

Online Discussion Groups

OVERVIEW & FEEDBACK FROM COHORT 1 & 2

A growing peer-learning community supporting cities in their climate transition

320 + Participants
across two cohorts

17

Mission cities
contributing to the
programme



Two cohorts, one learning journey:

- September 2024 - February 2025 | Cohort 1
- September 2025 - February 2026 | Cohort 2

Both cohorts followed a structured learning journey.

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

Thematic areas covered:

- Built environment and renovation
- Energy transition and district heating
- Citizen engagement
- Innovative financing
- Urban digitalisation
- Circular economy
- Sustainable mobility
- Nature-based solutions

Mission cities presented specific actions that are in implementation phase in their **Climate City Contracts**, offering practical recommendations **to replicate** these climate actions in other local contexts.

Participants explored specific challenges through **8 technical workshops** and problem-solving sessions:

Cohort 1

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

Cohort 2

- **District heating & cooling 5.0**
- Accelerating the **renovation** wave
- **Urban digitalization** for climate action

Join Cohort 3!
Starting January 2027



Truşeni, Moldova example from cohort 1

The experiences shared by Lahti and Leuven during the Online Discussions Groups offer replicable nature-based solutions for Truşeni'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 Truşeni's river and surrounding ecosystem. The solutions shows a model suitable for stabilizing Truşeni'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.