

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES





Call for Pilot Cities: Eligibility, Assessment Criteria & Submission platform

14 September 2023





Welcome back after summer

Call launched:

- Call Guidelines published NB: an updated version (A1.1) was published today, 14 September, containing minor corrections to typos, updates to consistency of language, and clarity around assessment criteria. Please check the website to download this new version.
- Submission platform open
- Supporting documents published (Call Guidelines, Financial Guidelines; Guidebook; Application templates and pro formas)

Scheduled webinars:

- Thursday 7 September (1500 CEST): Ambition & Approach, technical information
- Thursday 14 September (1500 CEST): Eligibility and Assessment Criteria
- Tuesday 19 September (1500 CEST): Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Sensemaking
- Tuesday 26 September (1500 CEST): Inspirational session with existing Pilot Cities
- Thursday 5 October (1500 CEST): Boot Camp & Twinning Cities Learning Programme

Register for all at the NZC website: www.netzerocities.eu (Pilot Cities Programme page)







This webinar...

Is addressed to Mission Cities who **are not** yet a Pilot City within the Pilot City Programme and wish to undertake two-year, systems innovation-oriented pilot activities.

We will cover:

- Call for Pilot Cities Call Timeline
- Call for Pilot Cities Eligibility & Assessment Criteria
 - Stage 1 Eligibility
 - Stage 2 Assessment
 - Stage 3 Strategic Selection
 - Decision Communication
- Call for Pilot Cities Submission of the proposal in the Plaza platform

Questions should be relevant to the content of the given webinar

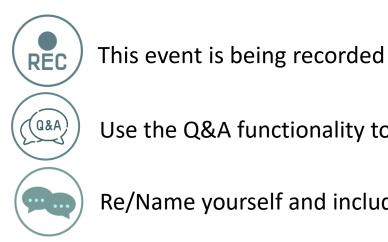






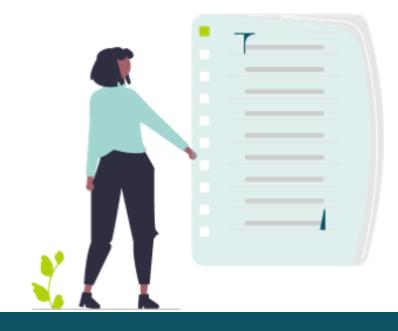
Overview

- Welcome
- 30 mins presentation
- Q&A (20 mins)
- 10 mins presentation
- Q&A (remaining time as required) ۲



Use the Q&A functionality to ask questions

Re/Name yourself and include your city and department





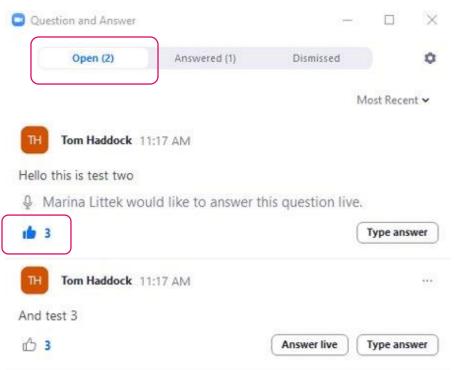


How to use the Q&A

1) Type down your questions



2) Vote up the questions





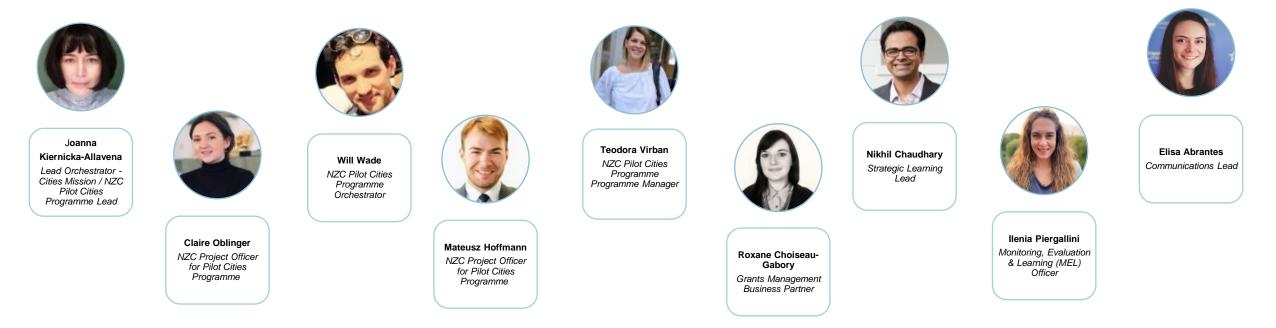


Disclaimer

- Please note that the following slides are non-binding and for reference only. The NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Call Guidelines as available on the NetZeroCities website remain the definite official document.
- Make sure you read the most up-to-date Call Guidelines available on our website including all associated documents before starting your application.



Pilot Cities Programme Team



Pilot Cities and Twinning Learning Programme – **EIT Urban Mobility**: Sigrid Ehrmann and Jehan Bhikoo Overarching communication – **LGI** – Clea Prieto

E: pilotcities@netzerocities.eu





Key speakers





Sigrid Ehrmann EU Project Deliver Officer EIT Urban Mobility Will Wade NZC Pilot Cities Programme Orchestrator

EIT Climate-KIC



Lisa Schumacher Business Analyst EIT Climate-KIC

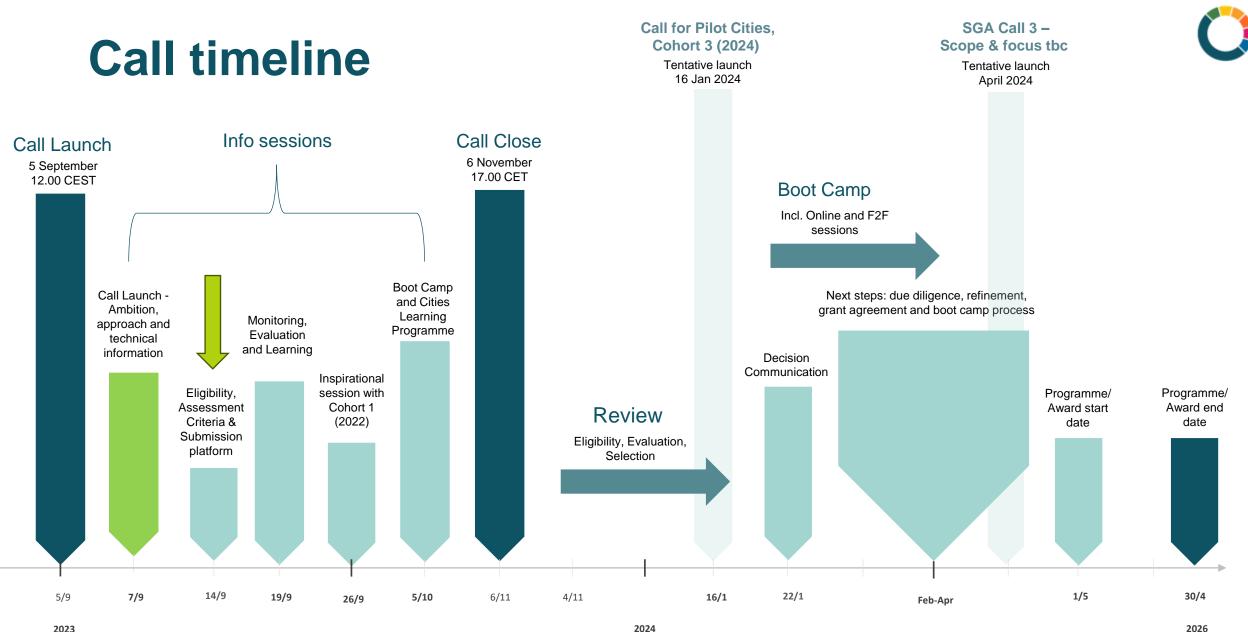




Call for Pilot Cities

Call Timeline





2023





Call for Pilot Cities

Eligibility & Assessment Criteria



Overview Three-stage process



Stage 1: Eligibility

Assessment of 5 pass/fail requirements related to the conditions of the call. Proposals must pass all eligibility criteria.

Stage 2: Assessment of quality

Score against individual assessment criteria by at least two independent external reviewers. Specific threshold of points for **each** of the criteria groups (and some individual criteria)

• Stage 3: Strategic selection

Selection committee selects proposals as a portfolio of Pilot Cities with a funding range between 12 and 20M EUR, based on a range of contextual selection criteria





Eligibility Criteria – Key changes from Pilot Cities Programme Cohort 1 (2022)

- Funding only available to Mission Cities who are not yet part of the Pilot Cities Programme portfolio (i.e. part of Cohort 1)
- **<u>Removed</u>**: criterion related to minimum number of city/district inhabitants
- <u>Removed:</u> criterion specifying cities/districts must be located in EU Member States or H2020 Associated countries – now covered by virtue of the Call being targeted to Mission Cities only.
- Minor changes in wording / description to retained eligibility criteria.
 Nevertheless, we encourage a close read of these criteria!



Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria

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1. Only one proposal may be submitted by an eligible Mission City / District* (also in case of multi-city applications).

Only one proposal may be submitted by an eligible city/district. In the case of multi-city/district proposals, each city/district may appear in only one proposal. There shall be **no territorial double-funding**; therefore, a higher level of administration should not appear in a separate proposal to that of a constituent, lower-level administration (e.g., district). Applicants are advised to coordinate at the relevant city/district administrative levels before applying.

2. The **consortium** must contain **at least two legal entities** (one of which must be the local authority or city administration).

The consortium must contain at least two partnering organisations, one of which must be the city / district administration, and any others must be separate, independent (from the city) legal entities.

3. The proposal must be led by one of the city administrations

The proposal must be led by the city administration; in case of a district submission, it must be led by an authorised administration from within the specified district.

* City = defined as a Local Administrative Unit (LAU), or a "greater city" or metropolitan region District = administrative sub-division of a city, with the authority to act on behalf of the local community



Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria



4. A letter of support from the city mayor (or equivalent) must be provided. In the case of a multi-city proposal, one letter must be provided for each city. Letter of support from the city mayor (or equivalent) and/or any city official mandated to sign on the city/mayor/city council's behalf, for the NZC Pilot City Programme. In the case of a multi-city proposal, one letter must be provided for each city.

The letter must include:

- Applicant's official document header/template.
- Signed and dated by a city/district official mandated to signed on the city/mayor/city council's behalf.
- The name and code of the Call.
- Unambiguous commitment of the city/district authority to the NZC Pilot Cities Programme and declaration of learning exploitation.

Please see pro forma template that has been provided with the launch of this Call

5. List of stakeholders engaged/to be engaged provided A list of stakeholders engaged/to be engaged are provided





Demo – Eligibility

• 1. CONTACTS tab





Stage 2 Assessment Assessment Criteria

- Each criterion is scored, on a scale of **0 to 5**, by at least two independent external experts.
- The score across all categories is totalled to produce a ranked list of proposals. The maximum available score is **115 points**.
- Minimum threshold score in each of the three areas to proceed to Stage 3

Criteria grouping	Points available / number of criteria	Threshold required*
Mandate to Act	35pts / 7 criteria	21 (including at least 6 pts score against "Understanding the problem" and at least 6 pt s score against "Orienting to solutions")
Capacity to Act	35pts / 7 criteria	21 (including at least 3 pts score against "Cross-cutting considerations")
Impact	45pts / 9 criteria	27





Mandate to Act

- Working on **system transformation** requires a strong political and public mandate.
- Importance of having strong political backing and mandate, links to and integration with city programming/budget, and an approach that emphasises collaboration, participation, and experimentation
- **Understanding the problem(s)** both in terms of GHG emissions and in terms of the structural, technical, institutional, socioeconomic, and cultural barriers to change
- Beyond single-point solutions towards more integrated and holistic 'portfolio' approaches, combination of multiple interventions
- **System change / transformation:** Pilot activities that open pathways towards breakthroughs in emission reduction triggering dynamics across technology, governance and policy, finance and business models





Mandate to Act

Criterion	Description	
Mandate to Act (15 points)	 Political: The pilot activities have a high level of political support and endorsement from the city, with a strong mandate for continued support through political will (5 points), Strategic: The pilot activities are well connected to the city's overarching vision for climate neutrality and existing activities that will support this. (5 points) Operational: The pilot activities are well connected to, and supported by, city budgeting and city programming. (5 points) 	
Understanding the problem(s) (10 points) Individual Threshold 6 points	 City emissions domain(s): The pilot activities are focussed on relevant and important emissions domain(s) for the city, and the city's understanding of the emission domains' status quo is credible and - where available/applicable - backed up with data. (5 points) Barriers to change: The city has identified systemic barriers and/or opportunities relevant to the concerned emissions domains. (5 points) 	
Orienting to innovative and systemic solutions (10 points) Individual Threshold 6 points	 Levers: The pilot activities identify multiple, connected levers of/for change relevant to the concerned emissions domain(s), considering and exploiting relevant R&I solutions (and where relevant, inspired by and building upon existing European best practices and available solutions) and the city's overarching carbon neutrality ambition. (5 points) Entry points: Relevant entry / intervention points for the pilot activities to exploit the levers of change are identified (i.e., where and how, practically, the levers will be used in the two-year programme), and the proposal explains how their interaction will target a system change / transformation, towards climate-neutrality. (5 points) 	





Demo – Mandate to Act

• 3. MANDATE TO ACT tab





Capacity to Act

- Climate crisis requires becoming more democratic, collaborative, and collectively actionoriented
- Building a coalition for change according to pilot activities key stakeholders, affected community and citizen groups, key ecosystems actors and delivery/implementation partners
- Engaging citizens and urban stakeholders in meaningful and inclusive participation for a just transition
- Addressing capacity and capability gaps/needs in the city and key stakeholders
- Ensuring the financial sustainability and potential scalability of the work that will be implemented through pilot activities





Capacity to Act

Criterion	Description
Collaboration and engagement (10 points)	 Stakeholder engagement: The pilot activities engage/aims to engage stakeholders that are relevant to these activities and emissions domain(s) concerned and representing a broad spectrum of expertise and experience. Roles of stakeholders are elaborated and an understanding of how the city will collaborate with them to implement pilot activities. (5 points) Citizen engagement: Citizens are engaged at relevant stages of the pilot activities, and it is clear how their engagement will contribute to garner collective narrative and understanding of climate actions. Where relevant, the pilot activities describe how citizen engagement will contribute to the design and implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Cross-cutting considerations (5 points) Individual Threshold 3 points	 Cross-cutting considerations: The Pilot City proposal demonstrates awareness of how its activities and/or outcomes relate to and cater for cross-cutting themes such as diversity, inclusion, gender dimension, accessibility, and a just transition. The pilot activities outline a practical and proportionate approach to how it will approach how such considerations are treated in the implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Capacity and capability (10 points)	 Leading implementation: The proposal details how the pilot activities will be led and coordinated by the city, with representation from relevant city departments, roles, and capabilities, as they relate to the pilot activities and their implementation. (5 points) Learning assessment plan: The proposal identifies, through a learning plan, how it intends to address capability and capacity needs of the city administration throughout implementation and then retain these beyond the life of the Programme. (5 points)
Soundness of work plan (10 points)	 Sound work plan: The proposed work plan to implement the pilot activities, within the allocated timeframe and budget, is sound and coherent with a systemic approach. Where a pilot cannot be fully implemented with the provided subgrant, a coherent plan is demonstrated for identifying and securing additional resources (by the city or co-financers) to fully implement the pilot within 24 months. (5 points) Sound budget: The proposed budget is clearly outlined and justified and reflects value for money. (5 points)





Demo – Capacity to Act

- 4. CAPACITY TO ACT tab
- 7. BUDGET tab





Impact

- Multi-level governance approach that fosters transparency, inclusion, accountability as integral to implementation to drive development and improvement of pilot activities
- Learnings from interventions are continuously captured, measured, and fed into pilot activities, policies and new actions
- Promoting and **systemising learning outputs** to make them scalable and transferable
- Envisioning multi-dimensional and systemic impacts from pilot activities at an early stage
- Co-benefits as additional impacts or positive side-effects of climate mitigation or adaptation interventions - a meaningful integration of co-benefits can help build interdepartmental collaboration and support for direct climate action by highlighting impacts on the everyday lives of citizens



Impact



Criterion	Description		
Pilot activities' (learning / reflexive) governance (10 points)	 Reflexive governance: The proposed governance model fosters transparency and accountability, actively contributes to the implementation of the pilot activities, and engages a diverse range of relevant participants with appropriate roles. (5 points) Governance for learning: Governance activities support and enable learning and reflection, to drive development and improvement of pilot activities. (5 points) 		
Pilot activities' outcomes and direct/indirect impact (20 points)	 Direct impact: The proposal outlines substantive, direct impact it aims to have on city-level GHG emissions across one or more emission domains, as a proportion of the city's overall emissions profile. (5 points) Indirect impact or co-benefits: A wide range of co-benefits of the pilot activities is identified (from a provided catalogue and/or, where applicable, bespoke 'non-standard' co-benefits) and the link demonstrated, with relevant indicators to measure outcomes and impact beyond the scope of direct implementation. (5 points) Indicator selection: Relevant and balanced set of indicators have been selected from a provided catalogue (and/or, where required, bespoke 'customised' indicators elaborated) for the pilot activities' intended direct impact and co-benefits, with appropriate proposed monitoring of indicators (including how to measure). (5 points) Pathways to climate-neutrality: The city outlines how they would expect their pilot activities to unlock pathways (i.e., create enabling conditions for long-term change beyond the direct scope of the project) by achieving short-term or medium-term outcomes to transition towards climate-neutrality. (5 points) 		
Pilot activities' scalability, replication, and risk management (15 points)	 Scalability of impact: The proposal outlines how the pilot activities could be expanded, and the impact this expansion (scaling) would have (at intervals/over time) upon city-wide GHG emissions. (5 points) Replication and transferability: The proposal presents detailed assumptions for how learning in and through the pilot activities will be captured and disseminated to support potential transferability and/or replication to other cities across the EU. (5 points) Risk management: The proposal identifies risks related to both the practical implementation of the pilot activities and the potential indirect impacts and outcomes (such as related to co-benefit factors), with adequate mitigation and appropriate contingency measures. (5 points) 		





Demo – Impact

- 5. IMPACT tab
- MEL & Impact Framework (document upload)



Stage 3 Strategic Selection



- Selection Committee composed of two members of the Executive Committee, the Coordinator, and the potential addition of (an) external independent observer(s)
- **Contextual judgement** that considers and prioritises a **portfolio of Pilots Cities**
- **Strategic selection** takes consideration of (in order):
 - **Geographic diversity** based on data gathered at application stage (highest possible representation of EU MS & HE AC)
 - **Diversity of city size & typology** based on data gathered at application stage (best possible representation of cities' size and typology)
 - Diversity of focus on emissions domains/barriers and of intended levers of/for change to be tested based on data gathered at application stage (highest representation of combined emissions domains and levers of change)
 - Score in Stage 2.

During the portfolio selection, in the event of proposals with similar characteristics with equal scoring in Stage 2, the following parameters will be used to define the final ranking:

- Priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped Impact criteria.
- When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped Capacity to Act criteria.
- When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest in the grouped Mandate to Act criteria.
- When the scores are still equal, priority will be given to those scoring highest on cross-cutting considerations (sub-criterion under Capacity to Act).
- Budget availability

"EU Dimension" refers to the relevance and synergies of City Pilots for EU policy and directives implementation (such as the EGD, the Climate Pact, the New European Bauhaus and the Horizon Europe climate-neutral cities Mission) and geographic diversity to ensure a proper balance between EU Member States (and H2020 Associated Countries).





Decision Communication

- EIT Climate-KIC will aim to communicate final outcomes to applicants by 22 January 2024
- Final communication will indicate the grant allocation and state the cost eligibility period.
- A **list of selected projects** with a description of the action, grant amounts and legal names of selected applicants and their country, date of the award and duration will be **published on the NetZeroCities Platform**.
- Contract development and signing processes are expected to proceed between February and April 2024





Q&A

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria







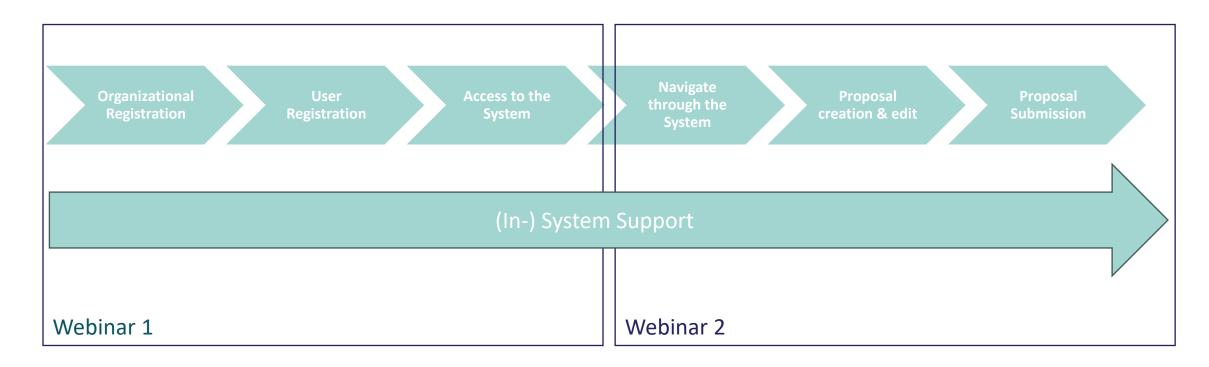
Submission system

Submission of the proposal in the system





Submission System Introduction



Step-by-step technical guide can be found <u>HERE</u>





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EIT Plaza Climate-KIC

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Password / Code

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SUPPORT NEEDED? Click HERE to raise a Support Ticket.

FORGOT PASSWORD

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Climate-KIC

LOGON

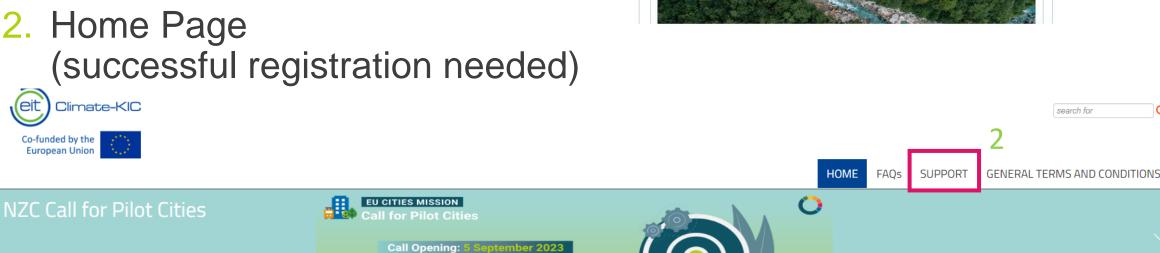
(In-) System Support 2 Ways to access System Support

1. Login Page

(no successful registration needed)

Call Deadline: (

2. Home Page (successful registration needed)



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(In-) System Support

Please fill in the <u>Plaza Online</u> <u>Support Request</u> for any system related queries.

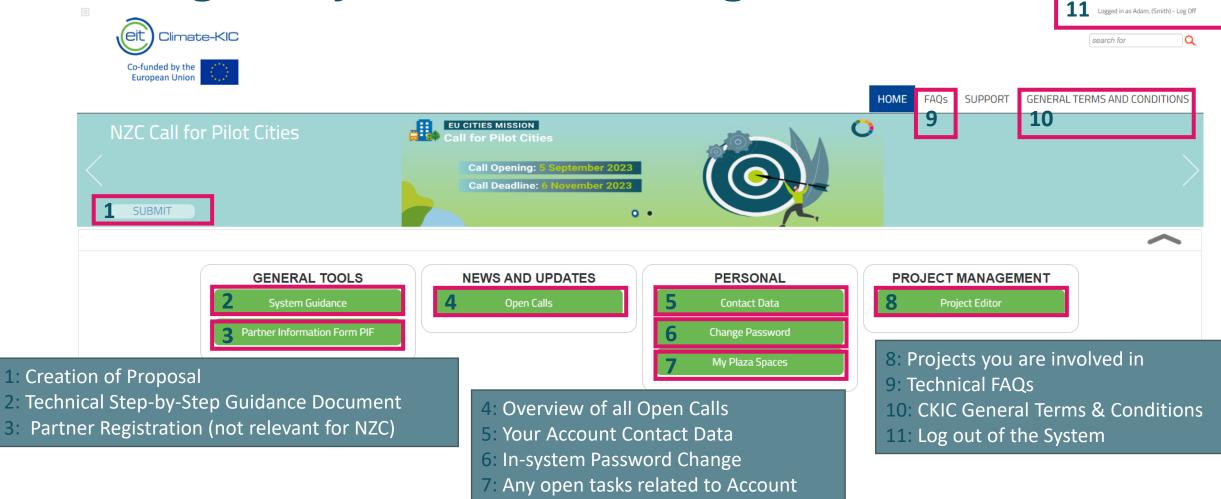
Any content or call related questions can be directly sent to <u>pilotcities@netzerocities.eu</u>.

Plaza Online Support Request You are about to create a Support Ticket. You can access the Technical Guidance Document and our in-system FAQs (necessary to have successfully logged in) for answers to your enquiries. For further assistance on business and system issues please feel free to use this form. Please note that any NZC-Content related question can be directly sent to politicities@netzerocities.eu. First Name * Please enter your First Name for us to be able to align it to any possible User Profile within the system Last Name * Email ^a Please enter an e-mail address that is possibly aligned to your login information Proposal / Project ID In case you are already leading or part of a Proposal or Project, please enter the ID here. The format of the ID is YYXXXX Please select. Systemic Technical Issue Initial Plaza registration/Password reset request Access projects/Add members Update/Assign master or finance contacts General Question on Call & Submitting Proposals Performance reporting questions Cost reporting questions Please select Please select one of the below Categories that fits best to your request. Please note that any NZC-content related question can be directly





Navigate System - Home Page







Proposal – NZC Call for Pilot Cities

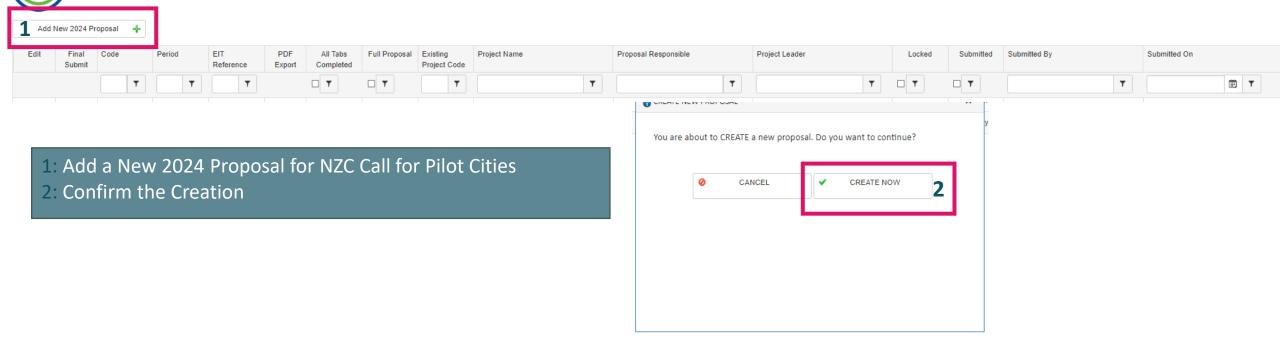
- 1. Direct yourself to the NZC Call for Pilot Cities
- 2. Press "submit" to open the Proposal Creation page







Proposal – Creation of Proposal





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Proposal – Creation / Edit

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Proposal – Workplan Overview / Gantt

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				▼ DEL03 Title: DEL 1.2 Start Date: 10-May-24 End Date: 18-Aug-25	ACT05 Title: Act 1.2 Start Date: 03-May-24 End Date: 07-Feb-25
					ACT04 Title: Act 1.2 Start Date: 09-May-24 End Date: 15-Aug-24
			▼ A2402 WP 2 Community Centre	▼ DEL02 Title: DEL 2 Start Date: 04-May-24 End Date: 14-Nov-24	ACT02 Title: ACt 2 Start Date: 07-Aug-24 End Date: 28-Aug-24

You will be able to view an overview of your Workplan in the below Workplan Pivot.

Please note: Immediate changes in WPs, DELs and ACTs are not reflected until the Pivot Table is *Refreshed*.





General Technical Proposal Tips 1/3



Consult the in-system **Help Notes** (1) and **Additional Information** (2) for specific Fields

Be aware that fields with a **maximum character** limit will be truncated when the maximum is reached

When **working simultaneously** on the same tab don't work on the same text field / grid line at the same time





General Technical Proposal Tips 2/3

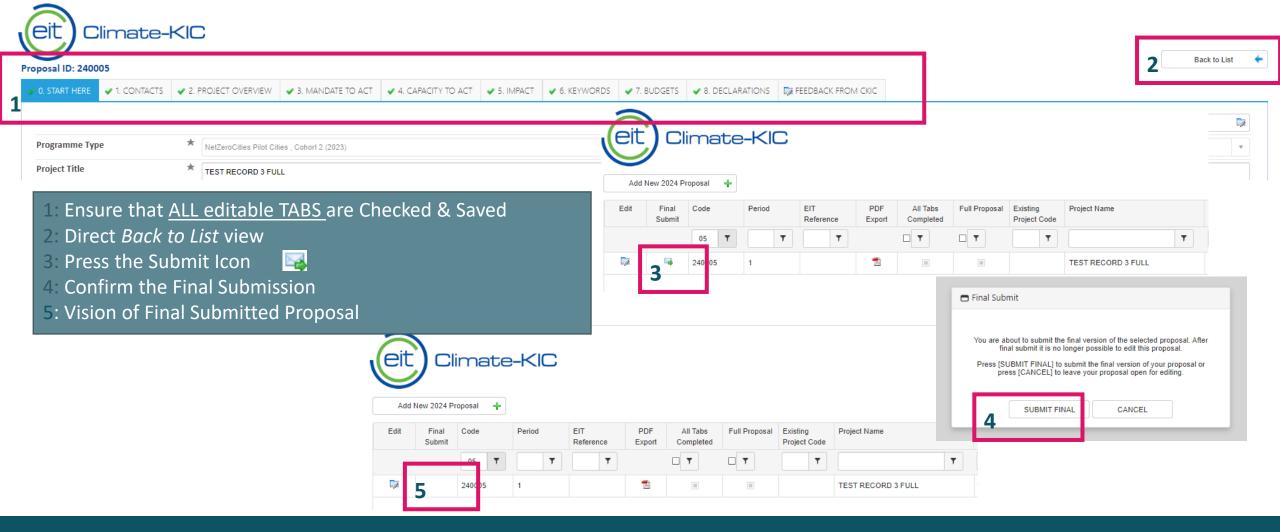
When you "Check and Save" a tab the system notifies you of all the missing mandatory (marked with \bigstar) fields to successfully save the tab for submission.

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Proposal - Submission







General Technical Proposal Tips 3/3

Server Error in '/' Application.

Runtime Error

Description: An application error occurred on the server. The current custom error settings for this application prevent the details of the application error from being viewed remotely (for security reasons). It could, however, be viewed by browsers running on the local server machine. Details: To enable the details of this specific error message to be viewable on remote machines, please create a <customErrors> tag within a "web.config" configuration file located in the root directory of the current web application. This <customErrors> tag should then have its "mode" attribute set to "Off".

```
<customErrors mode="RemoteOnly" defaultRedirect="mycustompage.htm"/>
</system.web>
</configuration>
```

Runtime Error – result of 5min inactivity Please re-fresh your browser page.



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Proposal – Unlocking of Submitted Proposal



Proposal ID: 240005

This proposal is closed and locked for changes. Only call managers can unlock or apply changes to this proposal.

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Programme Typ	e	*	NetZeroCities Pilot Cities , Cohort 2 (2023)									
Project Title		*	* TEST RECORD 3 FULL									

To **un-lock for editing any submitted Proposals** that are locked due to submission prior to the Call Deadline (6th November 17CET) reach out to through the **technical Support functionality** (see above) so we can support you in un-locking your proposal for editing.





Potential Demo

Short pass through the system





Summary

- Prepare / navigate (recommendations):
 - **Register** with the Submission system familiarise yourself with the set-up and invite collaborators. Read the guidance. Ask questions!
 - <u>Attend</u> the webinars
 - Download the templates and share with colleagues / collaborators.
- Support:
- <u>pilotcities@netzerocities.eu</u>
 - Feel free to consult the <u>Technical Guidance Document here</u> or use the system's ticketing system if you have any technical issues/questions





Q&A

The Call & System







Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



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