

Online Discussion Groups

OVERVIEW & FEEDBACK FROM COHORT 1

The first cohort of Online Discussion Groups was inaugurated in September 2024 and concluded in February 2025, spanning across 3 phases:

- PHASE 1**
Onboarding
- PHASE 2**
Learn from actionable climate solutions from Mission Cities
- PHASE 3**
Problem-solving technical sessions



Valongo, Portugal

The projects of Leuven have huge relevance in terms of learning for Valongo Municipality, especially in the following aspects:

Sharing strategies for involving citizens in decision-making processes (Presentation of different solutions for streets);
Technical solutions for experimenting temporary changes in urban context.
These will help in implementing Valongo's Climate Action Plan

180 Participants
in the first cohort

8 Labelled
Mission Cities led
the discussions

& Covering 5 Thematic peer-learning sessions:

- **Built Environment:** Guimarães
- **Energy:** Mannheim and Valencia
- **Circular Economy:** Aachen and Umeå
- **Sustainable mobility:** Stockholm and Aachen
- **Nature-based-Solutions:** Lahti and Leuven

Mission Cities presented specific actions that are in implementation phase in their **Climate City Contracts**, emphasizing how they were planned, implemented and scaled, **to inspire other European cities** and **offer practical recommendations** and lessons learned **to replicate** these climate actions in other local contexts.

The first cohort also included 5 Technical Assistance sessions:

1. Dealing with the **retrofitting** of historical areas by integrating renewable energy sources
2. Exploring **energy poverty** reduction at the city scale
3. Reducing private mobility by **changing modal split**
4. Heat Island reduction through **green and blue infrastructure**
5. Extending the **lifecycle of building materials**



Trușeni, Moldova

Their experience (Lahti and Leuven) offers replicable nature-based solutions for Trușeni's environmental challenges, particularly flood risks and sustainable land use. Lahti's approach to inventorying forests and restoring peat fields demonstrates the value of assessing natural assets for carbon storage and flood prevention, a method applicable to Trușeni's river and surrounding ecosystem. The solutions shows a model suitable for stabilizing Trușeni's riverbanks and enhancing biodiversity. Both cities highlight the importance of citizen engagement and participatory planning, which we can replicate through active involvement of local community groups to ensure stakeholder.