



Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab

NetZeroCities online course for all cities

September 16th- December 11th 2025





Participation

This course is intended for all EU (and Horizon affiliated countries) cities with a population above 50.000 that do not yet have a climate Action Plan

- It's open to any municipality as well as to consultants, experts, regional authorities, etc.
- The course guides cities into developing a climate action plan | No funding available for participating cities
- This course is NOT for students
- After each session, facilitators remain online for Q&A

26 online sessions
of which 6 are core
sessions

Tuesday 9.15-11.00 and
Thursday 13.15-15.00

Participation is **free**





Certification

Free

Municipalities that **attend all 6 core sessions** will obtain a certificate of attendance for the city issued by the NetZeroCities project

30€

Participants who **attend all 6 core sessions can obtain** a certificate of attendance issued by **Universidad Politecnica de Madrid**



Online ceremony on December 11th 2025

In-person ceremony at the City Conference in Turin May 2026





Recordings and activities

- All participants who sign up for the program receive an email **after each module with the video recording** of the sessions and additional useful information.
- Before joining each session, you will be requested to agree with the course privacy policy, provide **permission for recording** and details of your municipality or profile to be able to issue the attendance certificates.
- The program is structured into **six modules**, each offering 4-6 hands-on sessions led by expert practitioners and cities. Each session will have an interactive component, in which you can share your questions and experiences.

Q: Can you participate in single sessions?

A: Yes! If you sign up for the course, you will receive communications and links to all the sessions. All sessions are held on Zoom (online). All participants who sign up for the program receive an email after each module with the video recording of the session and additional useful information.

Q: What is the level of English proficiency required?

A: Participants can ask questions in their own (European) language in the chat.

DISCLAIMER: Before joining each session, you will be requested to agree with the course privacy policy, provide **permission for recording** and details of your municipality or profile to be able to issue the attendance certificates.





Sign-up and Portal Group

What should you do now?

There is **no deadline** for applying to the course. All sessions are held on Zoom, and you can join the Zoom meeting through the link provided in this email or in the course program page on the NetZeroCities portal.

1. **[SIGN UP NOW](#)** for Zoom sessions and **ADD** them to your **CALENDAR**
2. Read carefully the [online pages for each session](#) and **register** in advance for each of the sessions on the Zoom platform.
3. Join the dedicated group for this course to interact with other participants: [Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab](#)





25/09/2025

Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

Climate City Contracts

What are Climate City Contracts?

How are European cities using them as innovation and governance tools?





Housekeeping



Please keep your microphone muted unless you're speaking.



Use the chat to share thoughts, questions, or links.



Feel free to use the "raise hand" function or reactions if you'd like to contribute.



Cameras are welcome if you're comfortable, but not required.





Let's get to know each other



Francesco Palmia

CCC Lead, NetZeroCities
Climate Neutral Cities Expert, ICLEI EUROPE



Silvia Gugu, Ph.D.

CCC Lead, NetZeroCities
Climate Neutral Cities Senior Expert, ICLEI EUROPE





Let's get to know each other



Scan me!





👉 Check out the overall Program Here 👈

MODULE 1	Core The NetZeroCities program, service offering, systemic approach, what works for Mission Cities	Spotlight 1 NetZeroCities Orientation	Spotlight 2 Shaping Climate Narratives		Spotlight 3 Climate City Contracts	
MODULE 2	Core Developing a transition team, mapping and activating the ecosystem	Spotlight 1 Transition team & climate leadership	Spotlight 2 Engaging the private sector		Spotlight 3 Citizen engagement for systemic climate action	
MODULE 3	Core Climate Action Plan in the urban planning system	Spotlight 1 Reporting and MEL	Spotlight 2 Co-Designing a Climate Portfolio		Spotlight 3 Using NetZeroPlanner to Support Climate Planning, MEL, and Implementation Management to Achieve Net Zero Goals	
MODULE 4	Core Levers of change: Tech and multi-actor collaborations	Spotlight 1 Passive solutions to reduce energy demand in buildings	Spotlight 2 Systemic energy transition at buildings, districts and city level	Spotlight 3 Data-driven approaches to energy transition in buildings and districts	Spotlight 4 Mobility	Spotlight 5 Scope 3 and other emission domains
MODULE 5	Core Increase finance knowledge of the public administration & learn about options to finance projects	Spotlight 1 Preparing a pipeline of projects for external financing	Spotlight 2 Different investor groups and the key priorities and returns profiles for each and instruments		Spotlight 3 Financing the ambition: Learning from Mission Cities	
MODULE 6	Core Multilevel governance, national platforms and policy strategies	Spotlight 1 Policy and regulations innovation	Spotlight 2 Public procurement – national specificities		Spotlight 3 Just transition	



Learning objectives

Through the session today, we will explore:

- the key governance innovations introduced by CCCs;
- how Mission Cities are using CCCs, tailoring them to their context and ambitions;
- how CCCs are scaled up in various national contexts.



Valencia



Grabación Alejandro Gómez

Coordinador de Projectes Europeus i Estratègies
Urbanes

Leuven



Jessie Van Couwenberghe

Mission Manager of the City of Leuven

Valladolid



Francisco Benito Sanchez

Project Manager City Council of Valladolid



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Climate director at Central Administration of the City of Turku

Eskilstuna



Elin Svanström

Process leader Viable Cities, Eskilstuna Municipality

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Liviu Purtător

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Braşov



Reinhold Stadler

Manager de proiect, Asociatia de Transport Braşov





What are Climate City Contracts?





What are Climate City Contracts...

... at Mission level?





One Hundred Climate Neutral Cities, One common tool: the **Climate City Contract**





One common tool: the **Climate City Contract** to

1. Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
2. Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050





One common tool:

106 Climate City Contracts

developed by Mission Cities

and more Climate City Contracts

developed by Mission-Minded Cities in Sweden, Romania, Spain...





What are Climate City Contracts...

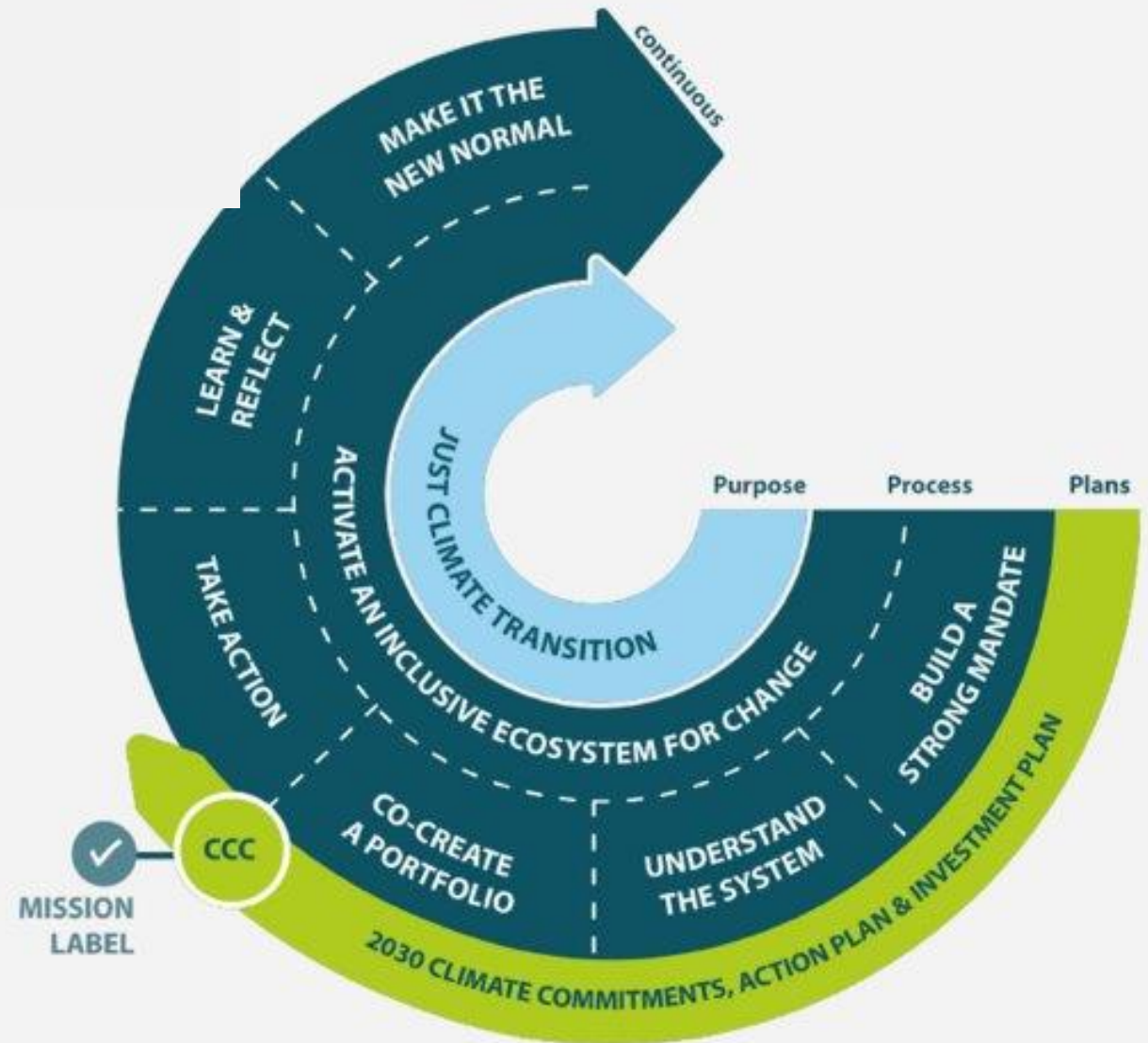
... at city level?





A collaborative governance process

The **Climate City Contract** aims to build a mandate and capacity to work collectively with greater impact. As a process, it may look different in every city, but its components guide cities' work of building a stronger mandate for climate action, understanding their challenge in all its complexity, and developing collaboratively a portfolio of actions to overcome barriers and leverage opportunities for climate neutrality.





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Actions**
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments:** capture the outcomes of a co-creation process with local, regional, and national stakeholders to establish new ways of working together to achieve climate neutrality faster. It includes **a shared 2030 ambition and a strategy to achieve it**, as well as the **commitment(s) to action from stakeholders** in the contract.
- **Actions**
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Actions:** The **Action Plan** identifies the **gap in emission reductions** of existing strategies, policies, and plans, **and uses levers of change** (governance and policy, democracy and participation, finance, technology, social innovation, capacity) **to create** a coordinated portfolio of **interventions** across emission sectors to bridge the gap to climate neutrality by 2030.
Learn more in Module 3 of this course!
- **Investments**





A living document

A written contract backed up by concrete plans for action

Three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Actions**
- **Investments:** strategically mobilises and organises public resources and address how to attract private capital for funding and financing cities pathways to climate neutrality. **Learn more in Module 5 of this course!**





CCC Resources and templates

All Climate City Contract resources are available in the [Knowledge Repository on the Portal](#)





25/09/2025

Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Commitments

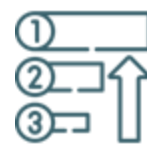




Key elements of the Commitments Document



Set a climate target and accelerate the journey towards climate neutrality



Define priorities and principles to guide the planning and implementation phases



Leverage co-benefits to strengthen the case for climate action



Adopt a whole-city approach and secure commitments from different levels of government and the local ecosystem of actors





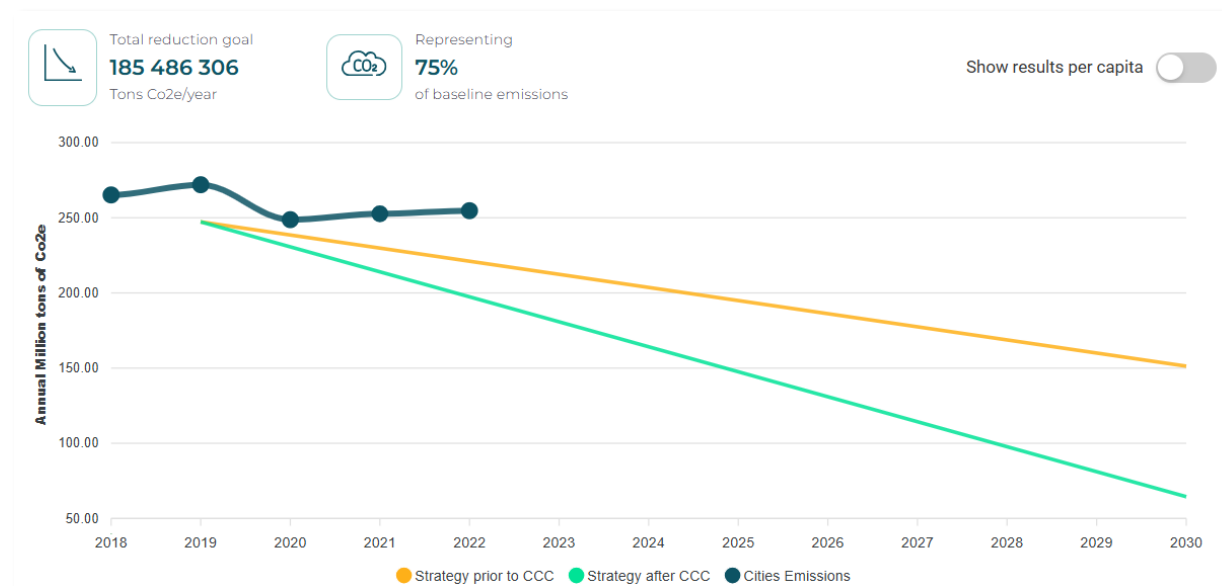
Key elements of the Commitments Document

Climate-neutrality target

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to: **set a climate-neutrality target** and **accelerate** the journey towards climate neutrality.

Mission Cities began their journey to climate neutrality at **different starting points** and **levels of maturity**. Some updated their climate targets, while others set their first target. The Climate City Contracts helped all cities **strengthen their commitment to climate neutrality**.

[NetZeroCities Barometer](#)





Key elements of the Commitments Document

Priorities and Principles

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool that **defines priorities and principles**.

The Mission Cities' climate neutrality targets and strategies are based on **strong principles** that guide both the planning and implementation phases of the Climate City Contracts. Mission Cities have adhered to principles such as **co-creation, open innovation, transparency, sufficiency, or just transition, leaving no one behind**.



Lyon

The city of Lyon has strategically integrated the principle of *sobriété* (sufficiency) into the development of its CCC, aligning with its broader commitment to climate neutrality.



Swedish Cities

During their 2024 CCC iteration, Swedish cities worked collectively to strengthen their commitment to the principle of Just Transition.





Key elements of the Commitments Document

Co-benefits

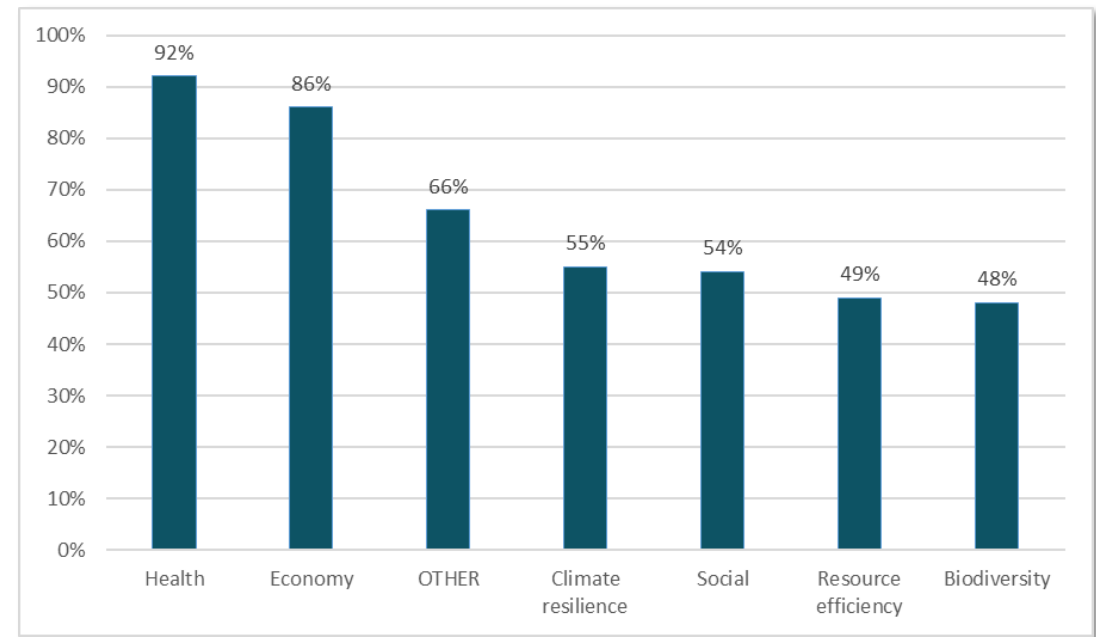
The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to **leverage co-benefits to strengthen the climate narrative**

Climate City Contracts emphasise the importance of implementing climate actions to:

- Improve air quality
- Increase employment rate
- Boost local business
- Foster the city attractiveness

*“Decarbonization will bring concrete benefits to many sectors of society such as: 1) Reduced **air pollution, fuel poverty and noise** through decarbonation of heating and mobility; 2) Increased **property value and employment** due to retrofit work”*

Share of CCCs referring to co-benefits by categories
[CCC Highlights – Co-benefits and Indicators](#)





25/09/2025

Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Commitments?





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Alejandro Gómez Gil

Grabación Alejandro Gómez
Coordinador de Projectes Europeus i
Estratègies Urbanes
Municipality of Valencia





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



LEUVEN LEUVEN 2030  **leuven**
CLIMATE
CITY CONTRACT



Francesco Palmia



Jessie Van Couwenberghe

Jessie Van Couwenberghe
Mission Manager
City of Leuven





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Francisco Benito Sanchez
Project Manager
City Council of Valladolid





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Risto Veivo,
Climate Director, City of Turku
Lead Author, IPCC Special Report on
Climate Change and Cities,





How can cities benefit from building climate commitments?



Elin Svanström
Process leader Viable Cities
Eskilstuna Municipality





Espoo



Helena Kyrki

Manager for Sustainable
Development, Mayor's Office

Cluj-Napoca



Liviu Purtător

Primăria municipiului Cluj-
Napoca





Any questions?



Francesco Palmia



Silvia Gugu



Helena Kyrki



Liviu Purtător





25/09/2025

Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Action Plan





Key elements of the Action Plan



The baseline:

- GHG emissions inventory
- Existing relevant policies and plans



The target and emissions gap

- Target: at least 80% reductions in GHG emissions by 2030
- Emissions gap: difference between the reductions through existing plans and the target. In other words, what needs to be reduced through new actions
- Residual emissions: emissions that cannot be reduced by 2030 and need to be offset by 2050.



Barriers and opportunities:

- System analysis across emissions domains



The theory of change and action portfolio

- Linking emission domains with systemic levers, and indicating outcomes and long-term impact



The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework

- Quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure and describe progress, outcomes and impacts





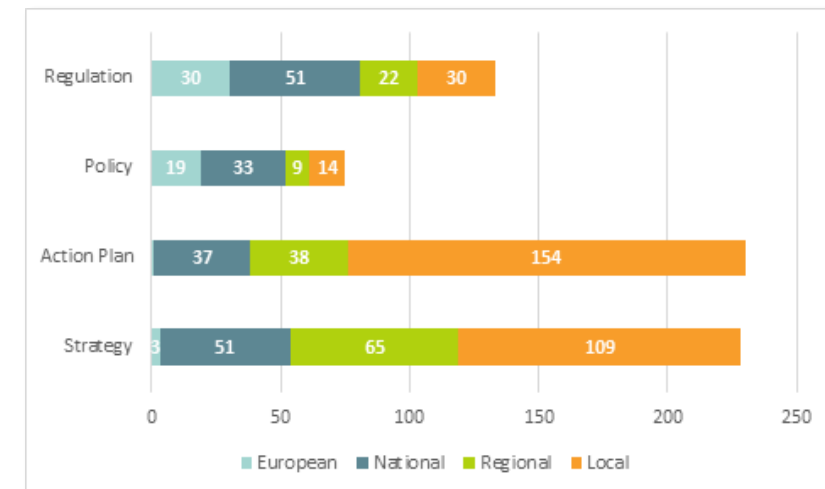
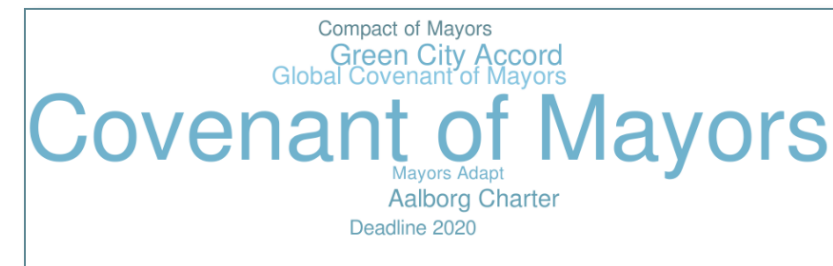
Elements of the Action Plan

The baseline

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to **map existing regulations, policies and plans at different levels of government to identify the emissions gap covered by the CCC and set your city on the path to climate neutrality by 2030.**

Mission Cities built their CCCs on existing plans, previously signed commitments, participation to local and international city networks, and ongoing R&I projects.

International commitments labelled CCCs are building on (top)
Mapped documents labelled CCCs are building on (bottom)
[CCC Highlights – Bold Commitments by 2030](#)





Elements of the Action Plan

Systems analysis

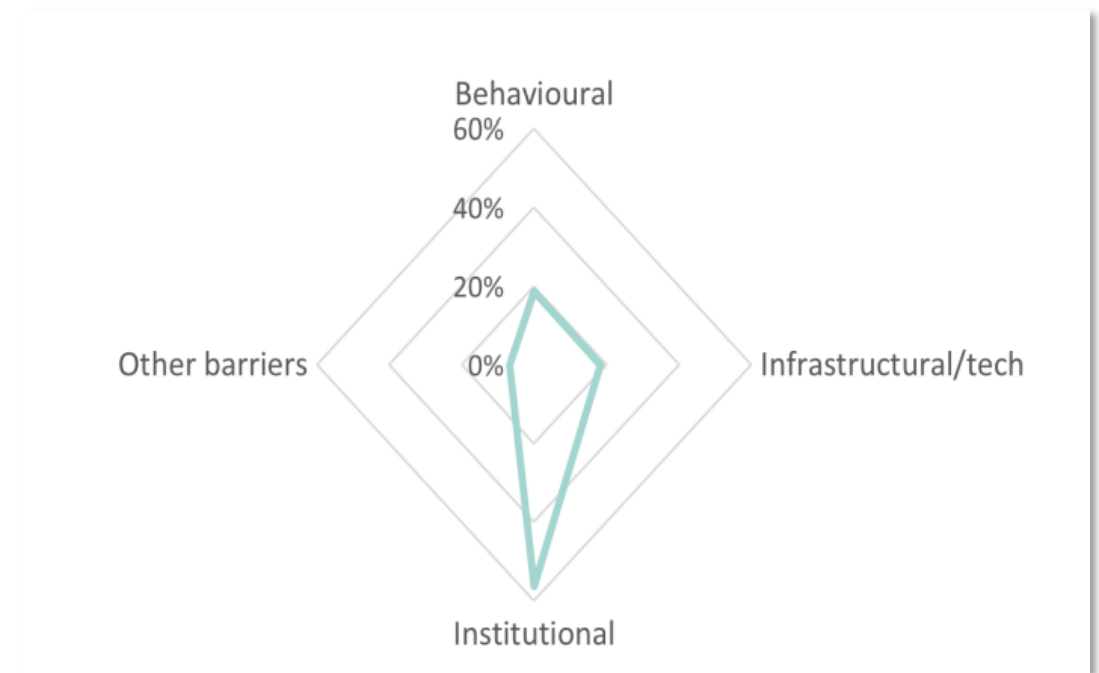
The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to run a systems and stakeholder mapping aimed at identifying **systemic barriers** and **opportunities**

Labelled CCCs emphasise the need for a stronger multi-level institutional arrangement.

*“Another already described systemic barrier is that **only one-third of the measures are under the influence of the City and the Mannheim Group**. One third are influenced by the framework conditions at EU, National and State Level. And one third is dependent on the private capital, companies and citizens”*

City of Mannheim

Types of barriers mapped by cities
[CCC Highlights – Barriers to Climate Neutrality](#)

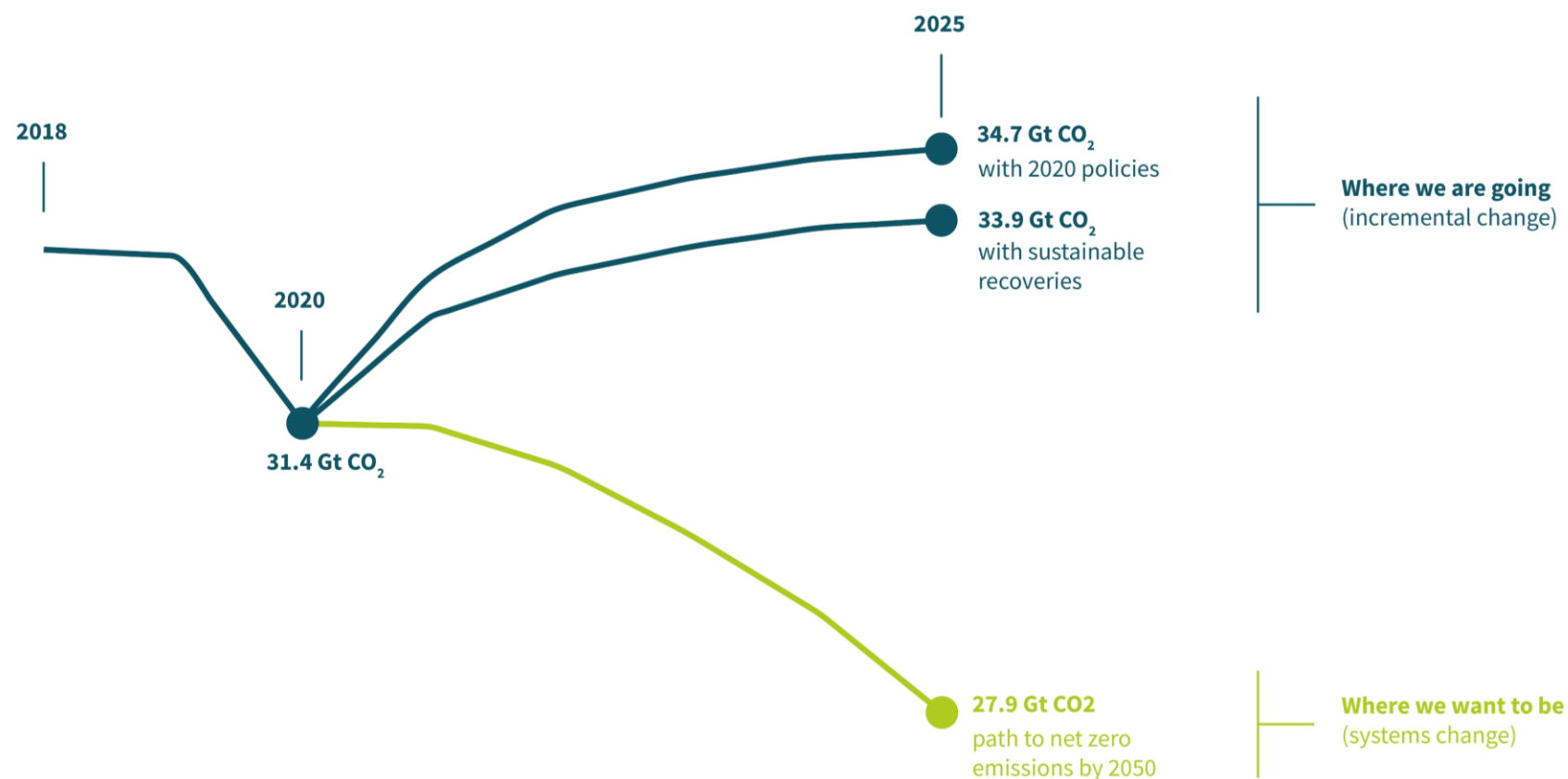




Elements of the Action Plan

The target and the GHG emissions gap

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to **define a target and an emissions gap**

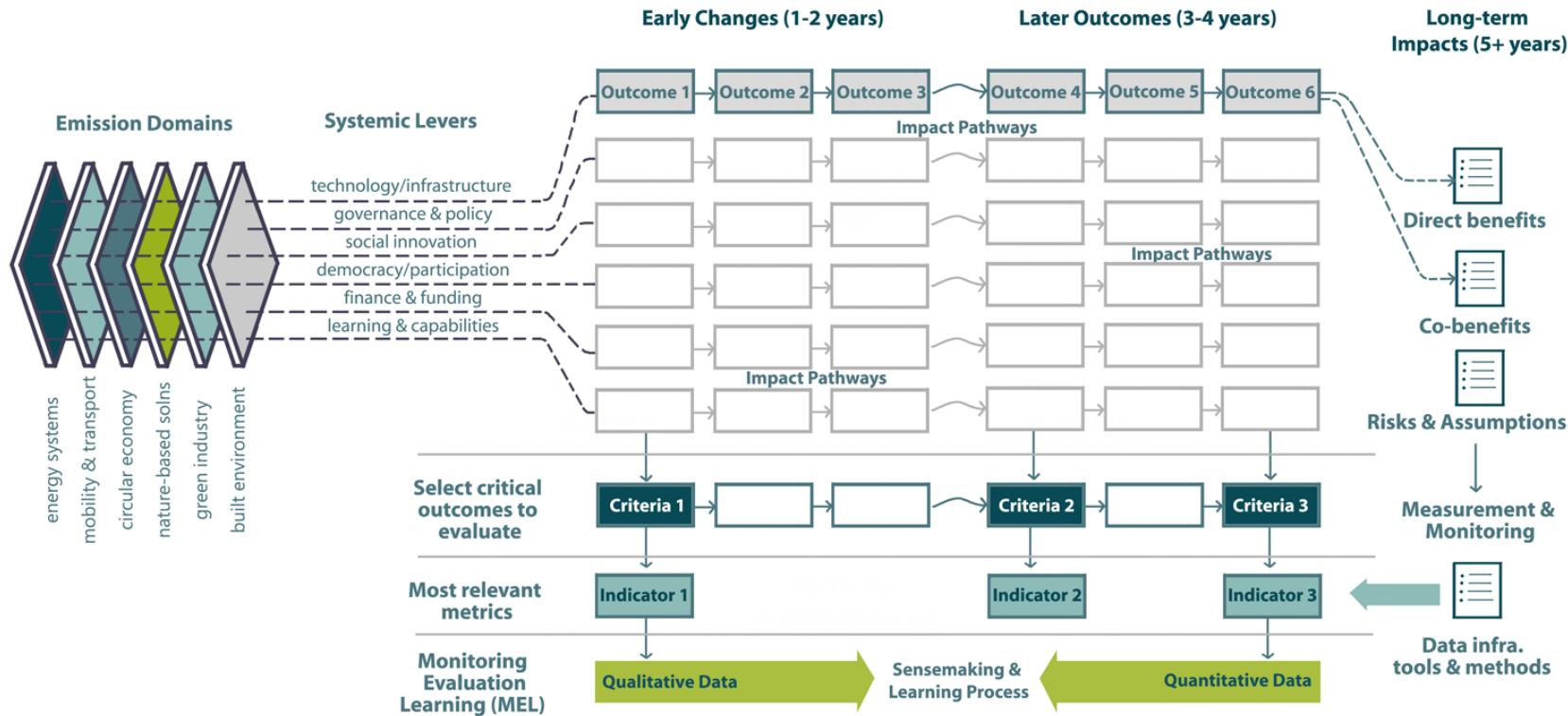




Elements of the Action Plan

The theory of change and action portfolio

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to **plan impact pathways and portfolios of actions that activate different levers of change across emissions domains.**





Elements of the Action Plan

The monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework

The Climate City Contract as a governance tool to build on selected impact pathways and **select indicators, data sources, reference baselines, and set an evaluation and reporting process** after 2 years.

International commitments labelled CCCs are building on (top)
Mapped documents labelled CCCs are building on (bottom)
[CCC Highlights – Bold Commitments by 2030](#)

	FIELD OF ACTION	Step 4: Identify Data Sources
Direct Benefit	 GHG Emission/ CC Mitigation	How can emissions and emission reduction be measured in each sector?
Indirect Benefit	 Co-Benefits	How can co-benefits be measured in each sector?
Systemic Levers	 Technology and Infrastructure	How can status and progress regarding the roll-out of key technologies be measured?
	 Governance Innovation	What are relevant impact pathways leading to long-term impacts and co-benefits for the city's climate mission?
	 Social Innovation	How can status and progress regarding social innovation be measured?
	 Democracy and Participation	How can the status and progress regarding citizen engagement and co-creation be measured?
	 Finance and Funding	How can status and progress regarding funding and financing be measured?
	 Learnings & Capabilities	How can status and progress regarding learnings and capabilities be measured?





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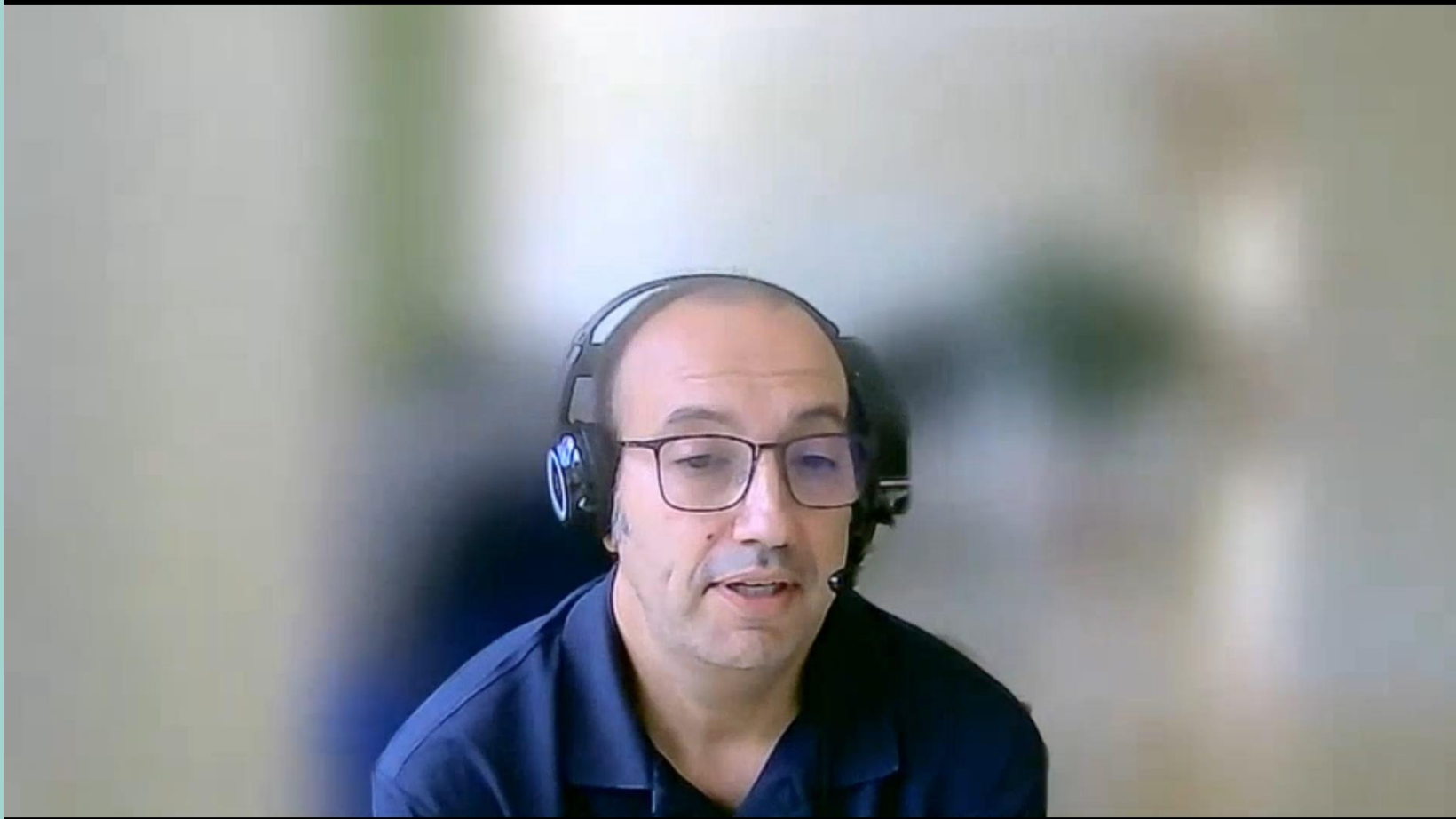
Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Action Plan?





How can cities benefit from developing an Action Plan?



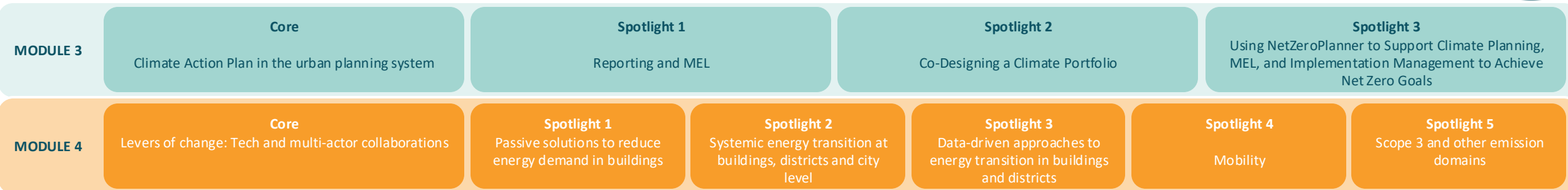
Francisco Benito Sanchez
Project Manager
City Council of Valladolid



Reinhold Stadler

*Project Manager,
Transport Association Braşov*





Module 3: *How might we design an effective climate action plan for and with the city?*

- Core session: [Climate Action Plan in the urban planning system](#) [Tuesday | 14-10-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 1: [Reporting and Mel](#) [Thursday | 16-10-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 2: [Co-Designing a Climate Portfolio](#) [Tuesday | 21-10-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 3: [Using NetZeroPlanner to Support Climate Planning, MEL, and Implementation Management to Achieve Net Zero Goals](#) [Thursday | 23-10-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]

Module 4: *How might we leverage technical solutions, citizens-led solutions and partnerships to reduce emissions?*

- Core session: [Levers of change: Technical solutions, social innovation and multi-actor collaborations](#) [Tuesday | 28-10-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 1: [Passive solutions to reduce energy demand in buildings](#) [Thursday | 30-10-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 2: [Systemic energy transition at buildings, districts and city level](#) [Thursday | 30-10-25 | 15:15 - 17:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 3: [Data-driven approaches to energy transition in buildings and districts](#) [Friday | 07-11-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 4: [Mobility](#) [Tuesday | 11-11-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 5: [Scope 3 and other emission domains](#) [Thursday | 13-11-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]





Any questions?



Francesco Palmia



Silvia Gugu



Reinhold Stadler





25/09/2025

Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

The Investment Plan

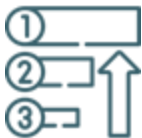




Key elements of the Investment Plan



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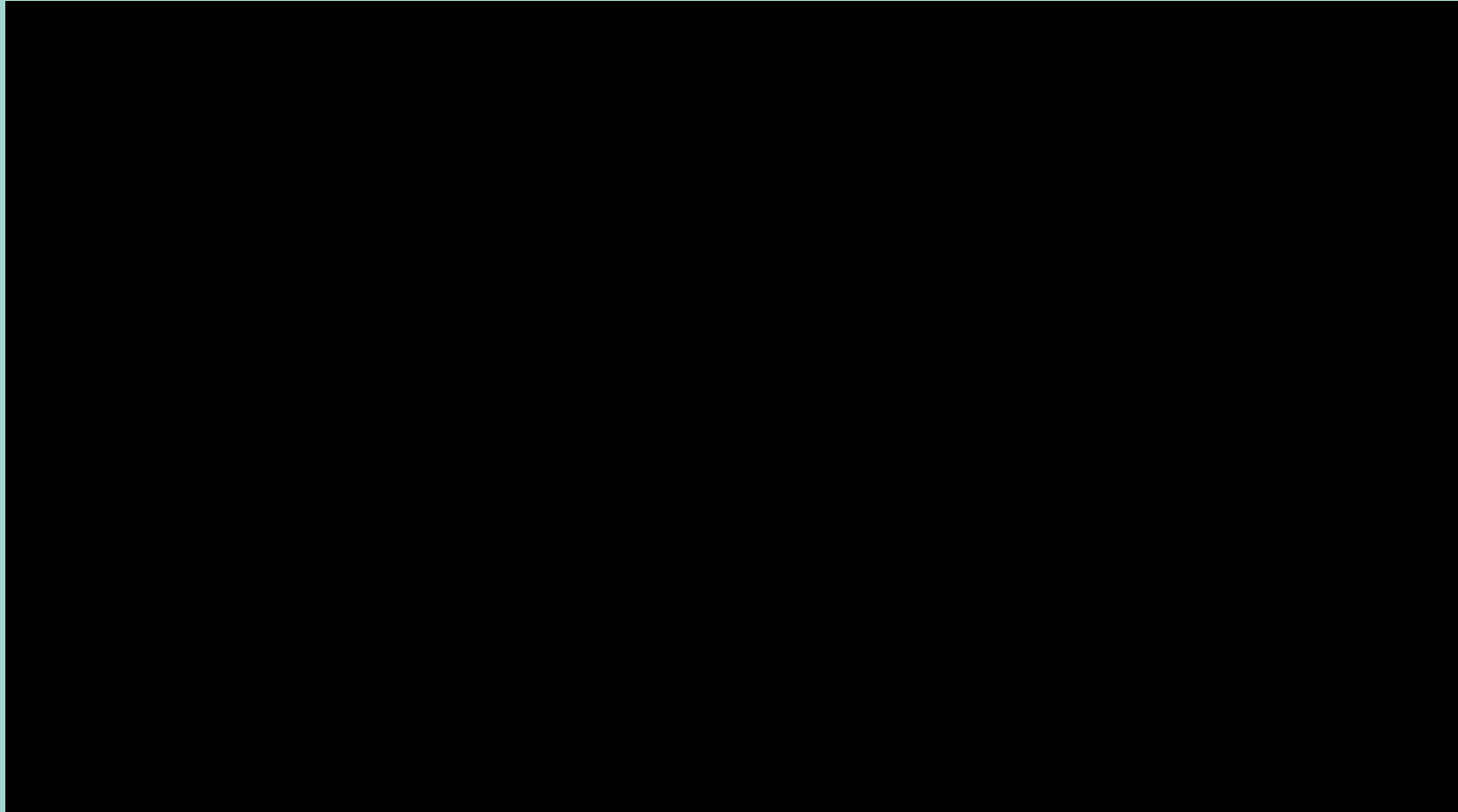
Module 1 – Spotlight Session 3

How are cities using the Investment Plan?





How can cities benefit from developing an Investment Plan?



Elena Simion, International Projects
Expert - UEFISCDI Executive Agency for
Higher Education, Research, Development
and Innovation Funding (Romania)





MODULE 5

Core

Increase finance knowledge of the public administration & learn about options to finance projects

Spotlight 1

Preparing a pipeline of projects for external financing

Spotlight 2

Different investor groups and the key priorities and returns profiles for each and instruments

Spotlight 3

Financing the ambition: Learning from Mission Cities

Module 5: *How might we access diverse funding options and unlock investments in the city for climate neutrality?*

Core session: [Introduction to finance: increase finance knowledge of the public administration and learn about options to finance projects](#) [Tuesday | 18-11-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]

Spotlight session 1: Preparing a pipeline of projects for external financing [Thursday | 20-11-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]

Spotlight session 2: [Different investor groups and the key priorities and returns profiles for each and instruments](#) [Tuesday | 25-11-25 | 9:15 - 11:00 CET]

Spotlight session 3: [Financing the ambition: Learning from Mission Cities](#) [Thursday | 27-11-25 | 13:15 - 15:00 CET]





Let's continue the discussion together



Scan me!





Contacts

NetZeroCities Help Desk

- Email
- Other contacts

Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



@NetZeroCitiesEU



NetZeroCities



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NetZeroCities EU



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