

NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



Funded by
the European Union



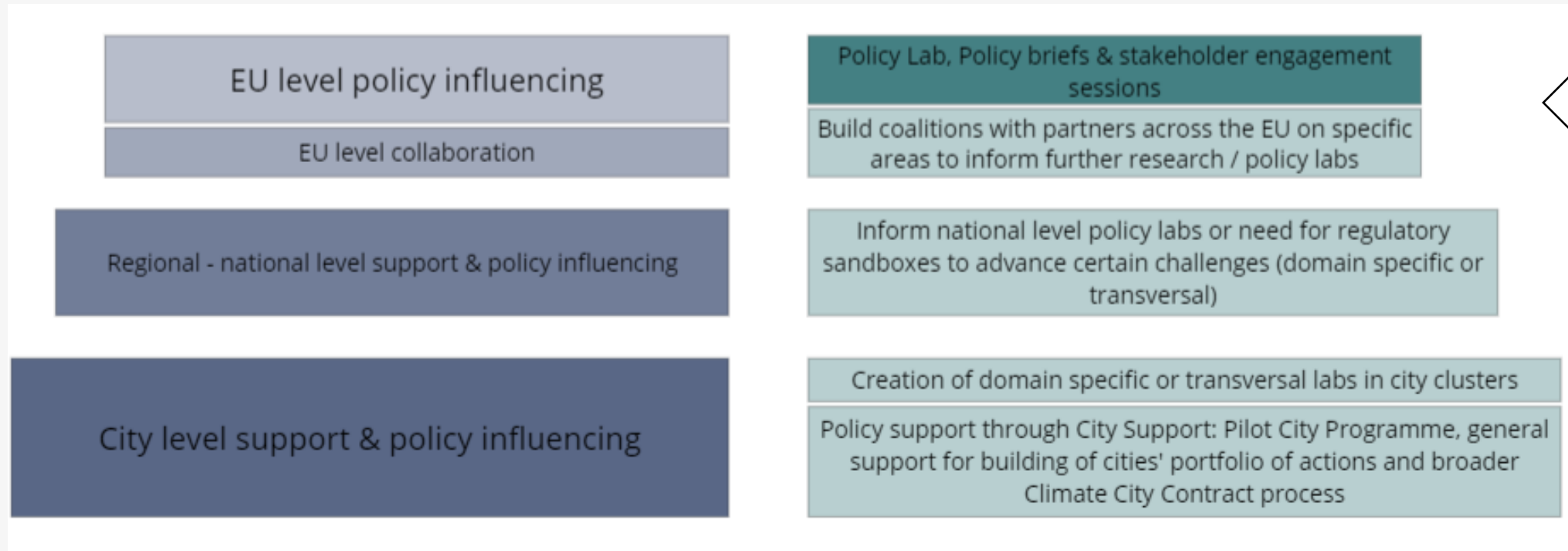
Why are we here?

1/3 of urban mitigation potential is directly within the control of local governments;
1/3 depends primarily on national and state-level action;
1/3 will require collaborative approaches at all levels of government*

Policy and partnerships are an important lever in the systemic approach to climate neutrality, and NZC aims to enable **multi-level governance actors** to connect and work together on creating more favourable **framework conditions for reaching NetZero**.

* Analysis by the Coalition on Urban Transitions





A spectrum of NetZeroCities policy support underway





Policy Labs

Policy Framework

Cornerstones of NZA Policy Activities at EU-Level

Policy Briefs

Policy Stakeholder
Engagement





EU Policy Labs Info-session Agenda

- **Welcome & agenda**
- **Overview of EU Policy Framework**
 - Q&A
- **Overview of NZC Policy Labs**
 - Objectives
 - Content
 - Timeline
 - Q&A
- **Discussion of current policy experiences and challenges**
 - Break-out groups
- **Next steps and close**





Overview of NZC Policy Framework



Funded by
the European Union



NetZeroCities EU Policy Framework (1)

Overall objective:

- To provide an overview of main EU policies and legislation relevant to achieving climate neutrality in cities by 2030

10 key thematic areas covered:

- Climate neutrality / horizontal – general and cross-sectoral policies
- Built environment – buildings, urban design, urban land use
- Energy systems – production, use, storage and energy infrastructures
- Mobility and transport
- Industry – mainly production processes and related aspects
- Circular economy – product circularity, including waste
- Nature – biodiversity, nature-based solutions, rural land use, natural resources
- Technology – digitalisation, technologies, R&I
- Social – social support, culture, just transition
- Finance – financing, budget support and funding





NetZeroCities EU Policy Framework (2)

Process:

- Updated periodically by the NZC policy team (around every 6 months through to end of NZC project)
- Data collected in a shared spreadsheet:
 - Title and type of policy / legislation
 - Main and related thematic areas
 - Dates and status
 - Link to document(s)
 - Note of objectives / provisions most relevant to NZC Mission objectives
- Most recent update just being concluded
- Data collected transferred into...

Online 'KUMU':

- Accessible via NZC website knowledge repository: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-2917>
- Can zoom and click on specific policy / legislation
- Attempts to show key links between policies



NetZeroCities EU Policy Framework (3)

Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) 2.0

Circular economy | Built environment

POLICY - OFFICIAL NAME A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

TYPE OF DOCUMENT/ACT Communication

YEAR OF PUBLICATION (NON-BINDING) OR ENTRY INTO EFFECT (BINDING) 2020

STATUS Non-binding

STATUS NOTES The majority of initiatives of the CEAP have been adopted.

WEB LINK (EUR-LEX) eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933...

IMPACT ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION OR FITNESS CHECK LINK n/a

PRIMARY THEMATIC AREA Circular economy

RELATED THEMATIC AREA #1 Built environment

RELATED THEMATIC AREA #2 Industry

RELATED POLICIES European Green Deal

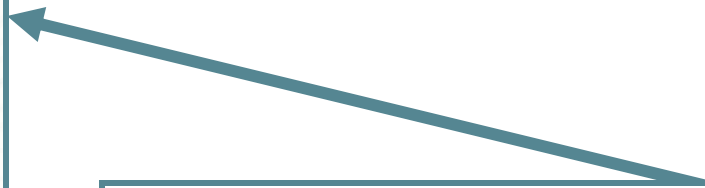
RELEVANCE TO NZC PROJECT It mentions the role of local authorities, and local job creation. It also links circular economy to climate mitigation and adaption
Links to carbon sequestration through nature

RELEVANT PROVISIONS The new action plan announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible

Legend

- Built environment
- Circular economy
- Energy systems
- Finance
- Industry
- Mobility and transport
- Nature
- Social Innovation
- Regulation
- Directive
- Proposal
- Communication
- Technical Standard
- Guideline, Recommendation, Notice
- Delegated Act
- Implementing Act

Communication | Delegated Act | Directive



Legend

- Built environment
- Circular economy
- Energy systems
- Finance
- Industry
- Mobility and transport
- Nature
- Social Innovation
- Regulation
- Directive
- Proposal
- Communication
- Technical Standard
- Guideline, Recommendation, Notice
- Delegated Act
- Implementing Act

Communication | Delegated Act | Directive | Guideline, Recommendation, Notice | Implementing Act | Proposal | Regulation | Technical Standard





Any questions?





Overview of NZC Policy Labs at EU level



NZC Policy Labs at EU level- overview

- **Objective**

To support Mission Cities in the identification and formulation of relevant EU climate-related policies by bringing together Mission City representatives and NZC like-minded stakeholders in a unique set up of co-creating policy solutions. Building upon solid evidence-based policy messages addressed to EU decision-makers.

- **How?**

By targeting local policy needs/barriers that could be addressed at EU level.

- **When?**

By January 2025, NZC partners are planning to organise a series of policy labs (online and in person).

- **Who?**

City practitioners

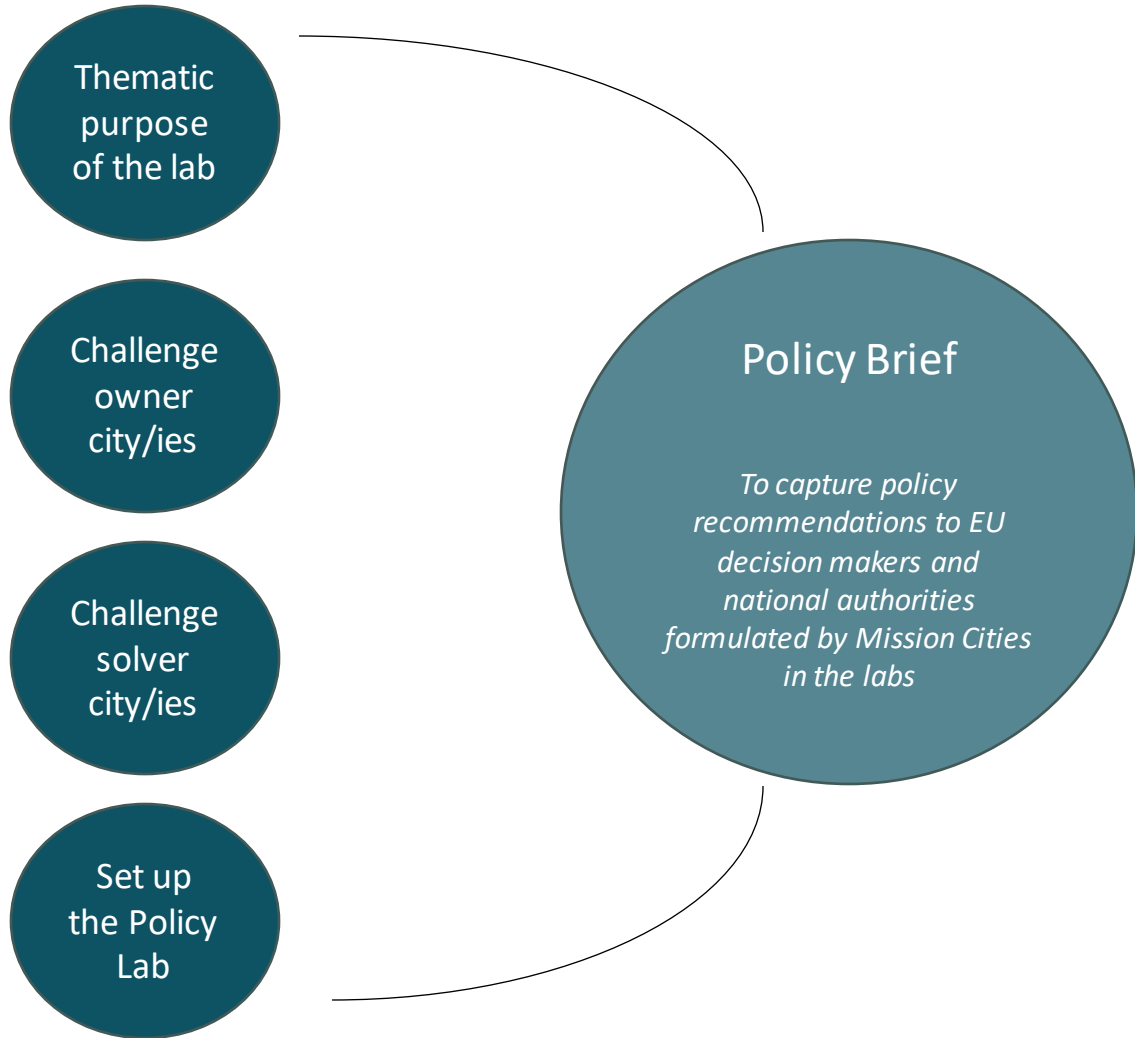
- Group 1 – challenge owners – to bring real-case city challenge to the discussion
- Group 2 – challenge solvers – to support challenge owner/s in the formulation of policy asks

NZC identified **thematic EU Policy expert** - to set the scene with the EU Policy Landscape

Moderator and facilitator/s



NZC Policy Labs at EU level - process



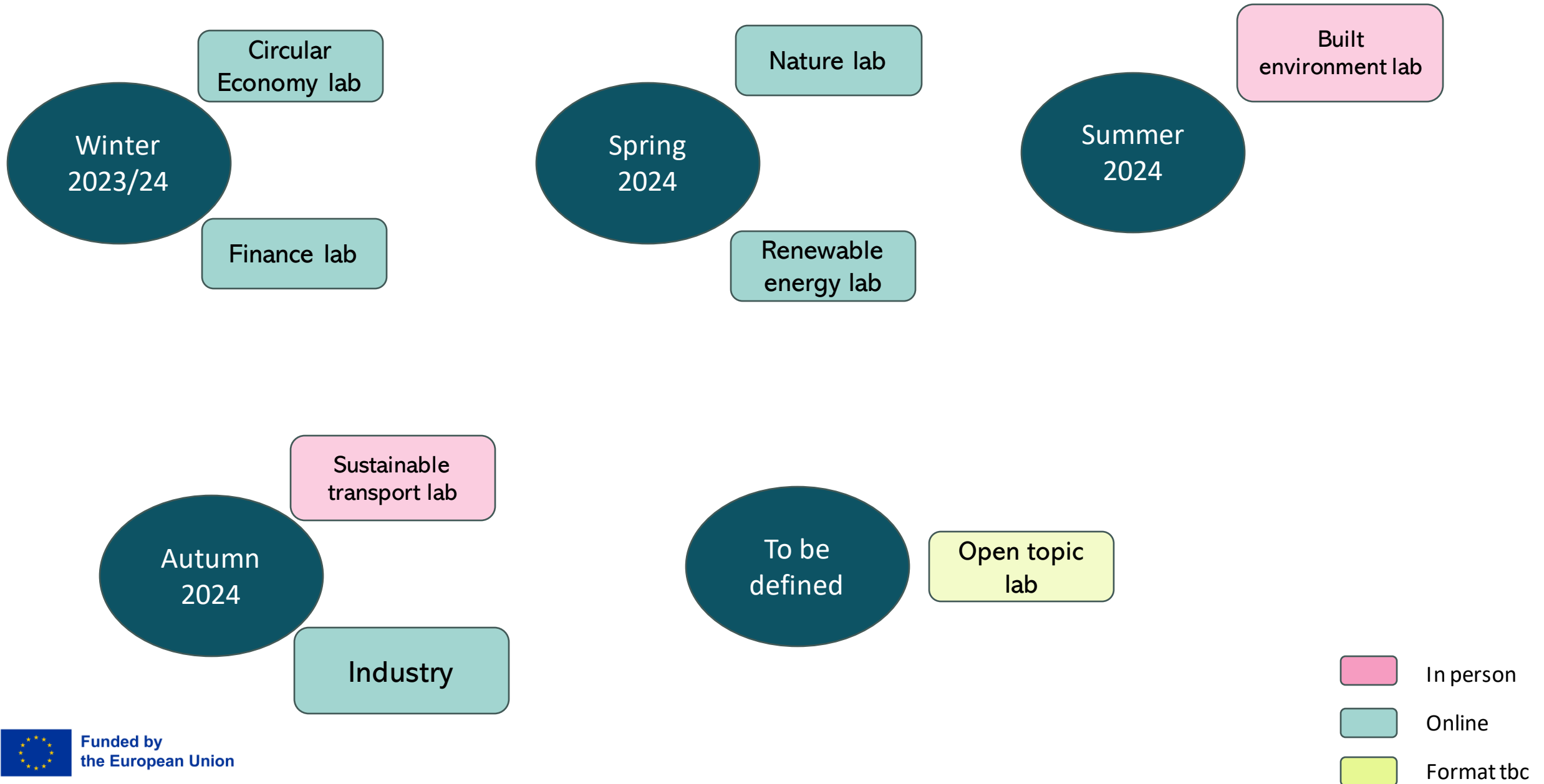
EU Climate neutrality policy landscape



Figure 1: The European Green Deal

**New Commission, new mandate...
EU Parliament elections, 6-9 June 2024 !**

NZC Policy Labs at EU level – timeline by 2025





Why participate?

Deepen your understanding of **EU Climate Policy landscape** and its impacts in Mission Cities

Learn from other **Mission Cities** about approaches to similar policy challenges

Engage in direct advocacy to **EU decision-makers** through the **Policy Brief** – Mission Cities proactive implementers and frontrunners of EU climate policies!





How to participate?

To ensure diverse and inclusive representation of cities and challenges, **NZC will coordinate the process**

Mission Cities will be approached to discuss the opportunity to be a **Challenge Owner City**

To join a Policy Lab as a **Challenge Solver City**, you will be able to **register** via a dedicated online form prior to the Lab





Any questions?





NZC Policy Labs - Thematic focus areas



Funded by
the European Union



Energy communities

- Due to recent EU regulations (including both renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities), **energy communities** have emerged as an integral part of the future energy system
- The renewable energy directive specifically grants citizens the right to own and participate in the development of energy assets

Policy challenges:

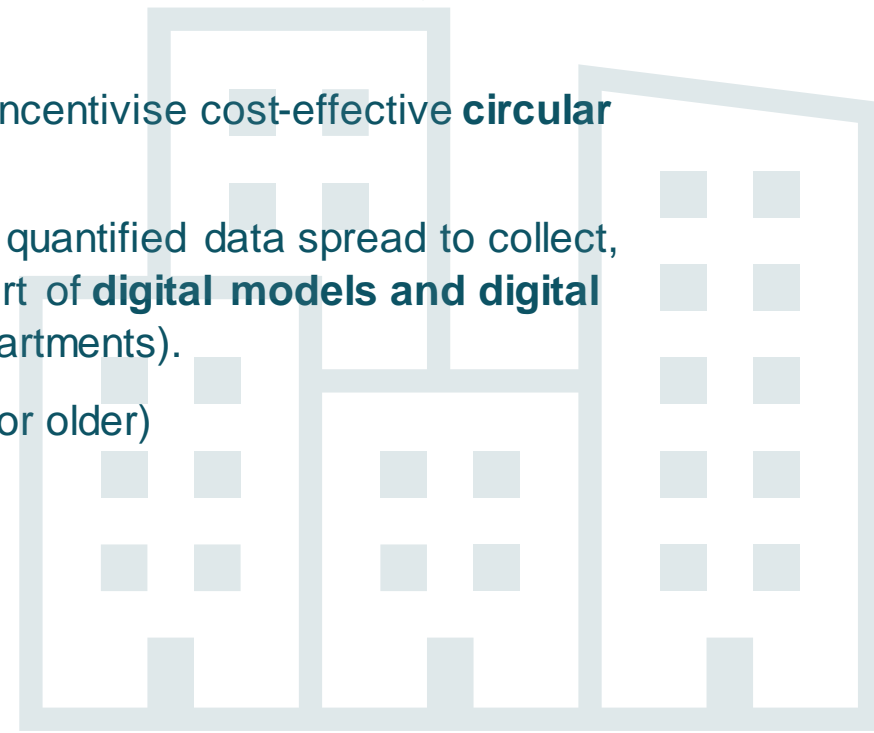
- **State aid, procurement and competition law**
 - How to deal with the new entity of energy communities – is state aid allowed and under what conditions? How to cooperate (as municipality) with energy communities under competition law, e.g. which partnership forms are allowed?
 - Tendering – energy communities tend to compete with businesses (which tend to compete on price only); what challenges or positive experiences do cities experience with tendering? What could be improved about current tendering practices?
- **Activity scope:** energy communities can undertake a range of activities (e.g. insulation, lowering expenses) – What cities can do to support/facilitate those activities? How do these activities relate to the laws and regulations in place?





Built Environment Lab

- **Transposition of revised EU rules** at national level and its impact in Mission Cities: e.g. (revised EPBD 2023) - How the Minimum Energy Performance Standards will be implemented at national level?
- Encourage and protect **residents** to embark on built environment decarbonisation actions (e.g. support publicly available trusted advice through one stop shops)
- **Financial incentives** (e.g. ESCOs, alternative private funding options, green bonds)
- Lack of **technical workforce** and local administration capacity to ensure building renovation at local level. EU and national authorities to enhance regulatory safeguards and enforcement to train construction workers, adhered to the context of climate action.
- Embedded emissions in buildings: EU and national regulatory frameworks to incentivise cost-effective **circular practices** in the construction, demolition and building material sourcing.
- Need for an **adequate access to data** and to standardise methodologies and quantified data spread to collect, analyse and monitor energy consumption in buildings in Mission Cities. Support of **digital models and digital twins** (which requires a strong collaboration among stakeholders and city departments).
- Renovation of **heritage buildings** (at least 35% of buildings in the EU are 50 or older)
- Need for clear legal framework to enable **fossil free heating systems**





Mobility Lab

Proposed policy challenges

Decarbonising transport & e-mobility (including renewable energy)

Constitute a transformative strategy to mitigate carbon emissions and transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon transportation system.

The optimal ways of complementing public transport with shared (micro)mobility

Integrating seamless, on-demand services, such as ride-sharing and bike-sharing, to enhance first-and-last-mile connectivity, reduce congestion, and provide convenient and efficient transportation options.

Promotion of active mobility and public transport (behavioural change)

Incentivizing walking, cycling, and the use of public transportation by fostering awareness, providing infrastructure support, and implementing policies that encourage sustainable transportation choices for a healthier and more environmentally conscious community.

Emission monitoring, reporting and verification (GHG & non-GHG)

Ensuring accurate and transparent assessments that contribute to effective climate change mitigation strategies and sustainable resource management.





Let's move to the break-out groups...



Funded by
the European Union



Break-out groups

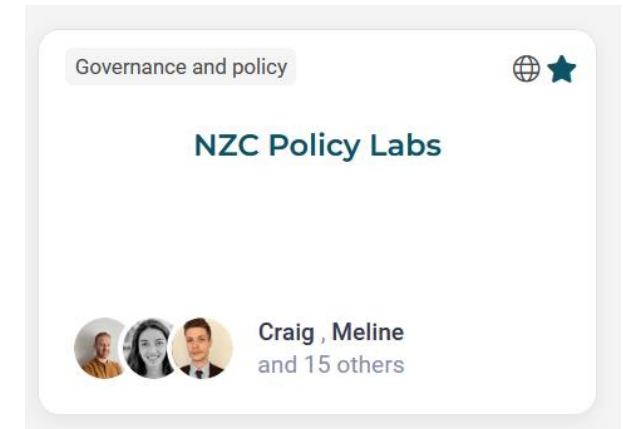
Discussion questions:

- What policy challenges are relevant in your context regarding Nature, Circular Economy, Renewable Energy, Mobility, Industry and Built Environment?
- What challenges do you see in other sectors, and what cross-cutting policy-related issues are important to you? (Contribution to the open topic lab)
- What additional support would you like when addressing policy and regulatory barriers to achieve climate neutrality in your cities (e.g. exchange on the Portal...) ?



Next steps

- Please complete short **feedback survey**
- Join the **Portal Policy Group**
 - access to Policy Briefs
 - updates on Policy Framework
 - share ideas / experiences and engage in policy-related discussions
- Registration for next **Policy Labs** to be announced soon via the Portal Policy Group
- Overview of **Policy Innovation activities** to follow...



Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



[@NetZeroCitiesEU](https://twitter.com/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[NetZeroCities](https://www.instagram.com/NetZeroCities)



[NetZeroCitiesEU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[NetZeroCities EU](https://www.youtube.com/NetZeroCitiesEU)



www.netzerocities.eu



hello@netzerocities.eu



Funded by
the European Union