# NET ZERC EU MISSION PLATFORM

**CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES** 





# Welcome to the Core session: Multilevel governance, national platforms and policy strategies

The session starts at **9:15 CEST**If you have any questions about the Online Planning Lab, feel free to ask us directly or post them in the chat.

In the meantime, get comfortable and grab a coffee or tea until we begin!





MODULE 1	<b>Core</b> The NetZero Cities 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	<b>Core</b> Developing the city's action plan for climate neutrality	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: Technical solutions, social innovation and multi-actor collaborations	Spotlight 1  Passive solutions to reduce energy demand in buildings  Spotlight 2  Systemic energy tran buildings, districts a level		nsition at	Spotlight 3  Data-driven approaches to energy transition in buildings and districts	iven approaches to ransition in buildings 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		





# Housekeeping



Stay muted unless you are invited to speak.



Use the chat for questions and to introduce yourself.



Raise your hand before speaking.



Change your Zoom name to include your city.



Stay engaged: We invite you to keep your camera on.



Activate Closed Captions to keep up with the speakers.





# Stay connected

If you'd like to connect with other participants, feel free to introduce yourself in the chat with your name and city







# Stay connected

You can also join the group of the course in the NetZeroCities portal and ask your questions (link in chat)



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

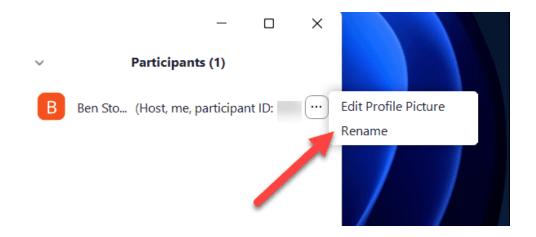
**Groups directory** 





# Renaming

- In the meeting controls toolbar, click on Participants.
- Hover your mouse over your name, then click More or the ellipsis icon.(\*\*\*)
- Click Rename. A pop-up box will appear.
- In the pop-up box, enter your display name.
- Click Change.







# **Activating Closed Captions**

- In the meeting controls toolbar, click the **Show captions** icon. ( )
- Captions will automatically appear above the meeting controls toolbar.

\*Caption language: Please do not change the spoken language of the meeting, as captions will change for everyone.







## 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.





# **Participation**

This course is intended for all EU (and Horizon affiliated countries) cities that do not yet have (or aim to improve) a climate Action Plan for the city

- 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





**Scientific Directors** 

**Executive Director** 

**Visualisations (Centre for Systems Solutions)** 

#### **Certification and Technical Support**























Piotr Magnuszewski, Ph.D. Justyna Figas-Skrzypulec, Ph.D. Bartosz Naprawa

Beatriz Martínez Hamid Yammine Cristina Robledano Manuela Morales

Lecturers

**Eurocities** 

















**Democratic Society** 

**Dark Matter Labs** 







Climate-KIC

Eugenia Mansutti

**Charline Mougin** 

ICLEI

Sozvin Al Youssef

Nikhil Chaudhary

Metabolic

Tecnalia









**CARTIF** 

























TNO

























EIT-UM





Delphine Queniart Tommaso Buso

















**Centre for Systems** 



BwB





02/12/2025

Module 6 - Core session 6

# Multilevel governance, national platforms and policy strategies

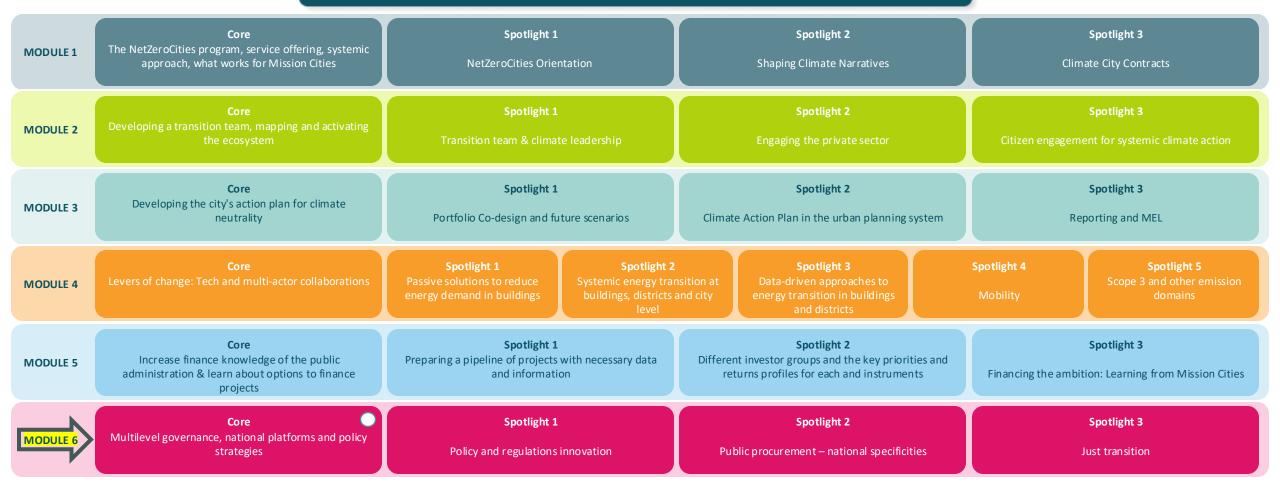
How can climate action be more ambitious, efficient and robust, taking advantage of collaboration between cities in the same region or nation and have a stronger voice together?















# Checking the temperature of the room!

















- 1. Shared challenges, joint action
- 2. A national community for reinforcing capacities
- 3. Shared projects to achieve ambitious goals
- 4. Shared analysis to have a clearer voice
- 5. Wrap up



# Lecturers



Jaime Moreno
UPM



Cristina Robledano
UPM



Francesco Palmia





# Lecturers



Maria Rodrigues
Cities for Climate, Portugal



Elena Simion
M100 (Mirror Mission Cities Hub, Romania)





# Lecturers



Meline Gonzalez Piloyan

EUROCITIES



Alba Iulia (Romania)





Module 6 - Core session 6

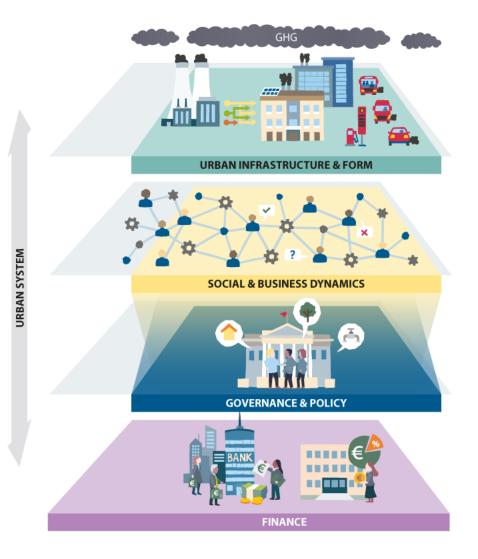
# Intro

Shared challenges, joint action 1/5



### This is about collaboration...

Having a shared vision and common ways of working helps us solve complex, connected problems



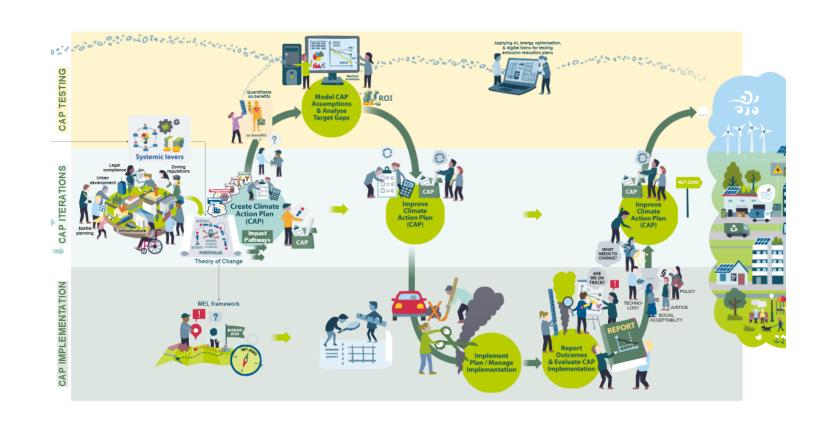






### ... to work better

A stable and supportive collaborative environment encourages interaction, sharing knowledge, and the most creative solutions

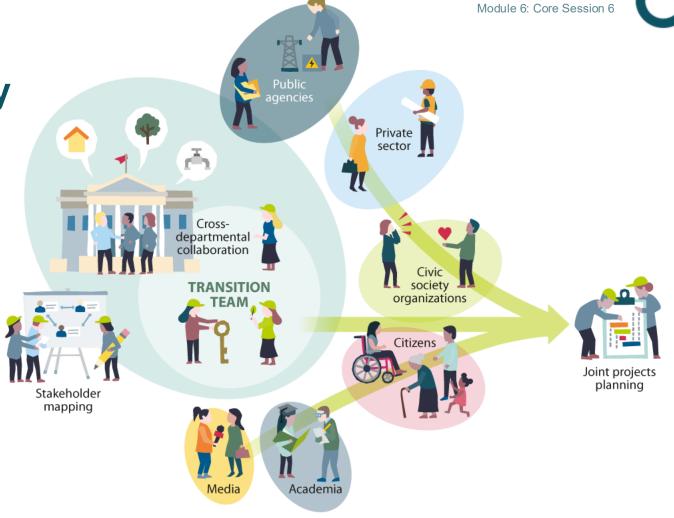




Madula & Cara Cassian &

... to work in a more fun way

Taking advantage of synergies, meeting new people, and learning.



Module 6: Core Session 6



# Collaboration beyond city boundaries

Addressing challenges that need a regional, national and or European perspectives.

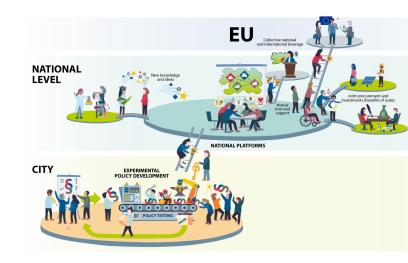
Taking advantage of synergies cross city collaboration.





## Collaboration beyond city boundaries (today)

- Examples from city networks and national platforms
- Inspiration from multi-city projects
- Opportunities to connect your cities in collaborative contexts (information and frameworks)







## Collaboration beyond city boundaries (spotlight sessions)

Policy and regulatory innovation

**Public Procurement** 

Just transition









Module 6 - Core session 6

# City networks and international urban initiatives



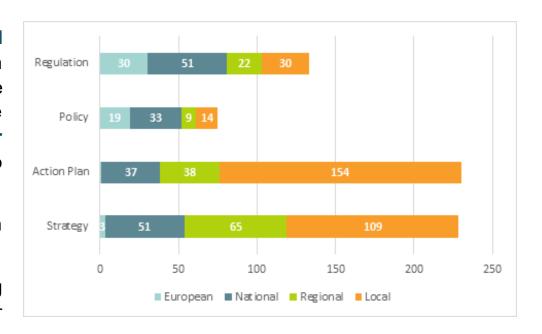




### City networks and international urban initiatives

Mission Cities assessed strategies, policies, action plans, and regulations across European, national, regional, and local levels when defining their climate-neutrality targets. Although local documents are the most frequently mapped, decisions taken at higher levels strongly shape what cities can implement. This underscores the need for stronger alignment and collaboration across all levels of government to effectively reach climate neutrality.

- 54% of the mapped documents from national, regional, or European levels
- Over half of Mission Cities explicitly build on EU-driven planning instruments such as SECAP/SEAP and SUMP when shaping their Climate City Contracts



Module 6: Core session 6



### City networks and international urban initiatives

Mission Cities show that they are accelerating their transition to climate neutrality not only by aligning with existing frameworks but also by actively engaging in city diplomacy and international climate governance. Their Climate City Contracts highlight extensive participation in international commitments, networks, awards, and programmes, underscoring the importance of external partnerships for advancing climate action. Membership in city networks is perceived as one of the strongest enablers of their climate neutrality efforts, while active involvement in European and global climate-related initiatives provides cities with essential financial and technical support to test, refine, and scale innovative solutions.







# How can cities benefit from city networks?



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





Module 6 - Core session 6

# Elements of a national platform

Shared challenges, joint action 1/5







## National platform: cross-city working space

A stable, safe space, with energy, motivation, and a joint voice to address challenges and opportunities in a country's cultural and regulatory environment.







## National platform: active multi-stakeholder space

Unlocking national support and attracting all kind of stakeholders.







## National platform: a resourceful space

Facilitated context that enable dialogue, diversity, and provides specific resources to cities.

[role of universities/scientific institutions]





## National platform: a shared 'software'

A shared agenda, focusing on possibilities, action, and building trust, leveraging the same kind of resources (systemic planning, silo-breaking, capacity building...)











Module 6 - Core session 6

# **Examples of National Platforms**

A national community for reinforcing capacities 2/5





# Portugal

Cities for Climate Network- Cidades pelo Clima





#### PORTUGAL – Cities for Climate (Cidades pelo clima)

Portuguese cities and regions committed to accelerate the transition to climate neutrality





Cities for Climate in numbers



Module 6: Core Session 6



# Romania

M100





#### **Strategic National Platform**

An inter-ministerial initiative with strong political support and horizontal collaboration across ministries

Broad Ecosystem Engages vertically with experts, NGOs, academia, and the innovation sector, ensuring a holistic transition approach

#### **Key Milestones**

- Secretariat hosted by UEFISCDI, Romania's innovation financing agency.
- Financing secured to strengthen capacities in 13 cities

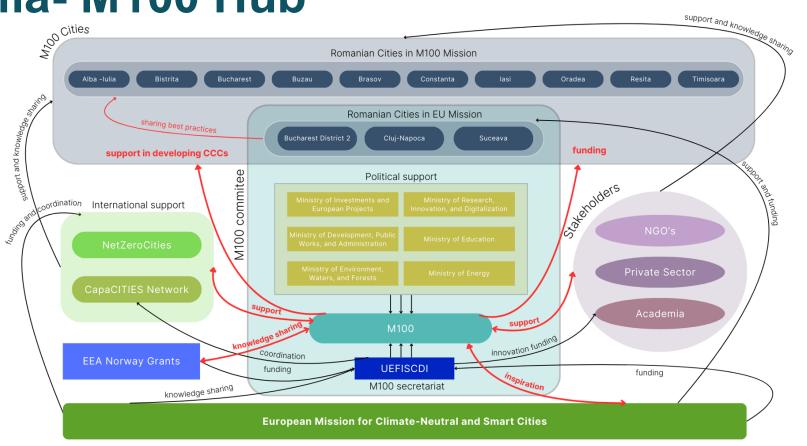
  (funding sources: EEA & Norway Grants, Erasmus+; future: SCF, national budget, private sector)
- Support for the 3 Romanian Mission Cities: Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest–Sector 2, Suceava.
- +10 Romanian cities developed their Climate City Contracts.
- National Label currently in development.

Capacity & Coordination UEFISCDI coordinates national and local capacities, building spaces for dialogue and collaboration.

Ecosystem Engagement Experts and organizations across Romania actively contributed, co-shaping the transition process.

M100
accelerates
Romania's green
transition by
connecting cities,
building capacities,
and fostering
innovation—
towards climate
neutrality by 2030













National Leadership Created at the national level, with strong inter-ministerial involvement, significant funding, and wide stakeholder engagement

#### **Key Ingredients**

- Active ministries' involvement
- Substantial funding support
- Engagement of **13 cities** (including 3 Mission Cities)
- Spaces for dialogue and collaboration

#### What We Built

- A Community of Practice
- A National Caravan introducing M100 across Romania
- 12+ Thematic Workshops common & city-specific, strengthening capacities in the 13 cities (including Better Funding Wks alongside ICLEI and Innovation Studio with DML/NZC)
- An Annual Forum a two days event, a national dialogue on climate neutrality

#### **What's Next**

- M100 Academy
- No City Left Behind Project → expanding to +20 more cities
- Development of a regional/Balkan platform
- Two new projects for capacity building & twinning (13+20 cities)
- Creation of common tools addressing governance gaps, policy, regulation, and mutual learning

#### M100

is evolving into a national and regional accelerator for climate-neutral cities, combining leadership, capacity, and collaboration



Q&A



Module 6 - Core session 6

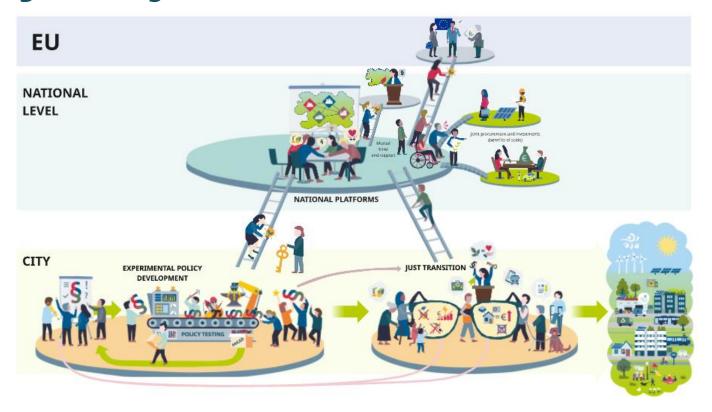
# Multi city projects

Shared projects to achieve ambitious goals 3/5





### Multi-city Projects and Multi-level Dialogue







### Spain - citiES 2030

#### UrbanNew and UrbanNewEMC3

Seven supercities have joined forces in an epic Mission: to fight climate change with all their powers



energy rehabilitation and urban regeneration



For further info:

→ <u>UrbanNew + EMC3</u>





### **Italy**

#### Let's GOv - GOverning the Transition through Pilot Actions

Reduce emissions from energy consumption in the cities involved through the exploration of enhanced governance models within municipalities and between municipalities and external actors

Local energy transition self- consumption /access to data/financing models





























→ European project Let's GOv |

9 Cities for Climate Governance

→ Let's Gov





#### The Netherlands

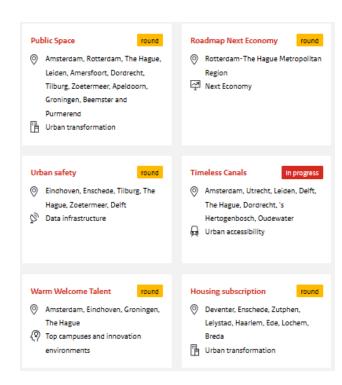
#### The Dutch City Deals

City Deals anchor concrete cooperation agreements between cities, the national government, other governments, companies and civil society organisations

...not a non-binding collaboration, partners invest time and money

#### 11 different themes

Circular city | Data infrastructure | Energy transition | Healthy city and quality of life | Cross-border economy | Climate adaptation | Next economy | Social arrangement | Urban accessibility | Urban transformation | Top campuses and innovation environment



#### For further info:

→ Dutch: "City Deals"

→ City Deals in preparation



Module 6: Core Session 6



Are you aware of any multi-city project in your country?

Write the name in the chat





Q&A



Module 6 - Core session 6

# **EU Multi-Level Governance**

Meline González Piloyan Project Coordinator and Policy Advisor at Eurocities







#### Cities at the center of EU Multi-Level Governance

- **EU policy**: European climate objectives depend on its cities. Local authorities are responsible for the implementation of 70% of climate mitigation and 90% of climate adaptation measures in Europe.
- Funding: local authorities account for 69% of European climate-related public spending. Thus, strengthening MLG and adopting a place-based investment strategy will ensure EU funds reach all territories.



Objective: to ensure EU policies and regulations systematically consider cities' and involve urban planners in decision-making to align high-level objectives with on-the-ground realities







#### **Cohesion Policy – historic enabler of MLG in Europe**

**Cohesion policy** (since 1970s)

- 1) Tackling territorial disparities in Europe
- 2) EU's main public investment policy

Through the Cohesion Fund (2021-2027 period over 30% earmarked to climate objectives): European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), etc.

 Effective delivery of cohesion policy depends on a functioning MLG system and a real partnership between EU, national and local levels.







# From urban agenda partnerships to the EU Policy Agenda for Cities

- Urban Agenda Partnerships since 2016 (<u>Pact of Amsterdam</u>) better regulation, better funding and better knowledge
- A dedicated Executive Vice President with responsibility for urban matters. Responsible for the implementation of
  - EU Cohesion Policy through European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund
  - EU Policy Agenda for Cities (to be released on 3 Dec)
     – a
     turning point for cities to participate in EU initiatives through a
     structured dialogue between EU Commissioners and Mayors (at
     both political and technical level)!
    - o But this is not matched with the EC proposal on the new MFF post-2027...



Raffaele Fitto
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (2024-2029) | Cohesion and Reforms



### New EU budget proposal 2028-2034

New EU budget cycle – MFF 2028-2034.

Proposal by the European Commission →

Centralisation of cohesion policy (cohesion fund = main fund for cities) to be managed by the national and regional partnership plans.

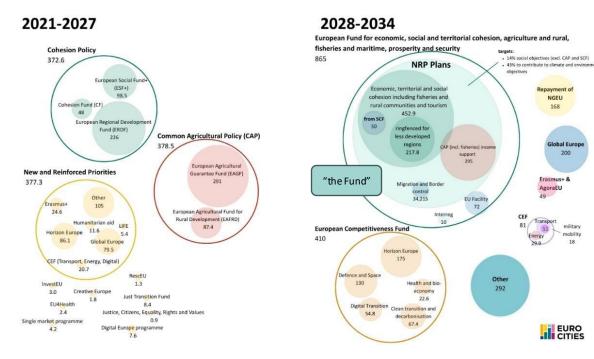


Figure 1: The current MFF vs. the MFF 28-34 proposal



Module 6: Core Session 6



#### **Examples of MLG in EU climate policies**



- Built environment: National Building Renovation Plans (end of 2026).
  - Revised EPBD (2024) mandates national level "must" to involve local authorities in the public consultation process, providing a platform for them to share their feedback and needs

**District heating and cooling city challenge:** different ownership of infrastructure vs operational costs

In Bratislava, the city owns most of the infrastructure for district heating, whereas the private company operates it, with lack of coordination between the two actors.

- **Energy sector**: cities plan and implement multiple renewable energy actions, from deploying energy communities to decarbonising the heating and cooling sector.
  - Revised EED (2024) Article 25.6 requires Member States to ensure that municipalities with over 45,000 inhabitants prepare local heating and cooling plans and receive adequate financial and technical support. These plans are expected to drive local decarbonisation through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste heat recovery.
  - EU should encourage MLG frameworks that define clear roles for local, regional and national authorities, taking into account the local context for a place-based solutions.

- Different property structures (multiowners) making agreements very hard to reach between all the owners.
- Priorities among these owners are accessibility, comfort and energy efficiency and sustainable energy production.
- Other barriers also include high maintenance costs to run one-stop-shops, long public administration timings and difficulty in managing the OSS between public and private sectors.

City challenges raised during NZC Policy Lab on Built Environment



#### To find out more about EU MLG and policy

- ✓ Check the EU Cities Mission Policy Briefs 8 policy briefs at European level on circular economy, built environment, energy communities, industry, nature-based-solutions, food and agriculture and sustainable mobility.
- ✓ Policy and partnerships, available at NetZeroCities Portal
- ✓ Join the final session of EU Policy Lab on Heating and Cooling sector 9 Dec 2025
  10:00–11:00 CET, we will host the final online event, to present the key takeaways of the policy lab and share the policy brief. This session is aimed at city representatives who could not attend the original sessions, as well as the wider local ecosystems of the cities. Please register <a href="here">here</a> and hope to see many of you there!



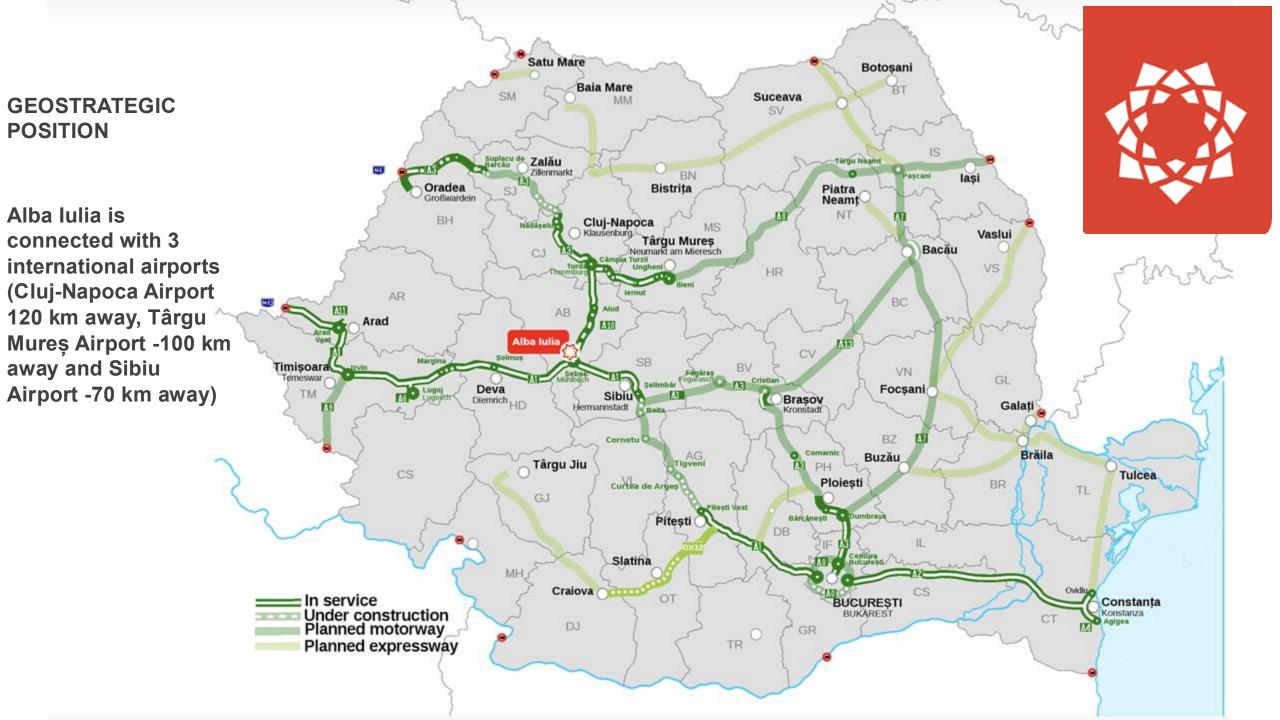
# Alba Iulia, Romania

**Tudor Drambarean** 

Project Manager, Alba Iulia Municipality















THE WORLD BANK



The first city in Romania to get an audit & rating from one of the world's Big 3

# Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Emission reduction with

40%

until 2030



# Green City Accord

From

April
2021



# European Energy Award

August 2021 - the first municipality in Transylvania to receive the title Sustainable Community - European Energy Award. The performance evaluation was made on the basis of 79 indicators and 6 areas of energy efficiency.



# Jan GEHL

A good city is like a good party - people stay longer than is really necessary because they feel good.





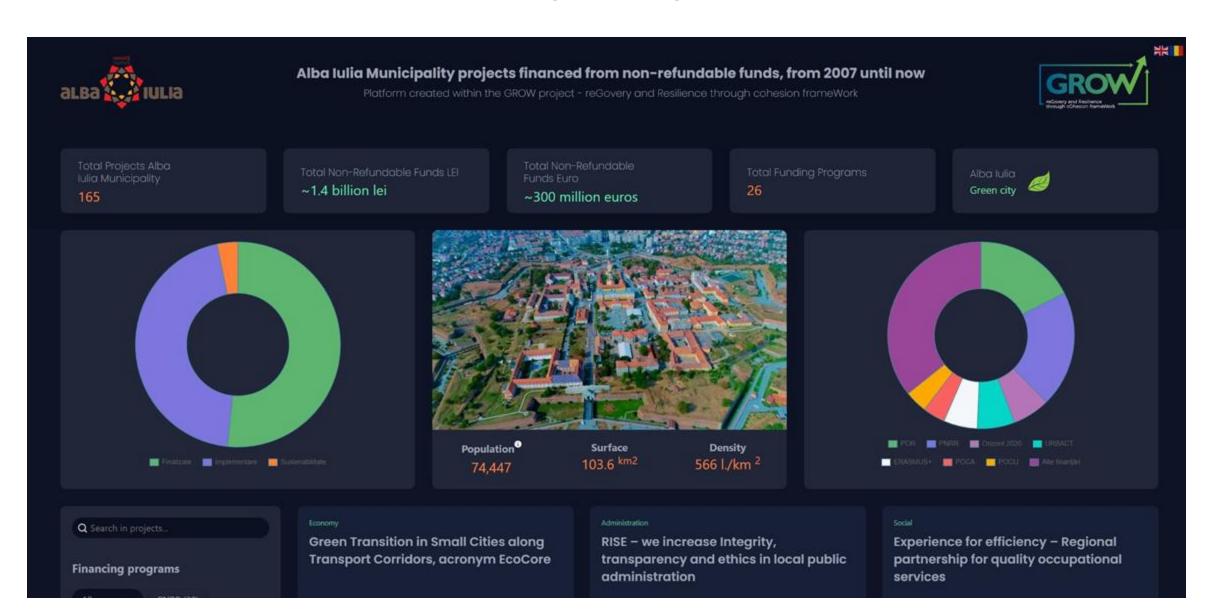
# over 350 MIL. EURO

2007-2024



## **External funded projects**

www.proiecte.apulum.ro





# Alba Iulia Fortress Rehabilitation

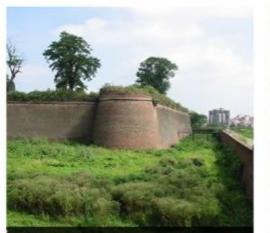
















# 2014-2023





# Urban mobility projects – social development oriented

- 300 electric bikes and bike sharing systems
- 13 electric buses in public transport 21 buses and 6 electric minibuses by PNRR
- 18 km of lanes dedicated to buses
- 95 video surveillance cameras
- 45 modernized bus stops Traffic management center
- 110 smart validators for card payment on buses
- 35 validators / smart payment machines at bus stops
- 35 electronic display systems in stations, a bicycle path through the PNRR



Public lightning 95% of the public lightning is on led

- 4114 LEDs
- 2753 poles installed
- 232 voltaic panels
- 132 km of intelligent lighting with remote management
- 50% reduction in consumption
- 50% reduction in CO2 emissions



## **PNRR**

### 80% Green projects

- **\*** BUILDINGS
- **SCHOOLS**
- **\* KINDERGARTEN**
- **BUSES**
- **❖ NURSERY**
- **\* BICYCLE**
- **\* TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**
- \* RENOVATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS ENVIRONMENT
- \* REGIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR DUAL EDUCATION



THERMAL
REHABILITATION FOR
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
BUILDINGS

over

20 mil. euro

- Social housing
- Residential Housing
- Education buildings
- Elderly home
- Sports infrastructure









Energy efficiency and increased comfort in the building of the Home for the elderly in Alba Iulia



# A new life in THE NEW WORLD PROJECT



# Over 12 mil euros invested in the area





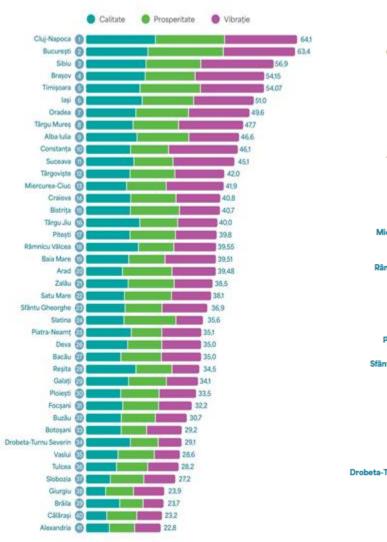


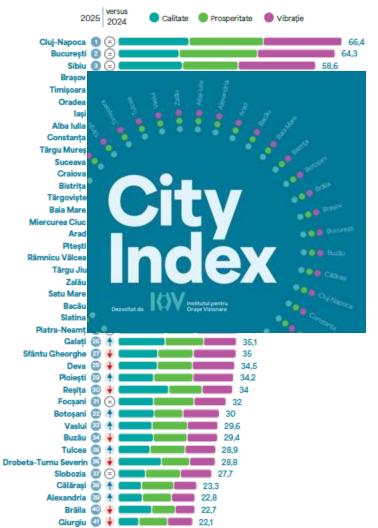
Renewable e energies



#### asament general orașe reședință de județ

#### Clasament general orașe reședință de județ 2025





### **Top 15 Performeri**



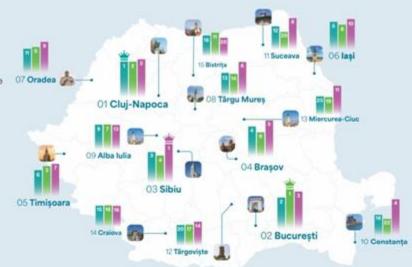
#### Mărimea barelor

verticale reflectă scorul orașului la componenta vizată VS, celelalte 41 orașe analizate.

#### Numărul de pe

bară reflectă poziția orașului în clasamentul celor 41 orașe pe componenta

respectivă.



## Distribuția orașelor pe clustere

Din primele cele mai performante 10 orașe, 7 sunt în interiorul arcului carpatic.

Cele mai puţin performante orașe sunt în exclusivitate în afara arcului carpatic.

Moldova are un singur oras în top 10 - Iași.



Locurile: 0 01-10 0 11-20 0 21-30 0 31-41





















SUMP-PLUS







Driving change for

better cities

## **METAMORPHOSIS**

INTERPED

THERMOS

Over 5 million euro - directly from EU transnational projects - more than 30% are capacity building development projects

























LOGO

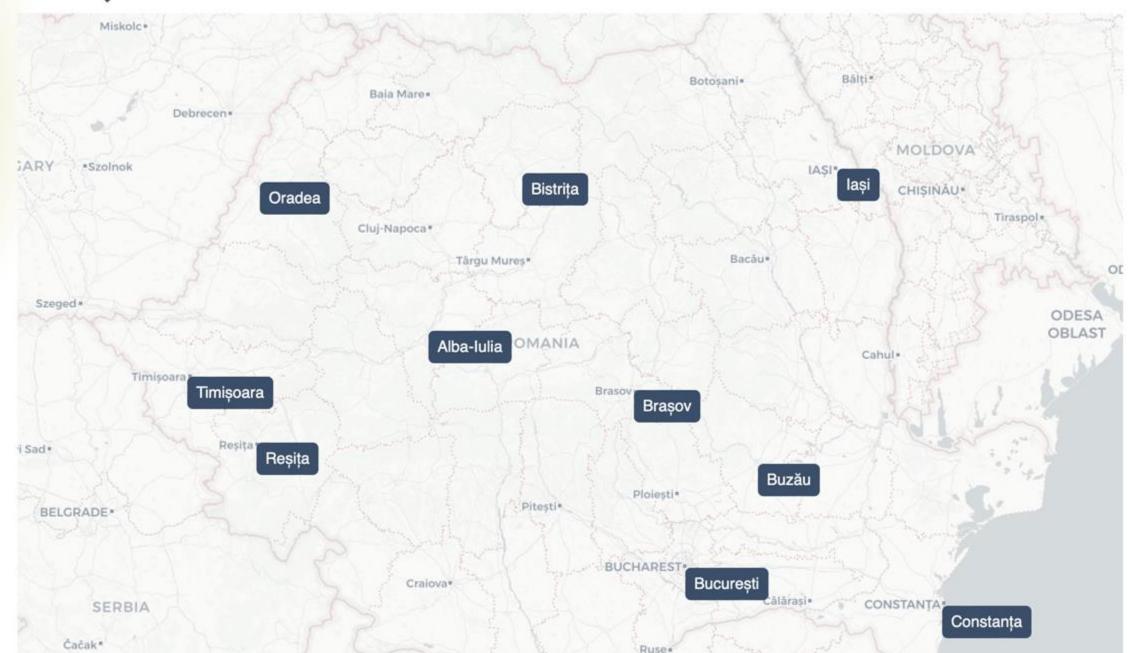
lace-brand management







## Orașe M100





First smart city pilot project in Romania -In partnership with the Ministry of Information and technology - 2018





























































arkia



















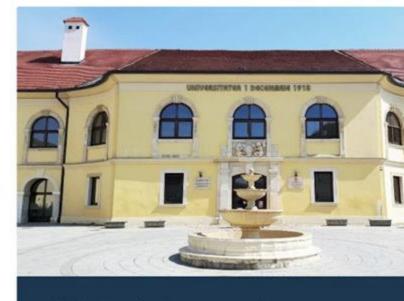
# Alba Iulia - a unique destination

- Training Academy for cultural routes 2017
- **URBACT Monitoring Committee in 2019**
- Alba Iulia part of an OECD study Unlocking the potential of intermediary cities



JM - The URBACT Monitoring committee met in Alba Iulia (RO) this year. How did you decide on it as a venue?

CC - Alba Iulia is not only a Romanian but one of Eastern Europe's most impressive success stories. URBACT and EU funds have contributed to the restoration of the Alba Carolina citadel and the transformation of the historic part of the city. This has made the city one of Romania's most important tourist destinations, with more than 500,000 visitors a year. In the process it has created an economic environment in which local entrepreneurs can develop businesses and generate employment. Alba Iulia is also the first Romanian lead partner of the URBACT Programme, so we wanted to highlight these achievements.



## 6th Training Academy on Cultural Routes

Alba Iulia, Romania

31 MAY - 1 JUNE 2017



<- Home

Capacity building for cities



# Capacity Building: Peer Reviews

Bring forward your city strategy to be improved with the help of European peers! Find out here everything you need to know about our Peer Reviews.





Discover the programme

Look for funding

Approv

★ Home / Get policy advice / Peer review

# **Peer review**

Our premium service to help solve your policy challenges.

# 5 public servants from Alba Iulia were trained to become Expert in Sustainable development among the 1600 experts in Romania - Through PNRR











meline.gonzalez-piloyan@eurocities.eu



Module 6 - Core session 6

# Opportunities and Wrap up

Wrap-up 4/5



Module 6: Core Session 6



Write in the chat your **Keywords** from the session





## **National Platforms in place**

- Sweden: <u>Viable Cities</u>
- Spain: <u>citiES 2030</u>
- Romania: M100
- Portugal: <u>Cidades pelo Clima</u>
- Turkey: <u>INSA</u>
- Other examples
  - Greece and Cyprus: Climanet
  - Austria: <u>Mission: Climate-neutral City</u>
  - Finland: <u>Innocities</u>











## **Key Related Projects**

The EU Covenant of Mayors



• CapaCITIES CAPACITIES

<u>Driving Urban Transition</u> (DUT) for a sustainable future





## **Related Mission Portal Links**

<u>Dedicated Space for National Platforms on the Mission Portal</u>

**Groups per country** 



National platforms coordinate climate action a with national governments and key stakeholde tools and approaches, adapted to local context







## Wrap up: multi-lever governance = collaboration

 Top down + bottom-up initiatives to foster a Mission-minded common 'software'

- Organizational structures to address shared challenges together
- Transforming cities is about people





## Module 6- What's next!

- Spotlight session 1: Policy and regulations innovation (2 hours) [Thursday | 04-12-25 | 13:15 15:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 2: Public procurement national specificities (2 hours) [Tuesday | 09-12-25 |
   9:15 11:00 CET]
- Spotlight session 3: Just transition (2 hours) [Thursday | 11-12-25 | 13:15 15:00 CET] + Final Ceremony





# Thank you!





## **Contacts**

## **NetZeroCities Help Desk**

- jaime.moreno@upm.es
- cristina.robledano@upm.es
- francesco.palmia@iclei.org
- meline.gonzalez-piloyan@eurocities.eu

Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy

Online Planning Lab

## Get in touch with NetZeroCities!





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**NetZeroCities EU** 



www.netzerocities.eu



hello@netzerocities.eu

