



# CLIMATE ACTIONS AND THE PATH TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY OF SLOVENIAN MUNICIPALITIES – MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES

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On-line event

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EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

**CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES**

**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities



## WHY A MISSION ON CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES?

- **75%** of EU citizens live in cities (projected to increase to about 85% in 2050)
- More than **65%** of energy consumption and more than **70%** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions worldwide
- Rooted in **R&I** and delivering concrete results within a limited timeframe
- Co-benefits – reduced air and noise pollution, less congestion, fewer road deaths.  
**Loveable and livable cities!**
- The **European Green Deal** is set at EU and national levels, but will be implemented at local level – particularly in cities and regions: where policy meets people
- Cities have the **ambition** to go further – we want to help cities achieve their goal of climate neutrality by 2030



## OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

1

Deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030;

2

Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to put all European cities in a position to become climate-neutral by 2050.



## MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION

### Horizon Europe

#### Mission platform

- Run by the NetZeroCities consortium
- Tailor-made technical, regulatory and financial advice
- R&I demonstrators
- Twinning and mutual learning

#### Portfolio of R&I projects



### Climate City Contracts

- Including climate action plan and investment strategy
- Innovative city governance and citizen engagement
- Involvement of European, national and regional level



#### MISSION LABEL



- Synergies with other programmes
- Help with access to funding and financing



## CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS

- **Tailor-made plans** on how to reach climate neutrality, adapted to the individual needs of the city, supported by the Mission Platform
- Non legally binding – **Memorandum of Understanding**
- To be **co-created in spirit of multi-level governance**, with the involvement of national authorities, regions and local stakeholders, including citizens and local economic actors
- Focus on innovative (“holistic”) city governance, investment plan, and monitoring and reporting
- Signed by the Mayor (or equivalent), witnessed by the Commission and others
- Unlocks **Mission label**





## FUNDING AND FINANCING

- Individual **city investment plan** to be developed with help from the Mission Platform as part of the Climate City Contract process
- Support expected from different **EU funding programmes**
- Cooperation with the **European Investment Bank Group** and national promotional Institutions e.g. financial advisory, possibly Blending Facility
- **Private investors** such as individuals, private companies and commercial banks
- **EU sustainable finance agenda** offers new opportunities to encourage investors to invest locally



## SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES

- The Mission will not replace involvement in other programmes, such as the Covenant of Mayors or Climate Pact, but **build synergies** with them
- The Mission aims to build synergies with existing programmes to **add value on both sides**, without creating unnecessary additional work for cities.
- All **relevant initiatives** in which cities are participating and relevant to the Mission's objective are taken into account as they contribute to achieving its successful implementation (e.g. Circular Cities Declaration)
- The **Mission label** will help create funding opportunities in EU & other programmes
- **National networks** will ensure synergies with national and regional programmes





## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- **377 cities** from **all EU member states** and from associated countries submitted expressions of interest
- Evaluation process supported by **independent experts**, determining
  - cities' level of ambition and preparedness
  - cities' commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders
- Based on the assessment, the **Commission will select the participating cities**, representing
  - true geographic diversity and inclusiveness
  - range among cities, regions, urban characteristics and sizes
- Selected cities will be **announced in spring 2022**



## TIMELINE





## GET IN TOUCH

**Cities Mission newsletter:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/rtd/user-subscriptions/2551/create>

**Email:**

[RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-CITIES@EC.EUROPA.EU](mailto:RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-CITIES@EC.EUROPA.EU)

**Web page:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/mission-cities>



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# Thank you!

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## THE DIGITAL and urban sectors

- Digitisation of **energy**: connecting renewables, positive energy districts
- Digital in the **mobility sector**: electrification, data and behavioural changes
- Digital & **environment**: policy monitoring, green data
- Digital & **industry**: ICT as a sector, digital manufacturing, circularity
- Digital & **nature-based approaches**: precision agriculture, data
- Digital & **buildings and construction**: data, dashboards, digital twins
- Digital & **societal transformation**: app economy, New European Bauhaus



# The SMART CITY dimension of the Mission

- **The twin transition:** green and digital
- **Exploiting digital for the benefit of all stakeholders**
  - Data for policy-making and for monitoring and measuring impacts
  - Efficient service delivery
  - Citizen engagement
- **Minimizing the negative impacts of digitalization**
  - Energy consumption, waste and rebound effects
  - Educating our ICT sector, new innovation culture (green ICT effort + ICT & SDGs)