

NETZEROCITIES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIES

CAPABILITY BUILDING FOR MISSION-MINDED CITIES





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Introduction

NetZeroCities is the platform currently supporting the European Union's Green Deal and the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities by 2030". The platform works as a service-oriented platform that brings together expert practitioners, tools and learning opportunities to help cities overcome structural, institutional and cultural barriers in order to achieve climate neutrality.

In April 2022, The European Commission selected 112 Mission Cities to lead the transition to climate neutrality by 2030. These cities receive tailored

support to accelerate their climate transition from NetZeroCities to plan, implement and monitor their Climate City Contract (CCC).

Beyond the 112 Mission Cities, NetZeroCities also supports Mission-minded Cities (MMC), cities that are not formally part of the Mission, but are committed to reducing emissions and aim for climate neutrality. NetZeroCities offers a range of learning opportunities open to all cities, designed to help cities build skills, share experiences and apply practical solutions to advance their climate goals.





NetZeroCities Learning Opportunities

🔄 Opportunities for Mission-minded cities

🎓 Self-learn

Portal Resources and Learning Hub

💻 Online/ Peer-to-peer

Online Planning Lab

Tool Training Series

Online Discussion Groups

👥 In-person learning

Twinning Learning Programme

Group Study Visits

🌐 National-level support

National Mission Ecosystems



🔄 **Subscribe to the Mission-minded cities newsletter**



Onboarding

The Orientation Phase is a recurring activity designed to inform Mission-minded cities about the Cities Mission's Platform objectives, the concrete services offered by NetZeroCities and ways how to access and make use of the Platform effectively. It also provides the opportunity to learn from the initial climate strategies from Mission Cities and how these cities got started. This Onboarding phase consists of **two online sessions** and provides a space for Mission-minded cities to engage with NetZeroCities, exchange experiences with Mission Cities, and obtain the needed information to understand the Mission approach.

↓ Onboarding for Mission-minded cities

Objectives

- Onboard cities to the Cities Mission Platform
- Enable cities to identify resources and opportunities that support them to reach climate neutrality through the Cities Mission Portal
- Identify cities' interests to shape further activities

Session 1: Introduction to the Mission Platform Offer

The first orientation session provides a brief introduction to the 112 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission within the broader context of the European Commission's five Missions. It also presents the Mission Platform's objectives, vision, and mission, highlighting the opportunities, as well as the concrete service offered by NetZeroCities and available through the Cities Mission Portal. The session includes a guided walk-through of the **Cities Mission Portal** designed for newcomers and those interested in exploring the latest features, updates and tools, followed by a live demonstration.

Session 2: The 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and its key features

The second orientation session focuses on introducing the Mission approach and its key features. A labelled Mission City will present the main components of its climate action plan, illustrating how it builds on existing policies and frameworks (e.g., SECAP, SUMP) to establish a strong foundation for

its journey toward climate neutrality. The session will also introduce the national platforms and key elements of national ecosystems that support and advance the EU Cities Mission.

Upcoming Orientation Sessions

November 2026, February 2027, May 2027 and September 2027.

Register on the NetZeroCities event page!

Resources

Contact us at:
infocities@netzerocities.eu

 [Onboarding guide](#)

 [Scaling up the EU Cities Mission: NetZeroCities services for Mission-minded cities](#)

 [Onboarding Group](#)



The NetZeroCities Learning Hub



The Cities Mission Portal is an online platform designed to support cities in their journey towards climate neutrality by offering access to tools, knowledge and resources. Users of the Cities Mission Portal can currently navigate its contents through 3 main sections:

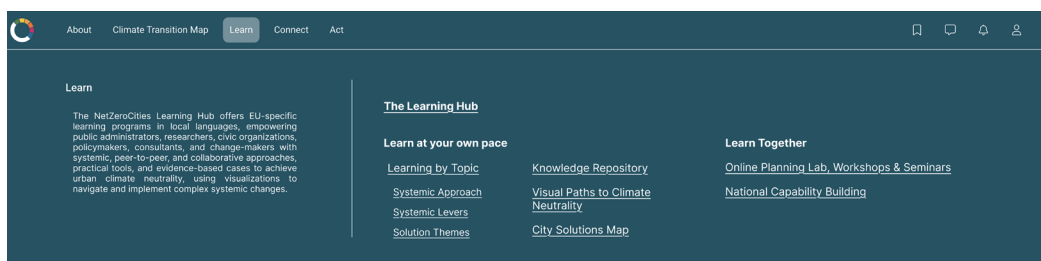
- **Learn:** This section contains the Knowledge Repository, which hosts all learning materials within the Portal
- **Connect:** This section directs the user to sections of the portal that allow peer interaction, such as Groups, Events, Directory, etc.
- **Act:** This section provides the user with links to different Tools in the portal that can help them track progress, find solutions, and plan their next steps.

In order to manage and give structure to the vast collection of knowledge existing within the Portal, The Learning Hub emerged, with the main objective of offering Mission-minded cities structured **learning paths**.



Access from the Portal

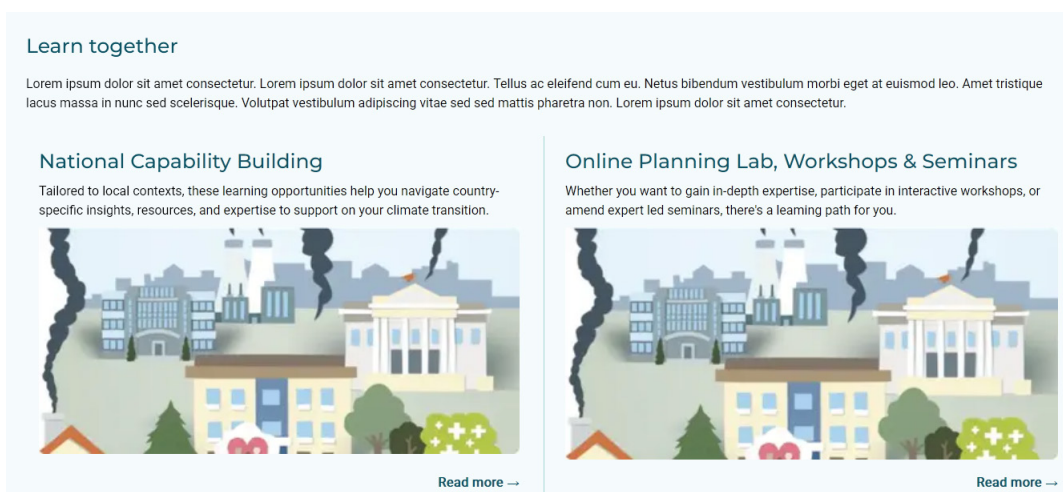
Cities can access the Learning Hub in the main menu of the Portal through the “Learn” button, or by hovering over the “Learn” button to choose the section of the Hub they wish to access.



Main Page

The main page of the Learning Hub is divided in two main categories:

Learn together: Which allows to participate in group learning experiences that foster peer exchange and networking.





The NetZeroCities Learning Hub

Learn at your own pace: Which offers resources that permit self-pacing and are available for consultation at all times.

Learn at your own pace

Explore resources designed for self-guided learning and discovery. This section works as a personal knowledge library where you can navigate materials at your own rhythm.

Whether you are looking for an introduction to a topic or deeper technical insights, these resources allow you to learn independently and revisit materials whenever needed.

NZC Systems Perspectives

Systemic Levers

Solution Themes

Discover the NetZeroCities systemic approach for tackling complex urban challenges through coordinated action.

What is NetZeroCities?
 NetZeroCities supports Europe and in particular European cities to drastically cut down greenhouse gas emissions...
[Read more →](#)

Mission Cities Systemic Approach
[Read more →](#)

Climate Transition Team
 How can you strengthen your role in leading the climate transition through building a stronger mandate and...
[Read more →](#)

Developing an Action Plan
 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Tellus ac eleifend cum eu. Netus bibendum vestibulum morbi eget at...
[Read more →](#)

Pathways, Indicators & Monitoring
 'Impact Pathways' tell a story about how systemic transformation is expected to unfold. 'Indicators' are a measurable dat...
[Read more →](#)

EU National coordination learning Opportunities
 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Tellus ac eleifend cum eu. Netus bibendum vestibulum morbi eget at...
[Read more →](#)

Just transition
 A Just Transition is an approach for a strategically planned process to ensure that the transition to decarbonisation (o...
[Read more →](#)



Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

Navigate the complex landscape of urban sustainability with our interactive visualisations.

Designed to help you discover relevant resources, this dynamic tool allows...



[Explore the interactive visualisations →](#)



Search in the Knowledge Repository

Access the full collection of resources and use filters to search freely based on your interests and needs.

[Read more →](#)



Self-paced Courses

See all self-paced courses

[Read more →](#)



City Solutions Map

Discover how other cities are driving change with our interactive map.

[Read more →](#)



Learning by Topic

The section offers pages with collections of key NetZeroCities resources curated by experts on different topics for climate neutrality in cities. These collections are classified in 3 main categories, each of them accompanied by a visual representation of how these topics relate to one another.

NZC Systems Perspectives: This category contains collections regarding the systemic approach of the NetZeroCities Project.

NZC Systems Perspectives

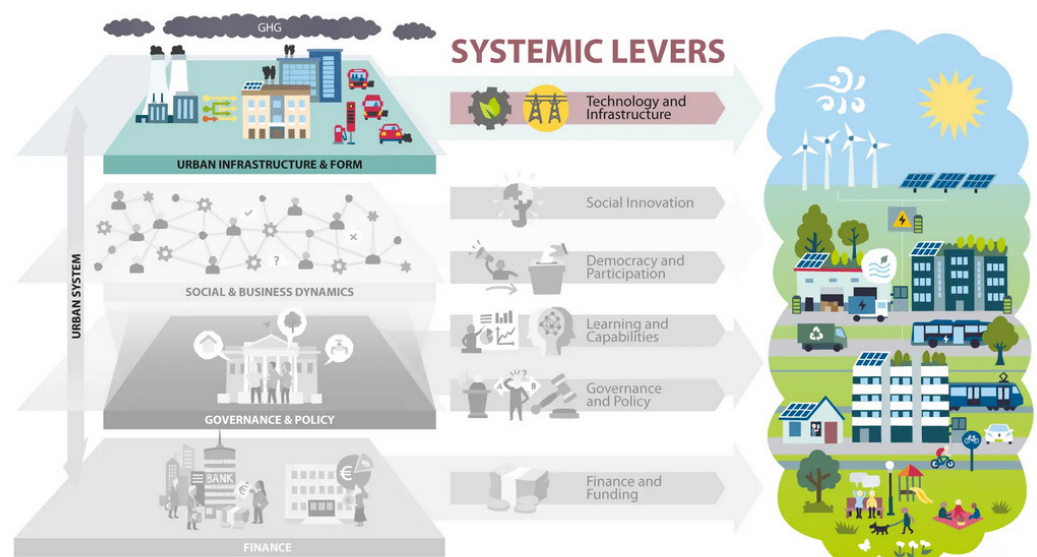
- What is NetZeroCities?
- Mission Cities Systemic Approach
- Climate Transition Team
- Developing an Action Plan
- Pathways, Indicators & Monitoring
- EU National coordination learning Opportunities



Systemic Levers: This category contains a collection for each of the NetZeroCities Levers of Change that compose the urban system.

Systemic Levers

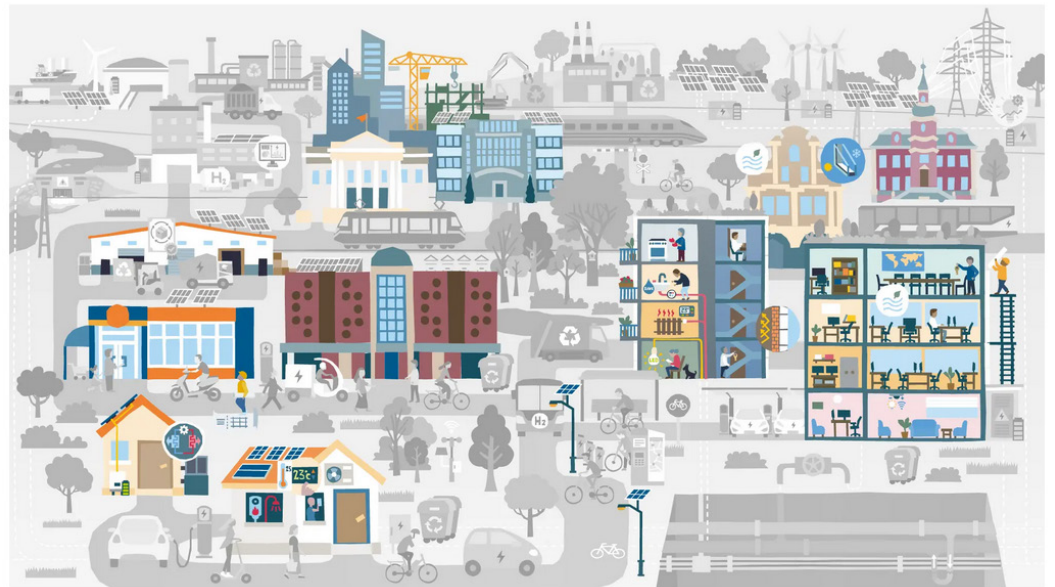
- Technical Solutions
- Social Innovation
- Partnerships and Policies
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Governance
- Financing the Ambition





Solution Themes

-  **Buildings and Housing (Stationary Energy)**
-  **Energy Systems (Stationary Energy)**
-  **Mobility and Transports**
-  **Waste and Circular Economy**
-  **Green Industry (IPPU)**
-  **NBS, green infrastructures and agriculture (AFOLU)**



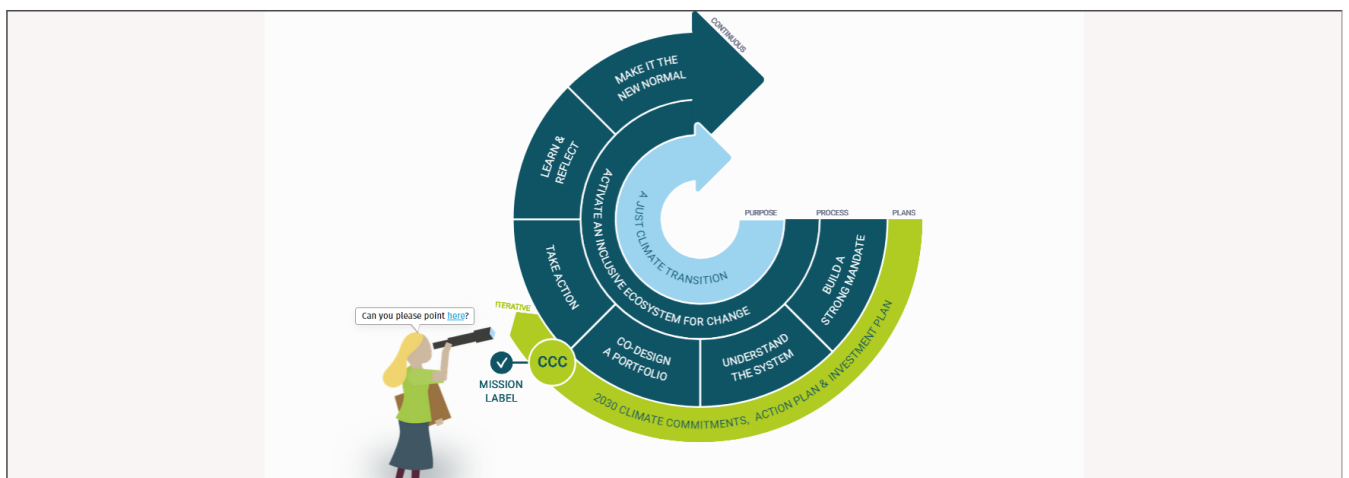
Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

These interactive visualisations include an overarching visualisation of the climate transition, and a step-by-step visualisation of the Climate Transition Map which cities can explore by clicking through different items inside the visual representation.

Learning Offer > Climate Transition Map

Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

Navigate the complex landscape of urban sustainability with our interactive visualisations. Designed to help you discover relevant resources, this dynamic tool allows you to explore key topics, uncover best practices, and access essential resources tailored to your needs.



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



 Online/
Peer-to-peer

The **Online Planning Lab** is a free live online course created for city representatives and policy makers from the EU and affiliated countries. It aims to share the knowledge gathered by NetZeroCities and equip participants with the necessary tools to manage a sustainable urban transition. The programme is **structured as a project-based lab, where cities are guided in the development of their systemic action plan**, building on the experience and lessons learned from Mission Cities.

This course is tailored for European cities with the ambition to accelerate their journey towards climate neutrality. Participation is open to **municipalities, researchers, and consultants** supporting cities in this transition.

Online Planning Lab

First Edition - 2025

The first edition, delivered in 2025, was structured around 6 Modules composed of one core and 3-5 spotlight sessions each, taking place twice a week for two hours, from September 16th to December 11th 2025:

Module 1 - "How can the NetZeroCities support my city's climate transition goals?"

Module 2 - "How can we develop capacity to work on the climate transition, go beyond working in silos and collaborate with the city's stakeholders?"

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

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

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

Module 6 - "How might we align local, regional, and national governance to develop effective policies that support the climate transition?"

Interactive visuals from the modules



Second Edition - 2026

The 2026 Online Planning Lab edition will offer a flexible and practice-oriented learning experience to support cities in advancing their climate planning.

The programme is structured around six modules, covering key topics such as policy, technical solutions, stakeholder engagement, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, with an increased focus on practical application.

The programme will combine:

- On-demand content you can follow at your own pace
- 12 live interactive sessions to practice, reflect, and



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

exchange with peers from different municipalities

Work with practical tools, learn from real examples, and connect directly with other cities facing similar challenges, with multilingual materials supporting inclusive participation.

Cities and individuals can also receive formal recognition for their participation through certifications issued by NetZeroCities and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.

Join this collaborative learning journey this September and strengthen your city's path towards climate neutrality.

Third Edition - 2027

The third edition of the Online Planning Lab is planned to go from February to March 2027.

Quote

"The Online Planning Lab has been an important learning opportunity for the City of Kalamata as we advance our transition toward climate neutrality by 2030. We particularly appreciate the combination of technical depth and collaborative learning across the Mission Cities community."

26
Sessions

+100
Municipalities
engaged

48
Expert
Lecturers

+30
Showcased
cities

Sign up here to receive all the information for the 2026 edition!

Resources

 [Portal Page: Online Planning Lab](#)

 [Portal Group: Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab](#)

Learn more about the Online Planning Lab:

Report
**Design your city's NetZero Strategy:
Online Planning Lab**



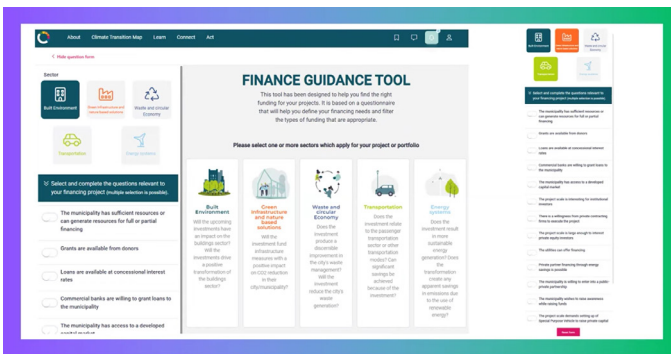
Tool Training Series

Online/
Peer-to-peer

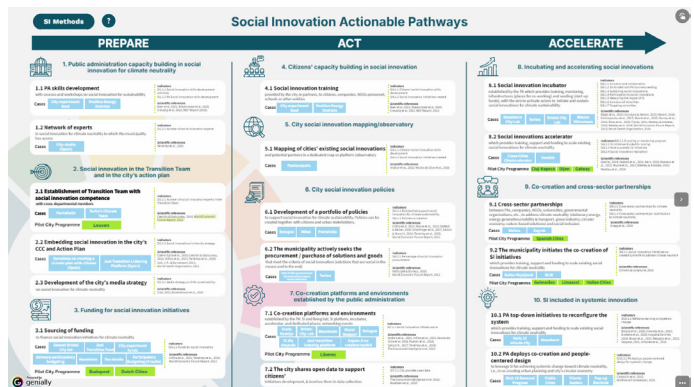
NetZeroCities Tool Training Series is a dedicated online programme designed for Mission-minded Cities and Mission Cities to provide in-depth insights on the tools available on the Cities Mission Portal, as well as key partner organisations. Each session includes a comprehensive presentation of the tool, interactive discussion and Q&A opportunities, and real-world insights from Mission Cities.

NetZeroCities Tool Training Series

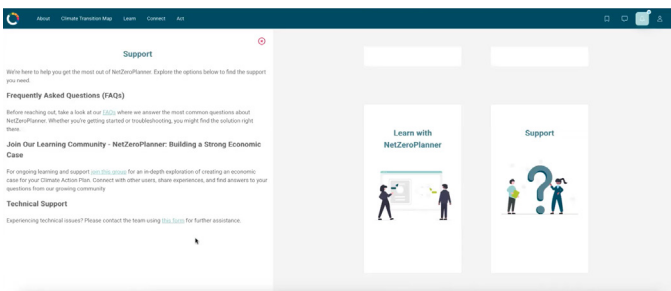
Session: An introduction to finance and funding tools for European cities



Session: Tools and Methods for Social Innovation and Citizen Engagement



Session: Assess and enhance your climate action plan using NetZeroPlanner

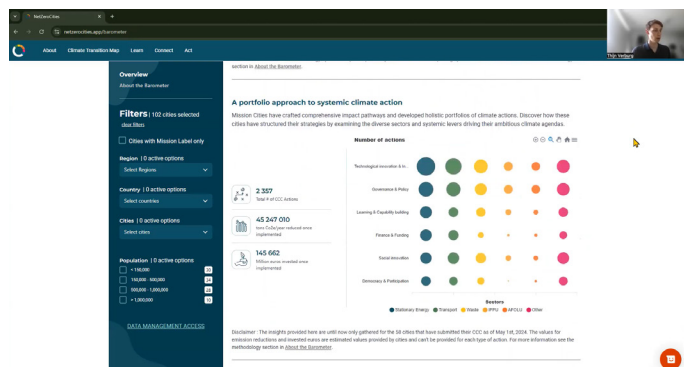


Resources

Learn more about the
Tool Training Series :

Report
Online resources of the Portal
for Mission-minded Cities

Session: NetZeroCities Barometer





Online Discussion Groups

 Online/
Peer-to-peer

These are light-touch, online exchanges over a period of six months, organised around key thematic areas such as the built environment, energy, mobility, and circular economy. The sessions bring together Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities to discuss practical and technical approaches, challenges, and success stories, fostering mutual learning and inspiration in a flexible and dynamic format.



Online Discussion Groups

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

Cohort 2

The second cohort of Online Discussion Groups was **inaugurated in September 2025 and concluded in February 2026**.

- **Onboarding & online kick off**
- **PHASE 1:** Learn from actionable climate solutions from Mission Cities
- **PHASE 2:** Problem-solving technical sessions

Cohort 3

A third cohort is planned in Q1 2027.

Sign up for the newsletter or consult the [NetZeroCities website](#) for upcoming dates.

330
Participants

160
Mission-minded
cities

9
Mission Cities
case studies

4
Thematic
sessions

Resources

 [Online Discussion Groups - Feedback from Cohort 1](#)

 [Online Discussion Group Cohort 2 - Overview & Feedback](#)



Twinning Learning Programme



The Twinning Learning Programme is a 12 to 20-month peer-learning initiative of the EU Cities Mission, facilitated by the Mission Platform, currently managed by NetZeroCities. It pairs one Mission City with one or several Mission-minded cities (also referred to as Twin Cities) across Europe and Horizon associated countries, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experience, and good practices between selected Twin cities and Mission & Pilot cities. Three cohorts of cities, gathering 180+ cities, have taken place or started since 2023:

[Cohort 1](#) | [Cohort 2](#) | [Cohort 3](#)

Starting in December 2025, the programme entered a new phase with its Fourth Cohort, building on feedback and lessons learned from earlier rounds. A new group of **22 Mission-minded cities were selected to join the programme, collaborating with 18 Mission cities over a 12-month period**, with knowledge exchange focused on priority climate actions identified in Mission cities' Climate City Contracts.



Twinning Learning Programme

Fourth Cohort

Cohort 4 of the Twinning Learning Programme launched on December 1st, 2025.

Building on three successful cohorts with Pilot cities, this new group brings together 18 Mission cities and 22 Twin cities from 24 countries for 12 months of peer-learning exchanges, workshops, and site visits.

Each Twinning partnership has been carefully matched based on complementary expertise and shared climate priorities. Over the 12 months, these city pairs collaborate on specific climate actions identified in the Mission cities' Climate City Contracts. Due to high demand and to scale up the programme's reach, additional twins have been included, but will not host site visits.

Fifth Cohort

The fifth cohort of the Twinning Learning Programme will run for 12 months, starting in September 2026. Mission Cities will select their own twins, supported by dedicated Matchmaking Days to facilitate pairing between Mission Cities and Mission-minded Cities.

To guide participants through the process, three preparatory webinars will be in March, providing programme updates and space for questions. A physical matchmaking space will also

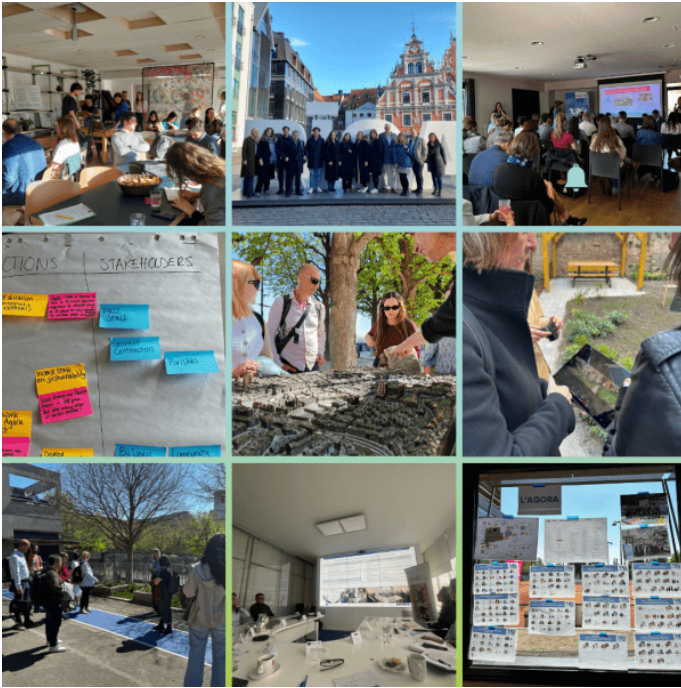
be available during the Cities Conference in May. Twinning pairs will be confirmed in June before the official launch in September.

This upcoming cohort will bring together cities involved in projects such as Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT), RE-Value, UP2030, CLIMABOROUGH, UPPER, ELABORATOR, and GreenInCities, creating a strong joint learning environment across initiatives.

The programme will feature online workshops, two reciprocal city visits (one in each city), and the joint development of an Action Plan.



Twinning Learning Programme



Sára Tóth. Climate Neutral City

The Programme has provided an invaluable platform for sharing the challenges we face and exchanging ideas on how to address them. It made us realise that we share more similarities than differences with other cities in and outside of Europe and being able to deliberate and brainstorm together has been beneficial for our efforts.

18
Mission Cities
(Cohort 4)

22
Twin cities
(Cohort 4)

24
Countries
(Cohort 4)

Resources

 [Twinning Learning Programme](#)



Group Study Visits



Building on the themes and examples discussed in the Online Discussion Groups, the Group Study Visits provide a hands-on learning experience. So far, two cohorts have been organised: The **first Cohort** (Sept-Nov 2025) was composed by 3 Mission Cities, and the **second Cohort** (Sept-Dec 2026) will be composed by 9 Mission Cities.

These are single-site visits to a Mission City where up to three selected Mission-minded cities can explore innovative practices on-site, interact directly with local stakeholders, and gain a first-hand understanding of successful implementation processes in the host Mission Cities.



Group Study Visits

Objectives

- Bridge the gap between online and first-hand exchanges: During the site visits to Mission Cities, participants will learn about concrete actions and understand contextual nuances that might not be evident in online format exchanges.
- Enable systemic transformation: Mission Cities will organise a dedicated workshop on-site to reflect on the local context, barriers and enabling factors.
- Enhance two-way learning: Mission-minded cities will work on specific climate challenge(s) identified in their application and reinforce their capacity to tackle them and scale their climate action by learning from their peers.

Visit Format

Mission cities welcome each 3 Mission-minded Cities in 3-day visits, featuring:

- Site visits to discover innovative actions on the ground
- Presentation on systemic transformation and Mission Cities' key climate actions
- Action planning sessions facilitated by NetZerocities for cities to work on scaling and replicating the key learnings

Cohort 1

3 Mission Cities (Bucharest, Guimarães and Mannheim) hosting 9 Mission-minded Cities.

Cohort 2

9 Mission Cities (Espoo/Helsinki, Glasgow, Krakow, Oslo, Pecs, Podgorica, Prato, Sarajevo, Zagreb) hosting 27 Mission-minded Cities.

Resources



[Group Study Visit - Cohort 2](#)



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the European Union



National Mission Ecosystems



Under the National Mission Ecosystems support, the goal is to overcome common barriers, such as limited enabling conditions, funding constraints, regulatory gaps and data access, by fostering multi-level collaboration through national ecosystems and platforms that bring together cities, public authorities across levels of government, as well as private-sector, academic, research, philanthropies and civil-society actors.



National Mission Ecosystems

What do National Mission Ecosystems do?

- Foster learning, collaboration and encounter among cities facing similar national realities.
- Boosting exchange and inspiration among Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities to find innovative solutions to mobilise resources, enhance engagement and move from planning to climate action.
- Provide coordinated capacity building to cities, addressing emerging needs in close collaboration with NetZeroCities. One example of this is to support Climate City Contracts (CCC) in local languages, helping all cities to design, implement, and scale up successful actions jointly.
- Promote multilevel governance, dialogue, and mutual learning by creating spaces for alignment and collaboration across local, regional, national, and European levels, enabling the acceleration conditions needed for all cities nationwide.

How do National Mission Ecosystems work?

Creating a National Mission Ecosystem means learning together, while building trust, shared ambition, and cultivating a long-term collaboration within and across government levels – local, regional, and national – as well as across sectors.

A dedicated, neutral facilitation team ensures coordination and foster alignment among stakeholders, turning multi-level governance into real progress.

National Mission Ecosystems websites:

- [AUSTRIA- Mission "Klimaneutrale Stadt"](#)
- [CROATIA- Platform Sustainable Finance and Energy Transition](#)
- [DENMARK – Klima Alliance](#)
- [FINLAND- Climate Mission Finland 2030](#)
- [GREECE AND CYPRUS- ClimaNet](#)
- [PORTUGAL- Cidades pelo Clima](#)
- [ROMANIA – M100](#)
- [SPAIN - citiES 2030 – Case Study](#)
- [SWEDEN - Viable Cities](#)



2 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY,
1 PILOT CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Albania)



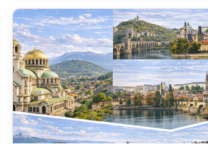
6 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY,
1 PILOT CITY, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Austria)



4 MISSION CITIES, 3 PILOT CITIES, 8
MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Belgium)



5 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



4 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 2 MISSION CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY, 1 PILOT CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Bulgaria)



2 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY, 1 MISSION CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Croatia)



1 MISSION CITY, 1 PILOT CITY, 2 MISSION MINDED CITIES
National Mission Ecosystem (Cyprus)



7 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY, 1 PILOT CITY, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Czechia)



3 MISSION CITIES, 3 PILOT CITIES, 5 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Denmark)



National Platform

Case Studies

Learn with the case studies on National Mission Ecosystems and emerging national support structures:

- [Italy - National Platform](#)
- [France - National Platform](#)
- [Poland - National Platform](#)
- [Spain - citiES 2030](#)
- [Sweden - Viable Cities](#)
- [Turkey - Insa](#)

Visit the country pages in the portal!

Julien Joubert

supporting the Community of Practice for France, NZC-Energy Cities (Case study-French Emerging National Platform)

What matters most is not only the tools, but the trust built through regular dialogue between cities, ministries and practitioners, this is what allows a national ecosystem to undertake transformational changes.

30

Countries supported at national level

Resources



[National Mission Ecosystems \(website\)](#)



[Focus on: National Platforms](#)



[Visit and join your country group on the Cities Mission Portal!](#)



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Contact

Peer Learning and capability building



Resources and mailing list for researchers



Subscribe to the Mission-minded cities newsletter

Online Tools & Resources



Mission Portal



- Access planning and funding tools, climate data, and case studies
- Join online communities to collaborate with peers
- Discover Climate City Contracts, best practices, and research publications

Helpdesk and technical support



infocities@netzerocities.eu

- One-to-one onboarding calls
- Orientation sessions to guide your first steps
- Tailored support to align tools and pathways to your local needs
- Custom technical assistance sessions for your city

This “NetZeroCities Learning Opportunities for All Cities” booklet has been developed within the project SGA2-NZC – Specific Grant Agreement No. 2: To Scale the Cities Mission (Grant Agreement No. 101139652).

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THANK YOU!



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