



Mapping of national and regional city collaboration

Deliverable D5.9

Version N°1

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Abbreviations and acronyms

| Acronym | Description |
|----------------|---|
| WP | Work Package |
| NZC | NetZeroCities |
| Cities Mission | Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 |
| Mission Cities | 112 cities selected for the Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 |
| EoI | Expression of Interest |
| EU | European Union |
| EC | European Commission |
| SEAP | Sustainable Energy Action Plan |
| SECAP | Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan |
| SUMP | Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan |
| ERDF | European Regional Development Fund |
| ITI | Integrated Territorial Investment |

Summary

This report summarises the findings of sub-task T5.4.1, under T5.4 National and regional collaboration of cities to boost replication and scale-up. The report presents a mapping of collaboration initiatives between cities on climate action, both on the national and regional level, in the 27 EU Member States and the eight Associated Countries involved in the EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 (Cities Mission) – highlighting some identified gaps and success factors of such collaborations. Furthermore, it presents the current state of play regarding support structures that the regional and/or national levels have offered the Mission Cities for the implementation of the Cities Mission.

The report includes information obtained through desk research, a questionnaire that stakeholders from 46 cities and regions responded to, interviews with relevant stakeholders, and consultations with NetZeroCities project partners.

The findings show that there are still gaps in city collaboration on climate issues within EU Member States and Associated Countries, especially in smaller countries, in countries with complex political and administrative systems and in countries where the political will and ambition for climate action is lacking. National cities mission networks have in some countries started forming as a result of the Cities Mission, gathering national level representatives and cities, with the aim to collaborate on the national implementation of the Mission. Other support structures, mainly in the form of financial support, have also been put in place in some countries.

The findings of the report will act as a basis for future tasks and work of the NetZeroCities project, above all the follow-up task (T5.4.2) of T5.4 (national and regional cooperation) and T1.4 (multi-level governance) of Work Package 1 on Climate City Contracts.

Keywords

NetZeroCities; Multi-level governance; Climate city collaboration; Climate action; National networks; Climate neutrality; Climate change mitigation; Replication; Scale-up; Climate City Contracts



Introduction

Collaboration between cities on climate action at the regional and national level is an important first step towards climate neutrality at a broader scale, as such collaboration initiatives help boosting the scale-up and replication of actions that drive cities towards a net zero future. With the Mission on 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 (Cities Mission) setting the target for climate neutrality by 2030, collaboration between cities will be more important than ever to reach this ambitious goal.

This deliverable presents a mapping of collaboration initiatives between cities on climate action, both on the national and regional level, in the 27 EU Member States and the eight Associated Countries involved in the Cities Mission. Furthermore, it highlights the identified gaps, i.e. the countries where climate city collaboration is lacking, and the reasons for the lack of such collaborations, as well as the success factors identified in existing, successful examples.

An increasing number of national cities mission networks¹ comprising the selected Mission Cities, and in some cases also other cities, and national ministries or government agencies have been or are currently in the process of being set up in some countries, joining the existing examples in Sweden and Spain. This is a result of the Cities Mission moving into the implementation phase and the acknowledgement that the national level will play an important role in the successful implementation of the Mission, not least due to the important issues of funding and policy/regulations. Therefore, this deliverable also presents the current state of play regarding the development of national cities mission networks in the EU Member States and Associated Countries, as well as information on any other support structures that the regional or national level so far have directed towards cities for the implementation of the Cities Mission.

Methodology

The mapping presented in this deliverable has a two-folded aim:

- To understand the scope and structure of collaboration initiatives around climate action taking place between cities in the 27 EU Member States and eight Associated Countries² selected for the Cities Mission, as well as to understand the barriers hampering such collaboration in countries where gaps exist and the success factors of existing good examples.
- To create an overview and understanding of the collaboration initiatives (national cities mission networks) and support structures that are being set up in EU Member States and Associated Countries to support the implementation of the Cities Mission and its objectives, as well as to understand the barriers hindering multi-level government collaboration in some countries and highlighting good examples of support structures that currently exist.

The mapping focuses on the 27 EU Member States and the eight Associated Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Israel, Montenegro, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom) that have cities that were selected for the Cities Mission. Although the main focus has been on national level collaboration initiatives, the mapping also covers some regional (sub-national) level initiatives, especially for the countries where a limited number of national initiatives were identified. As some countries host a multitude of national and regional climate city collaboration initiatives, the task partners agreed on a few criteria (e.g. topic/scope relevance and number of cities involved) to limit the selection for this deliverable

¹ The term 'national cities mission network' is within the frame of this deliverable used as umbrella term for the different initiatives that have been or are being established in some countries to facilitate the implementation of the Cities Mission.

² The United Kingdom is within the frame of this deliverable considered as an Associated Country to Horizon Europe in accordance with the European Union's position.



and decided to also limit the number of initiatives presented in this report to a maximum of seven initiatives per country.

The scope of the mapping includes both collaboration initiatives where cities cooperate on topics related to climate change mitigation, such as energy, sustainable buildings or transport, as well as initiatives that focus more broadly on the topics of climate change and sustainable urban development. The mapping focuses on permanently established collaboration initiatives, such as associations, networks and platforms, rather than projects and similar temporary collaborations between cities. Initiatives that do not involve cities, but that are important for supporting cities in their climate neutrality journey, will be covered through the work in Specific Grant Agreement 1 (SGA1).

The mapping has been conducted through the following means:

- Desk research and task partners' previous knowledge and expertise was used for the mapping of climate city collaboration initiatives, especially for the countries where no responses to the questionnaire were received or to complement information received through the questionnaire.
- A questionnaire directed primarily towards representatives of city administrations, but also towards representatives of regional authorities or any other relevant actors, was launched on the EU Survey platform in April 2022 and can be found in ANNEX I and [here](#). The task partners divided the 27 EU Member States between themselves, depending on which countries their memberships covered, and sent the questionnaire to a number of cities, regions and organisations in these countries. Other NetZeroCities (NZN) partners also assisted in the efforts of promoting the questionnaire towards cities. This division of countries was made to facilitate potential follow-up actions by the task partners. After the publication of the selected Mission Cities, the scope of the questionnaire was extended to also include the eight Associated Countries that have cities that were selected for the Cities Mission. After the launch of the first version of the Mission Platform, the questionnaire was promoted to a wider group of Mission Cities using the contact information of city representatives registered on the platform. A total of 46 cities, regions and universities responded to the questionnaire and an overview of these can be found in ANNEX II of this deliverable.
- Interviews were held with representatives of cities, regions and relevant organisations to complement previous knowledge and information obtained through the questionnaire. These are also included in ANNEX I.
- NZN partners were, whenever relevant, consulted and their expertise was used to complement the information obtained through the questionnaire. Information presented in previous NZN deliverables, such as D1.1, was also used.



Mapping of national and regional climate city collaboration and support for Cities Mission implementation

EU Member States

1 Austria

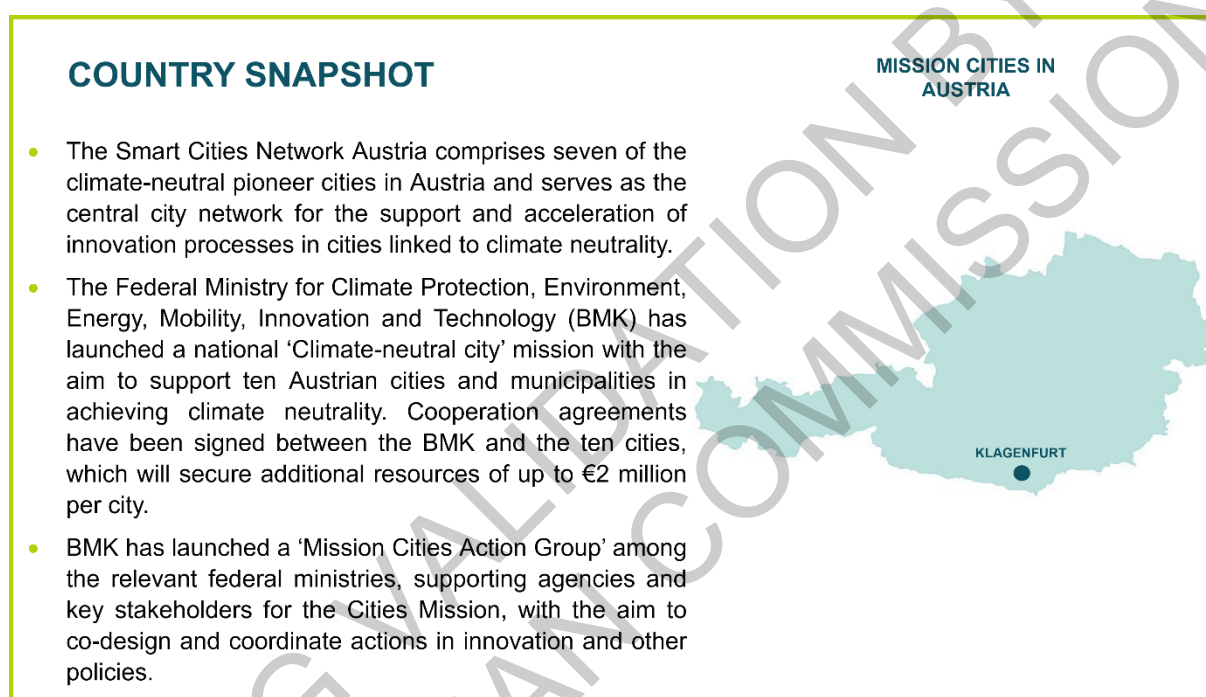


Figure 1: Austria country snapshot

1.1 Climate city collaboration in Austria

National level

1.1.1 Smart Cities Network Austria

The [Smart Cities Network Austria](#), funded by the Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), serves as the central city network for the support and acceleration of innovation processes in cities, especially in the work towards climate neutrality. The network provides structured formats for cities to collaborate on complex topics such as the holistic decarbonisation of existing systems, access to innovation and stakeholder involvement. Additionally, it provides a direct communication channel between BMK and the cities. The content of the network



activities is shaped by the cities through the development of roadmaps outlining the main topics of interest for the coming years.

- **Cities involved:** 7 - Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, Villach, Klagenfurt, Innsbruck and Linz
- **Facilitators:** Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning
- **Focus areas:** Spatial energy planning, climate protection, climate change adaptation, mobility, integrated planning, processes and governance, legal frameworks, participatory approaches and participation, urban quality of life and ICT
- **Activities:** The coordination office organises city-tailored activities, including workshops where actors from municipalities can co-develop solutions to local challenges with the relevant stakeholders. Discussions and exchanges to debate strategic developments and to develop innovative project ideas are also organised. As a result of the organised activities, the network provides needs-based research questions and topics for funding schemes and generates joint research and implementation projects.

Regional level

1.1.2 Central Carinthia+

Central Carinthia+ ([Zentralraum Kärnten+](#)) is an association promoting intermunicipal cooperation in the central region of Carinthia. The association was founded as the municipalities of Villach and Klagenfurt identified a need for coordinated project development and consistent management of a large number of projects, which cross over the boundaries of several departments, companies, institutions and communities. The aim of the association is to create collaboration opportunities for the members, develop joint projects and initiatives, increase the visibility of the region in Europe and internationally, and collaborate around strategic goals.

- **Districts involved:** 6 - Villach Stadt und Land, Klagenfurt Stadt und Land, St. Veit and Feldkirchen

1.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) has launched a national '[Climate-neutral city](#)' mission with the aim to support ten Austrian cities and municipalities in achieving the national climate and energy goals. The mission includes comprehensive research activities and accompanying measures, which will act as enablers to develop the path towards climate neutrality and to implement it.

The national mission aims to complement the EU Cities Mission. Cooperation agreements have been signed between the BMK and the ten Austrian pioneer cities, which will secure additional resources for the necessary personnel capacity and competence development with up to €2 million per city. The aim is for this funding offer to also be extended to additional cities in the future.

The national mission follows on directly from the '[Fit4UrbanMission](#)' initiative within the 'City of the Future' programme, which supported nine Austrian cities in developing and improving strategies for achieving climate neutrality by 2040 through a targeted funding scheme. Additionally, the initiative was set up to support Austrian cities in their applications for the EU Cities Mission. The cities received support from the Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing and AustriaTech for the activities.



BMK has also launched a 'Mission Cities Action Group' among the relevant federal ministries, supporting agencies and key stakeholders for the Cities Mission. This internal group within the government administration aims to co-design and coordinate actions in innovation policy and beyond in other BMK policy domains (mobility, energy and environmental protection).

2 Belgium

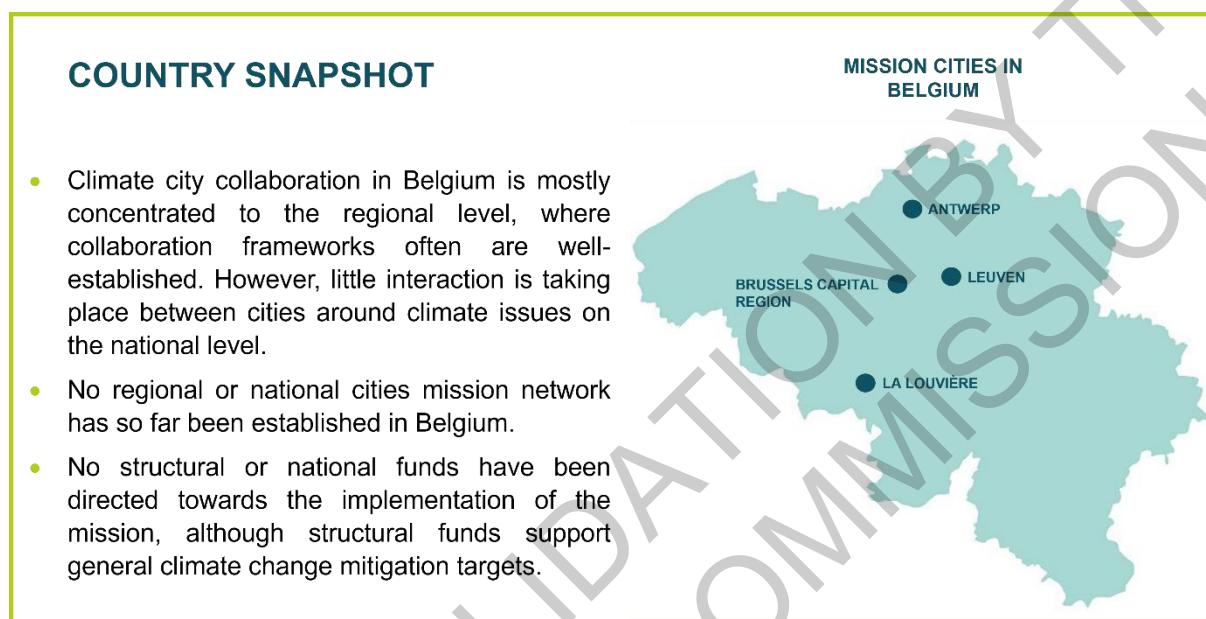


Figure 2: Belgium country snapshot

2.1 Climate city collaboration in Belgium

Regional level

2.1.1 Local Energy and Climate Pact

The Local Energy and Climate Pact ([LEKP](#)) is a pact between the Flemish Government and Flemish cities and municipalities with the aim to advance the energy and net zero transition on the local level. The LEKP is based on the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan, which presents eleven objectives across four domains: renewable energy, sustainable mobility, drought and greening, as well as five general objectives. A LEKP 2.0 has been launched which presents more ambitious goals for the 16 objectives and introduces an additional seventeenth objective. The aim is to achieve the set objectives within the four domains by 2030 in the Region of Flanders.

The Flemish Government offers cities and municipalities financial support for local climate actions to implement the objectives of the Local Energy and Climate Pact.

- **Cities involved:** Signed by 293 of the 300 Flemish cities and municipalities



2.1.2 VVSG Climate Network

The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) launched a Climate Network ([Klimaatnetwerk](#)) at the end of 2020 with the aim to support Flemish local authorities in pursuing an ambitious climate policy. The objectives include reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions on the territory of the Flemish local authorities and increased renewable energy production. The network is a four-year project funded by the Flemish Energy Fund.

- **Cities involved:** The network covers most Flemish cities and municipalities
- **Coordinator:** The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
- **Focus areas:** Energy efficiency, renewable energy, heat and mobility
- **Activities:** The network wants to be an intermediary that not only supports and stimulates municipalities in their climate ambition, but that also raises bottlenecks with the Flemish Government. The intention is to work together in an open network with numerous partners, both public and private. Additionally, the network provides information on relevant data sources and tools for local authorities, provides a best practice database on climate projects that allows cities to learn from each other, identifies European and Flemish funding opportunities and support measures for local authorities, and organises monthly webinars on different themes.

2.1.3 Flemish Cities Knowledge Centre

The [Flemish Cities Knowledge Centre](#) is an inter-local association founded by 13 Flemish cities and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities. The aim of the knowledge centre is to strengthen the urban character of Flanders by stimulating learning processes in the 13 involved cities and ensuring a stronger network of cities. This will contribute to improved urban organisation, services and policy in Flanders.

- **Cities involved:** 13 - Aalst, Antwerp, Bruges, Genk, Ghent, Hasselt, Kortrijk, Leuven, Mechelen, Ostend, Roeselare, Sint-Niklaas and Turnhout
- **Activities:** The activities of the Knowledge Centre are centred around five pillars: knowledge collection and disclosure; knowledge development; knowledge mediation; networking; and influencing policy.

2.1.4 Wallonia Cities Platform

The Cities Platform for Walloon cities ([Villes Wallonnes](#)) is an initiative by the Walloon Government to develop and improve urban policy in the region. The platform offers a space for networking between cities, while also acting as a centre for resources and skills in the field of urban development. The objective of the platform is to gather all regional actors working on urban development and to ensure the exchange of information, knowledge and best practices related to regional and European urban policy.

- **Cities involved:** 14 – Wavre, Mouscron, Tournai, Mons, La Louvière, Charleroi, Sambreville, Hannut, Andenne, Seraing, Herstal, Verviers, Liège and Marche-en-Famenne
- **Coordinator:** Research Centre on Territorial, Urban and Rural Sciences (LEPUR) at the University of Liège



- **Activities:** The platform offers an online resource centre available to cities and urban actors and provides data on the request of its members. Thematic training workshops and study visits are organised both for member cities and for urban development actors and the platform provides information in the form of newsletters and thematic publications to its members to enhance knowledge sharing. Finally, the platform provides advice and support to member cities in different urban questions.

2.1.5 Brulocalis

[Brulocalis](#) – the Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region, is a non-profit organisation of the 19 local authorities of the Brussels-Capital Region. The Brussels public social services centres (Centres Publics d'Action Sociale - CPAS) as well as the associations formed between them and intermunicipal companies form together with the 19 municipalities the members of the association. Brulocalis represents the local authorities of Brussels in multiple bodies at regional, community, federal or international level, and aims to improve their general operating conditions and provide them with ad hoc assistance, while also developing their capacity to address different types of challenges.

- **Municipalities involved:** 19 - Bruxelles-Ville, Schaerbeek, Etterbeek, Ixelles, Saint Gilles, Anderlecht, Molenbeek-St-Jean, Koekelberg, Berchem-Ste-Agathe, Ganshoren, Jette, Evere, Woluwé-St-Pierre, Auderghem, Watermael-Boitsfort, Uccle, Forest, Woluwé-St-Lambert and St Josse-ten-Noode
- **Activities:** Brulocalis coordinate together with Brussels Environment a network bringing together municipalities in the capital region around the topics of climate, environment and sustainable development. The network aims to bring together officials from the municipalities working on the Climate Action Programme, enabling the exchange of expertise and pooling of knowledge. Additionally, the network is a place for the municipalities to relay their needs at the regional level. Workshops are occasionally also organised together with other regions in Belgium.

2.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

In the Region of Flanders, the Cabinet of the Flemish Minister for Home Affairs has hosted several meetings to discuss and understand the needs of cities, as well as the need for cross-city collaboration, in the context of the Cities Mission. The cities of Leuven, Antwerp, Hasselt, Mechelen, Kortrijk, Gent and Oostende have participated in these meetings.

It has been suggested that one of the actors already coordinating climate collaboration between Flemish cities could be a potential facilitator on the regional level for the Cities Mission activities, for example the Flemish Government or the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities. The support that cities would expect from such a facilitator is, for example, overall coordination of activities, access to knowledge and expertise, access to funding, and enabling the policy/regulatory environment.

Although no structural funds have been directed towards supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission, there are structural funds that support general climate change mitigation targets. On the Flemish side, the Local Energy and Climate Pact (LEKP) supports projects that contribute to the targets set out in the LEKP. All Flemish cities and municipalities that sign the LEKP are therefore automatically entitled to financial support by the Flemish Government.

The Brussels Capital Region has set up a network together with 13 of its municipalities and the regional administrations that are participating in the Cities Mission. Innoviris, a public organisation that funds and supports research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region, acts as the facilitator of the network



and organises regular meetings and workshops for the involved partners to discuss mission developments and provide updates on the implementation of the Mission.

No information regarding Cities Mission related activities in the Region of Wallonia has been obtained.

3 Bulgaria

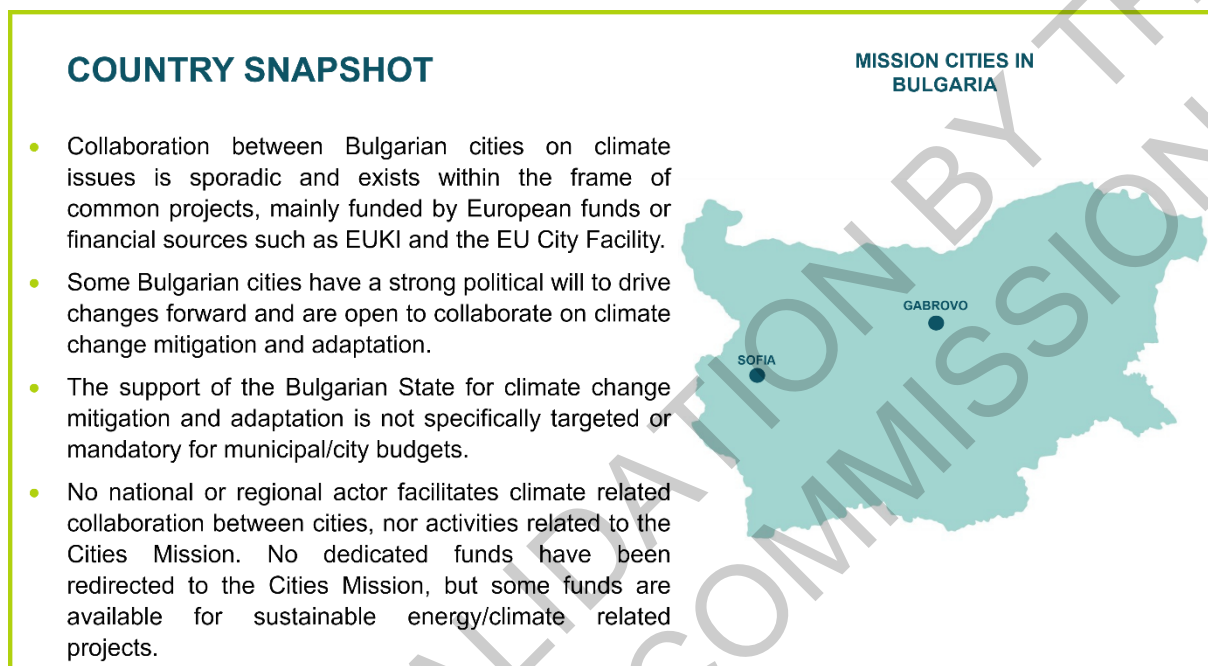


Figure 3: Bulgaria country snapshot

3.1 Climate city collaboration in Bulgaria

There is no specific network for climate cooperation between cities in Bulgaria. However, there are thematic and general networks that promote cooperation on sustainable energy and related issues. There are also several general networks that may promote the Cities Mission objectives, but that do not conduct regular exchanges on climate change mitigation:

- [National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (NAMRB)
- [Union of the Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities](#) (UBBSLA)
- [Association of the Rhodope Municipalities](#)
- [Association of South-Western Municipalities](#) (ASWM)

National level

3.1.1 Municipal Energy Efficiency Network - EcoEnergy

EcoEnergy's mission is to unite Bulgarian municipalities with clear targets for sustainable energy development and promoting high energy efficiency requirements; lead active energy efficiency policies in line with EU targets; and provide awareness, training and dissemination of good practices. EcoEnergy is a Supporting Structure of the Covenant of Mayors since June 2009 and a member of Energy Cities.

- **Cities involved:** 18 - Sofia, Gabrovo, Burgas, Botevgrad, Dobrich, Yambol, Etropole, Kiustendil, Kula, Krushari, Lyaskovets, Lom, Pavlikeni, Samokov, Smeadovo, Berkovitza, Bansko and Smolyan
- **Coordinator:** The network activities are coordinated by the Centre for Energy Efficiency EnEffect. The Secretariat provides policy and technical support to the regional and local authorities in the development and implementation of energy efficiency policies harmonised with the EU legislation; capacity building, including municipal energy planning and SECAP development, trainings on nearly zero-energy buildings design and construction, and implementation of energy efficiency measures; development, management and monitoring of demonstration projects; networking on national and regional level; and management of the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund (FEEVI).
- **Focus areas:** Energy efficiency, renewable energy, municipal energy planning and energy management
- **Activities:** Networking and exchanges in form of an annual conference; workshops and webinars; public discussions; seminars and trainings; and collaboration for joint EU projects.

Regional and local level

3.1.2 Local energy agencies active in climate mitigation

Local and regional collaboration around climate change mitigation, especially in sustainable energy management, was accelerated in Bulgaria with the establishment of local and regional energy agencies in the early 2000s, which was mainly supported by EU funds.

Sofia Energy Agency (SOFENA)

- Established in 2001 under the SAVE II Program of the European Union and founded, among others, by Sofia Municipality, the State Energy Efficiency Agency and the Sofia district heating utility 'Toplofikacia'.
- The agency takes care of Sofia Municipality's sustainable energy management - from energy planning to preparing sustainable energy investment projects, organising transfer of know-how, investigating technical solutions and organising stakeholder cooperation and participation in relevant EU projects.

Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP)

- The Energy Agency of Plovdiv was established in 2000 with the aim of promoting EE and RES on regional and local levels.



- EAP promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, develops action plans and performs feasibility studies promoting sustainable energy development. EAP also develops energy concepts and projects for municipalities and for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), arranges financing, and provides expertise and consultation.

Black Sea Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Energy Management ([BSRAEM](#))

- BSRAEM is a voluntary organisation, whose activities cover the territory of the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast by means of collaboration with the Agency for Sustainable Energy Development and the regional energy centres in Bulgaria.
- It assists primarily smaller local authorities in their in-house energy conservation as an example to other bodies; provides information and public awareness, campaigns on energy conservation and development of RES and assists private developers and SMEs in realisation of energy management projects.

3.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No national or regional actor facilitates general climate collaboration between cities or collaboration related to the Cities Mission. However, cities find that the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA) could be potential actors for the coordination of such collaborations. The Bulgarian Government is planning to establish an Advisory Council on the European Green Deal and the adoption process of the operational rules of the Council is currently under discussion.

According to the provisions of the [Energy Efficiency Act \(ZEE\)](#) and [Renewable Energy Sources Act \(ZEVI\)](#) the local authorities should allocate funds (no minimum threshold set) for the implementation of short-term and long-term plans/programmes for energy efficiency and responsible energy sources in their objects and territories. As the municipal budgets are severely limited, targeted funds for climate are rarely allocated or planned on a longer term. Some national funds are also available for municipal projects:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund (FEEVI): The fund provides financing, co-financing or guarantees to other financial institutions for energy efficiency investments.
- National Trust EcoFund (NTEF): The objective of the fund is to manage the proceeds from the debt-for-environment and debt-for-nature swaps, from international trading in assigned amount units and the National Green Investments Scheme.
- Fund for Local Authorities and Governments: Supports Bulgarian municipalities and public companies in extending and developing local infrastructure, providing public services and creating sustainable local authorities.
- Sustainable Cities Fund: Has the specific purpose to manage and implement the functions of an Urban Development Fund.
- Regional Urban Development Fund (JESSICA): Through this fund, Bulgaria has allocated part of its EU Structural Funds for investments in projects for sustainable urban development and regeneration ('Integrated Plans'). The Regional Urban Development Fund has signed an Operational Agreement with the EIB (European Investment Bank). The scope of the fund's activity is investment in urban development projects in the six largest Bulgarian cities outside Sofia, namely Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Rousse and Pleven.



4 Croatia



Figure 4: Croatia country snapshot

4.1 Climate city collaboration in Croatia

National level

4.1.1 Associations and initiatives supporting climate change mitigation in Croatia

The Association of Croatian Cities

The [Association of Croatian Cities](#) gathers all Croatian cities and has promoted the Cities Mission objectives and calls through dissemination activities. The association also disseminates information related to EU calls for proposals, such as the EU Cities Facility (EUCF).

- **Cities involved:** 127 municipalities
- **Activities:** The association monitors the Croatian jurisdiction and assesses the effects of laws and regulations on local self-government; provides its opinions and proposals; and lobbies for changes in laws relevant to local self-governance. It also organises gatherings and meetings to discuss common problems of cities as units of local self-government.

Association for Sustainable Community Development (ODRAZ)

The Association for Sustainable Community Development ([ODRAZ](#)) has a thematic focus on urban mobility, development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and re-establishing rural-urban connections. The association currently has a joint project with the City of Zagreb on sustainable mobility.



- **Cities involved:** 75 municipalities
- **Activities:** Provides regional support for sustainable development and sustainable mobility in cities in Croatia and the Western Balkans.

Regional level

4.1.2 North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency

The North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency ([REGEA](#)) is the largest and most active energy agency in Croatia. The agency's main objective and role is to promote and encourage regional sustainable development in the fields of energy and environmental protection through renewable energy sources utilisation and energy efficiency measures implementation.

- **Activities:** REGEA coordinates several sustainable energy projects; creates long-term strategies, national and local programmes and action plans in the field of energy and climate, for example national strategies, smart city strategies, Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs); supports the development and implementation of national, regional, and local investment projects in the field of energy; promotes and implements best practices and case studies in regional energy management; and provides advisory support for the implementation of regional energy plans and programmes.

4.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

Although no dedicated national funding or coordination of cities has been set up as a response to the Cities Mission, ministries provide some support to the Cities Mission objectives through their ordinary funding activities. One example of such funding is the Croatian Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund managed by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. However, in the past two years, there were no financial support available for cities as funds had to be re-shifted due to the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection was merged into the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development after the last national elections, which led to a decreased focus on environmental issues.



5 Cyprus

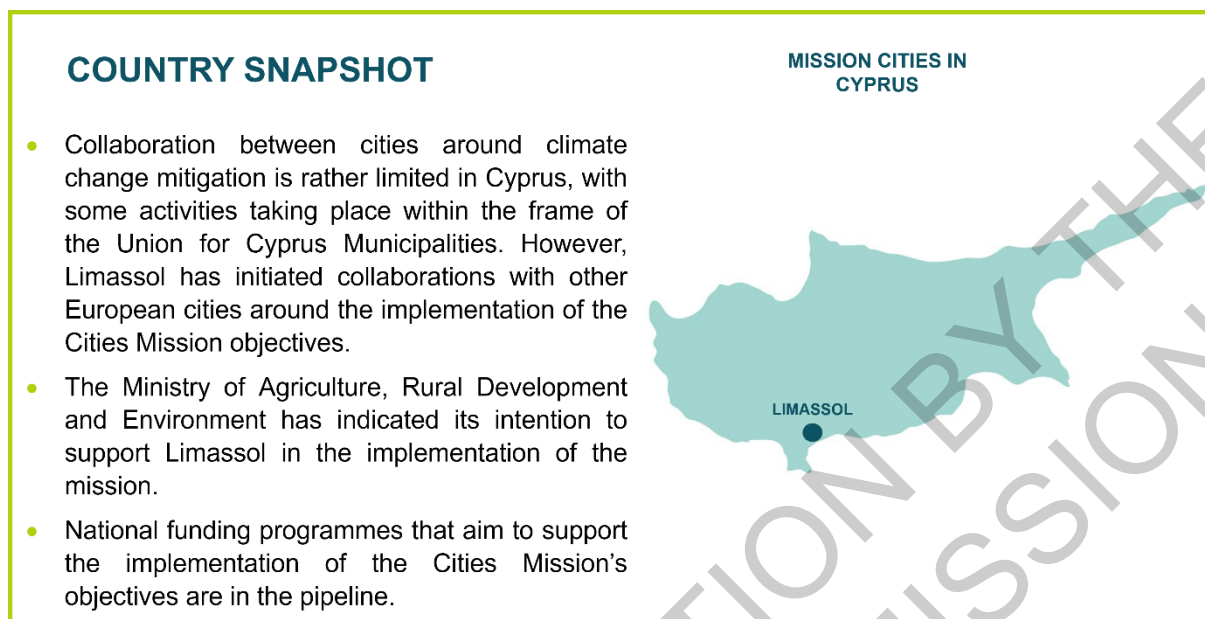


Figure 5: Cyprus country snapshot

5.1 Climate city collaboration in Cyprus

National level

5.1.1 The Union of Cyprus Municipalities

The [Union of Cyprus Municipalities](#) is the main association of Local Authorities in Cyprus. The union's most important function is to promote the interests of Cyprus' municipalities in all national forums, the most important being the Government and the House of Representatives, and international forums, such as the European Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Council of European Communities and Regions.

Additionally, the union works to strengthen the political, administrative and financial autonomy and independence of the municipalities; identifies common problems and possibilities for the municipalities in order to draw up policies and strategies; monitors and promotes legislation of interest to the municipalities; and promotes the exchange of good practices and the development of long-term partnerships with other European municipalities.

The monitoring of relevant legislation and the active intervention in legislative processes is a key activity of the union to promote the improvement and modernisation of legislation and to expand and improve the range and level of services that municipalities offer to their citizens.

Environmental issues are one of the areas that the municipalities are collaborating on within the frame of the union, as the protection of the environment and the collection and disposal of household waste is one of the core competencies of the municipalities. As the coordinating body of the municipalities, the Union participates in public debates and hearings that are organised by the Department of the Environment, the Environmental Impact Assessment Board, the Environment Commissioner, the



Ministry of Interior, the Department of Agriculture and other authorities to express the views of the municipalities.

- **Cities involved:** 39 municipalities

5.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment has indicated its intention to support the implementation of the Cities Mission, and the Limassol Municipality is currently working on framing the support it requires from the national level. Further, the ministry has informed Limassol that there are planned national funding programmes that aim to support the implementation of the Cities Mission's objectives and that the Limassol Municipality will be eligible to apply for these funds to support the implementation of different actions.

6 Czech Republic

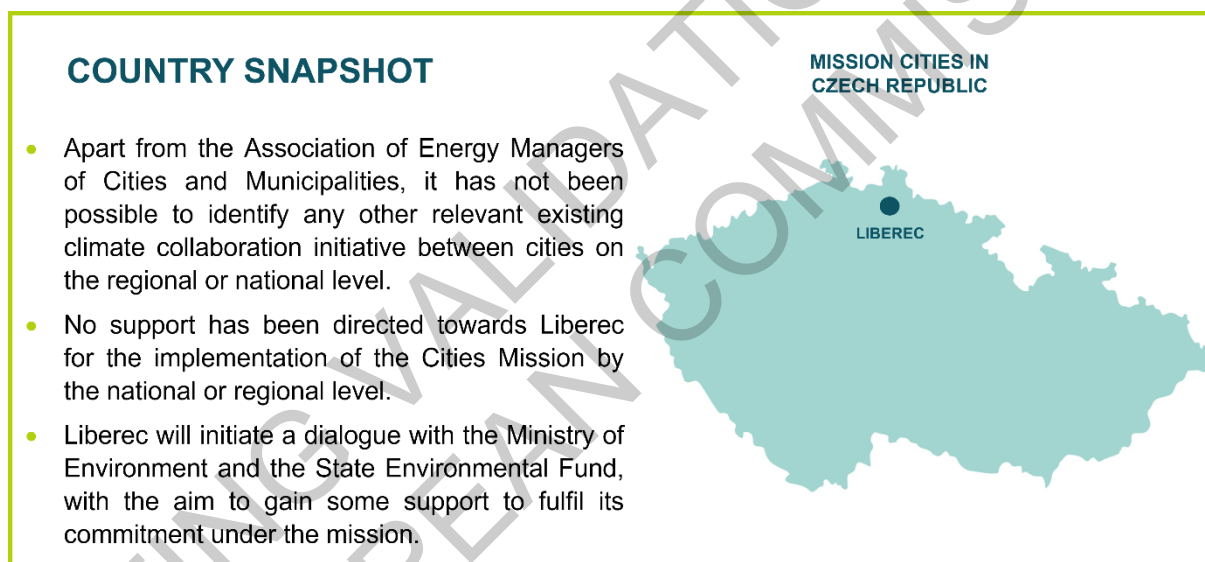


Figure 6: Czech Republic country snapshot

6.1 Climate city collaboration in Czech Republic

National level

6.1.1 Association of Energy Managers of Cities and Municipalities

The Association of Energy Managers of Cities and Municipalities ([SEMMO](#)) is an association of towns and municipalities interested in the implementation of energy-saving measures, the use of renewable resources, or related solutions in transport. The aim of this association is to create a platform where municipalities and professional partners are able to exchange information on sustainable energy and



transports fields and promote their interests and needs at a national level; educate cities and municipalities through seminars and conferences; involve cities and municipalities in innovative projects and activities; promote effective partnerships between cities and expert partners; and defend independence and strive for cities and municipalities' competitiveness.

- **Cities involved:** 22 – Brno, Hradec Králové, Kolín, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Prague 7, Prague 12, Týnec nad Sázavou, Mělník, Žďár nad Sázavou, Chodov, Kurím, České Budějovice, Mníšek pod Brdy, Pelhřimov, Kralupy nad Vltavou, Milevsko, Bílina, Litoměřice, Děčín, Břeclav, Tábor and Letohrad
- **Coordinator:** SEMMO General Assembly
- **Activities:** Disseminate examples of good practices; educate Czech cities and municipalities in the field of sustainable energy and transport through seminars and conferences; production of an annual report that lists the activities and sets the agenda for the coming year of the association, publishing articles, and contribute to the efficient management of cities and municipalities. SEMMO is also in charge of communication and coordination of the European City Facility (EUCF) national network.

6.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission is not visible enough in the country as Liberec is the only Czech city that applied and was selected to be part of the Mission. No structural funds have been allocated to support the Mission at the national level and, so far, there has not been any other support offered to cities from national agencies or ministries. However, the municipality of Liberec will initiate a dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and the State Environmental Fund to cooperate with them in supporting the city to be able to fulfil its commitment under the Mission.

Even though there is no dedicated funding programme to support the Mission, there is a national funding programme from the State Environmental Fund, called [New Green Savings Programme](#), which is focused on energy savings in family houses and apartment buildings. Applicants must be owners or builders of family houses and apartment houses (both individual and legal entities) and they can save up to 50% of the total eligible expenses. From 2014 to 2021 there were 77,000 beneficiaries from its support (counting a total of 11 billion CZK).



7 Denmark

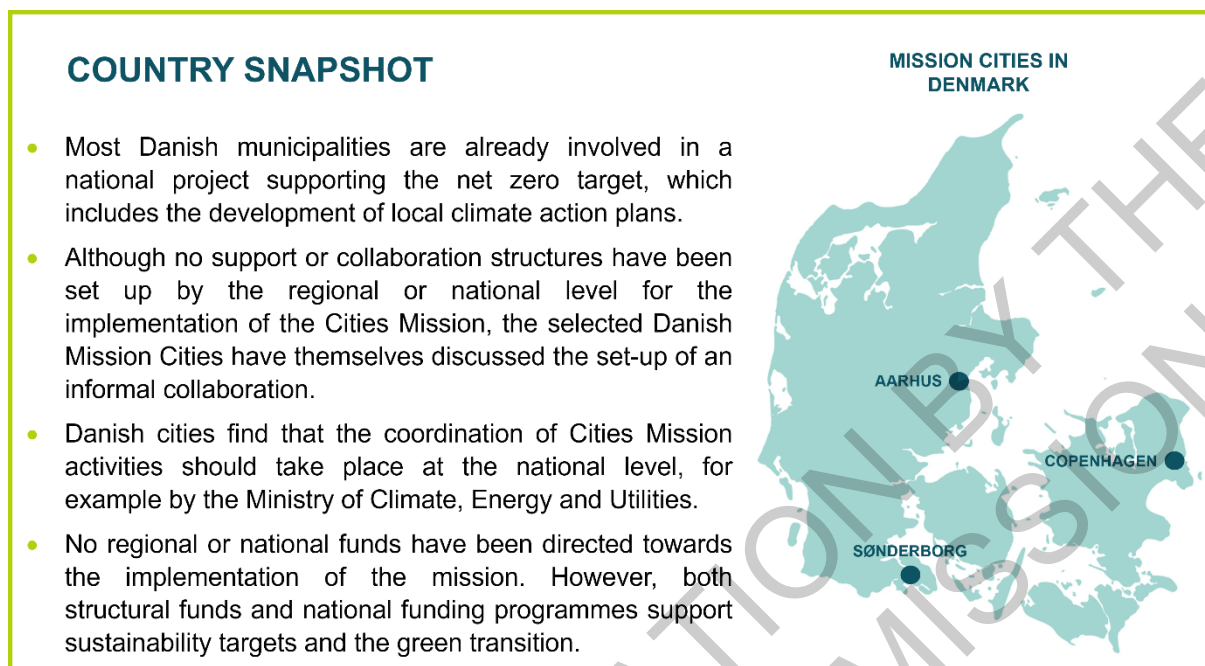


Figure 7: Denmark country snapshot

7.1 Climate city collaboration in Denmark

National level

7.1.1 DK2020

[DK2020](#) is a project that gives Danish municipalities the opportunity to seek advice and support to develop local climate action plans that live up to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The climate action plans focus on all sectors within the municipalities' geographical area and will define how the municipalities will become climate neutral and climate resilient by at latest 2050. Each municipality applying to become part of DK2020 must submit a letter signed and approved by the City Council and the Mayor, committing the municipality to develop and support a climate action plan that meets the Paris Agreement objectives. When developing the action plan, the Danish municipalities must work with the same standards for climate planning that are used by the cities in the global city network C40 – the Climate Action Planning Framework. To this date, 20 local climate plans have been developed, while the rest should be finalised in 2023.

- **Cities involved:** 96 Danish municipalities are part of the initiative
- **Project manager:** Denmark's green think tank CONCITO
- **Project partners:** Local Government Denmark, Realdania, C40 and the five Danish regions
- **Activities:** DK2020 provides technical assistance and support to municipalities to develop their climate action plans. The project also supports collaboration around climate issues between the involved municipalities. The Local Government Denmark has created an overview of concrete



initiatives that municipalities with approved climate action plans have put forward as well as their finalised climate action plans, which can serve as inspiration for other municipalities.

7.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

Neither the regional nor the national level have so far offered any support to the selected and/or non-selected Mission Cities in Denmark or set up any collaboration structures for the Cities Mission. However, the selected Mission Cities have themselves been in contact to discuss an informal collaboration. Although no regional or national funding has been directed towards the implementation of the Mission, structural funds in Denmark support general sustainability targets and several Danish funding programmes support the green transition, both of which are in line with the overall Mission objectives.

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science, which is acting as a National Contact Point (NCP) for the Horizon Europe Missions, organised information seminars before the Expression of Interest for the Cities Mission had opened, to inform cities about the Mission and the possibility to apply for it. The former Mission Manager, Matthew Baldwin, participated in one of these meetings. The seminars were attended by the cities of Copenhagen, Sønderborg, Frederiksberg, Odense and Vejle together with representatives of the regional EU offices.

However, since the announcement of the cities selected for the Cities Mission, no further support has been offered by the regional or national level. Danish cities find that the coordination of activities related to the Cities Mission should be facilitated at the national level, for example by the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities. This support could for example include coordination of city collaboration around the Cities Mission; knowledge exchange and support with creating a Climate City Contract; targeted advice on possibilities within the Mission such as funding opportunities; and assistance in linking mission activities with national ambitions and opportunities.

8 Estonia

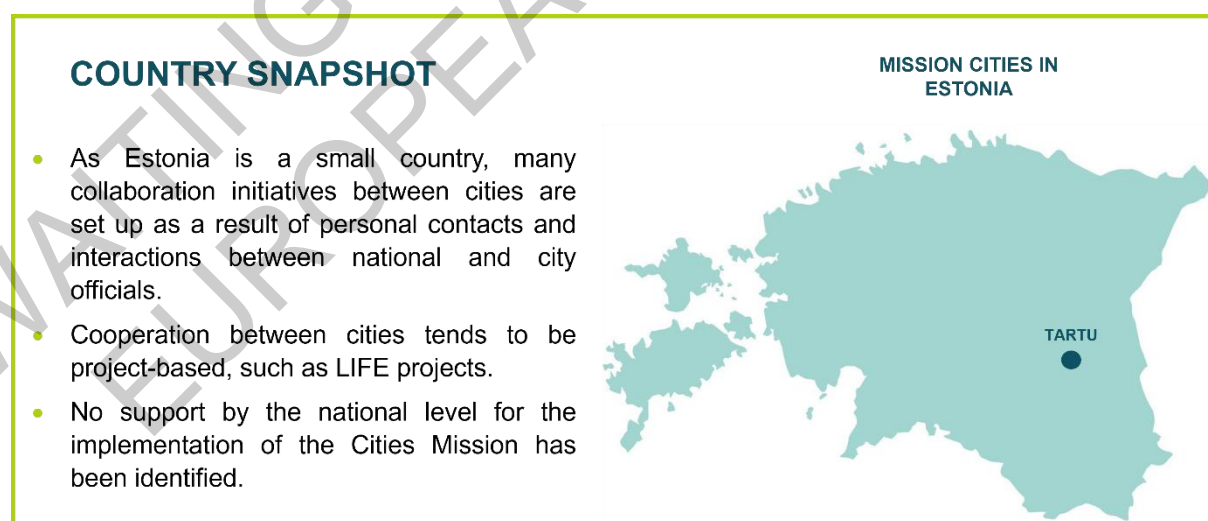


Figure 8: Estonia country snapshot

8.1 Climate city collaboration in Estonia

National level

8.1.1 Interaction between city officials

As Estonia is a small country, many collaboration initiatives between cities are set up as a result of personal contacts and interactions between officials on the national and local level.

- **Activities:** Collaboration for example around innovating and piloting renovation services, boosting energy communities and regional public transportation. Generally, cooperation is project-based (for example through LIFE projects) and does not come from high administration or political level cooperation. Therefore, activities and results are different depending on each collaboration.

8.1.2 LIFE integrated project ‘Pursuing Estonian national climate ambition through smart and resilient renovation’

The aim of the [LIFE integrated project ‘Pursuing Estonian national climate ambition through smart and resilient renovation’](#) is to develop and implement the necessary tools for the full implementation of Estonia’s long-term reconstruction of the building strategy. The main objective of the project is to ensure that environmental and climate issues are closely linked to the development of the built environment. There are 18 project partners (three ministries, two universities, three public authorities, three cities and seven other umbrella or professional associations).

- **Cities involved:** 3 – Tartu, Võru, Rakvere
- **Coordinator:** Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
- **Activities:** Mapping of the situation related to buildings, impact analyses, development of policies, design of measures; development of technical solutions for the reconstruction of buildings; piloting on different types of buildings and in innovative ways; solutions to ensure the resilience of the built environment to a changing climate; solutions to minimise waste generation and environmentally conscious renovations, including recycling, during the Renovation Wave in Estonia; implementation of smart solutions and development of digital tools to enhance the implementation of the long-term reconstruction strategy (e-construction platform – building logbook, renovation passport); increasing the capacity and market demand for renovations of key stakeholders in renovations.

8.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No dedicated national or regional support towards the implementation of the Cities Mission has been identified in Estonia. According to some cities, the actor facilitating such activities should be the Ministry of Science and Education.



9 Finland

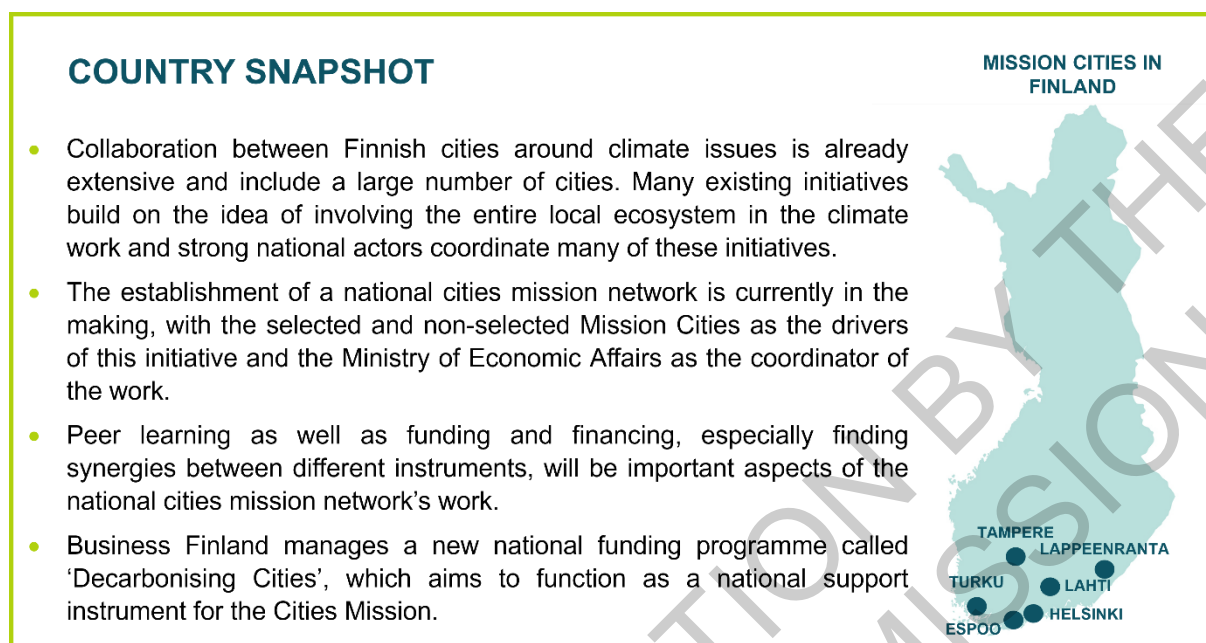


Figure 9: Finland country snapshot

9.1 Climate city collaboration in Finland

National level

9.1.1 Six Cities

Six Cities ([6Aika](#)) is a joint strategy for sustainable urban development between Finland's six largest cities. The cities collaborated through the 6Aika Strategy between 2014-2022. The strategy aimed to respond to the challenges that urbanisation brings by making cities smarter and able to provide citizens with services that meet their needs. During the 2014-2020 funding period, 6Aika funded common ERDF projects on sustainable urban development, employment and competence. Through these projects, the six cities collaborated on and solved development challenges together with each other, companies, residents and R&D&I organisations. All projects involved at least two of the six cities.

- **Cities involved:** 6 – Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku and Oulu
- **Coordinator:** 6Aika Secretariat in the 2014-2020 funding period
- **Activities:** During the 2014-2020 funding period, 6Aika funded common ERDF projects for smart and sustainable cities. For the current funding period (2021-2027), 6Aika has no specific resources, but regular meetings are organised in different configurations, for example between Climate and Environment Directors, Mayors and Development Directors, to exchange information as well as webinars to share the results of the common projects.



9.1.2 Innovation Ecosystem Agreements

The Finnish State has signed ERDF 2021-2027 [innovation ecosystem agreements](#) with 16 urban areas to strengthen innovation activities. The objective of the agreements is to build innovation ecosystems, that is to intensify cooperation within networks, strengthen key competences and increase effectiveness of RDI activities. The content of the agreements is based on the local strengths of the urban areas as each area has defined its own key priorities. However, they all relate to the comprehensive and current topics of carbon reduction, digital technology, and well-being and health.

Through the ecosystem agreements, the Finnish Government aims to make Finland the most effective environment for experiments and innovations in the world by 2030. The ecosystem agreements between the State and cities are also an integral part of the new partnership model of the national RDI roadmap, which aims to strengthen RDI cooperation between the public and private sectors.

- **Urban areas:** 16 – Lappeenranta including Imatra; Kuopio; Turku; Tampere; Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa; Oulu; Joensuu; Lahti; Jyväskylä; Vaasa; Seinäjoki; Mikkeli; Pori; Kokkola; Kajaani including Sotkamo; and Rovaniemi
- **Leading ministry:** Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

9.1.3 Finnish Sustainable Communities

Finnish Sustainable Communities ([Fisu](#)) is a network of eleven Finnish municipalities committed to working towards becoming carbon neutral and waste-free and curbing overconsumption by 2050. Each municipality builds a vision and roadmap to achieve the goals of the network together with businesses and other local operators. While doing this, they identify new ways of working and collaboration. The idea is to strengthen the municipal and regional economy, to create jobs and to promote sustainable well-being. The coordinators of the Fisu network - the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Motiva - form a service centre that supports the Fisu municipalities in this work and that conveys topical information and competence to the municipalities and other interest groups.

An Advisory Board is guiding the operations of the network and is, in addition to SYKE and Motiva, made up of the following cooperation partners: SITRA (Finnish Innovation Fund), the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Kuntaliitto), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, and representatives of the network municipalities.

- **Cities involved:** 11 – Forssa, Hyvinkää, Ii, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Riihimäki, Turku and Vaasa
- **Coordinator:** The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Motiva
- **Activities:** The network provides guidance for the development of the roadmap and advice on sustainable solutions. Additionally, it provides advice on funding for projects, best practices, tools as well as expert support for monitoring the impact of the roadmap by identifying, adopting and monitoring indicators. Fisu also organises meetings for the network members twice per year.

9.1.4 Hinku Network

The [Hinku](#) network brings together municipalities, businesses, citizens and experts to create and carry out solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The municipalities involved are committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more extensively and rapidly than EU targets require – a 80% reduction in



greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 levels by 2030. The network aims to create solutions that have economic and social benefits as well as environmental advantages.

The municipal authorities involved in the Hinku network work together with business representatives, local residents, research institutes and experts to devise and tailor new cost-effective solutions to reduce emissions, especially in the contexts of transportation, housing and energy.

- **Cities involved:** 83 municipalities and five regions
- **Coordinator:** The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
- **Activities:** The network supports municipalities' climate work by facilitating knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices as well as by organising networking opportunities for the involved stakeholders. Additionally, Hinku support municipalities in the planning and preparation of individual climate projects and provides emissions calculation services and tools.

9.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has taken the lead to coordinate the forming of a national cities mission network in Finland. A national mission expert group has been created to support this work which, in addition to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, includes the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Additionally, the Finnish partners in the NetZeroCities and CapaCITIES projects³ play an important role in the set-up of this network. The future national cities mission network would be coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

A first webinar to discuss the national cities mission network was organised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in March 2022. The aim of this meeting was to map the roles of different national organisations and programmes in supporting the Cities Mission implementation and to draft targets for the Finnish cities mission network. Initiatives that were identified as important for supporting the national mission work were the CapaCITIES project, the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the NetZeroCities project and the 'Decarbonized Cities' programme by Business Finland.

A second meeting was organised in May, gathering the national expert group, representatives of the supporting initiatives, the six selected Mission Cities (Turku, Tampere, Helsinki, Espoo, Lahti and Lappeenranta) and the three non-selected cities (Vantaa, Joensuu and Vaasa) as well as the former Cities Mission Manager Matthew Baldwin. In this meeting, the discussion on the role, purpose and targets of the national cities mission network continued, as well as the discussion on the Finnish cities' expectations and suggested priorities for the network. A third meeting was organised in September between the national expert group, the cities and the Finnish NetZeroCities partners to continue these discussions.

The discussions demonstrated that it will be important to involve all Finnish cities interested in achieving the goal of the Cities Mission in the network. Therefore, peer learning among the cities will be an important aspect of the national network. Additionally, funding and financing could, to some extent, also be part of the work of the national network, especially as there is a recognition that the Cities Mission can be used to link many different instruments. Further, the investment plans have been flagged as a priority where collaboration and support will be needed.

No structural funds have been directed towards supporting the implementation of the Cities Mission. However, the innovation ecosystem agreements (ERDF sustainable urban development 2021-2027) will provide funding for projects that support the Mission, for example projects focused on sustainability and

³ The NetZeroCities project partners are: VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and Demos Helsinki. The following institutions are Associated Partners to the CapaCITIES project: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Aalto University Foundation, University of Vaasa and the Finnish Innovation Fund.



digitalisation. Business Finland is managing a new national programme called '[Decarbonized Cities](#)', which has a budget of around €30 million in the first call and which aims to function as a national support instrument to the Cities Mission.

10 France

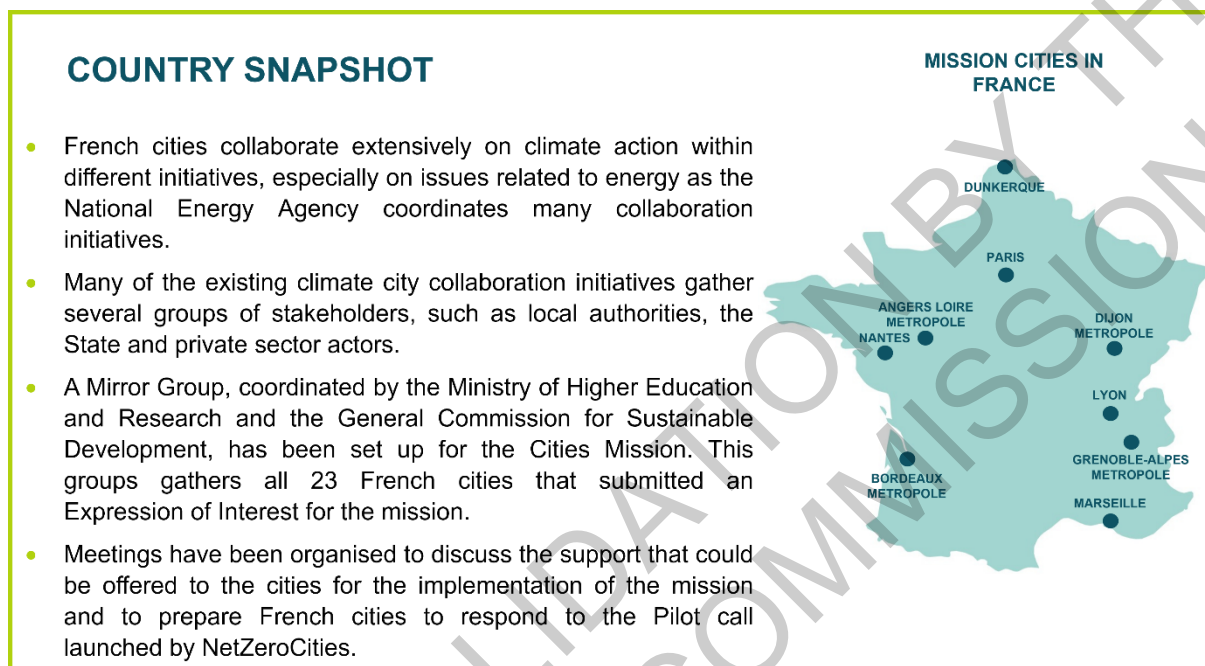


Figure 10: France country snapshot

10.1 Climate city collaboration in France

National level

10.1.1 Urban France

Urban France ([France Urbaine](#)) is an association for metropolises, urban communities, urban communities and large cities. The association aims to connect its members and promote the exchange of ideas and good practices, as well as to represent them in contacts with actors involved in decision-making processes. It hosts working groups and project groups on various topics related to climate change mitigation, for example mobility, energy, citizen participation and urban planning. Every year, it organises a two-day event gathering cities, policymakers, and members of the national government to meet and discuss key topics linked to policy priorities. The event also presents an opportunity to organise study visits to learn how the host city is working on specific topics (for example, visiting an eco-neighbourhood, social housing renovation, etc).

- **Cities involved:** 2,000 municipalities
- **Activities:** Influencing actors involved in decision-making processes (for example, meetings with ministries, proposing measures to the national government to increase renovation);



exchange of best practices and ideas; promoting members' activities towards other members and external interlocutors; and experimenting with certain systems in the territories of the members, relating to themes to which the association is committed (for example, project groups on energy concessions, public innovation, citizen participation, etc).

10.1.2 Positive Energy Territories Network

The Positive Energy Territories Network ([Réseau des Territoires à énergie positive](#) - TEPOS) aims to bring together actors committed to the energy transition in pioneering territories that address the issue of energy in a global approach to local development. The network is made up of three types of structures: local authorities, project leaders, and stakeholders that support them (associations and specialised agencies, design offices, companies, etc).

The network focuses on the three principles of the negaWatt approach: sobriety, energy efficiency and renewable energies. Through participation in the network, members can capitalise on other territories' experiences; develop common tools and projects to support the territorial energy transition; and promote their input to institutions and public authorities, in order to improve the legislative, regulatory and financial frameworks on energy.

- **Members:** More than 150 local authorities, project leaders and stakeholders who support them (associations and specialised agencies, design offices, companies, etc).
- **Coordinator:** Network for Energy Transition (CLER)
- **Activities:** Meetings for elected officials and community agents; thematic working groups; production of best practices and reports; access to trainings; access to tools for local and regional authorities; and spaces for exchanges and discussions (dedicated [online website](#) where members can find news, testimonies and publications to help them replicate projects or engage in the network, and dedicated feed of exchange and discussions).

10.1.3 Sustainable City by France

Sustainable City by France ([France Ville Durable](#)) is an association that gathers local authorities; the State through several ministries, national agencies and other public institutions; companies; and experts together to accelerate the transition towards sustainable and resilient cities. The association represents a place for capitalisation, dissemination and support for the implementation of French expertise and know-how in the field of sustainable cities.

- **Local authorities and associations of local authorities involved:** Angers, Argentan Intercom, Bayonne, Bordeaux Métropole, Caen, Caux Seine Agglo, Dunkerque, Fécamp, Grenoble, Lyon Métropole, Montreuil, Pôle Métropolitain de l'Estuaire de la Seine, Rennes Métropole, Seine-Eure Agglo, Montrouge, Villers-sur-Mer and Intercommunalités de France.
- **Activities:** Promoting collaboration between the four groups of actors involved in the association to define and disseminate the best tools, practices and solutions to be used by other cities; sharing experiences and expertise to promote local projects; awareness raising activities for local elected representatives; training cycles for local staff; six working groups (digital and sustainable cities, wellbeing and sustainable territories, labels, budget, decarbonisation and resilience of urban logistic); and promoting partnership building with other actors.



10.1.4 Federation of Local Energy and Climate Agencies

The Federation of Local Energy and Climate Agencies ([FLAME](#)) gathers 40 local energy and climate agencies, that are active in eight main fields: information sharing; renewable energy development; directly advising citizens; supporting municipalities with their climate plans; supporting condominiums; supporting urban areas in energy renovations; fighting energy poverty; and decarbonising public buildings.

- **Local energy and climate agencies involved:** 40 (covering 6 661 municipalities)
- **Coordinator:** National Energy Agency (ADEME)
- **Activities:** Represent the French network of local energy and climate agencies through a single interlocutor towards national and European authorities; support local authorities in the creation of local energy and climate agencies; multiply the exchange of know-how between its members by coordinating working groups; sharing good practices to inspire other local authorities; and disseminate the expertise it capitalises on energy and climate issues.

10.1.5 National Platform 'Territories & Climate'

All cities/urban areas with more than 20,000 inhabitants must develop what is known as PCAETs (Climate, Air and Energy Territorial Plans). ['Territories & Climate'](#) is a national platform put forward by the National Energy Agency, ADEME, which gathers relevant resources and different advice opportunities for local governments for the realisation of their PCAETs. There are five steps in the preparation of a PCAET: 1) Prepare and mobilise within the local authorities, 2) Establish a territorial diagnosis, 3) Building a territorial strategy, 4) Drawing up an action plan, containing the actions to be implemented by the territory's actors (local authorities, companies, population, etc), 5) Monitor and evaluate the PCAET (the implementation period is six years).

- **Cities involved:** 821 local governments of which 113 are involved on a voluntary basis. In March 2022, 316 plans had been accepted.
- **Coordinator:** National Energy Agency (ADEME), Regional Directorate for Environment, Planning and Housing, and the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion
- **Activities:** Sharing of good practices and tools (how to do local heat plans, how to plan renovation, how to finance local climate policies, etc); open data (accessible map gathering initiatives linked to climate in France); and support to cities in the development of their plans (online guides and personalised support by a dedicated agent of the ADEME).

Regional and local level

10.1.6 'Building for the future, living in the future' association

The Île-de-France Region is the most densely populated area in France and faces numerous urban challenges, such as environmental issues and strong pressure on land use. The 'Building for the future, living in the future' ([Construire au Futur, Habiter le Futur](#) - CFHF) programme aims to respond to some of the major challenges of the region by designing spaces that adapt to changing needs and uses; promote good living together; developing the continuity of territorial services; integrating the



environmental transition of buildings; and supporting innovation and excellence in the building and construction sector.

To manage the CFHF programme, the consortium of 120 partners decided in 2020 to form an association with the mission to manage the programme but also to continue the momentum in order to meet the challenges.

- **Partners involved:** More than 120 partners consisting of public authorities and public institutions; universities, schools and training organisations; and private actors such as associations, professional federations, and companies from start-ups to large industrial groups.
- **Coordinator:** Île-de-France Region

10.1.7 Orbimob Clermont Auvergne

[Orbimob](#) is a regional initiative by the Clermont Auvergne urban area with the aim to become a reference centre by 2026 in the fields of education, research, experimentation and citizen mobilisation with regards to the implementation of effective and sustainable territorial mobility.

- **Urban areas involved:** 11 – Clermont Auvergne Metropolis, Cantal Department, Puy-de-Dôme Department, Clermont Vichy Auvergne Metropolitan Area, Puy-de-Dôme Prefecture, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Clermontois, Clermont-Ferrand, Le Puy-en-Velay, Communauté d'Agglomération du Bassin d'Aurillac and Vichy Communauté
- **Coordinator:** Clermont Auvergne University
- **Activities:** Training and upskilling, research, experimentation, stakeholder engagement, living labs, capacity building, knowledge sharing and upscaling of initiatives.

10.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

In France, a dedicated [Mirror Group](#) for the Cities Mission, the New European Bauhaus and the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership was set up by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, with the following objectives:

- Develop a scientific strategy and an implementation plan with all stakeholders
- Build and carry a French position with the support of the territories
- Mobilise both public and private R&I teams to respond effectively to calls for tenders

This group is open to all 23 French cities that submitted an expression of interest to join the Mission, with the aim to support all of the 23 cities to sustain their efforts and attain their objectives. The group is coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the General Commission for Sustainable Development. Other actors involved in the Mirror Group are France Urbaine, France Ville Durable, the French Network of Urban Planning Agencies, regions, the National Energy Agency (ADEME), the Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Centre for Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning (CEREMA), as well as other public agencies for urban and territorial transformations (National Agency for the Cohesion of Territories – ANCT; Plan, Urbanism, Construction, Architecture - PUCA, National Association for Research and Technology - ANRT).

Most of the Mirror Group's activities took place before the announcement of the 112 Mission Cities, and have included webinars to discuss the expression of interest, Horizon Europe calls relevant to the Cities Mission and different strategies for smart and sustainable cities. After the announcement of the Mission Cities, a first meeting was organised in April 2022 to discuss the type of support that could/should be



offered to the cities, such as info sessions, meetings with the European Commission, meetings dedicated to the exchange of best practices, etc. Additionally, the coordinators of the Mirror Group have organised meetings to prepare French cities to respond to the pilot call launched by NetZeroCities.

In June 2022, France signed a partnership agreement with the European Commission for an investment strategy worth €18.4 billion in cohesion policy funding for the period 2021-2027. Out of this, 37% of the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) must be dedicated to implementing the European Green Deal priorities in the country. Each region has a specific allocated amount, but there is no mention of a dedicated share of the fund for some specific urban areas, such as the cities selected for the Cities Mission. The partnership agreement does not mention either that a specific share should be used for the implementation of the Mission. However, regions use the ERDF for areas covered by the Mission objectives, such as energy renovations, sustainable energy production, development of energy systems/smart grids/energy storage, etc. Additionally, the 'ITI' scheme (Integrated Territorial Investment) is a support provided by the ERDF, covering broader policies linked to energy transition, environmental preservation and research and innovation. Most of the regions are using this tool in their regional programming.

11 Germany

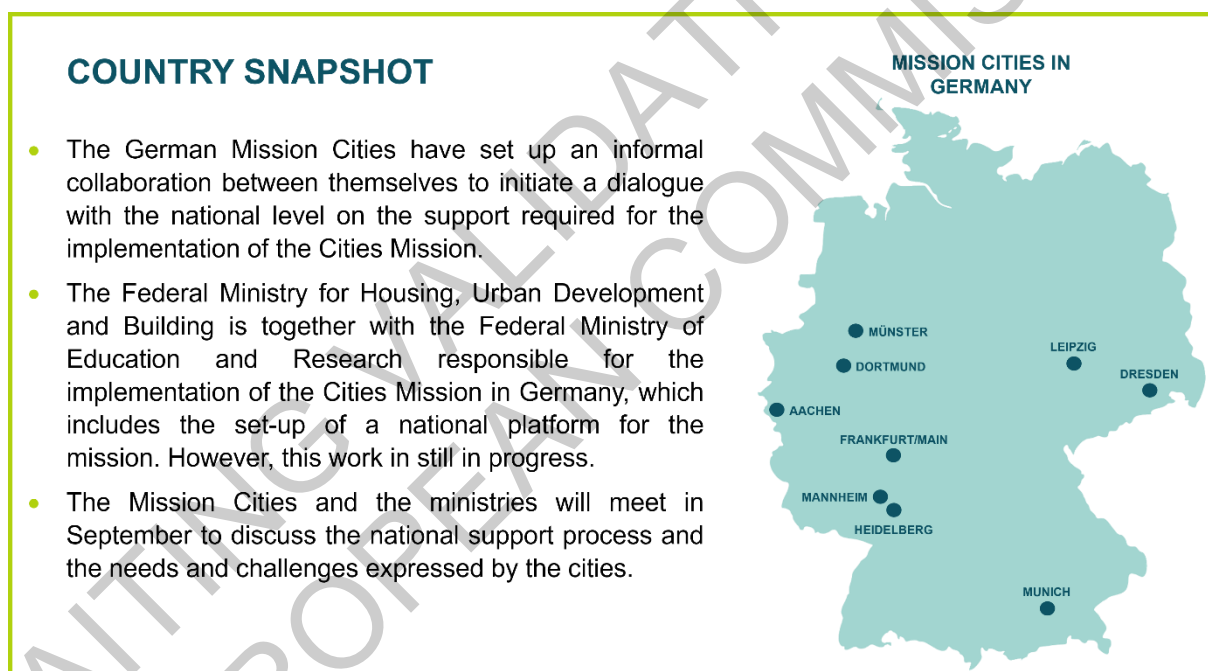


Figure 11: Germany country snapshot

11.1 Climate city collaboration in Germany

National level

11.1.1 Association of German Cities

The Association of German Cities ([DST](#)) is the municipal umbrella organisation that represents the interests of all autonomous cities and most county-affiliated cities in Germany. Numerous representatives of the cities are involved in the work of the association. Mayors, council members and full-time employees of the cities contribute their expertise in the association's board, executive committee, expert committees, working groups, conferences and advisory boards. The cities collaborate on several topics within the frame of the DST, including climate protection and energy, urban development and urban planning, environmental protection, buildings and mobility.

- **Cities involved:** Around 200 cities are direct members, whereas an additional 3,000 cities and municipalities belong indirectly to the association through its member associations.
- **Focus areas:** Some of the areas the work of the association focuses on are climate protection and energy, urban development and urban planning, and environmental protection.
- **Activities:** The association engages in dialogues with the Federal Government, the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), the Federal Council (Bundesrat), the European Union and numerous other organisations, exerts influence on law making and legislation and promotes local self-government. Additionally, best practices are provided for some of the topics that the municipalities collaborate on within the frame of the DST.

11.1.2 German Association of Towns and Municipalities

The German Association of Towns and Municipalities ([DStGB](#)) represents the interests of German cities and communities at state, federal and EU level. The association works independently of political parties and without state subsidies.

- **Cities involved:** 11,000 large, medium-sized and small municipalities are organised and networked through the association's 17 member associations.
- **Focus areas:** Some of the focus areas of the association's work include climate protection, mobility, urban development and housing, and energy transition.
- **Activities:** The association represents the interests of municipalities in political decision-making processed at federal and EU level and works on mobilising politicians and the public for local political interests through media work and events. Additionally, it coordinates information sharing and peer learning activities between its member associations and represents municipal interests in different central organisations.

11.1.3 Climate positive cities and communities

The '[Climate-positive cities and communities](#)' initiative was launched by the German Sustainable Building Council with the aim of supporting communities in the implementation of climate protection and sustainability more quickly, broadly and in a more targeted manner. The initiative supports an



implementation-oriented exchange of knowledge between the involved municipalities and addresses fields of action such as mobility, health, sustainable buildings and biodiversity, but also citizen engagement.

- **Cities involved:** 52 municipalities
- **Focus areas:** Climate protection and climate adaptation, including circularity, mobility, health, sustainable buildings, social participation, the water cycle and biodiversity.
- **Activities:** The key objective of the initiative is to facilitate knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices between the cities. The activities organised are therefore diverse and include seminars, workshops, training courses and city visits to promote exchange between cities. A common virtual platform provides an overview of approaches, successes and solutions of municipalities as well as materials from events and workshops.

11.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The German Mission Cities have set up an informal collaboration between themselves and reached out to the national level to initiate a dialogue on the support required for the implementation of the Cities Mission. The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building is together with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research working on the implementation of the Cities Mission in Germany, which includes the set-up of a national platform for the Mission. However, this work is still in progress and a timeline has not been communicated. The ministries would be in favour of opening up the national platform to cities outside the Mission.

During the 15th Federal Congress of National Urban Development Policy, taking place in September 2022, the cities and ministries will meet to discuss the national support process and the needs and challenges expressed by the cities.

12 Greece



Figure 12: Greece country snapshot

12.1 Climate city collaboration in Greece

National level

12.1.1 Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Network (Cities Pact)

The [Cities Pact](#) aims to speed up cities' transition to climate neutrality and digital transformation by 2030 within the framework of the Cities Mission and, at the same time, contribute to the recovery of cities' economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Cities involved:** 15 - Agrinion, Alexandroupolis, Central Corfu and Diapontia Islands, Heraklion, Ioannina, Kalamaria, Kalamata, Karditsa, Kozani, Larissa, Mytilene, Rethymnon, Thessaloniki, Trikala and the Association for the Development of Western Athens (Agia Varvara, Agioi Anargyroi – Kamatero, Egaleo, Ilion, Koridalos, Peristeri, Petroupoli, Fyli and Chaidari)
- **Coordinator:** Signatory Greek municipalities and the General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment from the Ministry of Energy and Environment. In the next months, a legal entity will be established to facilitate this collaboration as an executive office.
- **Activities:** The Cities Pact was set up at the national level to facilitate the collaboration of the participating Greek cities in the Cities Mission. The parties cooperate with each other to build collaboration between cities, national governmental authorities, non-governmental organisations, the business community, academia and citizens/civil society, and other Greek and/or European municipalities in the transition towards a climate neutral and smart future. In addition, when appropriate, the parties will work to develop mechanisms for engaging with the European Commission (EC) and national governmental authorities, as well as the broader municipal sector, on issues pertaining to a socially just twin green and digital transition to climate neutrality by 2030 and, more specifically, on issues identified in EC's Communication on European Missions and the national initiatives on adaptation and resilience to climate change. Moreover, the parties will promote climate-friendly communities and well-built sustainable urban design that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by allowing its people to live, work and shop in the same area such as allowing for more sustainable transportations. A Memorandum of Cooperation between Greek cities that applied to become a Mission City and the Ministry of Energy and Environment was signed in January 2022. Cities that signed the Memorandum committed to: i) implement environmental and sustainable policies aligned with the European Green Deal, ii) integrate Sustainable Development Goals policies locally to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; iii) protect biodiversity; iv) promote sustainable public procurement and circular economy; v) design cities around sustainable mobility principles, and vi) increase funds for sustainable investments. In February 2023, the Greece's Environment Ministry announced the creation of a green cities network, consisting of 85 Greek cities that signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aiming to help Greece achieving climate neutrality

12.1.2 CLIMATTICA

The aim of [CLIMATTICA](#), a network of municipalities and regions created in 2022, is to raise awareness of climate change and address the challenges by adopting circular economy strategies, marine waste management, environmental awareness, among others. The network aims to be a public consultation centre that will strengthen the dialogue between stakeholders (local authorities, civil society, private and public sector bodies, experts, etc). Among other things, it will provide advisory, scientific and research support to its members for the design and implementation of actions for adaptation to climate change, contribute to the formulation of documented policy proposals that it will submit to the competent bodies



at all levels, promote innovative partnerships between bodies and implement information and awareness actions for citizens.

- **Cities involved:** 4 regions (Attica, Crete, Eastern Macedonia-Thrace Attica and Western Greece), and 22 cities (Ag. Anargyron, Ag. Varvaras, St. Paraskevi, Argos, Aspropyrgos, Acharnon, Dionysos, Ithaki, Kea-Kythnos, Kozani, Kropias, Mandras-Idyllia, Megareon, Mykonos, Paiania, Palaio Faliros, Piraeus, Pylaia-Hortiatis, Rafina-Pikermio, Salamina, Saronikos and Oropos)
- **Coordinator:** Regional Council of Attica
- **Activities:** Exchange of information, data, knowledge, experiences and good practices of potential partners, which will function and act as a reliable interface, both among the members of the environmentally sensitive area of local communities, as well as at the level of decision-making.

12.1.3 Cooperation agreement of cities networks

In May 2022, a [cooperation agreement for actions and projects to protect from the consequences of the climate crisis](#) was signed between the Network of Cities with Lakes, the Greek Network of Municipalities with Rivers and the Network of Municipalities of Pindos Region.

- **Cities involved:** Each signatory network has its own member cities:
 - **Network of Cities with Lakes:** 43 cities from Greece, Cyprus and Albania
 - **Greek Network of Municipalities with Rivers:** 25 Greek municipalities that are linked by rivers
 - **Network of Municipalities of Pindos Region:** 11 local authorities (Municipalities of Meteora, Pyli, Mouzaki, Argithea, Plastiras Lake, Nikolaos Skoufas, Georgios Karaiskakis, Central Tzoumerka, Northern Tzoumerka, Amfilochia and Agrafa)
- **Coordinator:** Three networks of cities
- **Activities:** The cooperation agreement seeks to develop synergies for the implementation of projects and programmes, through domestic and European financial tools, in the field of energy saving and the protection of citizens and public and private property from the consequences of the climate crisis. It also foresees cooperation for the elaboration/update of the studies for the calculation of the carbon footprint of the municipalities, as well as for the drafting of Municipal Emissions Reduction Plans.

12.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission is visible both at the national and regional level in Greece. At the national level, the General Secretariat of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment (GSSPUE), from the Ministry of Energy and Environment, led the campaign. Meanwhile, at the regional level, municipalities along with local partners, such as the Municipality of Kozani and the Cluster of Bioeconomy and Environment of Western Macedonia, coordinated several awareness events such as the climate neutrality week - an awareness event with public speakers that is open to the public. Additionally, the GSSPUE and the Greek Mission Cities have published press releases and used social media to increase the visibility of the Mission.

The GSSPUE has been facilitating the collaboration between cities that applied to become a Mission City, after supporting Greek cities' participations in the Mission since April 2020. As mentioned, a



Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the cities that applied to become a Mission City and the Ministry of Energy and Environment.

In June 2022, a first meeting between mayors of the selected Greek Mission Cities (Athens, Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani, Thessaloniki and Trikala) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy took place. In the meeting, the following topics were discussed: financing of the project, legislative arrangements needed to implement the Mission, technical solutions to draft the Climate City Contracts and the communication policy to inform citizens, researchers and the market. Additionally, the GSSPUE prepared a roadmap of future activities, including a timeline, actions and working groups, to help cities get prepared for the second stage of the Cities Mission programme.

A grant of €500,000 was awarded to the Greek Mission Cities to cover their funding needs during the preparation phases (A and B) of the Mission. More specifically, the allocation of these funds is as follows: €100,000 for the Municipality of Athens, €80,000 for the Municipality of Thessaloniki and €65,000 for the Municipalities of Ioannina, Kalamata, Kozani and Trikala. The remaining €60,000 will be awarded to the Greek Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities Network, supporting actions of cities that have not been selected as Mission Cities.

13 Hungary

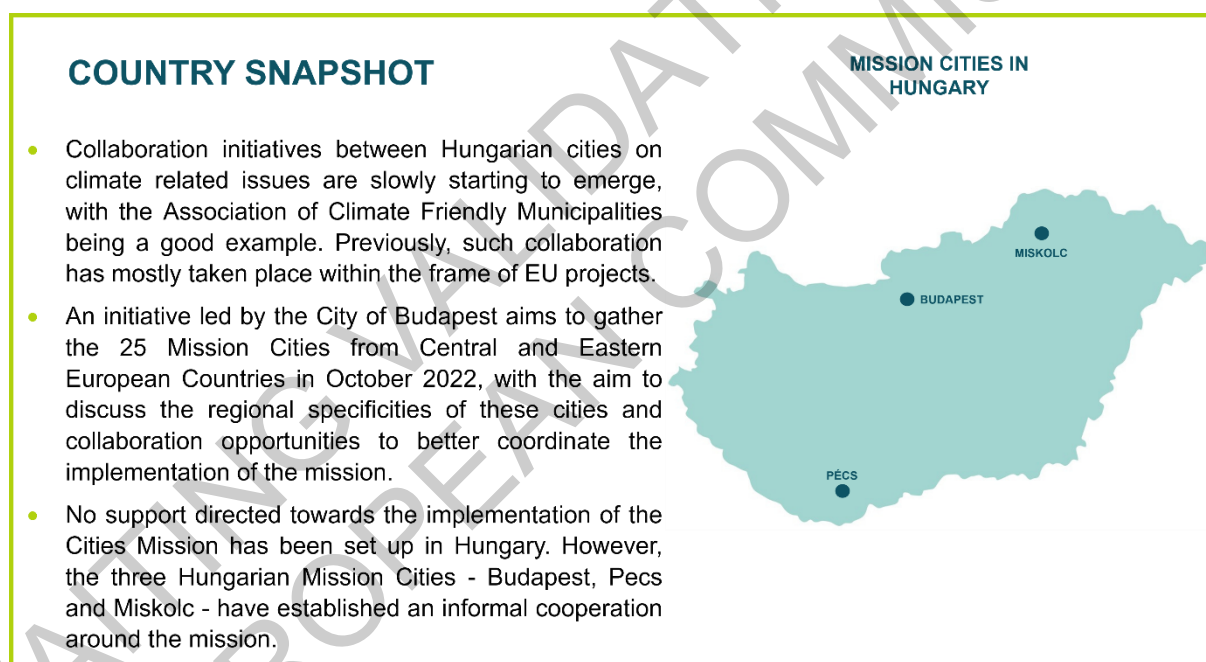


Figure 13: Hungary country snapshot

13.1 Climate city collaboration in Hungary

National level

There are several general national associations active in Hungary including the [TOOSZ](#) (National Association of Local Governments); [MOSZ](#) (Association of Hungarian Local Governments) and [MJVSZ](#) (Association of County-Centre Rights Municipalities). They represent municipal interests towards the



national government and keep their members informed on timely issues within Hungary and, in some cases, also EU developments affecting municipal funding. Climate and energy is not their key focus.

However, there is a thematic association active in Hungary and several Hungarian municipalities are also collaborating in different EU projects (H2020, LIFE and INTERREG) at the European and regional level. Some national NGOs are also assisting this work in municipalities such as [Energiaklub](#), advocating for the energy transition and facilitating municipalities' participation in EU funded projects, and the EUKI funded [Ready4NetZero](#) project.

13.1.1 Association of Climate Friendly Municipalities

Hungary's only thematic municipal association focused on climate is the Association of Climate Friendly Municipalities ('Klímaparát Települések Szövetsége' - [KBTSZ](#)). The association has promoted the Cities Mission and mobilised municipalities to apply for the Mission via a webinar in January 2022.

- **Cities involved:** 60 municipalities. Mostly smaller ones, but also seven out of the 23 Budapest municipalities are members.
- **Coordinator:** Budapest-XII District Municipality
- **Activities:** The association coordinates projects aiming at awareness raising, networking and assisting SECAP preparations, as well as organises workshops, webinars and conferences, mostly under EU projects such as Horizon 2020 or LIFE.

13.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No support directed towards the implementation of the Cities Mission has been set up in Hungary. However, the three Hungarian Mission Cities - Budapest, Pecs and Miskolc - have established an informal cooperation around the Mission. The City of Budapest has initiated a series of conferences - the Budapest Forum - dedicated to local democracy and aims to dedicate the 2022 edition to the energy crisis and climate cooperation between Mission Cities from Central and Eastern European Countries. By inviting the 25 Mission Cities from Central and Eastern European Countries out of the 112 Mission Cities, the municipality aims to call attention to the regional specificities of these cities and promote their collaboration in order to better coordinate the implementation of the Mission.

Press releases following the announcement of the 112 Mission Cities only highlighted the European level support under the Horizon Europe programme for 2022-2023. Municipalities have gained subsidies for the energy efficiency renovations of public buildings or renewable energy installations on public buildings under different operational programmes of the European Structural and Investment Funds, which support the Mission objectives.



14 Ireland

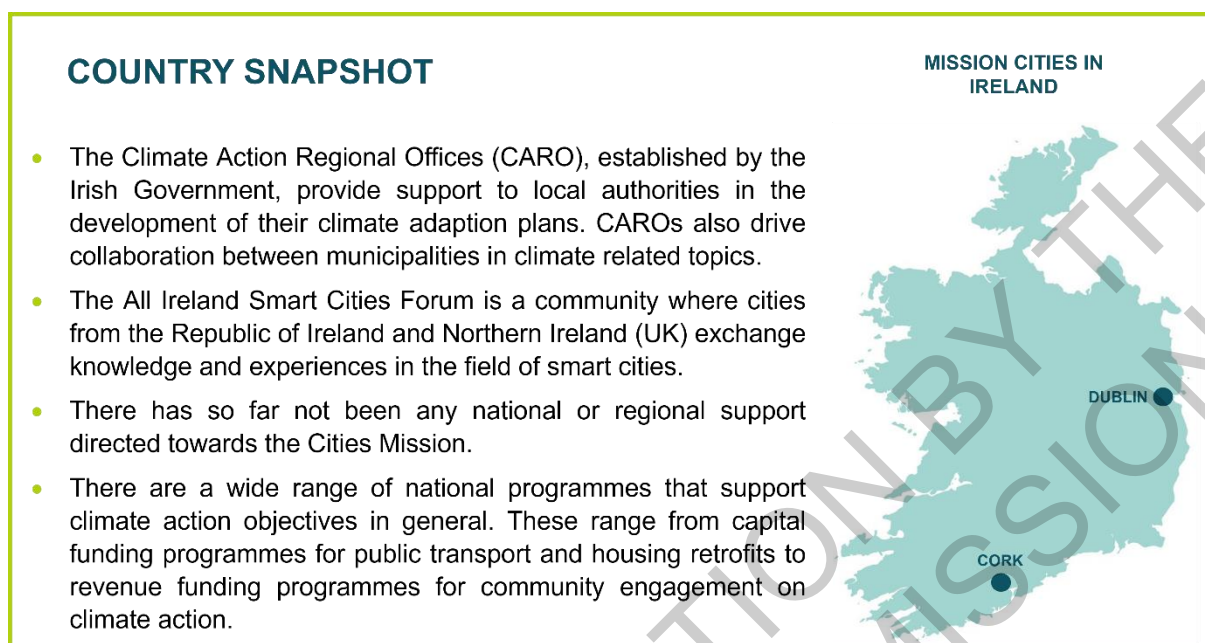


Figure 14: Ireland country snapshot

14.1 Climate city collaboration in Ireland

National level

14.1.1 Climate Action Regional Offices

The Irish Government has established four [Climate Action Regional Offices \(CAROs\)](#) to assist local authorities in developing climate adaptation plans. The CAROs facilitate collaboration amongst the local authorities across areas of mutual interest, such as transport, citizen engagement, nature-based solutions, flooding, etc.

- **Cities involved:** In each CARO, there are several cities included.
 - **Dublin Metropolitan CARO:** 4 - Dublin City Council and the Local Authorities of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin
 - **Atlantic Seaboard South CARO:** 5 - Local Authorities of Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City and Cork County
 - **Atlantic Seaboard North CARO:** 5 - Local Authorities of Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway County and Galway City
 - **Eastern & Midlands CARO:** 17 - Local Authorities of Carlow, Cavan, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow



- **Coordinator:** The creation of the CAROs was driven by the Local Government Management Agency and City and County Managers Association.
- **Activities:** The CAROs work with local authorities to deliver climate policies and behavioural changes within their own organisations and empowering citizens and enterprise to embrace the need for climate action. CAROs have embarked on a national climate action training programme that has been developed with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The LGMA has also been instrumental in establishing a Local Government Climate Action Charter. The Dublin Metropolitan CARO has collaborated on the first Dublin Climate Action Week, the Dublin Regional EV strategy, and the Smart Dublin Open Data Challenge for Climate Action.

14.1.2 All Ireland Smart Cities Forum

The [All Ireland Smart Cities Forum](#) is a community of practice focused on the deployment of smart city programmes/agendas in cities of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The forum is made up of city officials with proven expertise and experience in smart cities. The All Ireland Smart Cities Forum covers different topics within the Smart City concept (environment, economy, living and housing, governances, mobility and citizens).

- **Cities involved:** 11- local authority representation from Cork, Dublin (all four local authorities), Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Belfast, Derry and Newry.
- **Coordinator:** Maynooth University
- **Activities:** The Forum activities are focused on developing and providing better, more efficient and more accessible public services; promoting innovative solutions to both existing and upcoming challenges that affect citizens, businesses and visitors; improving economic activity by creating an ecosystem that identifies and attracts opportunities for investors; and increasing collaboration and engagement between local authorities, academia, businesses and other citizen and international organisations. Member cities work together to share insights, support collaborative research and advise stakeholders on collective city priorities. Members also work together to identify common challenges when implementing Smart Cities programmes. The Forum organizes webinars and conferences and promotes funding opportunities from different organisations that can be interesting for the members (for example, Horizon Europe calls). The Forum is also part of the Nordic-Irish partnership for Smart Cities, launched in 2019, which is a partnership between Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, aiming to strength the collaboration between the regions to find new, smart and sustainable solutions to address challenges cities are facing.

14.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

There has not been any type of support by the national or regional level directed towards the Cities Mission. However, press releases following the announcements of the 112 selected Mission Cities suggested there would be future support from the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.



15 Italy

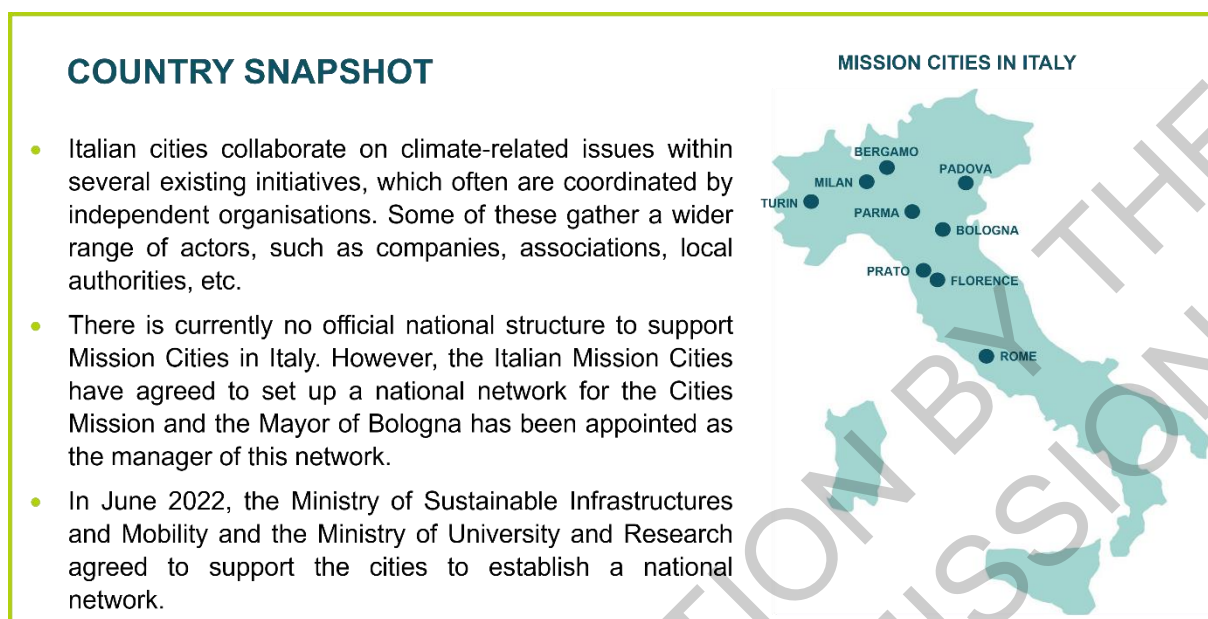


Figure 15: Italy country snapshot

15.1 Climate city collaboration in Italy

National level

15.1.1 Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane

The association “[Coordinamento Agende 21](#)” aims to promote the process of Local Agenda 21 in urban areas in Italy. Local Agenda 21 is a voluntary process of local community consultation with the aim to create local policies and programmes that work towards achieving sustainable development. It encompasses awareness raising, capacity building, community participation and the formation of partnerships, to make development sustainable by integrating economic, social and environmental aspects into it. Coordinamento Agende 21 is divided into four working groups: Territorial Forum, Green Economy Forum, Quality of Life Forum, and Smart City Forum.

- **Urban areas involved:** 11 regions, 44 provinces and 244 cities
- **Coordinator:** Coordinamento Agende 21
- **Activities:** Promotion of sustainable local plans, raising awareness and sharing information; promoting the principles and practice of sustainable development and Local Agenda 21; encourage and enhance the exchange of information to develop Local Agenda 21; monitor, collect, disseminate and enhance studies, research, good practices and positive experiences of sustainable development and Local Agenda 21; promote and facilitate the establishment of twinning between entities that are carrying out Local Agenda 21 processes; promote and facilitate the candidacy of the association and its members to international and national projects and initiatives; actively collaborate with the European Union, the Italian Government and other



international networks, as well as with associations of regions and local authorities for mutual promotion and to coordinate, organise and implement joint initiatives.

15.1.2 The Kyoto protocol and local governments working group

The [Kyoto protocol and local governments working group](#) is one of the eleven thematic working groups of the Kyoto Club. The Kyoto Club gathers companies, associations, municipalities and governments engaged in reaching the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the Kyoto Protocol, the EU's climate targets for 2030 and the targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

- **Cities involved:** 6 – Ferla, Ferrara, Mantova, Montalto di Castro, Rome and Venice
- **Coordinator:** Kyoto Club
- **Activities:** Support the implementation of urban/local energy efficiency plans; promote the energy analysis of public buildings owned by the local municipalities and governments; foster innovative energy saving funding solutions; favour initiatives in the private building sector through the revision of existing building rules and procedures; raise awareness of citizens, producers, installers, wholesalers and retailers, companies and trade unions on the need for proper use of energy resources in homes as well as in public buildings; inform local governments and members on the potentials of renewables and energy efficiency and on the incentives available locally and nationally; and disseminate successful achievements by local governments and municipalities in Italy and abroad.

15.1.3 The Green City Network

The [Green City Network](#) is an activity promoted by the Foundation for Sustainable Development to develop activities and interventions to activate and support a greater commitment of Italian cities to improve ecological quality, the commitment to climate mitigation and adaptation, conservation of land, and the efficient and circular use of resources in a perspective of local sustainable development.

- **Urban areas involved:** 244 plus two regions
- **Coordinator:** Foundation for Sustainable Development
- **Activities:** Exchange of knowledge and good practices and the organisation of workshops.

15.1.4 Declaration for the Climate Adaptation of the Green Cities

The Declaration for the Climate Adaptation of the Green Cities ([Dichiarazione per l'adattamento climatico delle Green City](#)) is an initiative carried out by the Green City Network.

- **Cities involved:** 25 – Assisi, Belluno, Bergamo, Casalecchio di Reno, Chieti, Cisterna di Latina, Cosenza, Florence, Genoa, Imola, Livorno, Mantua, Milan, Monterotondo, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Pordenone, Rome, Syracuse, Sorradile, Tivoli, Turin and Venice
- **Coordinator:** Green City Network
- **Activities:** Exchange of good practices and dissemination of updated guidelines for more resilient and less vulnerable cities.



15.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

There is currently no official national structure to support Mission Cities in Italy. However, the Italian Mission Cities have created an agreement between themselves, which is still to be signed, to set up a national network for the Cities Mission. The Mayor of Bologna was appointed by the other cities as the manager of this network. Ideally, it would also gather the Ministry of Ecological Transition, Italian regions, and a number of other national authorities. Two meetings held in June 2022 between the cities and the Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility and the Ministry of University and Research led to an agreement that the two ministries would support the cities to establish a national network.

There is currently no funding reserved for the implementation of the Cities Mission. However, in December 2021, the national government set up the 'Fund for design competitions and ideas for territorial cohesion' (Fondo concorsi progettazione e idee per la coesione territoriale) for municipalities with up to 30,000 inhabitants, metropolitan cities and provinces of the South and the Regions of Umbria and Marche. To facilitate the access to this fund, the national anticorruption authority (ANAC) has developed a standard call to support targeted local authorities in the planning of investments. The fund aims to support the participation of these municipalities and regions in the implementation calls for proposals of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and of the 2021-2027 ERDF. The areas covered by this fund that link to the objectives of the Cities Mission are: green transition of the local economy; digital transformation of services; smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; research and social innovation.

16 Latvia

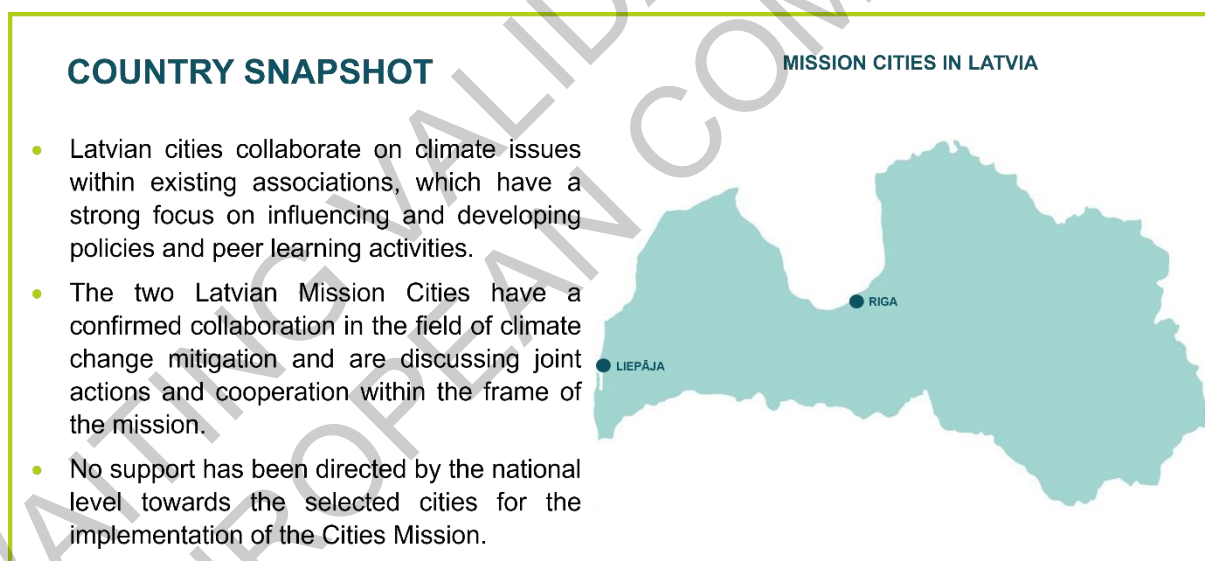


Figure 16: Latvia country snapshot

16.1 Climate city collaboration in Latvia

National level

16.1.1 Latvian Association of Large Cities

The aim of the Latvian Association of Large Cities ([LLPA](#)) is to protect the legal interests of the cities and to promote their mutual cooperation and development, as well as to promote cooperation with other institutions and organisations. The association aims to also create closer cooperation between the LLPA members within the association's priority areas, which include urban development and environmental policy, and to strengthen cities' influence on the political process in Latvia by promoting the interests of cities towards the national level. LLPA operates on three levels - the mayors of the cities, city executive directors, and local government specialists meet regularly to discuss pressing issues and exchange on best practice examples.

- **Cities involved:** 10 - Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Ogrī, Rēzekne, Rīga, Valmiera and Ventspils
- **Activities:** The LLPA prepares joint opinions of the LLPA members on any issues affecting their interests and promotes the revision or amendment of policies. Additionally, the association organises meetings, seminars, trainings and any other events to facilitate the exchange of opinions and experiences between the members, and support the implementation of projects that are in line with the objectives of the association.

16.1.2 Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments

The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments ([LALRG](#)) is a public organisation of local governments of the Republic of Latvia. LALRG functions as a representative, advocate for and advisor of the local governments in Latvia by contributing to the development of municipal policies, solving common problems and defending the interests of local governments.

- **Cities involved:** 41 local governments
- **Activities:** LALRG has permanent committees that meet to discuss a wide range of issues, as well as to draft opinions and develop policies. The association has also established a 'Municipal Consultation Centre' that offers a wide range of services related to funding and financing, including consultations on EU structural funds, development of business plans, development of PPP projects and the preparation of documentation for taking loans. The LALRG is also one of the founders of the non-governmental organisation 'Latvian Municipal Training Centre' which offers training for the local government politicians and employees.

16.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission has only gained some visibility on the national level in Latvia due to the announcement of the European Commission and the press releases published by the two Latvian cities selected for the Mission - Riga and Liepaja. However, no support or funding opportunities from the national level have been directed towards the cities for the implementation of the Mission.



Riga and Liepaja have a confirmed collaboration in the field of climate change mitigation. The two cities have organised meetings to discuss future plans and collaboration opportunities within the frame of the Cities Mission. This could include, for example, joint communication efforts, cooperation in the preparation of the Climate City Contracts, joint seminars and conferences, and lobbying for the two cities' needs towards the national level.

17 Lithuania

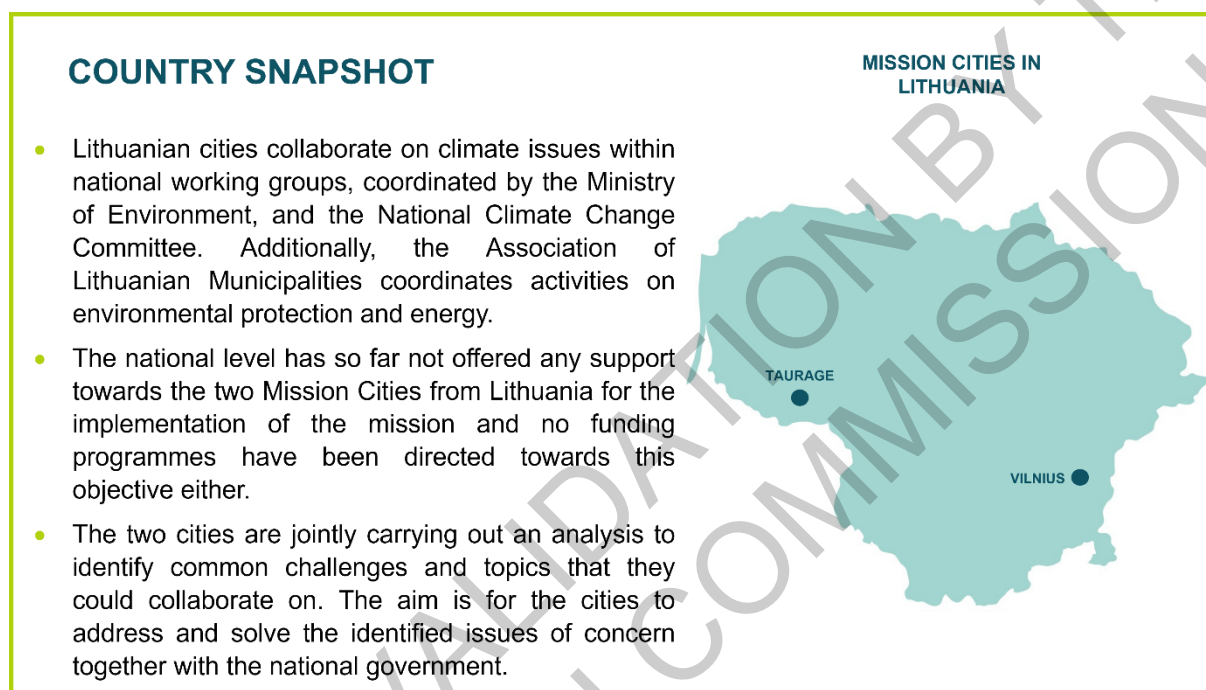


Figure 17: Lithuania country snapshot

17.1 Climate city collaboration in Lithuania

National level

17.1.1 National working groups and committees

The Ministry of Environment coordinates national working groups focusing on decarbonisation with the aim to update the National Energy and Climate Change Plan. The meetings are organised according to different sectors and enable experts from public institutions, academia and the private sector from different cities to collaborate on climate change issues. Additionally, cities participate in the National Climate Change Committee, whose main purpose is to coordinate work on national policy formulation and implementation around climate change management.

17.1.2 Association of Lithuanian Municipalities

The Association of Lithuanian Municipalities ([LSA](#)) represents its 60 member municipalities in the country's government and management institutions, municipalities of foreign countries and other international organisations. Further, it strengthens local self-government, influences decisions taken by national authorities and international institutions and facilitates international cooperation. LSA has an Environmental Protection Committee, which functions as an advisory body of the LSA Board, with the purpose to make proposals to the LSA Board regarding LSA's strategic goals in the field of environmental protection.

- **Cities involved:** 60 municipalities
- **Activities:** The association promotes cooperation between Lithuanian municipalities and coordinates their activities in different areas, including environmental protection and energy. In the frame of these two areas, the association provides the municipalities with methodological materials, thematic publications and consultations on relevant issues, and organises trainings and events for municipal environmental protection specialists and management.

17.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission received some visibility on the regional level as the Vilnius City Administration communicated about Vilnius successfully being selected for the Mission. The regional and national levels have so far not offered any support towards the two Mission Cities from Lithuania – Vilnius and Taurage – for the implementation of the Mission and no funding programmes have been directed towards this objective either.

However, the two selected Mission Cities have been discussing collaboration opportunities together. The meetings have focused on identifying and discussing the most important and problematic strategic areas for both cities, and an analysis is currently being carried out to identify common challenges and topics that the cities could collaborate on. These topics include investment opportunities, requests to the national government, joint projects, etc. The aim is for the cities to address and solve the identified issues of concern together with the national government.



18 Luxembourg

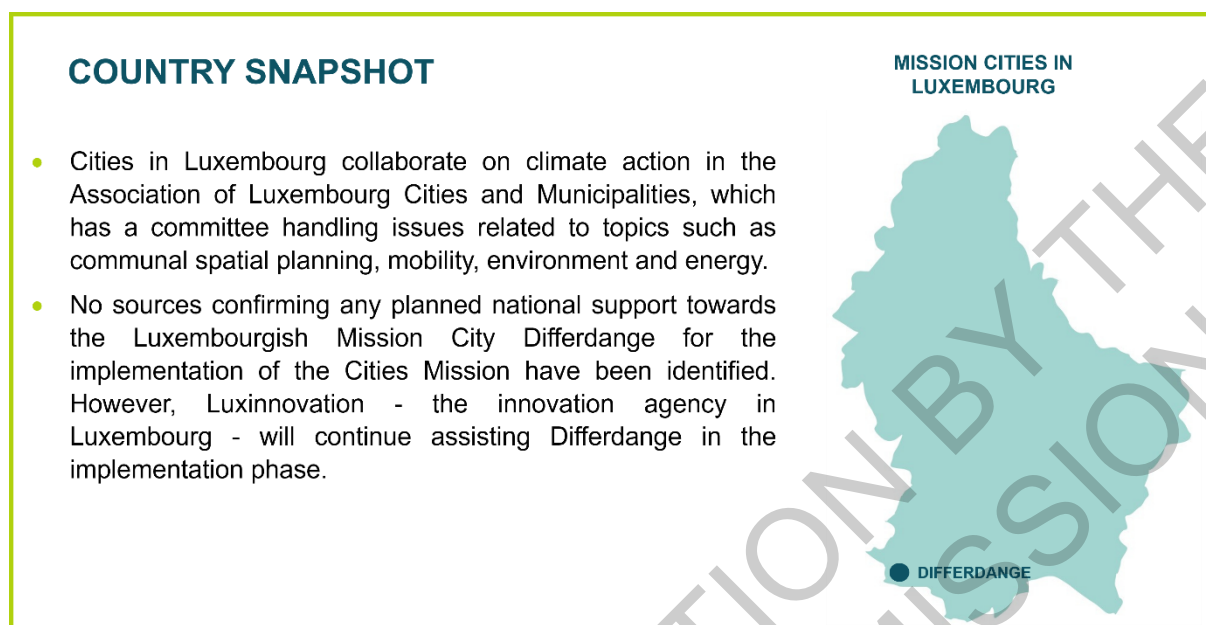


Figure 18: Luxembourg country snapshot

18.1 Climate city collaboration in Luxembourg

National level

18.1.1 The Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities

The Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities ([SYVICOL](#)) aims to promote and safeguard the general and collective interests of its member communes. Furthermore, it represents the communes of Luxembourg within European and international organisations, such as the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the European Committee of the Regions, promotes cross-border and inter-territorial cooperation of Luxembourgish communes with foreign local authorities, and formulates opinions and positions on legislative and regulatory projects of law that have an impact at the local level. The association has a committee handling issues related to topics such as communal spatial planning, mobility, environment and energy.

- **Cities involved:** All municipalities in Luxembourg

Activities: In addition to representing the communes of Luxembourg in international organisations and producing opinions, SYVICOL promotes cross-border cooperation for Luxembourg municipalities through twinning as well as other forms of partnerships with foreign local authorities. The association provides useful information related to twinning activities, especially information on co-financing, to its members.



18.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The successful selection of the Luxembourgish Mission City Differdange was promoted in local media and by Luxinnovation, which is the innovation agency in Luxembourg. No sources confirming any planned national support towards Differdange for the implementation of the Mission have been identified. However, Luxinnovation will continue assisting Differdange in the implementation phase.

19 Malta

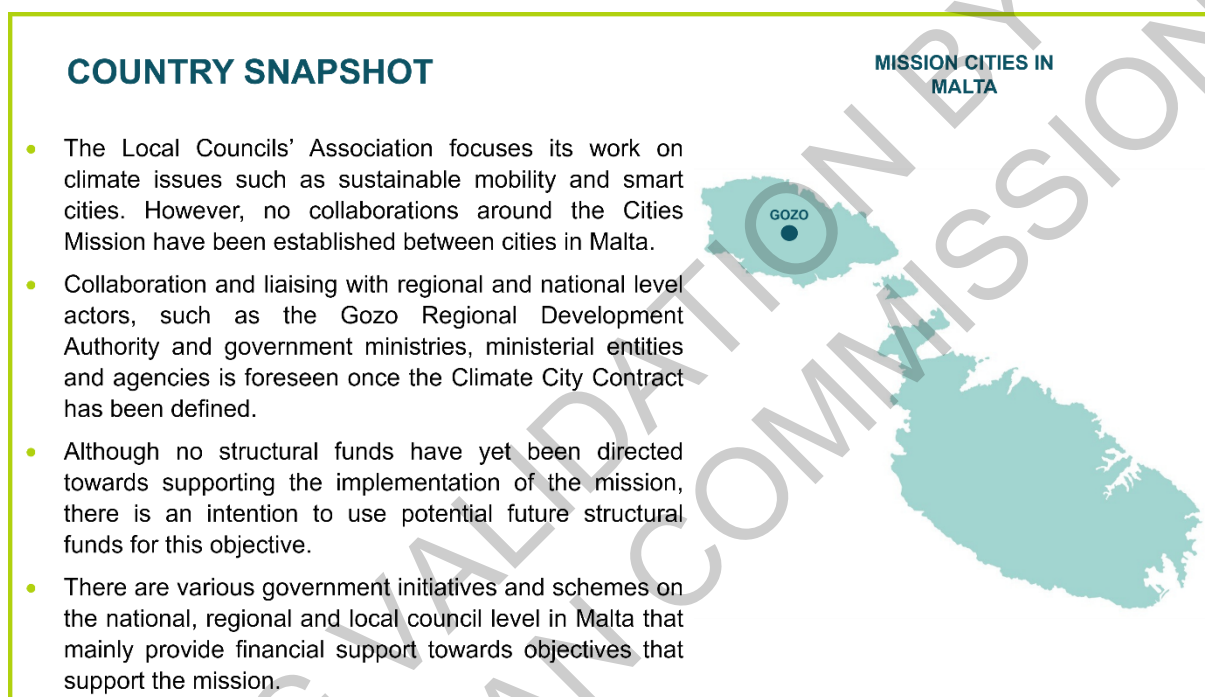


Figure 19: Malta country snapshot

19.1 Climate city collaboration in Malta

National level

19.1.1 Local Councils' Association

The [Local Councils' Association](#) is an organisation of local and regional governments in Malta. The aim of the association is to protect and promote the common interests of all local councils and to represent them in Malta and overseas as well as in international associations of local government authorities. Additionally, the association aims to ensure effective collaboration, consultation and coordination between all government levels and institutions.

The association puts great emphasis on sustainable urban development, which also is reflected in its 'Vision 2024', focusing on sustainable mobility, smart cities, open spaces and green living. One of its



focus areas is ensuring that urban-related policies and regulations are coherent across governmental institutions.

- **Cities involved:** 68 local councils and six regional councils from Malta and Gozo
- **Activities:** The association offers consultancy services to local councils as well as trainings. A training on the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability was, for example, offered to executive secretaries of local councils. The association is also involved in EU-funded projects and European initiatives such as the European City Facility.

19.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No support has been provided so far to the Mission City from Malta - Gozo - for the implementation of the Mission. However, once Gozo's Climate City Contract has been defined, the Ministry of Gozo foresees to be working closely with the Gozo Regional Development Authority to achieve the targets set out in the contract and to increase the visibility of the Mission. Furthermore, the Ministry of Gozo is part of the central government and it will thus also liaise and collaborate with relevant government ministries, ministerial entities, government agencies, and regulators which contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development. The expected support would entail technical and expert knowledge and support.

Although no structural funds have yet been dedicated to the implementation of the Cities Mission, there is an intention to use potential future structural funds to achieve the objectives of the Mission. Similarly, there are currently no national funding programmes directly supporting the Mission, but there are both existing and planned programmes that fund policy areas similar to those of the Cities Mission. There are various government initiatives and schemes on the national, regional and local council level in Malta that support the objectives of the Mission. Examples of such initiatives include the schemes for electric motorbikes, schemes for green roofs and green facades, etc. The Government of Malta is the main facilitator for these initiatives and the support provided is mainly financial.



20 Netherlands

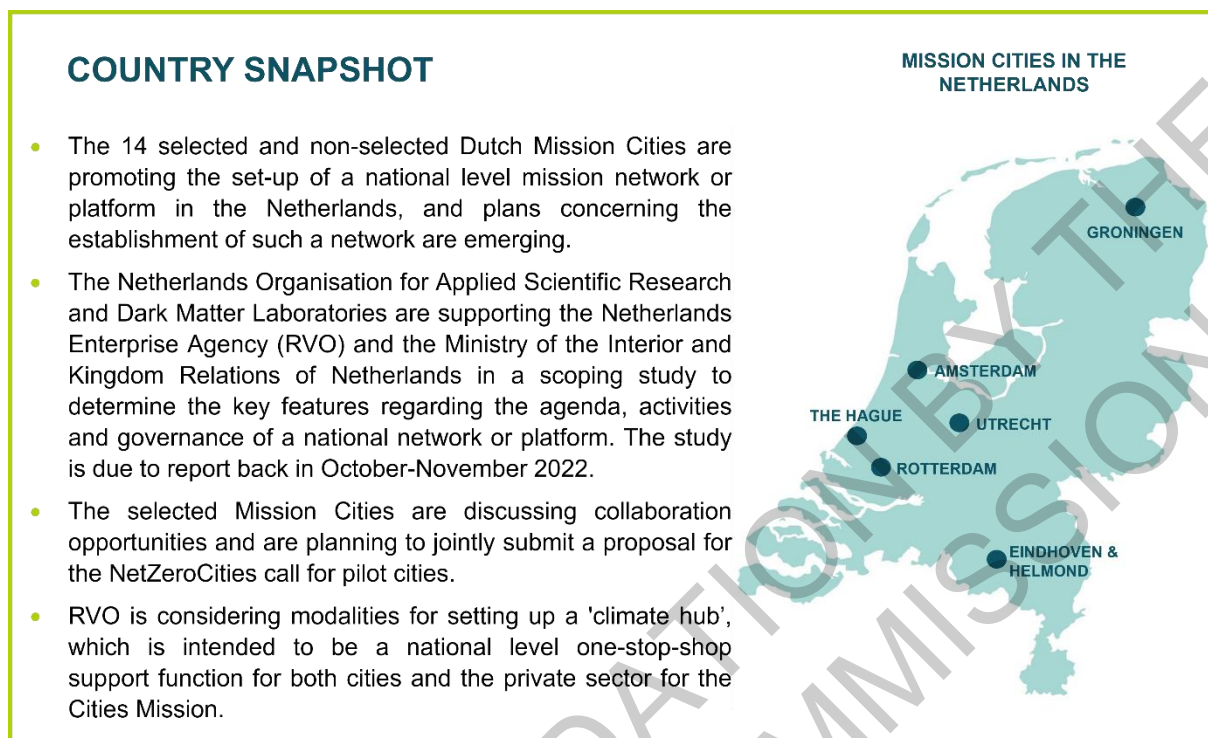


Figure 20: Netherlands country snapshot

20.1 Climate city collaboration in the Netherlands

National level

20.1.1 Regional Energy Strategies

In the context of the National Climate Agreement in the Netherlands, there is a regional cooperation among cities in the 30 regions to jointly develop [Regional Energy Strategies](#) (RES). These strategies focus on the sustainable production of energy at the regional level and their development include a wide range of stakeholders, including public authorities, residents, businesses, grid operators, energy collectives and social organisations. From the public sector side, the local, provincial and waterboard councils play an important role in the development and implementation of the RES. The stakeholders of the energy regions jointly decide on the scope of their RES, including renewable energy sources, energy storage capacity, energy savings, etc. In accordance with the National Climate Agreement, the energy regions should together generate at least 35 TWh in large-scale sustainable electricity on land in 2030.

- **Cities involved:** The cities in the 30 regions
- **Facilitator:** Each region has its own facilitator

20.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The selected and non-selected Dutch Mission Cities are promoting the set-up of a national level mission network or platform in the Netherlands, and plans concerning the establishment of such a network are emerging. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) is considering modalities for setting up a 'climate hub', which is intended to be a national level one-stop-shop support function for both cities and the private sector for the Cities Mission. As of August 2022, the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) and Dark Matter Laboratories are supporting RVO and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of Netherlands in a scoping study to determine the key features regarding the agenda, activities and governance of a national network or platform. This study is due to report back in October-November 2022. The RVO's ideas on the 'climate hub' will evolve with the insights from this study - the current thinking is that it will not be a digital platform, but rather offer in-person support to the relevant stakeholders. It will also aim to support the scale-up of pilot activities and will be part of the TRAMI project's network and integrate with the CapaCITIES project.

Although no national funding programmes have been directed explicitly towards the implementation of the Mission, there are several programmes that support and contribute to the Mission objectives. Notably, funds related to the energy transition.

The selected Dutch Mission Cities have themselves organised meetings to discuss potential collaboration opportunities within the frame of the Mission. One of the outcomes of these meetings is the idea to jointly submit a proposal for the NetZeroCities call for pilot cities.

Two meetings have also been organised by the national level to discuss the relations between the selected and non-selected Mission Cities and the relevant ministries within the frame of the Cities Mission. In March, a meeting was held between the 14 Dutch cities that applied for the Mission and the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, alongside representatives of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, the Association of Provinces and RVO, as well as the Dutch 'urban envoy' in the EU. The meeting focused on discussions around challenges for cities, potential solutions, and the need for collaboration. This was followed up with a meeting in July where cities presented their Mission proposals and particular needs, with a commitment of a next session in autumn 2022.

Overall, there is a strong aspiration - both from the cities and the involved ministries - to keep all 14 cities connected to the Mission and its objectives. There is particular recognition that greater interdepartmental and multi-actor collaboration will be required. However, this would require facilitation, a mission infrastructure on the national level, peer learning and buy-in from other national government departments. Changes in policy and regulatory frameworks is the key need that cities have vis a vis the government, alongside support in navigating investment options. Cities expect a multi-level cooperation with the national government and the EU as many policies and regulations, including national level transition subsidy schemes, are an obstacle for new solutions.



21 Poland



Figure 21: Poland country snapshot

21.1 Climate city collaboration in Poland

National level

21.1.1 Cooperation of local governments to implement Integrated Territorial Investments

Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) is an instrument contributing to the implementation of the development strategy of cities and their functional areas, through the implementation of integrated projects co-financed from EU funds under the operational programmes for 2014-2020. In Poland, the implementation of ITI has established a new type of cooperation between municipalities since the instrument is implemented in voivodship capitals, in areas having functional ties with the capitals and in cities with regional and sub-regional nature with areas having functional ties with them. A total of 24 ITI areas have been designated so far in the country. To proceed with the creation of each ITI area an institutionalised ITI Partnership or ITI Association is established. For example, in the Functional Area of Lublin, an Agreement of the Municipalities of the Lublin Functional Area on cooperation in the implementation of Integrated Territorial Investments in the EU financial perspective 2014-2020 was achieved in 2015.

- **Cities involved:** 523 cities organised in 24 ITI areas
- **Coordinator:** ITI Association/Offices



- **Activities:** Development of joint local government strategies with common objectives and the implementation of integrated projects in different areas, for example improved mobility, low-carbon emissions, preserving and promoting natural heritage, accelerating sustainable development, etc.

21.1.2 Marshal's Office

The Marshal's Offices are regional public authorities providing technical, legal, organisational and bureaucratic support to manage the 16 Polish Voivodships. All activities of the office are managed by the Marshal with the help of Deputy Marshals, Members of the Board, Treasurer, Secretary and Directors of Departments.

- **Cities involved:** All cities in the 16 different Polish Voivodships
- **Coordinator:** Marshal's Office
- **Activities:** The Marshal's Offices in each Voivodship promotes cooperation between cities in activities such as the exchange of experiences and issuing opinions on documents at the regional level, including Voivodship Development Plan, Voivodship Development Strategy, Energy Strategy, Environmental Protection Programme, and issuing opinions/agreeing on municipal documents. For example, in the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodship, regional cooperation takes place in the area of transport. The Marshal's Office organises an agglomeration railway in Wrocław and the neighbouring municipalities, and all municipalities make partial contributions to the budget for this purpose.

21.1.3 Green Cities Network within the Partnership Initiative of Cities

The [Partnership Initiative of Cities](#) (PIM 2021-2023) aims at the exchange and promotion of knowledge between cities and entities involved in urban policies in Poland. It consists of 28 Polish cities and is divided in three thematic areas: digital network (eight cities), network of PPP initiatives (ten cities) and the green network (ten cities).

The purpose of the Green Cities Network is to support partners in implementing climate solutions, contributing to the resilience of cities to extreme weather events and responding to social and environmental challenges.

- **Cities involved:** 10 - Lublin, Gdańsk, Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Międzyrzec Podlaski, Racibórz, Rudą Śląską, Słupsk, Uniejów, Żory and Żyrardów
- **Coordinator:** Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy with the support of the World Bank
- **Activities:** The task of each partner in cyclical workshops is to develop concrete solutions for sustainable and integrated urban development within the thematic scope of the network, while the developed solutions will be summarised in a Municipal Action Initiative document.



21.1.4 Cooperation between the Association of Polish Cities and the Union of Polish Metropolis

The [Association of Polish Cities](#) and the [Union of Polish Metropolis](#) operate in all thematic areas related to self-government at the local level, one of them being climate issues. Cooperation between the two organisations focuses on the exchange of views and the preparation of common positions on a particular issues.

- **Cities involved:** 353 cities in the Association of Polish Cities and 12 cities in the Union of Polish Metropolis
- **Activities:** Cities cooperate in preparing common opinions on projects of government acts and regulations, preparing common positions on given issues and exchanging experiences with each other.

21.1.5 HUMAN SMART CITIES: Smart Cities Co-Created by Citizens

[The Human Smart Cities](#) is a grant competition addressed to local governments interested in the implementation of pilots related to the Smart City concept and in engaging citizens when designing and implementing the projects. Projects selected in the 2019 edition considered different topics: sustainable mobility, environment, smart grids, housing, social participation, Internet of Things, city audits and the efficient and innovative use of data. The competition is co-financed under the Operational Programme 2014-2020.

- **Cities involved:** 25 - two large cities (Kielce and Lublin); 15 medium-sized cities (Krosno, Mińsk Mazowiecki, Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Kołobrzeg, Kłodzko, Zamość, Elk, Nowa Ruda, Nakło n. Notecią, Ostróda, Rawicz, Pleszew, Sierpc, Zduńska Wola, Siemianowice Śląskie) and eight small cities (Żuromin, Siechnice, Kępice, Krynica Zdrój, Zakliczyn, Boguchwała, Podkowa Leśna and Sędziszów)
- **Coordinator:** Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
- **Activities:** Collaboration between cities is based on the exchange of good practices and experiences when implementing the projects.

21.1.6 Circular Cities Programme Poland

[The Circular Cities Programme Poland](#) is an 18-month programme that aims to develop circular strategies for cities tailored to their unique context.

- **Cities involved:** 3 - Gdansk, Krakow, and Lublin
- **Coordinator:** Metabolic Institute, funded by the MAVA Foundation
- **Activities:** Within the programme, cities collaboratively expanded on their existing strategies whilst exchanging experiences and lessons learned throughout the programme.



21.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission is not yet visible at the regional and national level and there is no actor facilitating activities related to the Mission. Cities feel that the national level actors and organisations that could facilitate these types of activities, could be: i) an appointed interdisciplinary team consisting of representatives of the government, local government units (municipalities, voivodeships), universities, businesses and expert associations, ii) the National Contact Points - for example, the National Centre for Research and Development (Horizon Europe) or the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (LIFE programme), that is, organisations with an information function, supporting potential applicants (including cities) in finding partners to participate in competitions, and iii) the [Polish Circular Hotspot](#). The expected support from these actors would be focused on financial support, expert support, and cooperation with local government units in the legislative process (strategies, programmes, acts, ministerial regulations).

At the regional level, the main actors that could facilitate collaboration between cities and mission related activities could be: i) the Metropolitan Areas, ii) the Partnerships/Associations/Offices of Integrated Territorial Investments, iii) the Marshal's Offices in each voivodeship and iv) the Regional Contact Points. The expected support from the regional level would be focused on initiating projects on climate neutrality, project coordination and promotional campaigns, joint procurement of external funds, analysis of opportunities for action in different sectors, for example transport, renewable energy and waste support, and in developing a model of cooperation with stakeholders/sectors in the region, with particular attention to their specific functioning.

There are no funding programmes directly supporting the Cities Mission. However, there is a national funding programme related to the objectives of the Mission. The [National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management](#) (NFEPWM) is an institution focused on environmental and climate issues that each year adopts priority programmes. The fund supports potential applicants, including cities, in acquiring EU funds and is also a source of funding. The priority programme adopted for 2022 includes: 'Zero-emission energy system', 'Good air quality', 'Zero-emission transport' and 'Adaptation to climate change and protection of waters against pollution'. The forms of support include both loans and grants, and co-financing is available in a competitive manner. Furthermore, cities in Poland are currently awaiting the finalisation of the negotiations with the European Commission on the final version of the operational programmes, which consider the priorities that indirectly will support the Mission objectives.



22 Portugal

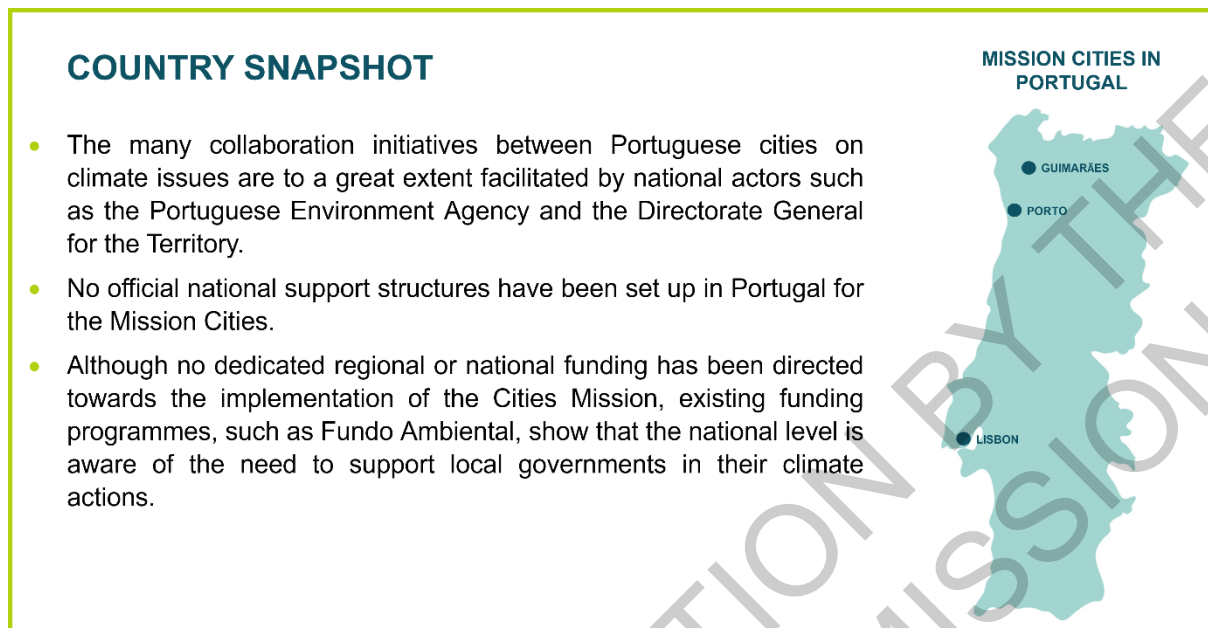


Figure 22: Portugal country snapshot

22.1 Climate city collaboration in Portugal

National level

22.1.1 Network of Municipalities for Local Adaptation to Climate Change

The Network of Municipalities for Local Adaptation to Climate Change ([Rede de Municípios para a Adaptação Local às Alterações Climáticas](#)) aims to train local government agents in developing Local Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change. Further, the network strives to increase the capacity of Portuguese municipalities and other entities, public or private, to incorporate adaptation to climate change in their policies of action, planning tools and interventions.

- **Cities involved:** 30 cities
- **Coordinator:** Portuguese Environment Agency (APA)
- **Activities:** Supporting Portuguese municipalities to develop climate adaptation policies; raising awareness amongst external stakeholders on the need to promote measures, actions and interventions that facilitate the action of local authorities; facilitating the exchange of experiences between municipalities; strengthening ongoing practices and the development of new solutions; extending local adaptation experiences to more municipalities; and promoting the empowerment of local authorities, including elected officials and technicians, in the field of adaptation to climate change at local level.

22.1.2 Cities Forum

The Cities Forum ([Fórum das Cidades](#)) is a communication tool of the Sustainable Cities 2020 Strategy, which aims to provide a space for knowledge and information sharing on sustainable urban development. On the platform, municipalities can find information on urban policies or policies with a significant impact on cities at various political and administrative levels (global, European, national, regional, local).

The Cities Forum is a cooperation and coordination platform, gathering a variety of stakeholders: actors in sectoral and territorial governance, the national scientific and technological system and civil society. Local governments can exchange their visions and experiences on competitiveness, sustainability and national cohesion through sustainable urban development policies.

- **Cities involved:** 112 cities
- **Coordinator:** Directorate General for the Territory
- **Activities:** Promoting and disseminating information on sustainable urban policies; knowledge sharing (including publications, systems and tools); monitoring, evaluating and supporting decision-making; and supporting municipalities in defining public policies with an impact on urban development and quality of life.

22.1.3 National Circular Cities Initiative

The National Circular Cities Initiative ([Iniciativa Nacional Cidades Circulares](#) - InC2) is a programme of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, which is managed by the Directorate-General for the Territory. It aims to support and empower municipalities and their communities in the transition to the circular economy. The initiative is built around four priorities: urbanism and construction, urban economy for circularity, urban and rural relations, and urban cycle of water. It has a strong emphasis on locally based participatory planning and network learning practices.

To implement the objectives, InC2 launched four competitions in order to create four Circular Cities Networks - one for each priority theme, which would receive technical and financial support to develop Local Integrated Action Plans for the circular economy. Through the development of one Local Integrated Action Plan for the circular economy per city, municipalities should identify common challenges amongst the various stakeholders and map the partners who should collaborate in the preparation of the document. Those plans should constitute a solid basis for preparing future applications for national and European funds in the circular economy and sustainable urban development.

- **Cities involved:** 32 cities
- **Coordinator:** Directorate General of the Territory
- **Activities:** Identifying common challenges and priorities; enhancing cooperation between municipalities; sharing experiences and knowledge in the transition to the circular economy; and promoting the sharing of experiences, skills and good practices.

22.1.4 ECOXXI programme

The [ECOXXI programme](#) is developed by the Portuguese branch of the Blue Flag Association, an NGO dedicated to education for sustainable development and the management and recognition of good environmental practices. The ECOXXI programme specifically looks at municipalities as key actors in



the development of education to sustainable development, especially through a greater integration of environmental concerns into municipal policies.

- **Cities involved:** In 2021: 58 municipalities
- **Coordinator:** Blue Flag Association Portugal
- **Activities:** Awareness raising in municipalities on the role of sustainable development; supporting the dissemination of initiatives/policies under development in the municipality in the areas of environment/sustainable development; and supporting the development of local sustainability indicators.

22.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

There is currently no dedicated national support structures for the Mission Cities in Portugal. However, Portugal has past experiences of funding opportunities linked to climate action. The ClimAdaPT programme, supported by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) between 2014 and 2016, aimed at improving the capacity of Portuguese municipalities to incorporate adaptation to climate change into their planning instruments and local interventions.

Although no national or regional funding has been directed towards the implementation of the Mission Cities, other national funding programmes support the Mission objectives. Fundo Ambiental is a fund that aims to support environmental policies to achieve sustainable development objectives, such as climate change, water resources, waste and nature and biodiversity conservation. The fund may establish mechanisms for coordination with other public and private entities, in particular with other national public or private funds, or European or international funds, related to the development of environmental policies for the pursuit of sustainable development objectives. This fund could therefore constitute a first support for the Mission Cities.

23 Romania

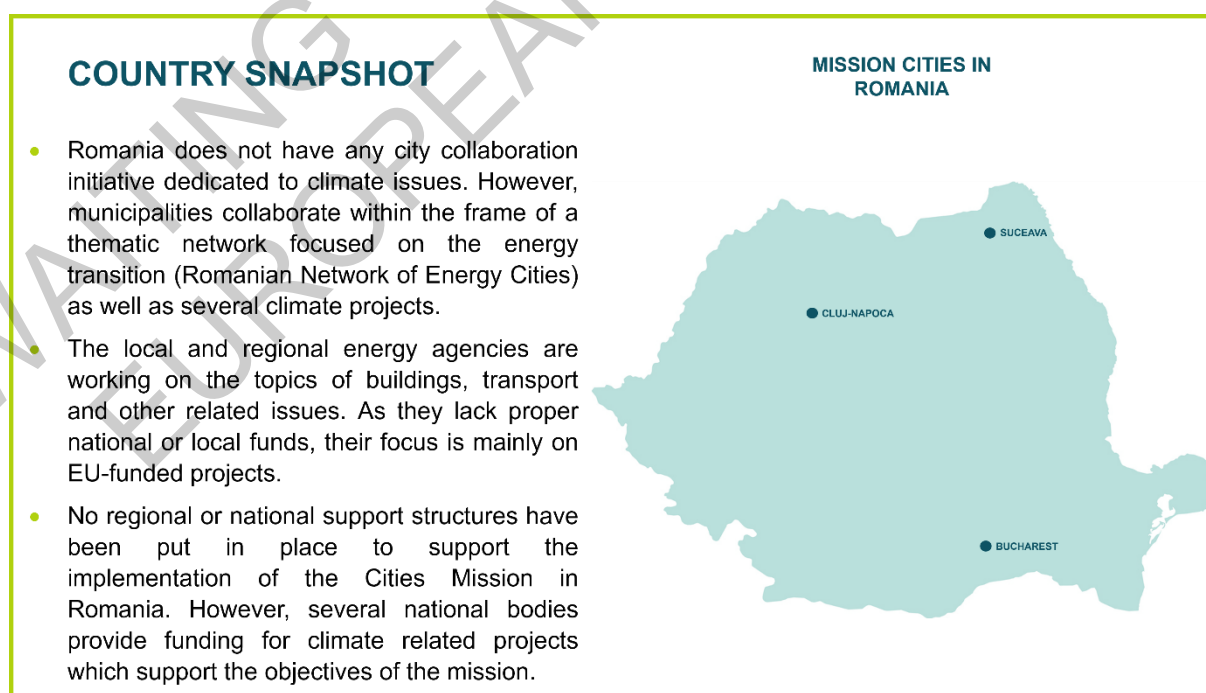


Figure 23: Romania country snapshot

23.1 Climate city collaboration in Romania

Lacking any city collaboration initiative dedicated to climate issues, Romania has a thematic network focused on the energy transition as well as several climate projects in which Romanian municipalities collaborate. Examples of such projects are the [BEACON project](#), that assisted five Romanian local authorities (Deva, Zalau, Alba Iulia, Ramnicu Valcea, Fagaras) in their climate mitigation efforts through international twinning, school exchanges and partnerships, and the 'Our Buildings' project which aimed at developing long term strategies for deep retrofitting in five Romanian municipalities (Bacău, Bistrița, Mizil, Satu Mare and Sibiu).

National level

23.1.1 Romanian Network of Energy Cities

The Romanian Network of Energy Cities ([Orașe Energie Romania](#) - OER) is a non-governmental organisation gathering local authorities focusing on energy efficiency within the public services, renewable energy sources and urban sustainable mobility, with the aim to lead the energy transition and reach climate neutrality.

In 2009, OER became a Support Structure for the Romanian cities joining the Covenant of Mayors and assists municipalities in their EU climate mitigation objectives and in drafting their SEAPs/ SECAPs. OER is also currently involved in some projects related to the Cities Mission objectives: the NECP platform, which facilitates dialogues between the local and national level on the National Energy Climate Plans (NECPs) by 2024, and Ready4NetZero, which trains municipalities for the energy transition and 2050 roadmaps for climate neutrality.

- **Cities involved:** 31 cities
- **Activities:** OER's main purpose is to empower local administrations in defining and implementing local, effective energy policies; to facilitate the dialogue between local and national authorities; and to lead the way towards low-emission local communities in the format of workshops, webinars, EU projects etc. OER is also assisting its members in drafting their SECAPs.

23.1.2 Associations of Cities and Towns

National Association of Cities (AMR)

[AMR](#) is the national association of larger Romanian cities.

- **Cities involved:** 110 cities
- **Activities:** The network focuses mainly on local governance issues and discussions on EU funds.

National Association of Towns (AOR)

[AOR](#) is the national association of smaller Romanian municipalities.

- **Activities:** The network focuses mainly on local governance issues and discussions on EU funds.



Local and regional level

23.1.3 Local and regional energy agencies

The local and regional energy agencies are structures established in partnerships between the public administration in Romania and the European Commission. As they lack proper national or local funds, their focus is mainly on EU-funded projects. They are working on the topics of buildings, transport and other related issues.

The most active agencies in Romania, that also promote climate neutrality and mitigation projects, are those of Baia Mare, Alba Iulia ([ALEA](#)), Bucuresti sector 1, [Brasov \(ABMEE\)](#), Ploiesti, Timisoara and Sighisoara.

23.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No regional and/or national support structures have been put in place to support the implementation of the Cities Mission in Romania. However, several national bodies, such as the Ministry for the Environment, Waters and Forest - Directorate for Climate Change, the Department for Sustainable Development and the Ministry of EU Funds and Investments, provide funding for climate related projects which support the objectives of the Mission.

24 Slovakia

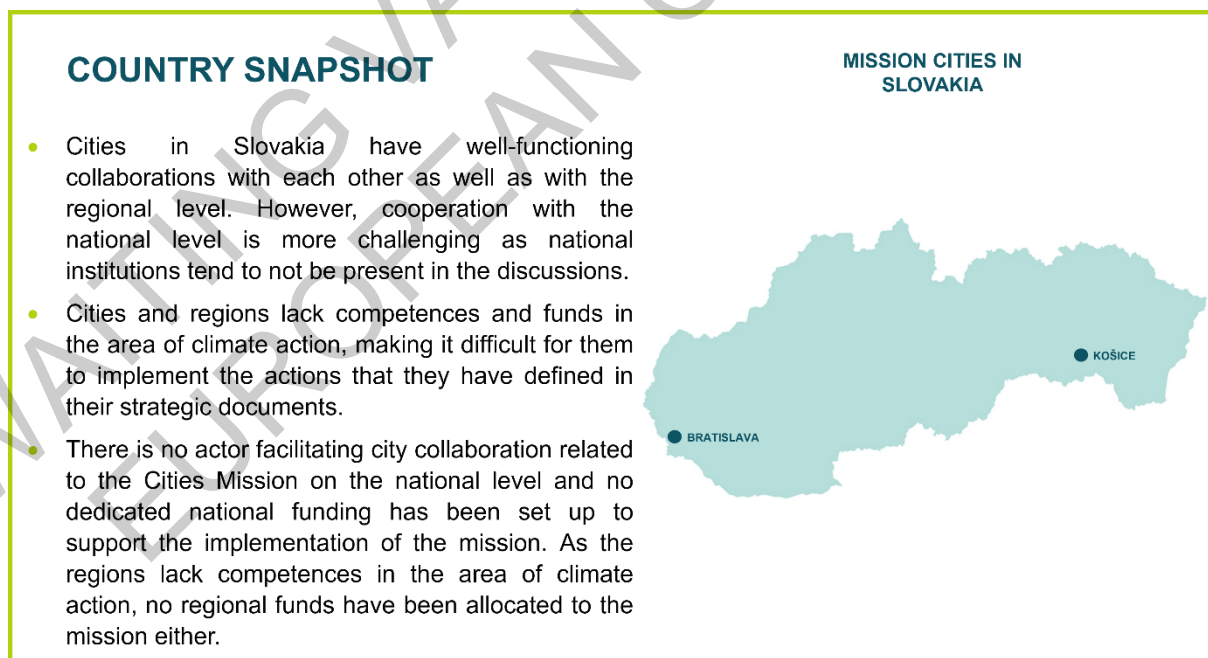


Figure 24: Slovakia country snapshot

24.1 Climate city collaboration in Slovakia

National level

24.1.1 Smart Cities Academy

The [Smart Cities Klub](#) is an informal platform for collaboration and sharing experience between cities and experts in the development of Smart City strategies and programmes.

The Smart Cities Klub has launched the Smart Cities Academy - a 2-year programme focused on reducing air pollution and improving air quality in cities. The aim of the project is to raise the awareness of cities about their responsibility in this field.

- **Cities involved:** 19 cities – Žiar nad Hronom, Trnava, Brezno, Hlohovec, Michalovce, Nové Zámky, Šaľa, Banská Bystrica, Lučenec, Žilina, Piešťany, Prešov, Dubnica nad Váhom, Levice, Košice, Púchov, Lipany, Senica, Pruské, 2 regional governments (Banska Bystrica Region and Trnava región), three Ministries (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Foreign Relations) and other associations (for example, the Association of Construction Entrepreneurs of Slovakia)
- **Coordinator:** Smart Cities Klub
- **Activities:** Information activities, webinars, workshops, and exchange of good practices implemented in member cities of the Smart Cities Klub and from cities abroad. Within the programme, a trip to the Netherlands was organised to enable Slovak mayors and municipality representatives to learn from the cycling experiences of Dutch cities. The programme has also co-organised, together with Humankind and EIT Urban Mobility, the online course 'Designing the Cycling City'.

24.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Cities Mission has received some attention on the regional and national level in Slovakia, as the two largest cities in Slovakia (Bratislava and Košice) were selected to join the Mission. However, no activities related to the Mission have been organised so far. Bratislava will be conducting various activities, mainly on its social media channels, to raise awareness of climate neutrality and the activities of the Mission.

In general, cities in Slovakia have good collaborations between each other as well as with the regional level. However, cooperation with the national level can be challenging as national institutions generally do not participate in the discussions held between cities and the regional level. Additionally, cities and regions lack competences and funds, making it difficult for them to implement actions and projects defined in their strategic documents.

In Slovakia, there is no actor facilitating climate related activities, as it is an area that is divided between three different ministries: the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. An in-depth analysis would be required to decide which ministry that is best suited to facilitate the climate change agenda. The support that cities expect from the national level is related to changes in the legislative and regulatory framework, assigning them more competences, together with direct funding.

There is no dedicated national funding to support the Mission and its objectives, as well as no regional funding as regions lack competences in that field. However, the [National Environmental Fund](#) provides



subsidies or loans to applicants to support projects aligned with the environmental policy objectives at the national, regional or local level.

25 Slovenia

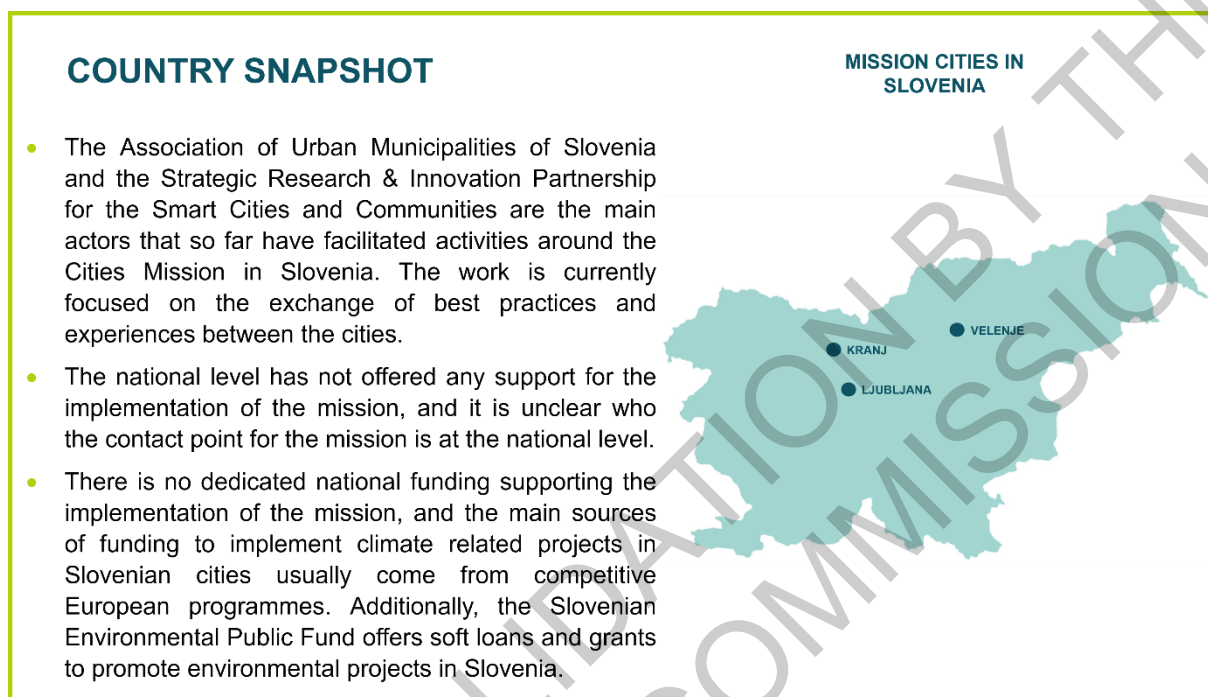


Figure 25: Slovenia country snapshot

25.1 Climate city collaboration in Slovenia

National level

25.1.1 Task group on the Cities Mission

The task group was established among the cities that expressed an intention to apply for the Cities Mission. The objective was to exchange information on the approaches of the cities and the requirements of the call.

- **Cities involved:** 5 - Ljubljana, Maribor, Velenje, Kranj and Nova Gorica
- **Coordinator:** Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia ([ZMOS](#)) and the Municipality of Kranj
- **Activities:** Meetings and joint coordination with the government and the ministries. Meetings were also organised with experts and the former Mission Manager, Matthew Baldwin. The outcome was the successful submission of the expression of interest for the Cities Mission by several cities. In the end, Velenje, Ljubljana and Kranj were successfully selected for the Mission.



25.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

There was limited visibility for the Cities Mission through the national government's press releases. Media outlets reported about the selected cities, but not widely. On the regional level, regional development agencies were informed about the EU Missions.

Cities have not received any direct support from national or regional administrations or agencies related to the Cities Mission, and are still unsure of who the main interlocutor or contact point at the national level is for the Mission. It is unclear whether the national level will offer any support, financial or technical, for the implementation of the Mission.

There is no actor on the public national/regional level facilitating activities related to the Mission. Until now, the [Strategic Research & Innovation Partnership for the Smart Cities and Communities](#) (Jožef Stefan Institute) has taken on the role of facilitator for such activities. In May 2022, following the announcement of the 112 successful cities, the Strategic Research & Innovation Partnership for the Smart Cities and Communities initiated a series of four workshops to follow the implementation of the Mission and to facilitate the exchange of cities' experiences and good practices. The first workshop aimed to i) explain what the Mission is about, ii) present the selected cities and other cities that applied for the Mission, iii) facilitate an exchange of best practices in Slovenian cities, and iv) informally connect the selected Mission Cities. The work of some non-government organisations' (Prostorož, IPOP, Umanotera, FOCUS) also supports activities in this area.

There is no dedicated national funding supporting the implementation of the Mission, and the main sources of funding to implement climate related projects in Slovenian cities come from competitive European programmes like Interreg, Horizon Europe, LIFE, Norway Grants, etc. Additionally, the [Eco Fund](#) (Slovenian Environmental Public Fund) offers soft loans and grants to promote environmental projects, for example the construction of nearly zero-energy buildings, electric vehicles, environmentally friendly public passenger buses in degraded areas, and charging stations for electric cars in Natura 2000 and protected areas.



26 Spain



Figure 26: Spain country snapshot

26.1 Climate city collaboration in Spain

National level

26.1.1 Spanish Network of Cities for Climate

The [Spanish Network of Cities for Climate](#) is the support instrument that the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) offers to local governments to address the challenges of climate change and to transfer the objectives of the national policy in this field to the local level. The aim is to achieve improved results in the fight against climate change, sharing experiences and jointly developing new actions. Since its start, the network has coordinated and promoted local policies to combat climate change in Spanish cities and towns, enabling better results to be achieved in the fight against climate change and in mitigating its effects.

- **Cities involved:** 363 local entities (town councils, provincial councils, regional councils and island councils)
- **Facilitator:** Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
- **Focus areas:** Mobility, energy, waste and carbon footprint
- **Activities:** The network offers technical support tools to local governments to achieve their climate mitigation and adaptation objectives. Further, it provides solutions and measures that municipalities can implement and collaborates on joint projects together with municipalities. The



network also organises congresses and seminars as well as networking activities to promote exchanges, sharing of best practices and information sharing.

26.1.2 El Día Después: City Transformation Community

The multi-stakeholder partnership - [El Día Después](#) - was set up in March 2020 to provide a response to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic based on the Sustainable Development Goals. The partnership is organised around communities of knowledge and practice, one of them being the '[City Transformation Community](#)'. The community brings together high-level decision makers from several Spanish towns and cities, representatives of the government, private companies, technology centres, universities and civil society with the aim of achieving climate neutrality in cities. Through participation from specialists and decision-makers from all sectors of society, urban challenges are collectively interpreted and cross-cutting and integrative solutions are sought to implement the Cities Mission Spain.

- **Cities involved:** 14 - Madrid, Seville, Valencia, Barcelona, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Valladolid, Zaragoza, Logroño, Fuenlabrada, Soria, Alicante, Avilés, Mataró, Pamplona
- **Facilitator:** Innovation and Technology for Development Centre, Polytechnic University of Madrid (itdUPM)
- **Focus areas:** Sustainable urban recovery, sustainable mobility and energy sustainability
- **Activities:** The main objective of the community is to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration aimed at experimenting and coordinating work towards the definition of solutions for implementing the Cities Mission in Spain. It provides cities and other stakeholders with shared working guidelines and methodologies that promote continuous interaction, exchange of learning, and the co-creation of multi-stakeholder alliances.

26.1.3 CitiES2030

[CitiES2030](#) has been launched within the framework of the City Transformation Community and is an initiative for the acceleration and application of the Cities Mission in Spain. The initiative aims to position Spain at the forefront of European climate action and drive systemic innovation with a mission-driven approach, accelerating the implementation of solutions that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits while implementing collaboration, shared learning, multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthened multi-level governance models, and communicating impact in a way that connects and engages citizens.

- **Cities involved:** 8 - Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid, Zaragoza, Soria and Vitoria-Gasteiz
- **Facilitator:** Innovation and Technology for Development Centre, Polytechnic University of Madrid (itdUPM)
- **Activities:** CitiES2030 has initiated a process to transform Spanish cities that will articulate political commitment to decarbonisation and accelerate the development of roadmaps towards climate neutrality. The initiative has developed two complementary processes that contribute to implementing the Mission in Spain: development and signing of climate contracts, and the design and implementation of portfolios of transformative projects that will help ensure that all actions under the climate contract contribute to the objectives of the Cities Mission.

Within the frame of CitiES2030, a working group has been created for cities to collaborate on all issues related to the Cities Mission. The group meets once every month, which has resulted in the development of new initiatives and projects to support the implementation of the Mission, such as city-university collaborations.



26.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge has signed an institutional declaration to implement the Cities Mission in Spain. Additionally, pre-contracts to the Spanish Climate City Contracts have been signed by high-level political representatives of the eight cities involved in the [CitiES2030](#) initiative (Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid, Zaragoza, Soria and Vitoria-Gasteiz) and the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. In the Spanish Climate City Contracts, the national ministry is committing to: supporting regulatory innovations, recognising the CitiES2030 initiative as an important actor to coordinate Spain's work on the Cities Mission, and providing funding initiatives for the cities to realise the targets set out in the contracts.

Some cities find it important to also have the regional government involved in the Cities Mission activities due to their strong role in the Spanish governance structure and various competences linked to climate neutrality, and are therefore hoping to sign a similar agreement with the regional level as the one signed with the Spanish Government. The regional level could have a stronger role in the implementation of the Mission, for example by providing support to promote the exchange of experiences between cities, setting up research programmes, funding pilot projects, and encouraging other cities to join the implementation of the Mission and its objectives.

Work is currently ongoing to transform the City Transformation Community, involving a large number of stakeholders including several ministries, into a Spanish Mission Platform with the support of the Spanish Office of Climate Change. The direct involvement of several national ministries will be crucial to enable the political, financial and regulatory frameworks required to accelerate the transformative initiatives needed to achieve carbon neutrality.

27 Sweden

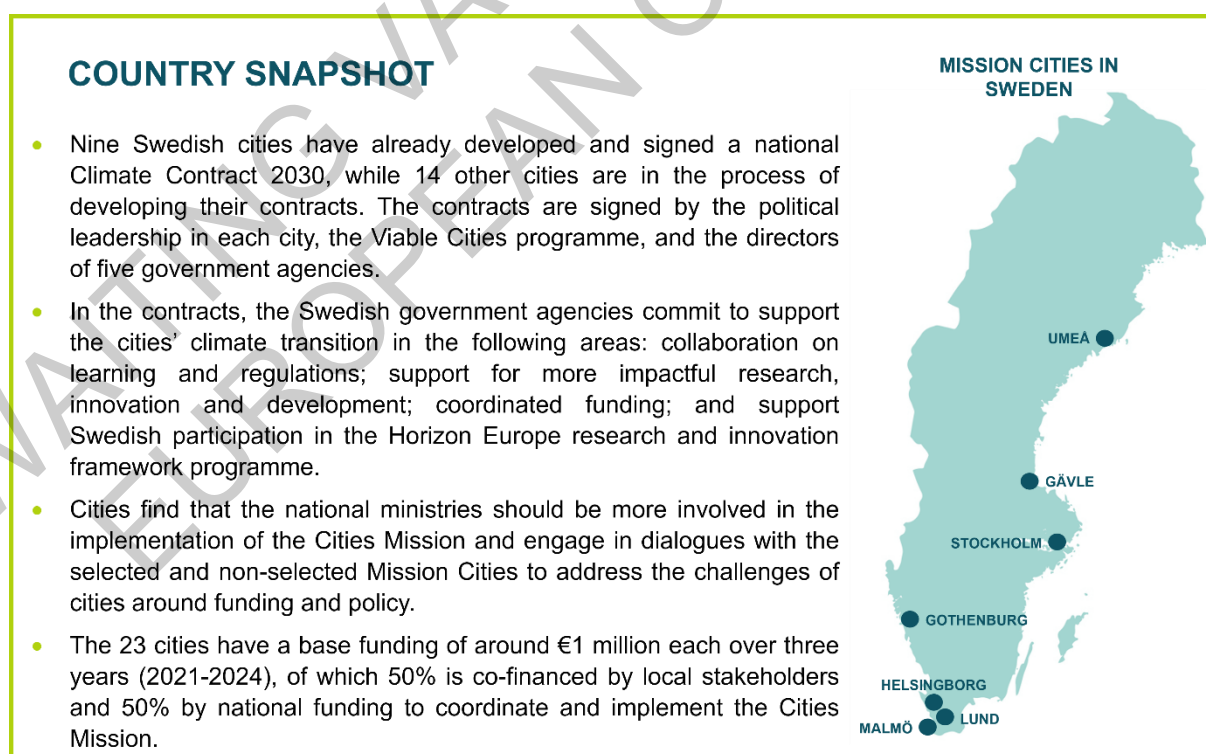


Figure 27: Sweden country snapshot



27.1 Climate city collaboration in Sweden

National level

27.1.1 Climate-neutral Cities 2030

Within the initiative Climate-neutral Cities 2030 ([Klimatneutrala städer 2030](#)), 23 Swedish cities and their local partners collaborate with five government agencies and the Viable Cities programme to test and experiment with new working methods and solutions, while sharing knowledge and experiences, to accelerate the transition towards inclusive and climate-neutral cities by 2030. The initiative is a catalyst for new forms of cooperation between cities, industry, academia, research institutes and civil society.

- **Cities involved:** 23 – Enköping, Järfälla, Göteborg, Lund, Malmö, Stockholm, Umeå, Uppsala, Växjö, Borlänge, Borås, Eskilstuna, Gävle, Helsingborg, Kalmar, Karlstad, Kristianstad, Linköping, Mariestad, Nacka, Skellefteå, Örebro and Östersund
- **Facilitator:** Viable Cities – a Swedish innovation programme for climate transition in cities
- **Activities:** Viable Cities contributes to the work by providing knowledge, experience and support as well as links to other similar efforts – in Sweden, in the EU, and globally. The collaboration offers a meeting place for cities to learn from each other and work together, for example through the biweekly online climate breakfasts. Additionally, the initiative supports the cities in the development of their Climate City Contracts, which is an agreement between municipalities, public authorities and Viable Cities in which all parties undertake to make a concrete contribution to accelerating the climate transition.

27.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Climate Contract 2030 ([Klimatkontrakt 2030](#)) was developed within the frame of the Viable Cities programme as the tool to achieve the goal of the Climate-neutral Cities 2030 initiative. Nine of the 23 cities involved in the Climate-neutral Cities 2030 initiative signed their first Climate Contract in 2020, and a revised version in 2021, whereas the 14 other cities initiated the process to develop their first contracts in 2022. The Climate Contracts are signed by the political leadership in each city, the Viable Cities programme, and the directors of five government agencies: the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, Formas, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish Transport Administration, to secure the long-term collaboration between the cities and the national level to achieve climate neutrality.

In the contracts, the Swedish government agencies commit to support the cities' climate transition in the following areas: collaboration on learning and regulations; support for more impactful research, innovation and development; coordinated funding; and support Swedish participation in the Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme. Viable Cities is currently also working on the development of regional climate contracts in the two Swedish regions Norrbotten and Västerbotten, in order to capture the regional dimension of the climate transition and the ongoing societal transition in the two pilot regions.

While the Swedish funding agencies seem to be well informed about the Cities Mission, cities find that the Swedish Government Office and the relevant ministries should be more involved in the implementation of the Mission and engage in a dialogue with the cities, including the non-selected Mission Cities, to address the challenges that cities face, especially around funding and policy.



The regional level is currently not involved in the Cities Mission work, but regions are perceived as important actors due to the regional competences in public transport and regional planning as well as their role in financing and cohesion policy. However, the role of the regional level would need to be clearly defined vis a vis the cities.

The 23 cities have a base funding of around €1 million each over three years (2021-2024), of which 50% is co-financed by local stakeholders and 50% by national funding to coordinate and implement the Cities Mission – through Viable Cities and the ‘Klimatneutrala städer 2030’ flagship initiative. However, Swedish cities perceive a contradiction between what the national level wants to achieve and what realistically can be achieved with the current support. There is funding available for specific pilot projects on the national level, which usually are connected to policy initiatives. However, most of these projects focus on new innovations whereas funding for actual implementation and upscaling is lacking. The structural funds are currently not connected to the Cities Mission as there were no instructions from the EU regarding this.

Associated Countries

28 Albania

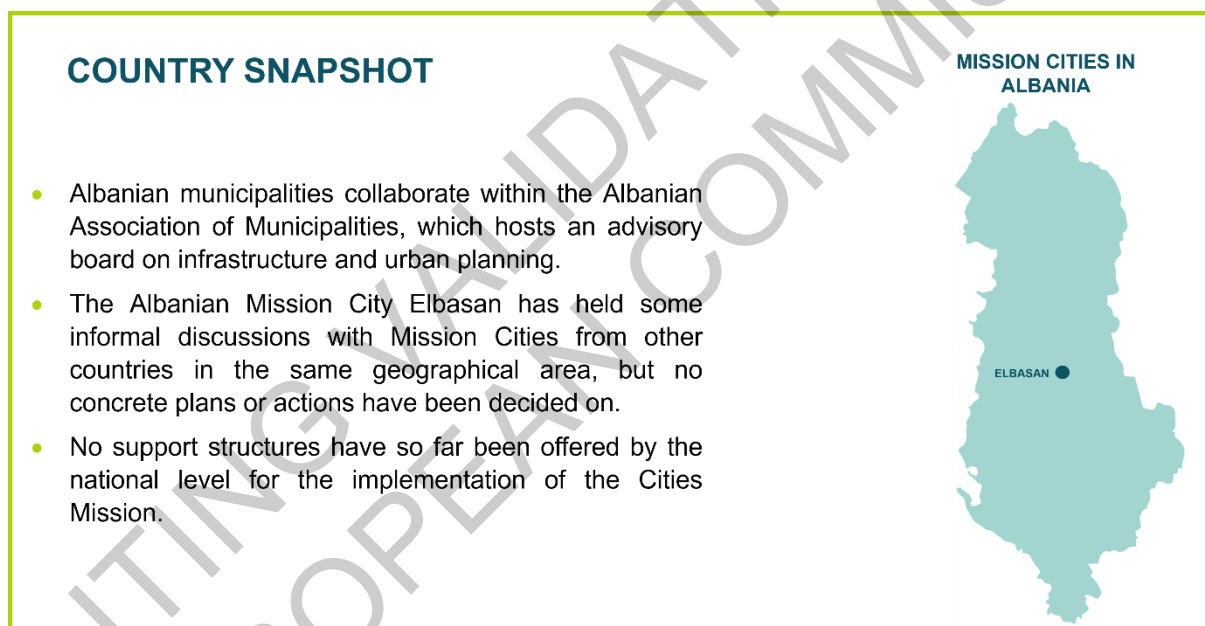


Figure 28: Albania country snapshot

28.1 Climate city collaboration in Albania

National level

28.1.1 Albanian Association of Municipalities

The [Albanian Association of Municipalities](#) aims to protect and promote the common interests of Albanian municipalities for their development and democratisation, while also strengthening the role of municipalities in the governance structure. The association represents Albanian municipalities in relations with various Albanian and foreign organisations and facilitates relations between Albanian municipalities and international partners to exchange information and develop joint cooperation programmes. Nationally, the association cooperates with the parliament, the government, ministries and other governmental and non-governmental organisms. The association hosts advisory bodies on several topics, including a forum on infrastructure and urban planning.

- **Cities involved:** 61 municipalities
- **Activities:** The association offers trainings to local administrations and fosters discussions between its members in the forums of the association to support knowledge exchange, discussions on common challenges and identification of practical solutions.

28.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Albanian Mission City Elbasan has held informal discussions with some of the other Mission Cities in the same geographical area. No support has been offered so far by the national level.

29 Bosnia and Herzegovina

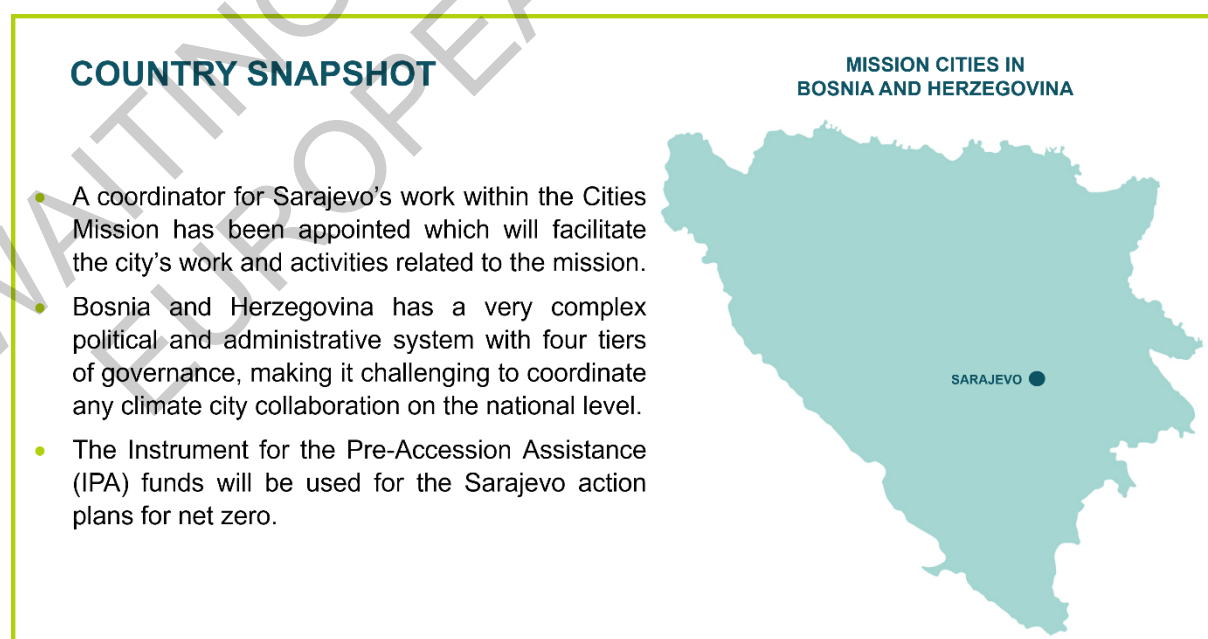


Figure 29: Bosnia and Herzegovina country snapshot

29.1 Climate city collaboration in Bosnia and Herzegovina

There are currently no collaboration platforms or initiatives in the area of climate change mitigation between cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, some cities work on climate change mitigation within the frame of international initiatives, for example through the development of Green City Action Plans within the frame of the [Green Cities initiative](#) by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as within international projects and city networks.

29.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The selection of Sarajevo⁴ as one of the successful 112 cities to join the Cities Mission was picked up by media and covered by some of the main media outlets and agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as influential online portals dedicated to tourism.

A coordinator for Sarajevo's involvement in the Cities Mission has been appointed, which has up until now focused its work on setting up a coordination office/hub to deal with the complex political structure, outreach activities, dialogues with potential partners and discussions on potential areas of cooperation with other cities – both within the Western Balkan area as well as with cities from other parts of Europe. The coordination office – Sarajevo 100 Cities – will facilitate the city's activities related to the Mission.

The identification of support for the organisation of a citizen's assembly and a hub for engagement, coordination, learning and communication is currently ongoing. So far, the national level has not been approached with a request to support Sarajevo for the implementation of the Cities Mission. This outreach is planned when a coordination hub has been formally established and after the critical elections which are coming up in October 2022.

⁴ In the context of the Expression of Interest (EoI), 'Sarajevo' includes: Canton Sarajevo, the City of Sarajevo and its four municipalities: Centar, Novi Grad, Novo Sarajevo and Stari Grad. Five municipalities that are outside the city limits but part of the Canton Sarajevo: Hadžići, Ilidža, Ilijaš, Trnovo, Vogošća. The City of Eastern Sarajevo and its six municipalities: Istočna Ilidža, Istočno Novo Sarajevo, Istočni Stari Grad, RS Pale, Sokolac and Istočno Trnovo. In the EoI, this was described as the Sarajevo Functional Urban Area (FUA).



30 Iceland

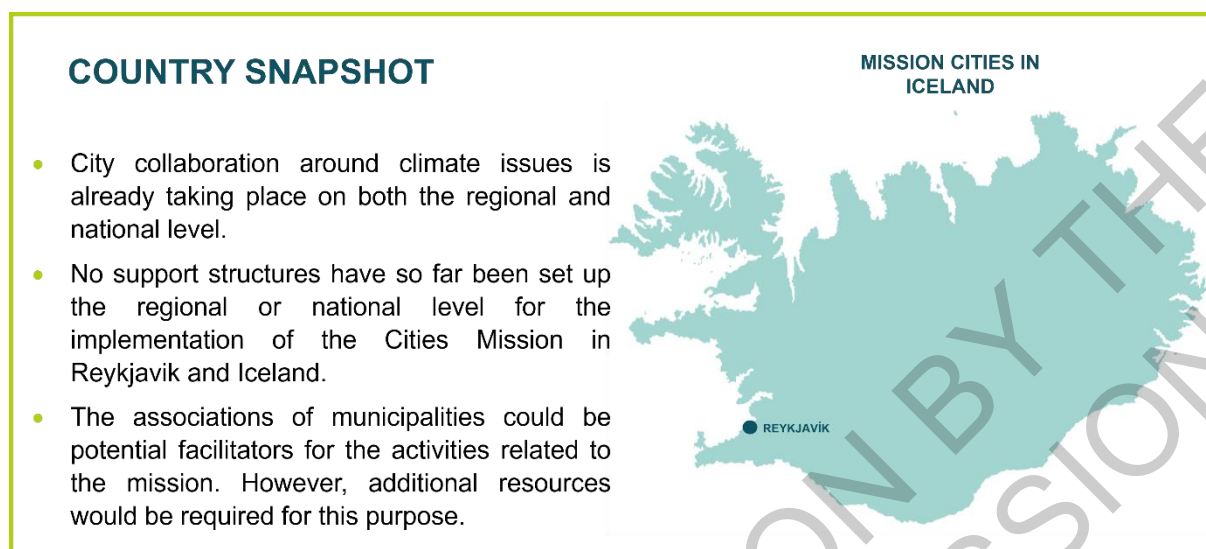


Figure 30: Iceland country snapshot

30.1 Climate city collaboration in Iceland

National level

30.1.1 Cooperation Forum on Climate and UN Global Goals

Within the frame of the [Association of Icelandic Municipalities](#), a [cooperation forum](#) for municipalities on climate issues and the United Nations' (UN) Global Goals was set up in 2019. The cooperation forum is intended to promote and strengthen municipalities' solidarity and dialogue around these issues. Additionally, the platform assists local governments in the preparation of municipal climate plans, which are mandatory according to an amendment to the Act on Climate Matters in June 2019.

- **Cities involved:** About 50 municipalities
- **Facilitator:** The Association of Icelandic Municipalities
- **Activities:** The cooperation forum is intended to share the knowledge and experience that has been built up by local authorities on climate issues and the implementation of the global goals at the local level, for example through seminars and conferences. Further, the forum invites the participating municipalities to explore areas of cooperation and the joint development of performance measurement methods, to assess whether plans and strategies have yielded the desired results. The forum also assists municipalities in exploring financing options for projects and actions to accelerate the climate work.

Regional level

30.1.2 The Association of Municipalities in the Capital Region

The seven municipalities making up the capital region together form the joint interest organisation Association of Municipalities in the Capital Region ([SSH](#)). The association constitutes a forum for consultation and cooperation between the member municipalities to work on their common interests, and aims to promote communication and cooperation between local government officials, local government committees and municipal employees in the capital area.

- **Cities involved:** 7 - Reykjavík, Kópavogur, Hafnarfjörður, Garðabær, Seltjarnarnes, Mosfellsbær and Kjósarhreppu
- **Facilitator:** The association has a Board of Directors and a Secretariat
- **Activities:** The involved municipalities are currently collaborating on a joint climate policy and climate actions around a new GHG inventory for the entire area. Additionally, they collaborate on different climate related projects.

30.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No support structures or dedicated funding opportunities have so far been set up by the regional or national level for the implementation of the Cities Mission in Reykjavik and Iceland. The associations of municipalities - both on the regional and national level, could be a potential actor tasked with the facilitation of activities related to the Mission in Iceland and/or in the capital region. However, additional resources - both human resources and knowledge, would be required for this. The support provided to cities could be related to data as well as communication and information dissemination on climate change issues towards the different stakeholders in the region.



31 Israel

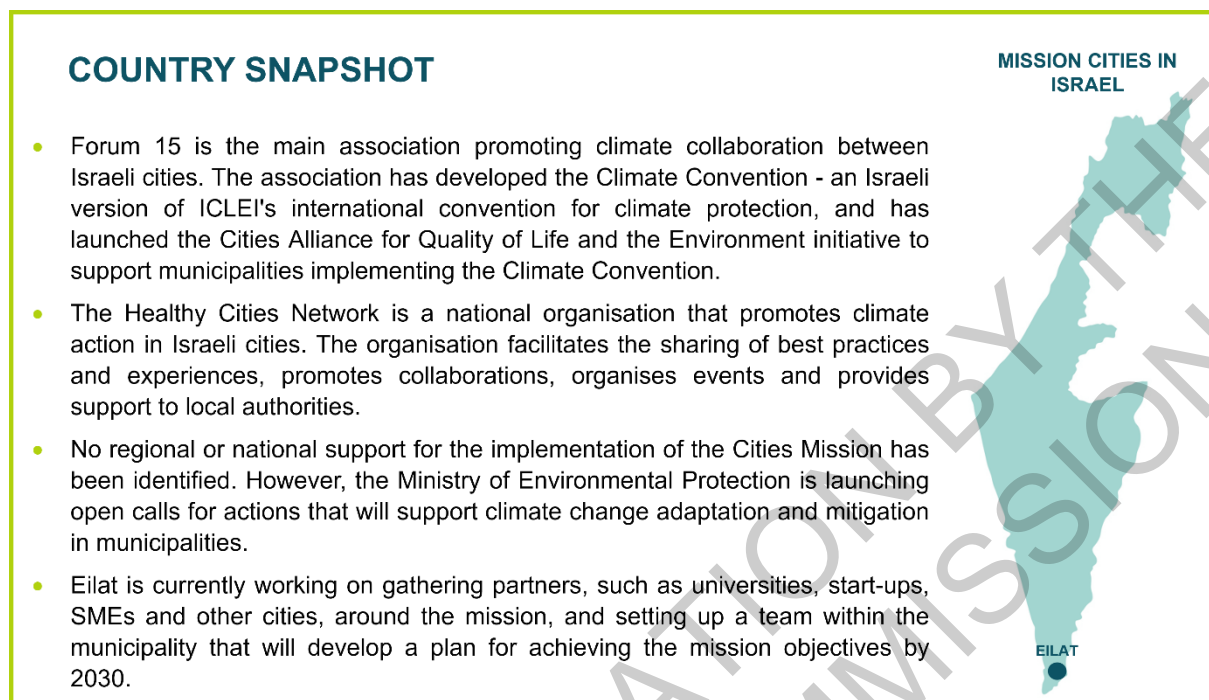


Figure 31: Israel country snapshot

31.1 Climate city collaboration in Israel

National level

31.1.1 Forum 15's Climate Convention

Forum 15 is the association of Israel's self-government cities that are fiscally autonomous, that is, cities that do not depend on the annual national 'balance' or 'development' grants. Forum 15 aims to strengthen major cities to reinforce urban services by fostering cooperation between municipalities.

In 2008, the Forum 15 cities as well as Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Bat-Yam launched 'The Climate Convention', a local version of ICLEI's international convention for climate protection. Cities committed to: i) cut GHG emissions by 20%, ii) monitor emissions, and iii) create and implement local climate action plans. Additionally, Forum 15 launched in 2018 the 'Cities Alliance for Quality of Life and the Environment' initiative, conceived to intensify the Climate Convention's power and to support the municipalities in the process of its implementation.

- **Cities involved:** 19 - Ashdod, Beer Sheva, Giv'atayim, Herzliya, Hadera, Holon, Haifa, Kfar Saba, Netanya, Petah Tikva, Rishon LeZion, Rehovot, Ramat Gan, Ra'anana, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Ashkelon, Ramat HaSharon, Jerusalem and Bat-Yam
- **Coordinator:** ICLEI
- **Activities:** The Climate Convention is structured around three phases: i) preliminary phase: studying the subject, summoning a municipal steering committee, approving a budget and



choosing professional consulting teams; ii) planning phase: preparing city emission surveys, defining goals, vision and policy, preparing a master plan and setting forth with immediate projects; iii) implementation phase: organising managerial patterns, precise budgeting and planning, execution, education and edification and monitoring. Forum 15 has a team of professionals to help cities implement the Climate Convention. They conduct trainings, seminars, round tables, professional guidance, colleague gatherings and networking activities. They also offer tools and knowledge to cities, such as project implementation guides and examples of projects from other cities in Israel or abroad.

31.1.2 Towns Association for Environment Quality

[Towns Association for Environment Quality](#) (TAEQ) aims to raise awareness of environmental issues within Israel's Arab society. The association serves six Arab towns carrying out educational, scientific, and advisory activities to promote sustainable development, increase public awareness, and stimulate community-based action on environmental issues.

- **Cities involved:** 6 Arab towns in the Beit Natufa Basin (Sakhnin, Arrabe, Deir-Hanna, Eilabun, Kaukab Abu El-Heija and Bueina Nujidat)
- **Activities:** The activities are focused on: i) education and training, ii) scientific research and development, iii) environmental planning in urban and rural contexts, iv) sustainable economic development and entrepreneurship on the local level, v) eco-tourism, vi) policy advice and consulting on the local, regional, and international levels, vii) organic agriculture and viii) women's empowerment.

31.1.3 Healthy Cities Network

The [Healthy Cities Network](#) in Israel is a national organisation for the promotion of health and the environment in municipal frameworks, in accordance with the principles of 'Health for All', the 'Ottawa Convention' and Agenda 21 for Sustainable Development.

- **Cities involved:** 60 cities
- **Coordinator:** The network is operated by a committee elected every two years at the general meeting
- **Activities:** The activities focus on: i) disseminating and implementing the idea and path of 'healthy cities' in Israel, ii) serving as a platform for intercity (networked) team work to exchange information and experience, iii) providing ongoing support, guidance and professional accompaniment to the member local authorities, iv) initiating coalitions and participating in existing coalitions with institutional entities and NGOs on health, environment, society, education, urban planning, involving the business sector and others, v) organising conferences, seminars, discussion groups, continuing education and training courses, vi) recruiting local and regional authorities as new members of the network, vii) collaborating with 'healthy cities' cities and networks around the world.

31.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

No regional or national support for the implementation of the Cities Mission has been identified. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Environmental Protection is launching open calls for actions that will



support climate change adaptation and mitigation in municipalities. Currently, there is an open call for public shading, with 10 million ILS available for funding. All municipalities are eligible to apply.

Eilat, the only Israeli Mission City, has started promoting the Mission more widely. The city is currently working on gathering partners, such as universities, start-ups, SMEs and other cities, around the mission, and is setting up a team within the municipality that will develop a plan for achieving the Mission objectives by 2030.

32 Montenegro

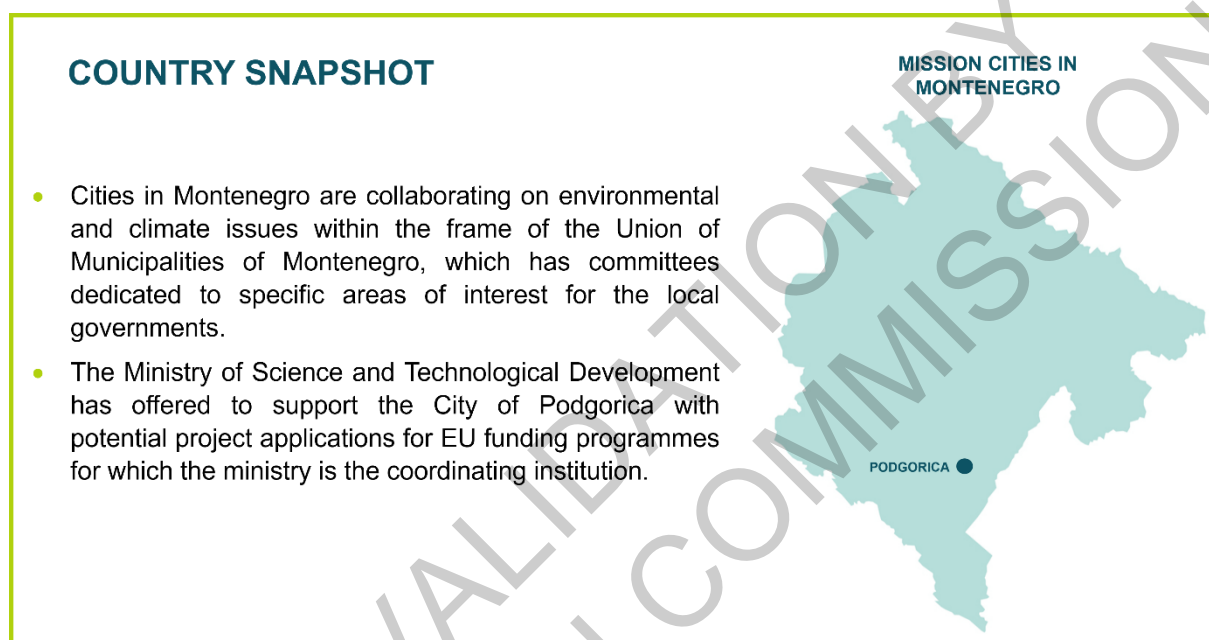


Figure 32: Montenegro country snapshot

32.1 Climate city collaboration in Montenegro

National level

32.1.1 Union of Municipalities of Montenegro

The [Union of Municipalities of Montenegro](#) is a national association of local authorities of Montenegro. The union aims to promote the common interests of local governments, improve the functioning and organisation of local governments, promote various forms of cooperation in all areas of local communities work in Montenegro, and cooperate with international organisations and local government unions. The union has a set of permanent committees that focus on specific areas of interest, for example the Committee for communal activities and environmental protection and the Committee on spatial planning. The cities involved in the union therefore collaborate on environmental and climate issues.

- **Cities involved:** 25 cities



- **Activities:** The union develops and improves the legal system and the position of local governments, supports cooperation between local governments and represents common local government interests in front of state bodies and other domestic and international entities. Additionally, the union cooperates with international organisations and realises international cooperation with local governments of other countries and regions.

32.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Ministry of Science and Technological Development organises a yearly event called the 'Days of Science' and suggested that the City of Podgorica would participate in this year's edition, to be held in September 2022, with the aim to promote the city's participation in the Cities Mission. Furthermore, the Ministry of Science and Technological Development offered to support Podgorica with potential project applications for the EU funding programmes for which the ministry is the coordinating institution, such as the Horizon Europe programme.

33 Norway

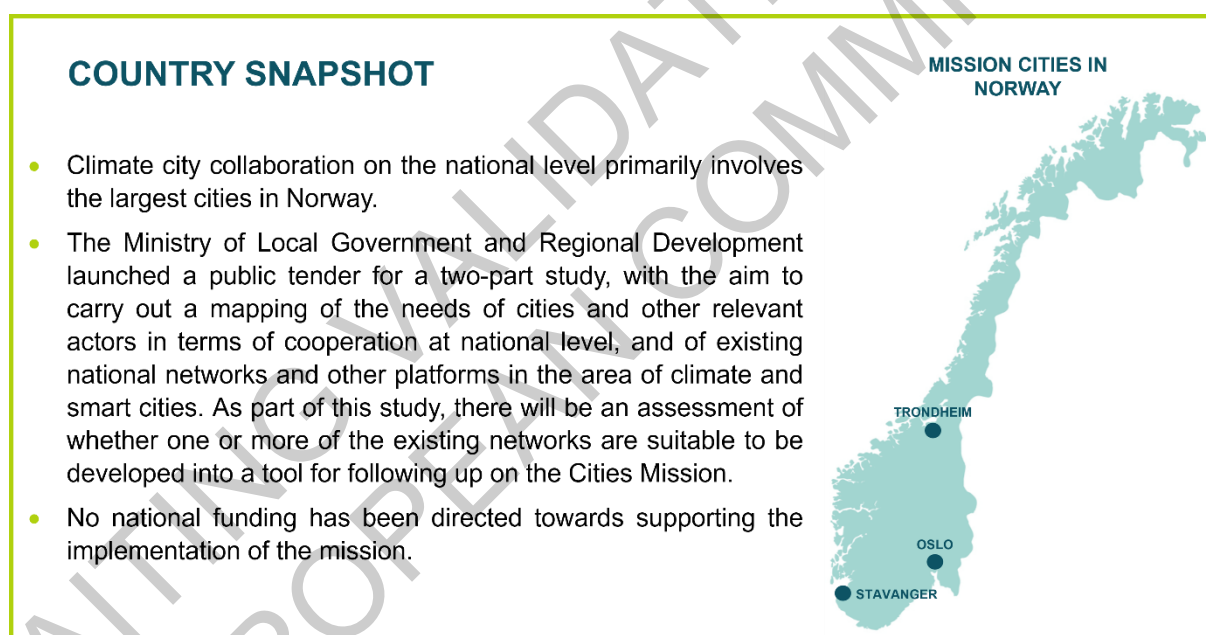


Figure 33: Norway country snapshot

33.1 Climate city collaboration in Norway

National level

33.1.1 KS Metropolitan Network

The [Metropolitan Network](#) is a separate network under the umbrella of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), consisting of the eight largest cities in Norway. The network aims to coordinate the political interests of the participating cities and promote these towards the national authorities, suggest priorities to KS and contribute to the work of KS on topics that are central to larger cities.

- **Cities involved:** 8 - Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Kristiansand, Tromsø, Bærum and Drammen
- **Facilitator:** The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and the involved cities
- **Activities:** The network promotes knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices between the involved cities. Some common projects are undertaken, such as a programme to develop a Climate Budget methodology for Norwegian municipalities.

Regional level

33.1.2 Oslo Region Alliance

The [Oslo Region Alliance](#) is a collaborative, political membership organisation with a goal to strengthen the Oslo region internationally as a competitive and sustainable region. This regional collaboration is a response to increasing pressure for national growth and growing competition among international cities and regions.

- **Cities involved:** 65 municipalities in the extended Oslo region
- **Facilitator:** A Secretariat is responsible for overall coordination of the administrative work of the alliance
- **Activities:** The focus is on urban planning, transport and mobility; environment and climate policies; and competitiveness and attractiveness. The aim is to coordinate measures and plans in these areas across the metropolitan region, while also promoting competence, innovation and competitiveness.

33.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

Although no national cities mission network has been established yet, the Norwegian cities expect that the national level will set up such a network and become more involved in the implementation of the Cities Mission. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is currently coordinating the activities related to a potential future national network.



The Research Council of Norway organised two online meetings between Norwegian cities and representatives of several national ministries to inform about the Cities Mission and the expression of interest for the Mission. As a follow-up to these webinars and the announcement of the selected cities for the Mission, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development launched a public tender for a two-part study. One element of this study is to carry out a mapping of the needs of cities and other relevant actors in terms of cooperation and networks at national level. The second element is to carry out a mapping of existing national networks and other platforms in the area of climate and smart cities. As part of this study, there will be an assessment of whether one or more of the existing networks are suitable to be developed into a tool for following up on the Cities Mission. The deadline to submit proposals for the tender was on 17 August 2022. The study is estimated to last for four months.

34 Turkey

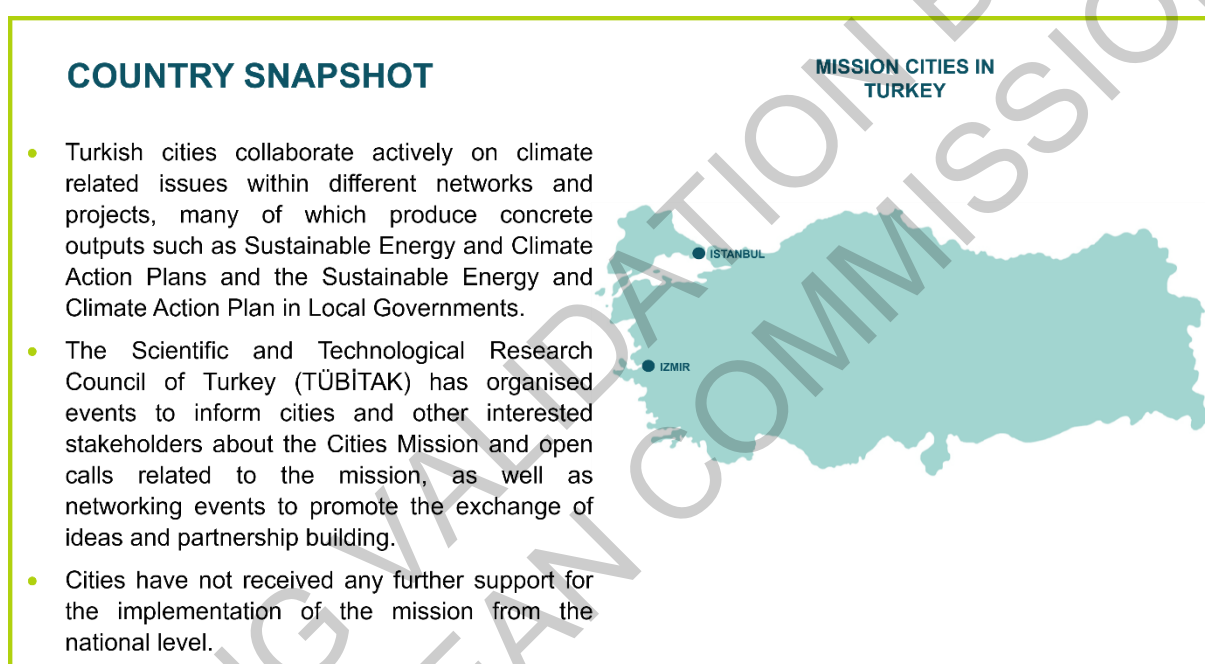


Figure 34: Turkey country snapshot

34.1 Climate city collaboration in Turkey

National level

34.1.1 The City Network meetings

The [City Network meetings](#) are sessions aiming to extend collaboration between cities on climate action and build societal resilience at urban level.

- **Cities involved:** Participation of 132 representatives from municipalities
- **Coordinator:** UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation



- **Activities:** Inform municipalities about the City Network's efforts, processes for membership, and reporting through sharing experience and knowledge, and to encourage them to participate in and contribute to networking activities for climate change adaptation.

34.1.2 EU4 Energy Transition: Covenant of Mayors in the Western Balkans and Turkey

The [EU4 Energy Transition: Covenant of Mayors in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#) aims to tackle climate change in the Western Balkans and Turkey by supporting the Covenant of Mayors cities in the region to fulfill their commitments under the energy and climate targets. In Turkey, the project supports cities to prepare Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) in line with the Covenant of Mayors initiative. The project also seeks to increase the visibility of the Covenant of Mayors and the number of cities in Turkey to become signatories.

- **Cities involved:** Two beneficiaries – Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Bağcılar Municipality, and seven observing municipalities – Kocaeli, Van, Edirne, Balıkesir, Büyükçekmece, Üsküdar and Karatay
- **Coordinator:** Implemented by the Central Project Management Agency and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and with the support of the Union of Marmara Municipalities and the Union of Municipalities of Turkey.
- **Activities:** Workshops with beneficiaries to discuss, define and develop the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). This includes the preparation of the methodology to develop a SECAP, the development of a Baseline Emission Inventories, the definition of the SECAP Vision, the development of the Energy, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, and the definition of the SECAP measures and its monitoring system. Observing cities are also invited to workshops and webinars to learn and improve their institutional capacities. The project also organises training sessions with international and local experts for cities that are interested in acquiring theoretical information about the greenhouse gas emission inventory, the need for energy efficiency, and adaptation to climate change. Roundtables between beneficiaries, observers and sectoral stakeholders are also organised. The project will also establish a multi-governance platform to bring together stakeholders from all levels and to provide a collective struggle on climate change. A survey has been also launched to understand what kind of support Turkish municipalities need for SECAP preparation and to develop a support strategy accordingly.

34.1.3 Strengthening Climate Adaptation Action in Turkey

The [Strengthening Climate Adaptation Action](#) in Turkey project aims to adopt measures against the future problems related to climate change, to strengthen all sectors and cities by adapting to climate change and to increase social resilience.

- **Cities involved:** 4 - Konya, Samsun, Sakarya and Muğla Metropolitan Municipalities
- **Coordinator:** UNDP and financed by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change and the European Union.
- **Activities:** Establish a national monitoring and evaluation system, and prepare a financing strategy and sectoral implementation guidelines. In addition, climate projections, vulnerability and risk analyses for sectors, sectoral climate vulnerability assessments, and determination of financial needs for adaptation are also being carried out. The estimated project results can be



listed as: i) to develop better decision-making tools for climate resilient sustainable development, ii) to develop adaptation and resilience planning in urban areas, iii) to develop the capacity for climate change adaptation action, iv) to improve operational capacity for climate change adaptation action through a climate change adaptation grant programme.

34.1.4 Sustainable Urban Development Network

The [Sustainable Urban Development Network](#) is a collaborative network to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Cities wishing to join the network must provide the Sustainable Urban Development Protocol signed by the mayor. The protocol states that members of the network are expected to include targets and indicators in their strategic plans. Municipalities that need support in this regard can contact the Local Monitoring Research and Applications Association.

- **Cities involved:** 24 cities
- **Coordinator:** Local Monitoring Research and Applications Association (Yereliz)
- **Activities:** Communications as well as knowledge sharing and collaboration among the municipalities which signed the Sustainable Urban Development Protocol.

34.1.5 Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in Local Governments

Seven district municipalities from different regions of Anatolia come together every three months and hold meetings to evaluate the development of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in Local Governments.

- **Cities involved:** 7 - Bodrum Municipality from MUĞLA, Karşıyaka Municipality from İZMİR, Nilüfer Municipality from BURSA, Seyhan Municipality from ADANA, Şişli Municipality and Kadıköy Municipality from İSTANBUL and Tepebaşı Municipality from ESKİŞEHİR
 - **Coordinator:** This cooperation is coordinated by the participating municipalities
- Activities:** Sharing and transfer of good practice examples, practices and information, and capacity building in municipalities.

34.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and the EU Framework Programmes National Coordination Office have organised activities aiming to inform interested actors (cities, research institutes, industry, etc) about the Cities Mission and its calls.

In December 2021, TÜBİTAK organised, together with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and the Directorate for EU Affairs, an online event to inform about the call for expressions of interest for the Cities Mission. In January 2022, TÜBİTAK, together with the Union of Municipalities of Marmara (190 members from the Marmara Region), organised a webinar to inform about the Mission and its call. In the event, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Bursa Metropolitan Municipality shared their experiences regarding the projects they were preparing and related processes. In February 2022, TÜBİTAK also organised, together with the Sabancı University and the Union of Municipalities of Marmara, an international networking event with the objective to allow the development of partnerships for the Mission and its calls. Pitching activities, presentation of project ideas, exchange of ideas and



online one-to-one meetings took place. The event was co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.

Additionally, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) has played a pioneer role in the process, with its vast experience and institutional capacity, for other cities and also district municipalities of Turkey. In all climate related events, IMM has informed attendees about the Cities Mission and its essential role in the implementation of climate actions. IMM has also increased the visibility of the Cities Mission through its social media channels.

35 United Kingdom

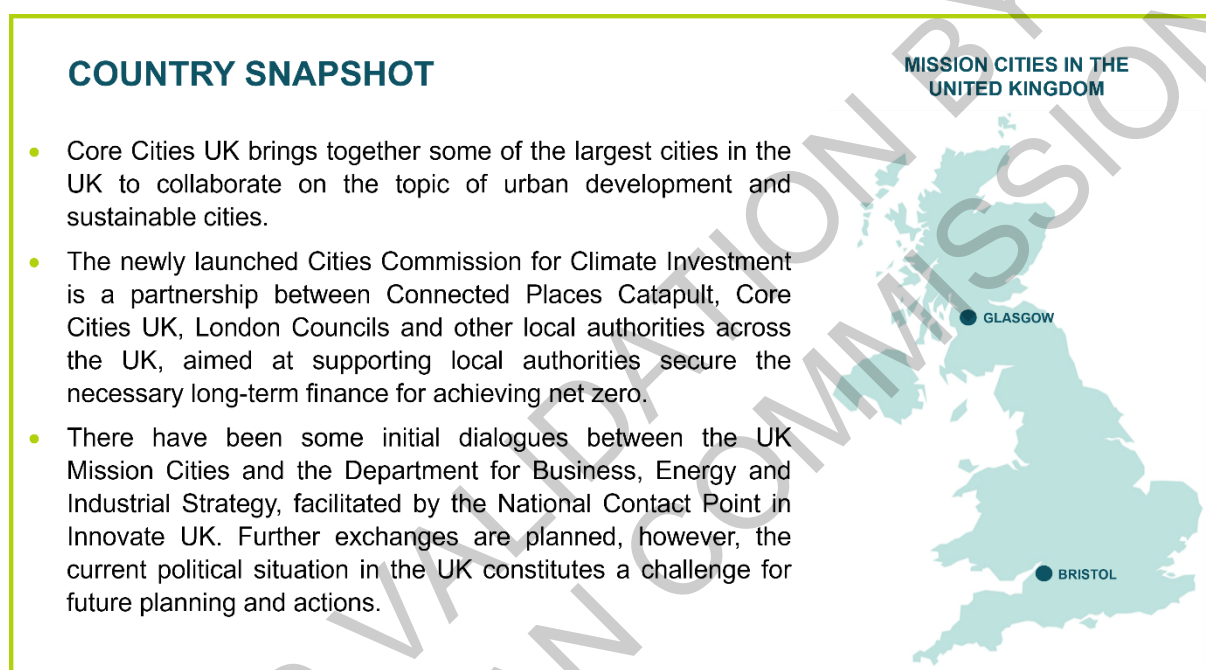


Figure 35: United Kingdom country snapshot

35.1 Climate city collaboration in the United Kingdom

National level

35.1.1 Core Cities UK

The mission of [Core Cities UK](#) is to create stronger and globally competitive cities that put the environment and people first. This is achieved through innovation and the development of practical solutions, turning ideas into action and building partnerships to deliver change based on evidence. Core Cities UK regularly meet with representatives from government to bring forward the positions of cities and to help ensure national policy solutions work at the local level. In 2022, the group agreed on a new set of priorities, which include climate change, infrastructure, and urban health and wellbeing.

- **Cities involved:** 11 - Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield



- **Activities:** Core Cities UK acts as an expert group that produces high-level research and policy ideas, drawing on experience and evidence from the involved cities. The group also holds events in parliament and at annual party conferences to engage with MPs, ministers, senior policy makers and practitioners, and engages with the government to influence legislation.

35.1.2 Cities Commission for Climate Investment

The Cities Commission for Climate Investment (**3Ci**) is a partnership between Connected Places Catapult, Core Cities UK, London Councils and other local authorities across the UK aimed at supporting local authorities to secure the necessary long-term finance for achieving net zero. 3Ci aims to create new financial partnerships with fund managers and banks, so they can invest with confidence in local net zero projects. These include the retrofit of homes and commercial properties, the integration of renewable energy, shifts to sustainable transport networks, circular waste management, and the enhancement of green spaces and waterways.

- **Cities involved:** 12 - London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield
- **Activities:** 3Ci aims to support UK cities in achieving their carbon reduction targets, whilst developing a deeper understanding of the low carbon investment opportunities and challenges faced by UK cities. Further, the partnership aims to create increased confidence within the investment community in low carbon projects by leveraging the benefits of the scale offered through networks of cities rather than individual ones, as well as provide the basis for engaging with industry on the opportunities for the supply and deployment of low carbon technologies into the marketplace.

35.2 National and regional support for the Cities Mission

There have been some initial dialogues and meetings between the United Kingdom (UK) Mission Cities (Bristol and Glasgow) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, facilitated by the National Contact Point in Innovate UK. Further exchanges are planned, however, the current political situation in the UK continues to constitute a challenge for future planning and actions.



Identified gaps and success factors in climate city collaborations

The identification of climate city collaboration initiatives in the EU Member States and Associated Countries involved in the Cities Mission has shed light on the current landscape of city collaborations around climate action in the different countries, presenting some successful examples while also revealing existing gaps around such collaboration. The identified gaps in climate city collaboration, i.e. countries and geographical areas where no or little collaboration is taking place between cities around climate issues on the regional and/or national level, and the identified barriers hampering such collaboration, are presented below. Through an analysis of successful examples of climate city collaboration initiatives as well as conversations with cities, a number of success factors and good examples have also been identified.

Gaps and barriers in climate city collaboration

- Smaller EU Member States, such as Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Luxembourg, as well as Associated Countries like Albania, Iceland and Montenegro, generally do not have large initiatives on the national or regional level where cities come together to collaborate on climate issues. The only identified permanent forums where climate related topics are discussed between city administrations are associations of municipalities as well as government-led working groups or committees that provide input to national strategies and policies. Climate collaboration in smaller countries tends to be project-based or based on personal contacts between people working in public administrations.
- Cities in countries that are administratively and politically divided and that have complex governance systems tend to concentrate their city collaborations around climate issues to the regional level rather than the national level. This is the case of Belgium, where little city collaboration around climate issues is taking place on the national level, but is rather concentrated to the regional level (Brussels Capital Region, Walloon Region and Flemish Region).
- Bosnia and Herzegovina is another European country with a very complex political and administrative system and four tiers of governance, making city collaborations on the national level extremely difficult. The cities, like many other Western Balkan cities, tend to therefore collaborate with cities from the same geographical area, for example cities from neighbouring countries.
- Some countries, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, find that the political will and/or the public interest is often missing within municipalities to engage in collaborations on climate issues.
- Some cities, especially in smaller countries, find it difficult to engage in climate collaborations with other cities due to funding and staff capacity issues. They would need support from the regional and/or national level to overcome these barriers.

Success factors and good examples of climate city collaboration

- Many EU Member States and Associated Countries host large-scale climate collaboration initiatives between cities that are facilitated by strong national actors, such as national energy agencies, national environment agencies and ministries. This facilitates the communication with the national government and the influence of the initiative on national processes and policy/regulatory instruments.
- Many collaboration initiatives between cities focus on the development of concrete instruments such as climate action plans and climate adaptation strategies. This is, for example, the case



with DK2020 in Denmark and the development of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in Local Governments in Turkey.

- Several climate city collaboration initiatives bring together many different stakeholder groups, such as local administrations, state representatives, civil society and the private sector, to cooperate on climate related issues. This enables the participation of the entire local ecosystem in climate work at the local level. Examples of such initiatives are the Hinku Network (Finland), the Kyoto Club (Italy) and Sustainable City by France (France).
- Local and regional energy agencies, as well as national networks gathering these, have an important and active role in climate work in many countries, as they participate in the development of strategies and plans and coordinate energy related projects.

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Identified gaps and success factors in support structures for the Cities Mission

An increasing number of countries have set up or are in the process of setting up national cities mission networks to gather the selected Mission Cities, and in some cases also other cities, and national ministries or government agencies to ensure the engagement and support of the national level in the implementation of the Cities Mission. Below follows an overview of the countries that either have established national initiatives working on implementing the Cities Mission and its objectives nationally, or are in the process of setting up such initiatives.

National climate city networks

Sweden: Collaboration within the Climate-neutral Cities 2030 initiative, involving 23 cities, the Viable Cities programme and five government agencies.

Spain: Collaboration within the CitiES2030 initiative, involving eight cities and the Innovation and Technology for Development Centre, Polytechnic University of Madrid.

Austria: Collaboration within a national 'Climate-neutral city' mission, involving the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and ten Austrian cities.

Finland: The Ministry of Economic Affairs is leading on the process of setting up a national cities mission network, currently involving the six selected and three non-selected Finnish Mission Cities.

France: Collaboration within a 'Mirror Group' for the Cities Mission, involving the 23 French selected and non-selected Mission Cities. The group is coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the General Commission for Sustainable Development.

Germany: The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building is leading on the set-up of a national platform for the Cities Mission, involving at least the selected German Mission Cities.

Greece: Collaboration within the 'Cities Pact', involving 15 Greek municipalities and the General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment from the Ministry of Energy and Environment.

Italy: The Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility and the Ministry of University and Research have agreed to support the Italian Mission Cities in the establishment of a national cities mission network.

Additionally, **Norway** and the **Netherlands** have initiated studies around the potential set-up of national cities mission networks.

Some factors that cities in countries with well-established national cities mission networks have found important for the successful set-up and running of these initiatives are:

- The set-up of an agenda with common priorities where the division of tasks is clear.
- The involvement of the relevant ministries is imperative for the implementation of the mission. Further, it is important that the national level's role and concrete commitments/areas of intervention are clearly defined.
- It is important that the issues of funding as well as policy and regulations are addressed within the national network/collaboration initiative.
- The opportunity to learn from each other and take part of other cities' experiences instead of always starting from square one when faced with a new challenge is valuable to the participating cities.
- The national network/collaboration initiative should have a clear focus and avoid including too many topics and activities into its work.



- The involvement of the regional level in any national level collaboration initiatives is important, especially in countries where the regional level has significant competences linked to climate neutrality such as Spain and France.

Success factors and support structures

Although the Cities Mission recently has moved into its implementation phase, the identification of support structures provided by the national level already revealed some good examples in terms of funding support. The mapping of national cities mission networks and other collaboration initiatives related to the mission also brought to light some factors that will have a positive impact on the implementation of the mission.

- Many emerging national cities mission networks have the ambition to also engage non-selected Mission Cities in the activities to foster replication and the wider-scale move towards climate neutrality.
- National ministries are participating in the emerging national cities mission networks in many countries and committing to supporting the cities in the implementation of the mission. This can be observed in countries such as Finland, Italy, Germany, Greece and France.
- In some countries, such as Lithuania and Latvia, and geographical areas, such as Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, both selected and non-selected cities are initiating informal collaborations around the Cities Mission to share knowledge, map common challenges and discuss solutions. In some countries, cities are also initiating dialogues with the national level to obtain the support of the relevant ministries in the work to achieve the objectives of the mission.
- Some countries have allocated funding for the implementation of the Cities Mission through national funding programmes, grants or other funding sources. These countries include Finland, Sweden, Greece and Austria. This funding has not only been directed towards Mission Cities, but also other cities in the respective countries.

Gaps and barriers hindering multi-level government collaboration

While the mapping of current support structures available to cities in different countries for the implementation of the Cities Mission revealed some good examples and success factors, it also brought to light a number of challenges and barriers across Europe that hinder multi-level government collaboration around climate action and the Cities Mission.

- Some Eastern European countries experience a lack of political will on the national level for climate action, which is imperative for the local level in terms of policy change and implementation support for the Cities Mission. Meanwhile, some Western European countries experience a lack of political interest by the national level to support cities in the implementation of the Cities Mission.
- Some countries, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, experience a lack of ownership of energy and climate issues within the national government, but also in many municipal administrations, making thematic multi-level government relations and discussions difficult. Additionally, the lack of ownership makes it difficult for the different governance levels to develop a holistic approach on climate action.
- Some countries have strong national decarbonisation ambitions set out in their national strategies and plans. However, these ambitions are not always connected to and reflected in municipal plans - sometimes due to differences in political interests - making it difficult for the different governance levels to collaborate on these issues.



- Local and especially national administrations in many countries are faced with the problem of 'siloed', oversized departments with lacking competences, where cross-departmental coordination and cooperation poses a significant challenge to any multi-level governance coordination efforts.
- Cities in some EU Member States and Associated Countries find it difficult to reach the national level and engage them in discussions around the Cities Mission. In some countries, current political circumstances make it an even greater challenge.
- The regional level is considered important in many countries, especially in EU Member States where the regional level has strong competences within climate action, such as Spain and France. Therefore, many cities find that the regional level should be more involved in the discussions and work around the implementation of the Cities Mission.
- In some Eastern European countries, national funds are not properly connected to climate issues, but rather split in many different calls and across different ministries. Additionally, the calls are often focused on 'putting out fires' rather than on long-term, strategic climate issues.
- Some countries lack national and/or regional funding programmes directed towards climate action that are accessible to cities.
- Some Central and Eastern European countries find that public governance is too centralised. Cities generally lack competences to make decisions locally and to implement specific climate actions. Additionally, many cities find that their financial autonomy has been reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also funding sources for climate projects available to the local level is lacking overall.



Conclusions

National and regional collaborations between cities on climate action are in general well-established and multifaceted in larger EU Member States and Associated Countries, as well as in countries that are more advanced within the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Many of these collaboration initiatives constitute networks, programmes and associations working on wider topics, such as smart cities, carbon neutrality and climate protection, whereas others are focused on energy issues and some are concentrated around the development of action plans and strategies related to climate. In some countries, these collaboration initiatives are facilitated by strong national actors such as national energy agencies, ministries and national environment agencies, and involve several different stakeholders from the local ecosystem in the activities.

Meanwhile, gaps in climate collaboration between cities can be observed in smaller countries and countries less advanced within the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation. In these countries, collaborations between cities on climate action tend to be project-based or a result of personal contacts between people working within public administrations. Additionally, some climate related collaboration takes place within associations of municipalities and government-led working groups or committees. The lack of climate city collaboration initiatives in some countries are due to different factors, such as the size of the country, the lack of political will and public interest in issues related to climate, and complex political and administrative systems together with cultural and/or historical factors which hamper collaboration between cities.

A growing number of countries in Europe are considering the set-up on national cities mission networks to facilitate the implementation of the mission and its objectives at the national level. In addition to the early examples in Sweden (Climate-neutral Cities 2030) and Spain (CitiES2030), similar initiatives have been or are currently in the process of being set up in countries like Austria, Finland, Germany, France, Greece and Italy. These networks and groups are often coordinated by or involve ministries or government agencies, which is important for the implementation of the mission in view of the issues of financing/funding and policies/regulatory frameworks. Most of these initiatives also involve cities beyond the mission, i.e. cities not among the 112 selected Mission Cities. In addition to the national cities mission networks, some countries have also allocated funding for the implementation of the Cities Mission through national funding programmes, grants or other funding sources.

A number of barriers hampering the implementation of the mission objectives and multi-level government collaboration around the mission were identified. These include the lack of political will at the national level for climate action, lack of political interest by the national level in the Cities Mission, lack of ownership of energy and climate issues within the national government, lack of national and/or regional funding directed towards climate action, and lack of competences to implement climate actions in cities.

The findings of this report will be important for the NetZeroCities project's continued work on the multi-level governance topic within WP1 (T1.4) and the continued work on facilitating and boosting scale-up and replication in cities within WP5 (T5.4.2).



ANNEX I: Questionnaire for cities⁵



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CITIES

Information about the questionnaire

BACKGROUND

The European Commission launched in September 2021 the Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 (Cities Mission), which aims to accelerate 100 European cities' transition towards climate neutrality. The EU-funded NetZeroCities project will support the cities selected to join the Mission on their journey to achieve climate neutrality by 2030 through a variety of services tailored to their needs and world-class expertise.

AIM OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of the development of services for cities to achieve climate neutrality, the project is conducting a mapping of the current landscape of climate related collaboration between cities and other levels of government (regional and national) in the 27 EU Member States, especially highlighting collaboration linked to the Cities Mission. With this mapping we want to understand, on the one hand, the scope of any general collaborations related to climate change mitigation taking place between cities in the EU Member States, and, on the other hand, the collaborations taking place and support structures being set up in EU Member States to support the implementation of the Cities Mission and its objectives.

The online Mission Platform will support city collaboration – both nationally and across the EU, and the NetZeroCities project will aim to facilitate the coordination and support provided by the national level to cities in achieving climate neutrality. It is therefore vital for the project to understand current collaboration schemes between cities as well as existing and planned support structures set up by the regional and/or national level.

To better understand this landscape, the NetZeroCities project is inviting cities in the 27 EU Member States to participate in a short questionnaire. This questionnaire acts as a first step in the mapping and may be followed up with interviews or emails to further understand the examples presented in countries and regions across the EU.

SCOPE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The scope of this mapping includes collaboration related to climate change mitigation, either within a specific sector such as energy or transport, or on broader topics such as governance, financing, citizen engagement or upscaling.

With this questionnaire, the NetZeroCities project partners aim to complete their understanding of the scope, structure and approach of existing collaboration examples and support mechanisms. In some Member States, organisations already support and facilitate activities related to the Cities Mission, such as Viable Cities in Sweden and the Polytechnic University of Madrid in Spain. Our aim is to explore the support and collaboration mechanism that are available in Member States and how such collaboration/support is organised. We also want to identify whether there are gaps in climate city collaboration and support structures in some Member States.

The questionnaire will close in August 2022.

We estimate that this questionnaire will take around 20 minutes to complete. Thank you for your time and support.

⁵ The questionnaire was developed and launched before the publication of the 112 selected cities for the Cities Mission. It therefore does not mention cities from Associated Countries in the sections on aim and scope.



Personal information

* Full name:

* Email address:

* City:

* Country:


Climate city collaboration in EU Member States

* 1. Is there any existing climate collaboration between cities on the regional and/or national level in your region/country?

- Yes
 No


Please include information about several collaboration examples in the sections below if applicable.

If yes, please explain the following:

a. What is the scope and objectives of this collaboration? 

b. Is this collaboration taking place on the regional and/or national level?

- Regional level
 National level
 Both

c. Who is facilitating this collaboration and what type of support is being given by the facilitator? 

d. Which cities are involved in this collaboration?

e. What activities are carried out and what are the outcomes of this collaboration?

f. Has this collaboration been set up as a response to the Cities Mission or are there any links to the Mission?

- Yes
 No



g. If yes, please explain these links.

h. Please provide any relevant links and sources where more information on this collaboration can be found.

National and regional support for the Cities Mission

2. Is the Cities Mission visible on the regional and/or national level?

If yes, please explain how.

* 3. Have any activities related to the Cities Mission been organised so far on the regional and/or national level?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain the following:

a. Who organised these activities?

b. What type of activities were organised?

c. Which cities participated?

d. What were the outcomes or concrete follow-up activities?

4. Is there already an actor at the national or regional level that facilitates climate related collaboration between cities or activities related to the Cities Mission?

a. If yes, who is this actor?

b. If no, who could this actor/organisation be in your region and/or country?



c. If no, what type of support would you expect from that actor/organisation?

5. Have any national agencies or ministries offered cities any support related to the Mission?

If yes, please explain.

6. Have any structural funds been directed to cities in order to support the Cities Mission and/or its objectives?

If yes, please explain. *For example: What type of projects are supported? How much funding is available? Who is eligible to apply?*

7. Are there existing or planned national funding programmes that support the implementation of the Cities Mission and/or its objectives?

If yes, please explain. *For example: What type of projects are supported? How much funding is available? Who is eligible to apply?*

Follow-up

* 8. Can the NetZeroCities project contact you to follow up on any of the information provided in this questionnaire?

- Yes
 No

GDPR

* 9. I consent to the NetZeroCities project using the information submitted in this questionnaire for internal research and public project reports.

- Yes
 No

Please note that no personal information will be used in any project reports. The personal information collected in this questionnaire is for follow-up purposes only.

Disclaimer: The NetZeroCities project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036519. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Submit



ANNEX II: List of contributors

Overview of cities, regions, universities and other actors contributing with information, through the questionnaire and interviews, for this report.

Albania: City of Elbasan

Austria: City of Klagenfurt and City of Vienna

Belgium: City of Leuven, Brussels Capital Region and City of La Louvière

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sarajevo 100 Cities and CENER 21

Bulgaria: City of Gabrovo and EcoEnergy

Croatia: City of Rijeka, City of Ivanić-Grad, Association of Croatian Cities and the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency

Cyprus: City of Limassol

Czech Republic: City of Liberec

Denmark: City of Aarhus, Greater Copenhagen Region and South Denmark Region

Estonia: City of Tartu

Finland: City of Turku

France: Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'azur Region, Île-de-France Region, Pays de la Loire Region and City of Caen

Germany: City of Munich, City of Frankfurt am Main, University of Siegen and the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building

Greece: City of Kozani and City of Thessaloniki

Hungary: City of Budapest

Iceland: City of Reykjavik

Ireland: City of Cork and City of Dublin

Israel: City of Eilat

Latvia: City of Riga

Lithuania: City of Vilnius

Malta: Gozo

Montenegro: City of Podgorica

Netherlands: City of Eindhoven

Norway: City of Oslo

Poland: City of Wrocław and City of Lublin

Portugal: City of Porto and the Association of Energy and Environment Agencies

Romania: Romanian Network of Energy Cities

Slovakia: City of Bratislava and City of Košice

Slovenia: City of Maribor, City of Velenje and City of Kranj



Spain: City of Logroño, City of Vitoria-Gasteiz and Basque Country

Sweden: City of Göteborg, City of Malmö, City of Lund, City of Helsingborg and Skåne Region

Turkey: City of Istanbul, City of Bodrum and City of Konya

United Kingdom: Innovate UK

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