additional structure but integrated and tailored MLG processes in place). New ways of working formalised to enable communication and collaboration across governance levels (aligned and formalised). Ongoing communication with BMFTR, BMWSB, PtJ and other national stakeholders. National Consultation Panels provide feedback opportunities and strengthen buy-in of national level. Regional engagement is to be integrated in Better Funding Dialogue approach in 2026.

			Steering Group / Lenkungsforum is the decision-making forum. Address regulatory barriers and funding frameworks and increase visibility of the Cities Mission in Germany. Potential for policy lab on MRV, NbS... To be established in the context of the Annual Event in 2026. Contributions in kind are provided by Ministries and stronGER cities (e.g. meeting venues, conferences).
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of Mission Cities Engagement of Mission-minded cities Engagement of national authorities Engagement of regional authorities Engagement of business and private sector Engagement of others in events and in projects	Engagement of private sector, and relationship-building with regional actors	Mission Cities - Jour Fixe: stronGER cities & BMWSB (with ICLEI) Mission-minded cities - Open invitation to MMCs to webinar series: Klima Lunch Talks throughout 2026; invitations to Annual Event National level - Steering Committee Meetings x2/year Regional level - Steering Committee Meetings x2/year; dedicated f2f visits in at least 2 Bundesländer in 2026 Private sector - Participation in City-Industry Dialogues in 2026 & 2027 Partnerships / alliances developed with at least 10 stakeholders, incl. Urbact, NKS, DUT
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities	Policy alignment and unlocking finance	Better Funding Dialogues Explore City Financial Architects for Mission Cities

	Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification, and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation Capacity building activities to other relevant stakeholders Policy & regulation		Potential Policy Lab on MRV in Germany (in cooperation with IFEU tbc) Implemented via briefings with City-Industry Dialogue partners Ongoing support with policy dialogues on regulation and funding
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Instruments for deep collaboration Monitoring, learning, and replication Capacity to influence policies at the local, regional, and national level Engagement with financial actors	Policy dialogue, engagement of financial stakeholders, knowledge transfer, replication and scaling via partners / alliances	Steering Committee, Bundeskongress, City-Industry Dialogue, Better Funding Dialogue, Urban Lunch Talks, Mission-minded Lunch Talks and National Events MRV is a topic for further discussion Policy dialogue processes established with BMWBSB, e.g. On regulatory barriers, Bauturbo, and Finance A training needs assessment should be conducted (via Frankfurt School).

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- WP4: National Stakeholder Consultation Panel,
- WP3: MRV Working Group, Finance Working Group

Greece

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance Connection with Adaptation Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies) ; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Financial diversification and sustainability .

Description

Greece's Country Action Plan focuses on strengthening a coherent national framework to support the implementation of the EU Cities Mission. The Ministry of Environment and Energy leads the national coordination, prioritising the development of a structured National Network of cities, currently comprising approximately 90 municipalities under a Memorandum of Cooperation.

The national strategy for climate neutrality is anchored in the National Climate Law (2022), which mandates that municipalities develop specific emissions reduction plans to achieve a 55% reduction goal by 2030. This strategy is executed through three core areas:

- a) six "vanguard" pioneer cities, including Athens and Thessaloniki, lead the transition with investment-ready Climate City Contracts that serve as models for over 90+ other municipalities;
- b) the recently established **Council of Energy-Neutral Cities** serves as the central governance mechanism, ensuring coordination, policy alignment, and multi-level engagement;
- c) and implementation is supported by technical pillars focused on energy-efficient building renovations, electric mobility, circular waste systems, and AI-driven digital twins for urban climate simulation.

The overall approach aims to enhance capacity building, facilitate multi-level governance, and accelerate the implementation of climate neutrality actions across cities in Greece, while acknowledging and welcoming complementary initiatives and cooperation platforms, such as CLIMANET, within the broader national governance and policy ecosystem. CLIMANET EGTC, founded in 2025, according to its statute, aims to support seven Greek and Cypriot municipalities in reaching climate neutrality and digital transformation by 2030. The platform is intended to streamline project licensing and provide technical support to turn climate pacts into fundable "Green Lists". By 2027, it aims to establish dedicated transition teams and actionable plans through collaboration across the public, private, and academic sectors.

Activities

- **National instruments aligned with the EU Mission:**
Development of the **National Network of Greek Cities Mission**, the **Greek Climate City Contract** and the **Greek Mission Label**, fully aligned with the European Cities Mission, to support implementation readiness and coordinated action at city level. (Deployment of a national digital platform and technical assistance support scheme)
- **Direct dialogue between cities and government:**
The Ministry of Environment and Energy (MoEE) is strengthening national governance for climate-neutral cities through the operationalisation of the **Council of Energy-Neutral Cities**, bringing together the six Greek Mission City Mayors, Secretaries General from key Ministries, and expert stakeholders. *Council operationalisation (2025–2027) and Regular Council meetings (at least 2–3 per year)*. The Council functions as a permanent institutional hub and direct communication channel between Mission Cities and the national government, enabling

coordinated problem-solving, policy alignment, and the removal of implementation barriers related to Climate City Contracts.

- **Prioritisation of access to funding:**
Through the institutionalisation and acquisition of the Greek Mission Label, the Ministry seeks to create the conditions for **prioritised access of municipalities to national and complementary European funding instruments**, supporting the effective implementation of approved Climate City Contracts.
- **Targeted Technical Assistance for implementation:**
The Ministry intends to deploy a **Targeted Technical Assistance Programme**, focusing explicitly on the **approved Climate City Contracts and Action Plans of the six Greek Mission Cities**, supporting the maturation of high-impact actions into investment-ready projects and addressing institutional and regulatory barriers. *(launch in 2026, ongoing)*
- **Innovation and ecosystem mobilisation:**
In parallel, the Ministry promotes innovation through initiatives such as the **Climate Neutral Cities Challenge**, engaging startups, innovative SMEs, universities, and research organisations to support urban climate neutrality, complementing—but not substituting—the implementation of Climate City Contracts.

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Greece Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- a. Peer-to-peer learning networks for municipal climate action.
- b. Scaling technical expertise through specialized capacity-building activities.
- c. Design of innovative financing mechanisms for climate neutrality.
- d. Development of regulatory structures to support Climate City Contracts.
- e. Enhancement of vertical coordination between national and local government.
- f. Streamlining of inter-ministerial governance mechanisms.
- g. Methodologies for deep civil society participation.
- h. Strategies for private sector capital and resource mobilization.

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Establishment and operationalisation of the Council Alignment of national, regional, and local actors Integration with EU Mission governance	Fully operational national coordination platform Active participation of ~90 municipalities Clear governance and decision-making processes CLIMANET EGTC administrative formation completed	Regular Council meetings Establishment of thematic working groups Coordination with national and EU stakeholders Integration of the Greek Cities Mission Programme into the national governance framework
Dimension 2: Networking	Strengthening inter-city collaboration Expanding stakeholder engagement Promoting knowledge exchange	Strong national network of cities Active engagement of private and social actors Established links with EU networks	Organisation of networking events and workshops Multi-city exchanges (national & EU level) Engagement platforms for stakeholders
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Capacity building for municipalities Project preparation and financing Technical assistance	Development of the Greek Cities Mission Programme Establishment of a structured methodology for Climate City Contracts at municipal level Deployment of a national digital platform supporting cities Development of the Greek Climate City Contract (GCCC) framework Delivery of targeted technical assistance for project maturation	Design of the Greek Cities Mission Programme, including methodology, process flow, and monitoring framework Development of operational guidelines and regulatory framework Deployment of a national digital platform (submission tools, guidance material, forum, helpdesk) Development of the Greek Climate City Contract (GCCC) specifications Implementation of a targeted Technical Assistance Programme supporting preparation and strategic planning, prioritisation of high-impact actions, development of investment-ready projects, identification of regulatory barriers and policy recommendations
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Strengthening partnerships Aligning national and local priorities Promoting integrated approaches	Strong collaboration across governance levels Increased joint initiatives Improved policy coherence	Policy labs and co-creation workshops Joint initiatives with stakeholders Collaboration across national and European initiatives

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

Greece expresses interest in targeted support across key Work Packages of the CapaCITIES project:

- **WP1:** Capacity-building support through expert facilities, peer learning, and training activities for municipalities
- **WP3:** Support on financing mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, and MRV systems, particularly in relation to Climate City Contracts
- **WP4:** Strengthening national coordination structures and governance mechanisms
- **WP5:** Tools and methodologies for stakeholder engagement, including mobilisation of private sector and civil society actors

Hungary

Activities Tags:



Connection with *Adaptation Mission; Multi-city exchange workshops; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Exchanges with other country support structures; Financial diversification and sustainability.*

Description

The National Platform, launched in November 2023 within the framework of the CapaCITIES project, functions as a collaborative space bringing together ministries, public authorities, professional organisations, universities, and cities to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange, including with municipalities beyond the scope of the EU Cities Mission. At this stage, the platform remains in an early and informal development phase, operating without a dedicated governance structure, with coordination currently carried out by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) and the Institute for Transport Sciences and Quality Control in Building (KTI).

Three key priorities guide its development. First, strengthening **governance and structure** by formalising membership, clarifying roles, and gradually establishing a more stable coordination mechanism. Second, enhancing **participation and capacity**, including supporting access to Horizon Europe opportunities and fostering collaboration across stakeholders. Third, developing a clear **national narrative and strategic alignment** with the EU Cities Mission.

Next steps include finalising the membership framework, expanding stakeholder engagement, establishing a more formal coordination structure, and reinforcing the platform's role in connecting national actors with European initiatives and funding opportunities.

Activities

- Annual event 2026 jointly with Info Days for cities – 2026. Q4 (KTI+NKFIH)
- Regular meetings with cities – From March 2026 to May 2027 monthly or bimonthly (KTI)
- Thematic working groups – May 2026 to May 2027 quarterly (KTI)
- Consultations – Consultations are arranged as required (from cities or activities) (NKFIH)

Thematic Focus

- A. **Financing opportunities**
- B. **Human resources – Transition Team**
- C. **Access to data and MRV**

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform	Define and prioritize working areas. Development of working groups. Engagement of relevant stakeholders.	Members include relevant authorities, ministries, professional organizations, universities, and cities. NKFIH plans to organize an event within the (details under preparation) and offers consultations on Horizon Europe funding opportunities for cities and other stakeholders upon request.
	Degree of formalization		A draft non-binding agreement prepared by KTI aims to bring together relevant stakeholders and provide a structured membership framework. The agreement will be revised and circulated for signatures, with its management coordinated by KTI.
	Diversity of roles played by the platform		The Platform Members consist of relevant authorities, ministries, professional organizations, universities and cities. There is an opportunity for different actors to collaborate and share ideas and information.
	Capacity for decision making		The platform does not have any specific structure or secretariat and is planned to remain in informal format. Decisions will be made by NKFIH and KTI together.
	Involvement in decision making of other actors (membership)		Currently no other actors are in the decision-making process. It is planned to establish a network which provide input for decision making. The details are under discussion.
	Working areas		The plan is to have thematic working group discussions to prioritize the working areas.
	Community of practice between cities		Financial resources are provided by the CapaCITIES 2.0 project. Additional in-kind personnel contribution provided by KTI and NKFIH. Facilitation is provided by KTI and NKFIH with clear division of tasks.
	Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source		Mapping of possible funding opportunities will be implemented, Horizon Europe funding opportunities are also being screened.
	Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source.		The importance of urban development is recognized by multiple actors in the Hungarian governmental system. Raising awareness for this initiative is ongoing.
	National funding support to the platform		
	Political support		

Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of Mission Cities Engagement of Mission-minded cities Engagement of national authorities Engagement of regional authorities Engagement of business and private sector Engagement of others in events and in projects	Regular meetings with Mission Cities. Engagement with Mission-minded cities. Engagement of private sector through municipalities.	Establishment of a stronger collaboration partnership and organization of regular meetings will be done. KTI organizes ongoing discussions with two of the Mission Cities (Miskolc and Pécs), the other one (Budapest) will be contacted. Establishment of a stronger collaboration partnership and organization of regular meetings with Mission-minded cities will be initiated. NKFIH as a funding agency is well-embedded in the national public administrative system and KTI also maintains active connections with ministries and relevant authorities. The main channel for engaging local authorities is via social media and participation in events. Involvement of business and private sector is expected through umbrella organizations. Information will be distributed through these organizations, also social media and newsletters. We are open to distribute information on other engagement possibilities through online channels.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Support to cities for the incorporation of staff dedicated to urban transition Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification, and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation Capacity building activities to other relevant stakeholders	Addressing financial and human resources barrier. Addressing data and MRV. Supporting CCC implementation in the Mission Cities.	NKFIH provides regular consultation opportunities for local governments about available European and national funding. In the framework of these consultations, events and info-days, information on European developments on urban transition can be promoted. Access to relevant data differs for each municipality, there are cities who are more advanced in these topics (with their own monitoring systems usually from EU funding), but some smaller cities with less resources have limited opportunities. KTI will discuss with the Mission Cities individually what they have access to and what they need. An event is expected to be organized by NKFIH in cooperation with KTI, focusing on experiences with the Cities Mission and exchange of best practices in partnership-building, successful participation and implementation of projects. The details are

			currently being prepared. NKFIH organizes informative consultations on current HE application opportunities upon request, giving cities and other relevant stakeholders the opportunity to learn about their options directly.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Multi-city projects or thematic projects for actual collaboration Monitoring, learning, and replication	Multi-city projects. Good practices & replication strategies. International smart city projects.	NKFIH has information on several projects Hungarian institutions are participating in, KTI has other projects (smart city projects, etc.), hence collaboration with other projects or multi-city projects can be facilitated based on the cities' actual needs. There are initial plans on developing a learning system, the first step was the joint workshop where good practices were presented to cities.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- Multiple WPs:
 - Sharing best practices from other cities
 - How to maintain the platform after the project
- WP3: Guidelines on specific topics such as financing, engaging citizens and companies

Ireland

Description

The **National Mirror Group (NMG)** is a group set up in May 2024 to help the Irish cities of Cork, Dublin, and Galway meet the EU's Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities Mission. It brings together representatives from government, academia, and business representatives to break down bureaucratic and technical barriers. In total, 26 organizations are involved, including government departments, state agencies, local authorities, universities, and private sector partners. It is led by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Its main purpose is to coordinate national support for these cities so they can reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. More specifically, it aims to:

- Make sure cities get the backing they need to decarbonize on time
- Give cities a space to report on progress and flag local challenges
- Turn discussions into real action
- Help cities with Climate City Contracts, funding applications, and joint projects

Activities

Key Initiatives from the NMG Review.

- **Sub-NMG:** A smaller working group that meets monthly to speed up decision-making on high-priority issues
- **NMG Vision Project:** An external agency was hired to develop a shared mission statement and communication strategy
- **City Expert Support Facility (Bable):** An expert body funded to help cities work toward climate neutrality over 18 months
- **Bilateral Meetings:** Focused sessions on specific topics like transport or buildings
- **Project Management Tools:** Digital tools such as MS Planner and Excel trackers to keep actions on track and ensure accountability
- **Field Visits:** On-site visits to climate projects in each city to share practical lessons across the group

Thematic Focus

- Renewable Energy
- District heating
- Greening and Nature based solutions
- Retrofit or private sector, commercial and social housing
- Regeneration
- Green Transport

Challenges and successes of the NMG support

Despite 86% of members viewing the group positively, there are real obstacles:

- **No dedicated staff:** No one is assigned full-time to track progress; the Mission is handled as extra work on top of existing jobs within the cities and nationally
- **Limited awareness:** Many government departments do not know much about the Mission and the benefits of focusing on Ireland's largest urban areas

- **No clear consensus on improvements:** Members do not always agree on how to make the group better and more impactful
- **Funding competition:** Some cities feel they are competing against each other for national funding rather than presenting a united case

The National Mirror Group and Mission Cities have secured some real wins.

Dublin City and Cork City were awarded with the Mission label in May 2025. The Mission secured support from the City Expert Support Facility which will explore thematic areas and develop a Community of Practice between the Mission cities and Mission-minded cities – Waterford and Limerick, thereby involving all five of Ireland's cities.

Dublin and Cork were awarded funding from the Department for resilience and adaptation projects in 2025, and all cities have a shared budget of €2m in 2026 – the Mission Cities Accelerator Fund.

Italy

Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Policy labs-workshops; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors (private stakeholders /companies); Workshops cities and private stakeholders /companies; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV); Fit-for Mission - piloting.



Description

The Italian ecosystem has developed progressively, through initiatives that emerged organically among cities and technical actors, the committed team includes the **MUR, ENEA, CNR, UniBO, and UniPA**. The result is an expanding ecosystem in which cities and national organisations are increasingly working in a more connected way.

By structuring engagement through **workstreams, coordination routines, and roles**, the Action Plan aims to create a **predictable, collaborative ecosystem** for the Mission. Furthermore, the plan leverages tools from **CapaCITIES 2.0** and the **Let'sGov** project (NZC pilot project) to foster national exchanges on country-specific challenges, ensuring that the ecosystem remains resilient and mission-driven.

Based on the sources provided, the **three priority working areas** for the Italian Action Plan are: **Governance** (consolidate the current informal coordination into a structured national platform), **Funding and Finance** (helping cities mobilize capital), and **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification** (promoting common indicators and monitoring methodologies to provide cities with the necessary tools to track their progress).

Activities

- **Quarterly meetings** of the committed team for updates, alignment and decision making.
- Short policy brief and organise a high-level endorsement moment (**Q1 2027**).
- Establish liaison with the Ministry of Environment's Adaptation Hub; joint session to identify synergies.
- **Biannual** coordination meeting with key ministries and agencies focused on regulatory and funding updates.
- Two pilot regional labs (North/Centre–South) to connect plans, funds, and data services.
- Solutions & finance forum with utilities, DSOs, ESCOs, and banks (action led by NZC).

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Consolidate current informal coordination into a structured national platform and align national policies, funding instruments, and regulatory frameworks with the EU Cities Mission objectives.	Reinforce multi-level collaboration (national–regional–local). Design a national platform with clear membership, mandate, and workplan .	Consolidate the informal space (MUR, ENEA, CNR, UniBO, UniPA, APRE, EuCliPa + 9 Cities) into a light, documented platform. -Outline a 2026–2027 roadmap. Define complementary roles: policy alignment (MUR), capacity building (ENEA/CNR), research & methods (Universities/ENEA/CNR), and city interface (ANCI). Re-activate inter-ministerial dialogue and promote a structured dialogue with Regions through a roundtable on regulatory frameworks. Set quarterly meetings of the committed team for updates and decision-making-Leverage Let'sGov to support national exchanges on country-specific regulatory and governance issues. Pool facilitation time and define a rotating chair and lightweight secretariat. Prepare a short policy brief and organize a high-level endorsement moment in Q1 2027. Establish liaison with the Ministry of Environment's Adaptation Hub for joint sessions on synergies.
Dimension 2: Networking	Foster cross-sectoral collaboration with Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities and national/regional authorities.	Strengthen the multi-level governance , mobilize business and financial stakeholders to help cities overcome investment barriers and mobilize funding and involve academia, civil society, and the private sector	Conduct light national coordination and exchanges with the 9 Mission Cities to share updates on national policies, funding, and regulations. Support Mission-minded (follower) cities via ANCI and set up a basic onboarding pack. Hold biannual coordination meetings with key ministries and agencies focused on regulatory and funding updates. Organize two pilot regional labs (North/Centre–South) to connect regional plans, funds, and data services. Set up a “solutions & finance” forum with utilities, DSOs, ESCOs, and banks (led by NZC) to bridge investment barriers. Invite EuCliPa, chambers of commerce, and philanthropic organizations to topic-specific sessions.

			Prepare a concept information package for promotion at civil society/research events and the Italian Ambassadors Network.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Offer targeted capacity-building activities to Mission Cities and followers/twin cities and leverage CapaCITIES 2.0 learning portfolios and tools to facilitate implementation.	Mobilize funding for climate projects, establish shared monitoring, reporting, and verification systems to track progress and strengthen the technical skills of city transition teams.	Create a "live funding map" (EU and national) and promote it to cities with a short guide for each instrument. Establish a "solutions & finance" forum with utilities, DSOs, ESCOs, and banks. Promote MRV indicators, supporting their consistent use across Mission Cities. Run training sessions on governance, funding, and regional approaches led by ENEA and CNR. Offer thematic workshops for building owners, utilities, and civic groups on priority transition topics. Compile a tracker of regulatory barriers and enablers to support policy iteration and the Climate City Contract process. Actively engage in CapaCITIES 2.0 thematic groups (Policy, Funding, MRV) and peer-learning webinars.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Pave the way to deep collaboration with cities and stakeholders leveraging CapaCITIES 2.0 tools.		<i>Develop instruments for deep collaboration in Phase 2 once platform funding is secured</i>

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Italy Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- A. **Governance & Multi-level Collaboration**- Consolidating a structured national platform.
- B. **Funding & Finance Solutions**- Help cities mobilize the necessary capital for climate neutrality projects.
- C. **MRV, Data & Capacity Building**- Providing technical training to city transition teams to ensure data-driven progress.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1 (Transnational learning and capacity-building). Webinars regarding the **Transnational Alliance** as part of this package

WP3 (Policy, Funding, and MRV Frameworks). Italy's **priority working areas**: Governance (Policy), Funding and Finance, and MRV and data

WP4 (National eco-systems & joint events). Training and peer-learning activities specifically within WP4.

WP5 (Stakeholder mobilization & communication). **National and Pan-European Consultation Panels** and provide communication support for **stakeholder mobilization**.

Lithuania

Description

Lithuania's national context is centred on the **Lithuanian Green Municipalities Network**, which functions as a voluntary coordination space rather than a formally established national platform. The structure is largely city-driven, with Vilnius and Tauragė playing a leading role in Mission-related activities and maintaining closer collaboration. The country has two **Mission Cities**, Tauragė, and Vilnius.

Country partners are working on the CapaCITIES Country Action Plan and will be submitted in the following iterations.

From the self-assessment conducted for the Deliverable 2.1, priorities identified are as follows:

- Governance and platform structure: Over the next two years, Lithuania aims to **strengthen structured national involvement in Mission governance and improve alignment between national strategies and Mission objectives**. Expanding regional engagement beyond current frontrunner cities, further structuring thematic working areas, reinforcing the community of practice, and establishing initial links with the Adaptation Mission Hub are also identified as priorities, progressing from an incipient toward a consolidating level.
- Networking: The next steps focus on strengthening **engagement of Mission-minded cities**, expanding and structuring regional authority involvement beyond the current leading municipalities, and deepening collaboration with business and private sector actors. Increased engagement of national authorities is not identified as a priority at this stage.

- Implementation and capacity building: Over the next two years, the emphasis is on expanding training and **peer-learning formats** so that more municipalities can progress towards a consolidating level. At the same time, capacity-building for businesses, academia, NGOs and community actors is expected to become more structured. Impact assessment will also be reinforced through the introduction of basic **common metrics and the piloting of MRV-aligned methodologies**, moving from an incipient stage to early consolidating
- Deep collaboration: In the short term, Lithuania aims to strengthen monitoring, learning and replication processes. Over the next two years, the focus is on introducing **basic shared monitoring practices and initiating structured dialogue with financial stakeholders**, moving from not considered or incipient toward early consolidating stages.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

From the Self-Assessment, the country partners indicated the following:

- National Mission Platforms Good Governance: webinars on successful examples and learnings exchange.
- Lithuania identifies needs related to policy and regulatory alignment with the Mission, strengthening funding frameworks, and developing a clearer regional approach to support implementation.
- Lithuania highlights the need to strengthen national consultation mechanisms and structured dialogue formats, including participation in National and Pan-European Consultation Panels.

Malta

Activities Tags:

**Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Policy labs- workshops;
Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Exchanges with other country support
structures; Financial diversification and sustainability**



Description

Malta is currently developing its coordination framework for the EU Cities Mission. Rather than operating through a dedicated national platform, efforts are specially centred in the region of Gozo, where the Gozo Regional Development Authority (GRDA) is leading the creation of a Climate Neutrality Plan for Gozo (Mission City in Malta).

The Country Action Plan approach focuses on strengthening the governance and implementation framework for the Climate Neutrality Plan in Gozo. This includes enhancing the role and formalisation of the National Platform, clarifying stakeholder responsibilities, and securing political endorsement through engagement with the Cabinet of Ministers.

Capacity-building activities will support the Transition Team in Gozo and relevant stakeholders through targeted workshops and by leveraging CapaCITIES 2.0 and NetZeroCities training and peer-learning opportunities. The platform also aims to strengthen collaboration with national authorities, improve access to public funding for project implementation, support the development and implementation of the Climate City Contract, and enhance the platform's capacity to influence local and national policies.

Key national actors involved in the process include Gozo Regional Development Authority, Research and Innovation Agency (XM), Climate Action Authority and Ministry for Gozo and Planning.

Key Priorities :

1. Assist in the process of obtaining Cabinet of Ministers approval.
2. Facilitate the setting up of the Transition Team.
3. Assist in the formulation of an inclusive ecosystem for change.

Activities

Considering that the Prime Minister has declared a snap national election on 30 May 2026, it is anticipated that the above key priorities are set in motion in June 2026. Once a new Cabinet is formed approval will be sought. If the approval is forthcoming by the new Cabinet, it is expected that activities will be organised in the last QTR 2026 and first QTR 2027.

Thematic Focus

- A. Financing opportunities
- B. Influencing policies
- C. Facilitation of practical cooperation among diverse stakeholders; with an emphasis on hands-on collaboration and capacity-building activities

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform Degree of formalization Diversity of roles played by the platform	Enhance the level of a) the National Platform; b) degree of formalisation; c) diversity of roles played by the platform.	Engage directly with the Cabinet of Ministers to secure the governance structure for implementation of the Climate Neutral Plan. Obtain Cabinet of Ministers approval for the implementation of the Climate Neutrality Plan and public support for its implementation. Hold appropriate meetings to clarify and communicate the different roles to be played by each stakeholder in the implementation of the plan.
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of national authorities	Ensure national authorities are aligned and briefed.	Hold meetings with the respective authorities to ensure that they are on board and well briefed about the implementation plan and their respective responsibilities.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities Capacity-building to support the work of the transition team in cities Capacity building activities to other relevant stakeholders Support to the Climate City Contract process: development, iteration and implementation	Enhance public funding for implementation of projects in Gozo (Mission City). Capacity-building to support the work of the transition team and relevant stakeholders in Gozo. Support the CCC process, development, iteration and implementation.	To hold discussions with XM and other funding agencies to identify opportunities for public funding. Organise one capacity-building workshop for the relevant staff within the transition teams to ensure a common understanding of the various aspects of the plan implementation and their respective roles. Organise one capacity-building workshop for the relevant stakeholders to promote and ensure a common understanding of the various aspects of the plan implementation and their respective roles. Participate in the CCC process, as much as possible, to provide support and expertise in project management.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Capacity to influence policies at the local, regional, and national level	Enhance capacity to influence policies at local and national level.	Engage in National Consultation Panels organised with the support of WP4 by CapaCITIES partners to influence policy and direction at local and national level.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

First level priority:

WP1 : linked to capacity-building activities (Expert Facility and learning components)

WP4: aligned with national ecosystem coordination.

Second level priority:

WP3 : structured around its three key areas (financing, regulatory framework, and MRV)

WP5 : focused on stakeholder engagement.

Netherlands (The)

Description

In the Netherlands, the National Support Structure Cities Mission (NSS) has been established as a coordination platform to support Dutch Mission and Mission-minded cities. The NSS builds on the country's existing ecosystem of national-local cooperation in climate policy. The platform is organised as an informal, city-led collaboration supported by national agencies, ministries, and knowledge partners. Mission Cities play a leading role in shaping implementation priorities, while RVO provides coordination support.

The platform facilitates alignment between cities and national authorities, and connects Mission activities and wider network, with ongoing local sectoral programmes. The platform focuses on financing, governance, monitoring, knowledge exchange, and collaboration between Mission and Mission-minded cities. Existing national programmes and European initiatives such as CapaCITIES and NetZeroCities are leveraged to strengthen implementation capacity and policy alignment.

The Dutch approach prioritises flexible and practical collaboration between cities, ministries, and knowledge partners. Rather than creating new formal governance structures, the platform builds on existing national programmes, networks, and thematic collaborations. The focus is on improving access to financing and monitoring approaches, strengthening governance and implementation capacity, and aligning national narratives with the EU Mission objectives.

Activities

- Monthly meetings and thematic exchanges among Mission Cities
- Collaboration on financing, governance, monitoring, and EU strategy
- Use of CapaCITIES, NetZeroCities, and national programmes for knowledge exchange and implementation support
- Engagement with Mission-minded cities through outreach and consultation
- Dialogue with ministries and political representatives on policy and regulatory barriers
- Cooperation with knowledge partners including TNO, Platform31, and VNG
- Participation in thematic projects, deep dives, and funding dialogues

Thematic Focus

- A. Financing and investment for climate-neutral transition
- B. Monitoring, reporting, verification, and data alignment
- C. Governance, policy & regulation, and multi-city collaboration

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen coordination and maintain a flexible city-led platform aligned with the EU Mission	Improve the platform's added value, strengthen national and EU alignment, and enhance collaboration between cities, ministries, and knowledge partners	Continue informal city-led governance supported by RVO; align national narratives with EU Mission objectives; improve coordination/complementarity of national structures and programmes; strengthen funding, monitoring and governance discussions; connect with adaptation mission initiatives; leverage existing political and strategic structures
Dimension 2: Networking	Expand collaboration between Mission Cities, Mission-minded cities, and key stakeholders	Increase engagement of cities and stakeholders in the Mission ecosystem	Organise outreach to Mission-minded cities; maintain Mission City leadership in the platform; involve business actors through Climate City Contracts; collaborate with VNG, TNO, and Platform31; continue stakeholder engagement through projects and events; deep dives and NZC related activities
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Support implementation capacity, financing, monitoring, and peer learning	Strengthen implementation support and improve access to knowledge, funding, and monitoring approaches	Use national programmes and existing funding streams; support financing dialogues and activities with TNO and NZC; exchange experiences between cities on implementing transformative actions; continue work on monitoring and impact assessment at city-level; support Climate City Contract implementation; continue dialogue with ministries on policy and regulatory framework for project implementation
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Enhance multi-city collaboration and policy influence	Improve collaborative learning, monitoring alignment, and financial cooperation	Use CapaCITIES, NZC, TSI, and national programmes as collaboration instruments; support thematic multi-city projects (for Mission and Mission-minded cities); align monitoring and data protocols; prepare joint political dialogues with the national level; improve collaboration with financial stakeholders and financing support structures

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- Participation in CapaCITIES thematic groups on funding, monitoring, policy regulation, and regional approaches
- Peer learning and training sessions supporting practical cooperation
- Deep dives and Better Funding Dialogues facilitated through NetZeroCities
- National and Pan-European consultation panels supporting stakeholder mobilisation and strategic alignment

Norway

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Multi-city exchange workshops ; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Workshops – cities and social organisations; Financial diversification and sustainability; Fit-for Mission -piloting.

Description

Norway's national platform for the Cities Mission is coordinated by a **core team** composed of DOGA, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Innovation Norway and Research Norway, with Nordic Edge acting as an expert facility. The platform brings together **cities, national authorities, business actors and academia**, aiming to strengthen coordination, support implementation and connect local actions with national frameworks.

Norway's Country Action Plan builds on this structure to **strengthen the national ecosystem and support cities in advancing their climate transition**. The strategy focuses on improving coordination across actors, enabling implementation of city-level projects and reinforcing collaboration between cities and national stakeholders. It also aims to strengthen the role of the platform as a space for collaboration, learning and alignment between cities, national authorities and other stakeholders.

The Country Action Plan is guided by three key priorities: developing a clear national narrative and strengthening platform governance through clarified roles among core actors and improved coordination between national institutions and cities; mobilising financing for urban projects by supporting implementation with dedicated instruments such as the Financing Toolbox and Investor Roundtables; and reinforcing cities' capacity to deliver projects through the Expert Facility, including targeted support to transition teams and structured peer-learning activities.

Activities

Investor Roundtables - **October 2025**

Establishment of a common digital web page - **Spring 2026**

Digital collaboration platform for sharing cases and experiences (expert facility together with DOGA) - **Spring 2026**

Digital insight sessions - **March–October 2026**

"Accelerating Innovation" program to stimulate new public-private partnerships - **March/November 2026**

Annual flagship event Nordic Edge Expo- **May 2026**

Investor Roundtables - **May 2026**

Three regional workshops targeting "mission-minded" cities using the Gnist methodology - **Autumn 2026**

Pilot transition team together with one of the mission cities - **Autumn 2026**

Investor Roundtables - **October 2026**

Develop a practical “Financing Toolbox” - **October 2026**

Digital insight sessions - **End October 2026**

Workshops with involved stakeholders (as part of a National Cities Mission results conference) - **November 2026**

“Accelerating Innovation” program - **End November 2026**

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Norway Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- A. Platform governance and national coordination
- B. Financing and investment for city climate projects
- C. Capacity building and peer learning between cities and stakeholders

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen the national platform by clarifying roles and responsibilities among key actors (including DOGA, ministries, Nordic Edge, and others) and establishing common workstreams to support the EU Cities Mission.	Develop a shared national narrative and establish clear collaboration structures between national actors and cities.	Develop a coherent narrative aligned with the EU Cities Mission through stakeholder workshops and a shared digital platform presenting city projects and stories. Formalise working areas such as financing, regulation and narrative development to identify key challenges. Structure collaboration between participating organisations through clear roles and common work plans. Further develop existing networks through bi-weekly check-in meetings (formal Mission Cities and the 6+ active "mission-minded" cities) to ensure continuous learning and information flow across cities, further supported through Expert Facility activities and learning workshops organised as part of one of the Norwegian NZC ECT projects.
Dimension 2: Networking	Expand the network of cities engaged in the Cities Mission and strengthen collaboration with private sector actors.	Increase the participation of mission-minded cities and strengthen connections between city project portfolios and private sector investment opportunities.	Create a structured engagement path for mission-minded cities currently outside the formal mission through regional workshops using the Gnist methodology. Strengthen the connection between city project portfolios and private sector investment opportunities. Launch the "Accelerating Innovation" program to stimulate new public-private partnerships.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Support cities in implementing climate actions by improving access to funding, strengthening city transition teams and addressing regulatory barriers.	Facilitate the mobilisation of public and private funding for city projects, strengthen capacity within city transition teams and identify regulatory barriers affecting implementation.	Advocate for adjustments to national funding programmes to better align with the needs identified in Climate City Contracts. Develop a Financing Toolbox and organise investor roundtables in collaboration with NetZeroCities to connect city projects with private investors.

			Conduct digital peer-exchange sessions and establish a pilot transition team with one mission city. Document regulatory barriers identified by cities and ministries and elevate them to the national level using insights from city interviews.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Strengthen collaboration and shared learning between cities and national actors through common knowledge infrastructure and digital collaboration tools.	Develop shared systems for monitoring, knowledge exchange and collaboration between cities and national stakeholders.	Develop a common infrastructure for actions, actors and asset portfolios at both city and national level. Establish a digital collaboration platform to share cases, experiences and lessons learned between cities, developed together with DOGA.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1. Transnational learning and capacity-building through the Expert Facility, including digital insight sessions, peer-learning activities and participation in the CapaCITIES Learning Portfolio.

WP3. Funding and financing framework support, particularly through the development of the Financing Toolbox and organisation of Investor Roundtables to connect city projects with private investors.

WP3. Policy and regulatory framework support, including identification and elevation of regulatory barriers based on inputs from cities and ministries.

WP3. Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and knowledge production, supporting data use, learning and implementation across cities.

WP4. National ecosystem coordination, including joint activities with national stakeholders and participation in National Consultation Panels.

WP5. Stakeholder mobilisation and communication, particularly through cross-sector collaboration with private sector, academia and national actors, as well as engagement activities and events.

Poland

Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Finance



Description

Polish partners seek to consolidate and continue the existing coordination framework that enables regular communication between relevant national ministries - led by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, with support from the Ministry of Funds and Regional Development - and Mission Cities. Collaboration will focus on ensuring alignment on policy, regulatory, and funding matters, with particular attention to the forthcoming EU financial perspective. The approach also foresees closer cooperation with the NetZeroCities platform and the exploration of synergies with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, while strengthening multilevel governance through stronger regional involvement.

Key Priorities are:

- Strengthening coordination on policy, regulatory, and funding themes between national ministries and Mission Cities, with a forward-looking focus on future EU funding frameworks.
- Increasing the engagement of regional governments by organising a series of regional workshops across the five regions where Mission Cities are located.
- Deepening collaboration with NetZeroCities to support the engagement of Mission-minded cities, project implementation through blended finance, and targeted capacity-building activities for municipalities, while exploring synergies with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Key stakeholders include Ministry of Climate and Environment (leading), Ministry of Funds and Regional Development (supporting); Five mission cities' regional governments; The Convent of Voivodeship Marshals of the Republic of Poland (Konwent Marszałków Województw RP)

Activities

- 8 September 2025 | Regular meeting of all stakeholders (online)
- 20 January 2026 | Regular meeting of all stakeholders (online)
- 12 March 2026 | Workshop with the region and the Mission City of Wrocław
- 13 March 2026 | Workshop with the region and the Mission City of Kraków
- 9 April 2026 | Workshop with the region and the Mission City of Rzeszów
- 17 April 2026 | Regular meeting of all stakeholders (online)
- May / June 2026 | Regular meeting of all stakeholders (online)
- The national event is envisioned but not specified yet.

Thematic Focus

- A. Funding: New financial perspective
- B. Policies & regulations
- C. Engagement of regional governments

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform National narratives aligned with the EU Cities Mission Working areas Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source Political support Links with the adaptation mission hub	Multi-level collaboration: National involvement Multi-level collaboration: Regional involvement Involvement in decision-making of other actors (membership) Links with the Adaptation Mission Hub	Maintain regular meetings of key stakeholders. Policy lab on national strategies (new EU perspective). Funding, Legal regulations, Policies. Looking for the possibilities of sustainability of the platform after the end of the project. Lobbying for the new UE funding perspective. Exploring the possibilities of synergy with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, thanks to the Mazovia voivodship involvement and the Institute of Environmental Protection.
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of Mission Cities Engagement of Mission-minded cities Engagement of national authorities Engagement of regional authorities	Engagement of Mission Cities Engagement of Mission-minded cities Engagement of national authorities Engagement of regional authorities	Regular meetings of the platform - topics of meetings according to the requested preferences; Workshops on funding instruments in the context of the new EU funding perspective Cooperation with the NetZeroCities (NZC) Platform, cooperation with the regional governments of Mission Cities Leading Ministry: Ministry of Climate and Environment, Supporting Ministry: Ministry of Funds and Regional Development, other ministries invited according to current needs regarding the topics Three meetings with regions - topics of meetings according to the requested preferences; Workshops on funding instruments in the context of the new EU funding perspective
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities	Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for the implementation of projects Policy & regulation	Multilevel dialogue on barriers, building narratives for the next EU funding perspective Cooperation with the NetZeroCities (NZC) Platform for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation

	Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for the implementation of projects		and capacity-building to support the work of the transition team in cities.
	Policy & regulation		
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Instruments for deep collaboration		Co-creation workshops
	Capacity to influence policies at the local, regional, and national level		Brokerage
			Communication and outreach
			Cooperation with the NetZeroCities (NZC) Platform

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP4: Pan-European Consultation Panel - scheduled to take place in-person at the Cities Mission Conference in Torino, in May 2026.

WP5: Support in stakeholders' mobilisation with an adequate communication strategy on the mission approach and CapaCITIES project

Portugal

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Policy labs- workshops; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies) ; Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Workshops – cities and social organisations; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability; Joint-cities' projects.

Description

Portugal's national platform, "Cidades pelo Clima", is coordinated by IN+/IST, acting as the technical secretariat. The strategy focuses on securing platform financing from the National Government (through the Environmental Fund) for 2026 and 2027, as current funding is limited. A central element is reinforcing the role of the Consulting Council as the primary mechanism for multi-level cooperation, involving national agencies and S&T laboratories, regional bodies, climate-action-related private-non-profit associations and the public finance sector. The platform aims to support the release of the National Label and assist mission-minded cities in applying it, while aligning national and local policies with the Climate City Contract (CCC) process.

By May 2027, key objectives include increasing the number of ordinary members (mission-minded cities), observer entities (Portuguese-speaking cities), and cooperating entities; engaging businesses through dedicated initiatives like "Climate Business Cafes"; and promoting multi-city projects involving at least three members. The platform will work with NetZeroCities (NZC) on Better Funding Dialogues to mobilise blended funding and support the creation of transition arenas in member cities.

Activities

Included in the table in sub-section 5.21.4.

Thematic Focus

- A. Platform Financing Security (Environmental Fund, Resource Diversification)
- B. Consulting Council Expansion & Multi-level Governance (24 Entities)
- C. National Label Release & CCC Process Support
- D. Private Sector Engagement (Climate Business Cafes, COTEC Partnership)
- E. Multi-city Projects & Joint Commitments (Modernisation Fund, EIB Collaboration)

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	- Secure national funding (Environmental Fund) - Expand Consulting Council membership - Align national/local policies & National Label	- Financing secured for 2026–2027 via Environmental Fund - Consulting Council expanded to 24 entities (national, regional, finance) - National Label launched and members supported in application	- Maintain close dialogue with Ministry for Environment and Energy for funding - Expand entities in Consulting Council; organize two annual meetings + bilateral sessions - Assist government in launching National Label; align municipal obligations with CCC process - Advocate for Cidades pelo Clima participation in next NZC SGA
Dimension 2: Networking	- Increase membership (cities, observers, partners) - Engage businesses via “Climate Business Cafes” - Organize 2nd International Conference	- Increased number of ordinary members, observers (Brazil/Africa), and cooperating entities - Private sector committed to climate action via dedicated initiatives - Strong engagement of mayors/deputy mayors in Coordinating Council	- Conduct bilateral meetings with mayors of mission-minded cities post-elections; reach out to new cities via Regional Development Coordinating Commissions and local energy agencies - Launch “Climate Business Cafes” and partner with COTEC for private sector engagement - Ensure participation of mission cities in bimonthly Coordinating Council meetings - Organize 2nd International Conference Cidades pelo Clima
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	- Maintain working groups (CCC, Energy, Buildings, Mobility and Carbon Removal) - Deliver Better Funding Dialogues with NZC - Develop MEM+ platform (GPC BASIC+ level)	- Active working groups supporting CCC process and capacity building - First Better Funding Dialogue session delivered in Portugal - MEM+ platform evolved to BASIC+ level; municipal data lake deepened	- Maintain monthly working group activities (online/in-person); evaluate kick-start of adaptation working group - Collaborate with NZC to deliver Better Funding Dialogues; assist cities in accessing national public funding - Continue developing MEM+ platform; align with national statistical authorities - Support creation of transition arenas for mission-minded cities in CCC working group - Deliver technical notes, case studies, and promote the Practical Handbook of Climate Actions, a deliverable of the NZC-funded A+CLASS project.

Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	• Promote multi-city project (Modernisation Fund) • Facilitate joint commitments among cities • Work with EIB on investment projects	• Multi-city project proposal submitted (ECO.AP 2030 compliance) • Joint commitments celebrated among mission-minded cities • Multi-city investment projects set up with EIB support	• Develop and submit multi-city project proposal under Modernisation Fund for ECO.AP 2030 • Work closely with EIB to set up multi-city investment projects • Promote celebration of joint commitments among mission-minded cities • Use Consulting Council as arena to contribute to relevant policy instruments • Advocate for inter-ministerial working group to remove policy barriers
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

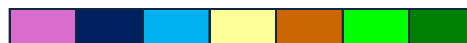
WP1: linked to capacity-building activities (Expert Facility and learning components)

WP3: structured around its three key areas (financing, regulatory framework, and MRV)

WP4: aligned with national ecosystem coordination.

WP5: focused on stakeholder engagement.

Republic of Moldova



Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors(Social organisations) ; Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

The national platform in Moldova will be coordinated by the National Agency for Research and Development (NARD) and will initially focus on establishing an internal coordination mechanism, formally launching the platform, and developing a basic governance framework. The platform will serve as an emerging space for dialogue, awareness-raising, and cooperation on climate-neutral cities, gradually expanding its functions as it develops. Its activities will build on existing national strategies and align with the objectives of the EU

Cities Mission while strengthening collaboration with key national ministries, agencies, and local authorities. It is important to highlight that none of the cities in Moldova participate in the Mission as Mission Cities.

Currently supported through the CapaCITIES 2.0 project and coordinated by a core NARD team, the platform does not yet have dedicated national funding or formal political endorsement. In the coming years, efforts will focus on strengthening engagement with national and regional authorities through events, consultations, and communication activities, while promoting the strategic importance of climate-neutral cities in the context of Moldova's European integration.

The platform will prioritise engagement with municipalities and regional authorities, particularly cities such as **Chişinău, Ceadâr-Lunga, Edineţ, Ungheni, Bălţi, and Cantemir** while gradually involving academia, civil society, and the private sector. Core working areas will include identifying barriers for cities to engage with the EU Mission, facilitating knowledge exchange, exploring funding opportunities, supporting cooperation across sectors, and monitoring relevant legislation and initiatives.

Key national actors involved include NARD, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Ministry of Energy, Environmental Agency, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, National Office for the Implementation of Environmental Projects.

Activities

1. Organization of regular stakeholder engagement and information exchange with ministries, national agencies, city representatives, the research community, and NGOs, in both bilateral and multilateral formats (January 2026 - April 2027);
2. Implementation of an information campaign for a variety of stakeholders, including local public authorities, on funding opportunities for cities under the Horizon Europe Programme (August 2026 - October 2027);
3. Provision of consultations upon request for cities and other relevant stakeholders on current application opportunities and available participation options under the Horizon Europe Programme (June 2026 - April 2027).
4. Implementation of several brokerage events to facilitate partner search and consortium building for joint project applications under the Horizon Europe Programme, with a focus on climate-related topics and the New European Bauhaus (June 2026 - March 2027);

5. Organization of a high-level national event with a focus on climate-related topics, EU Missions Cities and the New European Bauhaus, with participation of partners from CapaCITIES 2.0 (October 2026).

Thematic Focus

- A. Financing opportunities
- B. Policies & regulations
- C. MRV and data governance

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of the National Platform Degree of formalization National narratives aligned with the EU Cities Mission Multi-level collaboration: National involvement Multi-level collaboration: Regional involvement Capacity for decision making Working areas	The objective is to formally establish and consolidate the national platform as a functional coordination mechanism under the NARD. This includes developing a basic governance and institutional framework that will define roles, responsibilities, and working procedures of the platform. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening multi-level collaboration with ministries, sectoral agencies, and local authorities, while gradually expanding stakeholder involvement, especially from academia and civil society organisations.	Establish an internal coordination mechanism within NARD, including the integration of relevant NCPs, and formally announce the national platform to key stakeholders that have been previously identified. Develop and agree on a basic institutional and governance framework for the national platform, including clear coordination rules and draft templates for memoranda of understanding or cooperation agreements with national/local authorities and other stakeholders, to be formalised at later stages. Existing national strategies (National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030", National Mobility Strategy 2023-2030, Environmental Strategy 2024-2030, National Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2030, National Energy and Climate Plan 2025-2030) will continue to serve as the backbone for aligning the national narrative with the objectives of the EU Cities Mission, while consultations with the Ministry of Environment, sectoral agencies and local authorities will support further regulatory alignment.

	Community of practice between cities Resources for the facilitation, convening, and coordination role, regardless of the source		The national platform will strengthen and formalise its cooperation with ministries and public agencies that are already actively involved in the development and implementation of climate and environmental policies in the Republic of Moldova. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening cooperation at the regional level, including districts (“raioane”), municipalities and autonomous territorial units. The platform will strengthen its decision-making capacity through regular coordination meetings, structured consultations with cities and stakeholders, and the development of basic analytical and coordination functions within NARD. Working areas include: • identification of barriers for cities to join the EU Mission; • exchange of good practices; • dissemination of information about the EU Mission and the project among stakeholders and the wider public; • support for cooperation between public authorities, the academic sector, civil society organisations, and the private sector in the field of climate-neutral cities; • identification and exploration of funding opportunities; • assessment of national and local climate initiatives; • monitoring and analysis of national legislation. A community of practice between cities exists and is currently implemented through other national and international projects and initiatives. The platform will build upon these existing frameworks to strengthen and structure this community. The platform is currently supported by resources from the CapaCITIES 2.0 project and coordinated by a core NARD team. Efforts will focus on ensuring efficient use of these resources.
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Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of national authorities Engagement of regional authorities Engagement of business and private sector Engagement of others in events and in projects	Efforts will focus on increasing the engagement of national and local authorities, universities, research institutions, and NGOs. A key priority will be to raise awareness of the objectives and opportunities of the EU Cities Mission among Moldovan cities. In addition to face-to-face activities, awareness-raising and engagement will be supported through online communication channels. Initial efforts will be made to engage relevant companies and explore potential forms of cooperation within the scope of the platform's activities.	The national platform is coordinated by a central government body under the Ministry of Education and Research, NARD, ensuring initial engagement of national authorities. Further involvement of ministries and sectoral agencies will be promoted through dedicated events, meetings, information sessions and round tables during the period 2026-2027. Priority will be given to cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Ministry of Energy, the Environmental Agency, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, the National Office for the Implementation of Environmental Projects, and other relevant institutions. Regional engagement will be ensured through joint events, meetings, information sessions, and round tables during the period 2026-2027. Engagement of business will be promoted through invitations to participate in platform events and through involvement in joint activities and initiatives. Universities and research institutes, as well as civic organisations (NGOs), will be involved through participation in platform events, consultations, sessions and joint activities.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities Access to relevant data to Monitor, Reporting and Verification, and decision making as well as knowledge production, to enable proper implementation The platform provides cities with legitimacy to	The platform will seek to provide basic visibility and legitimacy to cities willing to develop climate-related initiatives. The platform will facilitate dialogue on existing data gaps, policy barriers, and funding needs.	The platform will document existing funding gaps and promote the need to adapt national funding programmes in line with cities' climate-neutral objectives. The platform will focus on promoting dialogue and information exchange regarding existing data gaps. The platform will provide basic visibility and recognition to cities through dialogue, awareness-raising and information sharing. Limited to basic awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing activities organised within the platform.

	implement transformative actions Capacity building activities to other relevant stakeholders Policy & regulation		The platform will contribute to information exchange and dialogue on relevant policy issues when possible.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Instruments for deep collaboration Multi-city projects or thematic projects for actual collaboration Monitoring, learning, and replication Capacity to influence policies at the local, regional, and national level	The platform will work to strengthen cooperation between cities by building upon existing multi-city projects and initiatives already active in the Republic of Moldova. It will initiate basic mechanisms for monitoring and sharing experiences among local authorities and stakeholders. The platform will promote improved coordination and dialogue between cities and national authorities on issues related to climate-neutral and sustainable urban development.	The platform will focus on initiating regular dialogue formats and basic cooperation mechanisms between cities and stakeholders through the organisation of online and offline events, trainings, joint activities and participation in related initiatives. The platform will rely on existing multi-city and thematic initiatives as practical examples and entry points for collaboration. These include projects such as “Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: 2016-2026,” “Enabling an Inclusive Green Transition in the Republic of Moldova 2023-2027,” “Capacity Building for Climate Action in the Republic of Moldova: 2025-2028,” Be Ready, NONA, SUP4SUD, “Local Environmental Platforms,” “Strengthening the resilience capacity of local public authorities 2025-2027.” The platform will support initial monitoring of city-related activities and promote exchange of experiences, with the aim of gradually developing basic mechanisms for learning and replication of good practices. The platform will contribute to dialogue and information exchange between cities and national authorities in order to support better coordination and awareness of climate-neutral city objectives.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: linked to capacity-building activities, including the Expert Facility and learning components

WP3: structured around financing opportunities

WP4: National Stakeholder Consultation Panel, Regional Working Group

WP5: focused on stakeholder engagement

Romania

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Policy labs- workshops; Connection with Adaptation Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors(Social organisations); Exchanges with other country support structures; Multi-city exchange workshops; Workshops – cities and social organisations; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Joint-cities' projects.

Description

The Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100) is the national Romanian platform supporting the implementation of the EU Cities Mission. It is governed by an interministerial committee and coordinated by UEFISCDI. Romania's Country Action Plan focuses on strengthening the M100 National Platform as a central ecosystem to support climate-neutral urban transitions. The approach combines governance consolidation, expansion of the city network, strong capacity-building programmes, and multi-level collaboration. It emphasizes moving from planning (Climate City Contracts) to implementation through improved funding access, decision-making capacity, and stakeholder engagement, while aligning national efforts with the EU Cities Mission.

The Country Action Plan defines as key objectives:

- Operationalise the M100 Ecosystem as a coordinated community of practice.
- Establish municipal governance frameworks (Climate Neutrality Offices, Transition Teams).
- Reinforce multilevel governance and national coordination.
- Pilot Urban Labs and Innovation Studios for local experimentation and co-creation.
- Support Transition Teams through structured training and development pathways.

Activities

Specified in the table below.

Thematic Focus

- A. Peer-learning, mentoring and practice-oriented learning schemes
- B. Support to transition teams as core implementation units within cities
- C. Access to funding, technical assistance & project preparation and innovative procurement, EU/EEA/Norway Grants
- D. Multi-level governance, decision-making capacity and policy & regulatory frameworks, cross-sector collaboration
- E. Collaboration and ecosystem building, partnerships between cities and cross-sector collaboration
- F. Emphasis on data monitoring, digital tools and innovative tools

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen and expand the M100 ecosystem; enhance multi-level governance; maintain flexible but effective structure	- Consolidate M100 as a national community of practice - Establish municipal governance frameworks (Climate Neutrality Offices, Transition Teams)	- Launch an open call to expand ecosystem membership - Strengthen collaboration with ministries, regional development agencies (RDAs), academia - Establish structured collaboration between RDAs and groups of cities; involve RDAs in multi-city learning process - Develop decision-making maps, governance tools, and policy briefs - Organise annual M100 Convention - Launch a communication and outreach campaign - Establish multi-city working groups involving 20 new cities and peer-to-peer mentoring - Strengthen links between EU Mission on Adaptation and Adaptation Mission Hub in Romania
Dimension 2: Networking	Expand and deepen engagement across cities and stakeholders; foster cross-sector collaboration	- Expand participation through +20 cities and wider stakeholder engagement - Design new capacity-building and networking programmes - Strengthen collaboration with national, regional, and private actors	- Deepen the engagement of 3 Mission Cities (as drivers of collective learning) - Deepen the support to transition teams in 10 Mission cities - Run engagement campaign for + 20 Mission-minded cities - Inform national policy dialogue and invite national authorities to events - Involve regional authorities in multi-city working groups, peer-learning formats and joint capacity-building activities - Facilitate dialogue on procurement, financing, and partnerships with SMEs, start-ups and social enterprises

			Involve academia, civil society, and private sector in events and projects; develop a methodology for local stakeholders' engagement
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Support transition from planning to implementation; strengthen city capacities; improve funding access	- Strengthen transition teams and institutional capacity - Deliver practical learning formats (Summer School, How-To Clinics) and structured learning programmes (M100 Academy) - Foster data-driven urban innovation	- Support cities with project pipeline development and funding mapping - Promote use of public and green procurement for cities through technical assistance and learning module in M100 Academy - Transition Teams assessment and Bootcamp + 12-month development pathway - M100 Academy, Summer School, study visits & peer reviews, and monthly How-To Clinics (on procurement, governance, climate finance) - Technical support for CCC updates and MRV frameworks - Support data systems and explore national data hub - Promote Urban Labs, Innovation Studios (on regulatory and policy barriers), and local transition arenas - Develop an impact assessment framework on effectiveness of M100 platform' support
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Enable systemic collaboration and multi-city implementation; strengthen policy influence and learning	- Foster multi-city cooperation and scalable solutions - Strengthen cities' role in shaping national policy - Improve collaboration with financial stakeholders	- Use transition arenas, thematic working groups, innovation studios and Transition Teams Bootcamp - Support to start/development of multi-city thematic projects - Develop monitoring, learning, and replication frameworks - Facilitate policy dialogue via Convention and policy briefs - Build capacity for engagement with investors and financial institutions

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: linked to capacity-building activities (Expert Facility and learning components)

WP3: structured around its three key areas (financing, regulatory framework, and MRV)

WP4: aligned with national ecosystem coordination.

WP5: focused on stakeholder engagement.

Slovakia

Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies); Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Multi-city exchange workshops; Financial diversification and sustainability; Fit-for Mission -piloting



Description

Slovakia currently lacks a formalised national platform for the Cities Mission, with limited coordination, political support and structured funding at national level. Existing activities are mainly based on informal exchanges between cities, with some coordination led by the Union of Slovak Towns and Cities. This situation limits Slovakia's ability to fully engage with and contribute to the objectives of the EU Cities Mission.

Slovakia's Country Action Plan concentrates on establishing and formalising a national platform for the Cities Mission by creating a Slovak Cities Mission Coordination Group that brings together Mission Cities, mission-minded cities, academia, and EU project focal points under clearly defined roles and coordination mechanisms to enable structured collaboration. The platform will serve as a foundational coordination structure for future alignment with EU Mission governance and implementation frameworks.

The key priorities focus on establishing a functional national platform for the Cities Mission through the creation of a Slovak Cities Mission Coordination Group with clearly defined roles, routines, and a minimum level of formalisation. They also aim to build a structured Community of Practice that enables regular peer learning, gradually expands participation to mission-minded cities, and increasingly engages national and regional stakeholders. In parallel, the priorities emphasise strengthening cities' capacity to implement Climate City Contracts and related projects by providing practical support on MRV systems, funding mobilisation, stakeholder engagement, and the development of initial multi-city collaboration.

These actions will lay the foundation for a coordinated national approach, enabling more structured collaboration, improved project development, and stronger engagement with funding opportunities. The approach also aims to enhance political awareness and strengthen institutional ownership of the Cities Mission at the national level.

Activities

- Regular coordination calls between Mission Cities **(every 6–8 weeks)**
- Support sessions to strengthen cities' project preparation and funding readiness.
Delivery of capacity-building modules for city transition teams - **September 2026**
- Annual structured dialogue with national authorities - **October 2026**
- Annual monitoring and learning workshop and establishment of shared repository - **October 2026**
- Establishment of 1–2 thematic working groups - **November 2026**
- Agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Terms of Reference (ToR) - **December 2026**
- Investment-readiness sessions and engagement with financial stakeholders - **January 2027**
- Development of joint concept notes and consortia for funding applications - **January 2027**

- Peer-learning and mentoring exchanges between cities and transition teams -
February 2027

Thematic Focus

This subsection presents the main thematic focus areas of the Slovakia Action Plan, highlighting the key topics addressed within the CapaCITIES timeline.

- a. Establishment of a national platform and governance for the Cities Mission
- b. Capacity building for Climate City Contracts and project implementation
- c. Financing readiness and development of city project pipelines

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Establish a recognised and lightweight Slovak Cities Mission Coordination Group with defined roles, operating routines and a clear timeline. Ensure a minimum level of formalisation and develop a national narrative aligned with the EU Cities Mission.	Ensure the coordination group operates with clear mandates and routines, formalise the platform through a minimum level of formalisation (MoU or ToR), and initiate structured annual dialogue with national authorities while engaging regional authorities where relevant.	- Create an informal but recognised Slovak Cities Mission Coordination Group bringing together Mission Cities, mission-minded cities, an academic coordination lead and EU project focal points. -Agree a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference defining purpose, membership, roles and operating routines. -Define core platform roles including coordination, peer learning and knowledge exchange, links with EU initiatives, national and regional dialogue, and platform sustainability. - Develop a short national narrative aligned with the EU Cities Mission and use it in outreach to public authorities and stakeholders, while strengthening the platform's visibility and political recognition -Establish structured dialogue with national authorities (one structured national dialogue per year) and involve regional authorities as thematic contributors where relevant.

			-Set priority working areas (e.g. governance and coordination, funding readiness, MRV/data, stakeholder engagement and communication) with designated leads. -Run quarterly Community of Practice exchanges between Mission Cities and mission-minded cities and document lessons and needs for collaboration. -Secure coordination resources and organise platform facilitation and secretariat tasks to support platform activities. -Strengthen political awareness and explore national funding opportunities to support the platform's integration into national programmes and policy frameworks. -Maintain exchanges with the Adaptation Mission Hub and identify opportunities for joint thematic collaboration and knowledge transfer.
Dimension 2: Networking	This is the highest priority dimension and focuses on stabilising a structured Community of Practice on climate neutrality among Mission Cities and progressively expanding participation to mission-minded cities, regions and selected stakeholders across Slovakia and relevant EU networks.	Ensure the Community of Practice functions as a space for peer learning and collaboration while progressively widening participation to additional cities, regional actors and other relevant stakeholders.	-Maintain regular coordination calls between Mission Cities every 6–8 weeks to align priorities, share implementation challenges and identify common solutions. -Map mission-minded cities and invite them to Community of Practice sessions and selected workshops, providing simple onboarding and peer-matching to support their engagement and gradual integration into the network. -Involve national authorities in selected sessions and organise one annual structured dialogue focused on policy alignment and practical support for climate-neutral city objectives.

			-Engage regional authorities through thematic sessions linked to their competences (e.g. planning, data, projects), prioritising practical collaboration over formal structures. -Pilot targeted engagement of private sector actors through thematic roundtables linked to project pipelines ,funding readiness and investment opportunities . -Involve academia, NGOs, civil society and citizens through project-based participation, training sessions and thematic events to support learning and collaboration.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Strengthen cities' capacity to deliver Climate City Contracts and prepare and implement projects through targeted guidance and practical training.	Improve cities capacity to develop and implement Climate City Contracts and projects through guidance and hands-on training on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), funding mobilisation and stakeholder engagement.	- Develop and maintain a shared overview of funding opportunities (EU and national) and organise support sessions to strengthen cities' project preparation and funding readiness in a structured and continuously updated format. -Provide blended finance and investment-readiness sessions and connect cities with financial stakeholders to support project pipeline development and funding mobilisation. -Share peer examples and facilitate mentoring between cities to strengthen or establish urban transition teams within existing resources. -Create a basic inventory of available data sources and agree on a minimum MRV approach to support monitoring, reporting, decision-making and knowledge production. -Strengthen the legitimacy of transformative city actions through a shared narrative, peer endorsement and alignment with Climate City Contracts (CCC).

			-Encourage cities to pilot informal multi-stakeholder transition collaboration platforms linked to specific themes or projects. -Deliver practical capacity-building modules for city transition teams (e.g. governance, stakeholder engagement, project structuring, MRV basics) combining peer learning and expert support in a blended learning format. -Extend selected training and capacity-building activities to academia, NGOs and private-sector actors involved in city projects. -Facilitate peer review and practical support for Climate City Contract development, iteration and implementation. -Collect regulatory barriers identified by cities and use structured dialogues to explore possible policy adjustments or pilot solutions. -Introduce an annual reflection and learning process to capture lessons learned and support continuous improvement and replication.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Promote thematic or multi-city collaborations that can generate practical experience and learning for climate neutrality actions.	Pilot one or two thematic or multi-city collaborations supported by monitoring, learning and replication routines to generate evidence that can inform national strategies, policies and funding instruments for climate neutrality.	-Establish 1-2 time-bound thematic working groups with clear objectives, terms of reference and concrete outputs linked to city implementation needs. -Develop joint concept notes and potential consortia for EU or national funding calls in priority areas (mobility, energy, buildings or climate adaptation.) -Create a simple monitoring and learning mechanism (annual workshop and shared repository) to document progress, lessons learned and replication opportunities.

			-Prepare short joint position or reflection notes based on city experience and use them in national, regional and local policy dialogues. Engage financial stakeholders through targeted funding dialogues and prepare an overview of the project pipeline to explore opportunities for aggregation, risk mitigation and joint funding.
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Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1. Capacity-building and peer learning, supporting the **development of a Community of Practice**.

WP3. Basic support on **funding** readiness and project preparation, including identification of funding opportunities and investment-readiness sessions.

Additionally, on the development of **minimum MRV approaches and data use** to support monitoring, reporting, decision-making and knowledge production.

WP4. Establishment of a national ecosystem and structured **dialogue with national authorities**.

WP5. Stakeholder mobilisation and engagement, including involvement of national authorities, regional actors, private sector and academia in platform activities.

Spain



Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance, Policy labs- workshops, Connection with Adaptation Mission Hub, Mobilising actors (national and regional governments); Mobilising actors (private stakeholders /companies); Multi-city learning exchange; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

citiES2030 is the Spanish national platform supporting 7 Mission cities and 12 mission-minded cities across the country in their transition towards climate neutrality. The platform brings together **Mission cities, mission-minded cities and key stakeholders** to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and the implementation of climate actions.

Spain's Country Action Plan focuses on strengthening the national ecosystem through deeper engagement with cities and stakeholders, fostering synergies, and expanding the number of mission-minded cities active on the platform. It prioritises knowledge exchange among Mission Cities, collaboration on shared tools, and the mobilisation of resources for joint initiatives. The next steps aim to move Mission cities from planning to implementation through concrete multi-city actions, while maintaining alignment with European frameworks and improving access to funding opportunities.

Key priorities are:

- **Strengthening stakeholder engagement:** Increasing the active participation of mission-minded cities and other stakeholders (mainly private sector and civil society organizations) by integrating them into multi-city projects and platform activities, fostering knowledge exchange through citiES2030 networking activities such as online and in-person multi-stakeholder sessions.
- **Mobilising financial resources:** Reinforcing coordination with key financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Climate City Capital Hub, and the Spanish Innovation Agency, to strengthen investment readiness and mobilise blended finance for city-level climate actions. In particular, engaging the private sector in the multi-city projects, specific deep-dives that will work in some mission cities, and exploring new capacity-building opportunities in

adaptation finance. Efforts will also focus on transitioning to a multi-source funding model for the platform's core operations.

- **Advancing multi-level governance:** Improving coordination across national, regional, and local levels to align national policies, multi-level regulation, and funding instruments with city decarbonisation strategies, supported by regular high-level coordination and impact monitoring.
- **Assuring support alignment and synergy:** Improving coordination with NetZeroCities and capaCITIES partners to increase impact of support that both cities and national platform will receive from these projects. This will include regular meetings and developing joint processes to assure that tasks are aligned and constitute a joint strategy to support mission and mission-minded cities (e.g. better funding dialogues, policy labs, peer-learning programme, sense-making activities, etc.)

Activities

- **Implementation of strategic projects** in two prioritize cities and implementation of multi-city projects (e.g. building retrofitting, electric mobility): ongoing
- **Development of an innovative financing instrument to implement blended finance and investment pipelines:** ongoing
- Advancing the creation of a Task Force on urban transition to articulate and align the capacities and resources of different state bodies and agencies
- Coordination meetings with other cities networks and stakeholder on innovation, nature based solutions, climate change, technological platforms, industrial clusters...
- **Online sessions for collaborative work and knowledge exchange** with Mission and mission-minded cities: *at least bi-weekly*.
- **Information sharing (newsletters):** *once a month*
- **City-to-city exchanges and thematic meetings (“citiES2030 Breakfast”):** 2-4 times a year
- **City-to-city exchanges and peer learning activities:** once a month

Thematic Focus

- A. Multi-level governance and coordination
- B. Access to funding and financial mechanisms
- C. Implementation of multi-city projects and collaboration

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen the overall governance framework of the platform by improving multi-level coordination across national and regional levels (exploring the strategy to implement this). This includes enhancing the alignment between policy frameworks and city-level climate strategies, reinforcing political support, and ensuring that governance structures effectively enable cities to access financial and institutional support.	• Improve the multi-level coordination mechanisms involving national and regional authorities • Improve the alignment of national policies and funding instruments with cities' decarbonisation strategies • Strengthen regional support to facilitate cities' access to national and EU funding • Reinforce political engagement and long-term institutional support for the platform.	• Strengthen multi-level coordination activities with national ministries and agencies to align national policies and funding instruments with city decarbonisation strategies Through Task Force 360° Urban Transition Mission, Spain initiative . • Mobilize national and regional agencies to support cities in structuring integrated climate portfolios and to facilitate coordinated access to national, EU and private funding. • Strengthen structured political engagement through regular high-level coordination and impact monitoring to support long-term multi-level collaboration.
Dimension 2: Networking	Strengthen stakeholder engagement across the platform, with a particular focus on increasing the participation of Mission-Minded Cities and ensuring their continuous involvement. Fostering collaboration with the private sector and other key actors and establishing structured networking and capacity-building mechanisms linked to concrete projects to sustain engagement over time. Strengthen the link with universities and research centres to enable knowledge transfer processes for place-based innovation.	• Increase the active participation of Mission-Minded Cities in platform activities and projects • Ensure sustained engagement of cities through tailored support based on their level of progress • Strengthen the involvement of the private sector in platform activities and project implementation • Establish structured networking and capacity-building mechanisms linked to concrete initiatives.	• Increase the active participation of Mission-Minded Cities by integrating them into multi-city projects and platform activities, providing differentiated support according to their level of progress. • Strengthen private sector engagement by integrating companies into project implementation, technical advisory roles and co-financing mechanisms • Establish a structured capacity-building and networking programme linked to concrete projects, ensuring continuous stakeholder engagement and peer exchange • Advance a program addressed on city-university binomial partnerships.

Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Support cities in implementing climate actions by improving access to funding, strengthening data and monitoring systems, and reinforcing the operational capacity of local teams.	• Improve cities' access to funding for project implementation. • Strengthen data-sharing and monitoring systems • Enhance the capacity and continuity of Transition Teams across cities. • Improve alignment between national policy and implementation needs at city level.	• Support cities in identifying and accessing national and EU public funding schemes, while linking these to private financing opportunities. • Strengthen support to mobilise private and blended finance for project implementation, engaging relevant stakeholders and promoting multi-source funding. • Advocate for data-sharing mechanisms with cities to monitor implementation progress and support knowledge production. • Support Transition Teams to improve their operational capacity, continuity and peer exchange. • Advocate for improved national policy guidance and regulatory alignment to better enable city-level implementation.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Strengthen collaboration between cities and key stakeholders to enable joint implementation of climate actions and scale up multi-city initiatives.	• Increase the development of multi-city and thematic projects. • Strengthen collaboration with financial stakeholders and improve coordination and learning across cities	• Scale up structured multi-city and thematic collaboration mechanisms to support joint implementation of actions. • Strengthen coordination with financial stakeholders to support multi-city projects and mobilise blended finance.

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

- WP1. Strengthening multi-level governance and coordination across national, regional and local levels.
- WP3. Mobilising public and private funding for project implementation; collaboration with financial stakeholders.
- WP3. Data-sharing, monitoring and knowledge production to support implementation and decision-making.
- WP3. Capacity building and peer exchange between cities (Transition Teams, multi-city collaboration).
- WP5. Stakeholder engagement and mobilisation of key actors.

Sweden



Activities Tags:

Multilevel Dialogue and governance ; Connection with Adaptation Mission; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors(private stakeholders /companies) ; Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability; Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Description

Sweden's Mission platform, Viable Cities, is established as a dedicated innovation programme jointly funded by three government agencies (Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency, and Formas). It's hosted by KTH Royal Institute of Technology, RISE, SEI and Lund University. The role of the platform is to strengthen the coordination and iterative development of the Climate City Contracts, to mobilise actors at local, regional, national and international levels, facilitate participation in international initiatives, and supporting policy development for the local transition to climate neutrality, including coordinating financing initiatives.. Viable Cities is a member-based organisation with around 150 members, including companies, universities, research institutes, public sector organisations (such as cities), and civil society organisations.

By May 2027, the focus of the platform is on consolidating and scaling the CCC process, strengthening governance innovation, and deepening financial sector engagement and cross-sector collaboration. Orchestrating co-creation of continuous development of the Climate City Contracting process, including inclusion of new features and topics in this process, such as the launch of ten joint commitments between cities from 2025.

The Country Action Plan articulates a coherent set of objectives aimed at strengthening local, national and regional engagement while further refining the membership strategy of the programme, alongside expanding partnerships through the involvement of additional national agencies, including links with the Adaptation Hub. It places a strong emphasis on promoting structured engagement of business and civil society members to advance joint commitments among cities, supported by the introduction of a new tool from 2025. At the same time, the plan prioritises implementation and scaling by further developing these joint commitments, while enhancing the involvement of financial sector stakeholders to support both the programme and the effective delivery of city-level actions.

Viable Cities has developed well-functioning processes and for involvement of key stakeholders that we continuously seek to develop and adapt to strengthen the mobilisation towards the Mission. During 2026, a major focus will be on engaging and onboarding the political level on local, regional and national level after the general election that is to be held in September.

Activities

- Transition lab Forum
- Climate breakfasts

Thematic Focus

- A. Multilevel governance & Climate City Contracting
- B. Joint national funding, long-term support for local transition teams & Climate finance
- C. Structured learning ecosystem & collective learning
- D. Regional mobilisation & multi-level commitments across cities
- E. Structured engagement of private sector & Membership strategy

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Strengthen national & regional mobilisation Expand membership & agency involvement	Stronger regional integration (Wave 3+) Strengthened governance processes under joint commitments between cities Develop membership strategy and new partnerships with national agencies	Coordinate Sweden's role in CHAMP Coalition for High & Ambition Multilevel Partnerships and in Adaptation Hubs with SMHI Increased involvement of regional actors, connections to territorial strategies and mobilisation in common climate action efforts Develop governance-focused joint commitments Continuous co-creation of CCC process + inclusion of new features and topics, including joint commitments
Dimension 2: Networking	Mobilise business sector Strengthen regional mobilisation	Increased private-sector and civil society participation Improve regional involvement	Increased involvement of business and civil society sectors in local climate city contracts of a new type, also in joint commitments Increased involvement of regional actors, connections to territorial strategies and mobilisation in common climate action efforts

Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Accelerate implementation and scaling	Further develop and implement joint commitments Next generation of system demonstrators	Continuous coordination of public funding across 6 agencies (including sustained funding of local climate transition teams) + mobilisation of private finance for climate investments Operational joint commitment on climate data & calculations for MRV Continuous process of cities reporting Policy & regulatory collaboration within CCCs
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration	Mobilise finance sector	Deepen financial-sector involvement in programme and cities' work Advance thematic multi-city initiatives	Continuous development, monitoring and reflexive learning in Climate city contracting processing Thematic joint commitments between cities Increased work with sibling national platforms Systems demonstrator projects Accelerator for Green Travel Plans (15 municipalities)

Highlights on CapaCITIES Support

WP1: Transnational Alliance development: webinars and other exchange formats.

WP4: Sessions and peer learning exercises to facilitate practical cooperation among diverse stakeholders; with an emphasis on hands-on collaboration and capacity-building activities National Consultation Panels: a collective meeting with representatives from all partner countries, connected to the Cities Mission Conference.

In general, Viable Cities and Cities for Climate have initiated a process for planning activities for agencies from Sweden and Portugal, based on discussions on the Viable Cities Joint Commitments. This could also involve CitiES2030 and other platforms, with support from CapaCITIES.

Türkiye

Activities Tags:



Multilevel Dialogue and governance; Mobilising actors (national and regional governments) ; Mobilising actors (private stakeholders /companies); Multi-city exchange workshops; Exchanges with other country support structures; Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies; Workshops – cities and social organisations; Application of research on the implementation of city projects; Financial diversification and sustainability.

Description

İNŞA was established as a proto-platform for climate governance and a national community of practice to support the implementation of the Cities Mission in Türkiye, in line with the NetZeroCities City Expert Support Facility (CESF).

Looking ahead, the National Cities Mission Hub Project, financed under the IPA III Programme, is expected to be launched by 2028.

As key priorities, the focus is on strengthening capacity building and networking through learning programmes that integrate both Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities, supported by mentoring, peer exchange, and structured collaboration opportunities; reinforcing implementation by extending capacity-building activities to a wider range of stakeholders and improving coordination, knowledge sharing, and institutional alignment across the ecosystem; and fostering deep collaboration through the İNŞA Community of Practice - currently involving 55 cities - as a platform for continuous exchange and cooperation with national and international stakeholders to advance climate-neutral city transitions.

Key involved stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change; Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate for EU Affairs; TÜBİTAK; Marmara Municipalities Union; Union of Turkish Municipalities.

Activities

- May 2026 | MBB will open a stand at the World Urban Forum and communicate about INSA.
- July 2026 | The closing event of INSA is planned to be organised together with the CapaCITIES Project organized by TÜBİTAK and MMU including information about other countries' National Mission Hubs
- September 2026 | Opening of Driving Urban Transition Partnership 2026 Call to fund cities for climate neutral and smart city R&I projects which TÜBİTAK is the funding organization for each year since 2021
- November 2026 | A session within COP31 Climate Summit about Cities Mission and CapaCITIES Project
- January 2027 | The Project and Finance Congress is organised by the Turkish Union of Municipalities every year with the presentations made by TÜBİTAK National Contact Points, giving information about cities mission calls.
- October 2027 | Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) is organised by Marmara Municipalities Union in a multiannual basis.
- Meetings between TÜBİTAK, MMU, TUM, NetZeroCities are held on a biweekly basis covering the developments made about climate neutral cities and future activities that will be made by INSA.

Thematic Focus

In practice, TÜBİTAK's focuses are:

- Access to EU Funding & Project Development for cities interested in developing R&I projects
- Capacity Building & Knowledge Transfer on climate-neutral and smart cities mission
- Linking cities with funding, research and innovation
- Ensuring Türkiye is aligned with EU climate objectives

Approach by Dimension

Strategy by dimension	Priorities	Objectives by May 2027	Specific Actions
Dimension 1: Governance and platform structure	Existence of National Platform National narratives aligned with the EU Cities Mission Multilevel collaboration Political support	Collaboration with İNŞA (community of practice for cities – NZC supported) Alignment with the IPA III programme opportunities Organisation of events	Collaboration with the proto-platform dedicated to climate governance, İNŞA, which was established as a national community of practice empowering the implementation of Cities Mission in Türkiye (NetZeroCities support). Alignment with the National Cities Mission Hub Project, which is financed by the IPA III Programme, will be initiated by 2028. The formalisation will start then. Local Climate Change Action Plans will be prepared and collected by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change. The updated National Smart City Action Strategy Document will also be published by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change. Events for multilevel collaboration will be organised. It is planned to get support from National Development Agencies, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency NGOs, and related Public Bodies.
Dimension 2: Networking	Engagement of: • Mission Cities • Mission-minded cities • national authorities • regional authorities	Supporting learning programme rolled out for the İNŞA network (for Mission and Mission-minded cities)	Mission and Mission-minded cities will benefit from the learning and capacity-building programme delivered by the İNŞA network. Business and other stakeholders will be included in this programme.

	• business and private sector • others in events and in projects		National and regional authorities participated in the events organized in collaboration with İNŞA – sessions at the MARUF in October 2025. In all events organised by TUBITAK for Horizon Europe Cluster 5, Cities Mission calls and events are mentioned. The Project and Finance Congress is organised by the Turkish Union of Municipalities every year. MARUF is organised by Marmara Municipalities Union in a multiannual basis. The closing event of INSA is planned to be organised together with the CapaCITIES Project, which is planned to be held in Türkiye in 2026. MBB will open a stand at the World Urban Forum and communicate about INSA.
Dimension 3: Implementation & Capacity Building	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation Support to cities for the incorporation of staff dedicated to urban transition The platform provides cities with legitimacy to implement transformative actions Policy & regulation	Supporting learning programme rolled out for the İNŞA network	Public funding for implementation of projects in cities; Assistance for mobilising private/blending funding for projects implementation – these will be addressed by İNŞA learning programme. Support to cities for the incorporation of staff dedicated to urban transition – this is addressed by various programmes delivered by local city networks as well as governmental programmes, e.g. in 2025, MURCC organized several awareness-raising conferences under the “Strengthening Climate Adaptation Action in Turkey” project. The actions will be done according to the Climate Law prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation, and Climate Change. The Regulation will be formalised later, and the Climate Neutral Cities National Mission Hub will refer to that Regulation. Climate Law was published in 2025. However, regulations based on this law are in draft form. During the preparation of the project’s technical specifications, the process is carried out hand in hand with the MoEUCC. This close coordination ensures that the IPA project and the forthcoming regulations are fully aligned.
Dimension 4: Deep collaboration		Supporting learning programme rolled out for the İNŞA network	İNŞA activities

Annex

The tags included at the beginning of each country section are defined according to the dimensions of the Methodology for Mapping the Progress of Country National Mission Platforms. The colour coding corresponds to the following indicators:

Dimension	Activity Tag Name	Tag colour
Multi-level governance and political continuity	Multilevel Dialogue and governance	
	Policy labs- workshops	
	Connection with Adaptation Mission	
Networking	Stakeholders' mobilisation (multiple sectors)	
	Multi-city workshops	
Implementation and Capacity Building	Exchanges with other county support structures	
	Workshops – cities and private stakeholders /companies	
	Workshops – cities and social organisations	
	Application of research on the implementation of city projects	
	Financial diversification and sustainability	
	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)	
Deep Collaboration	Joint-cities' projects	
	Fit-for Mission -piloting	