

NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



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Call for Pilot Cities Cohort 3: Eligibility, Assessment Criteria & Submission platform

06 February 2024



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Welcome

Call launched:

- Call Guidelines published
- Submission platform open
- Supporting documents published (Call Guidelines, Financial Guidelines; Guidebook; Application templates and pro formas)

Scheduled webinars:

- Tuesday 23 January (1100 CET): Ambition & Approach, technical information
- **Tuesday 6 February (1100 CET): Eligibility and Assessment Criteria**
- Tuesday 13 February (1100 CET): Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Sensemaking
- Wednesday 21 February (1100 CET): Boot Camp & Twinning Cities Learning Programme

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





This webinar...

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

We will cover:

- **Call for Pilot Cities – Call Timeline**
- **Call for Pilot Cities – Eligibility & Assessment Criteria**
 - Stage 1 – Eligibility
 - Stage 2 – Assessment
 - Stage 3 – Strategic Selection
 - Decision Communication
- **Call for Pilot Cities Submission of the proposal in the Grant Management System**

Questions should be relevant to the content of the given webinar





Overview

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



This event is being recorded



Use the Q&A functionality to ask questions



Re/Name yourself and include your city and department



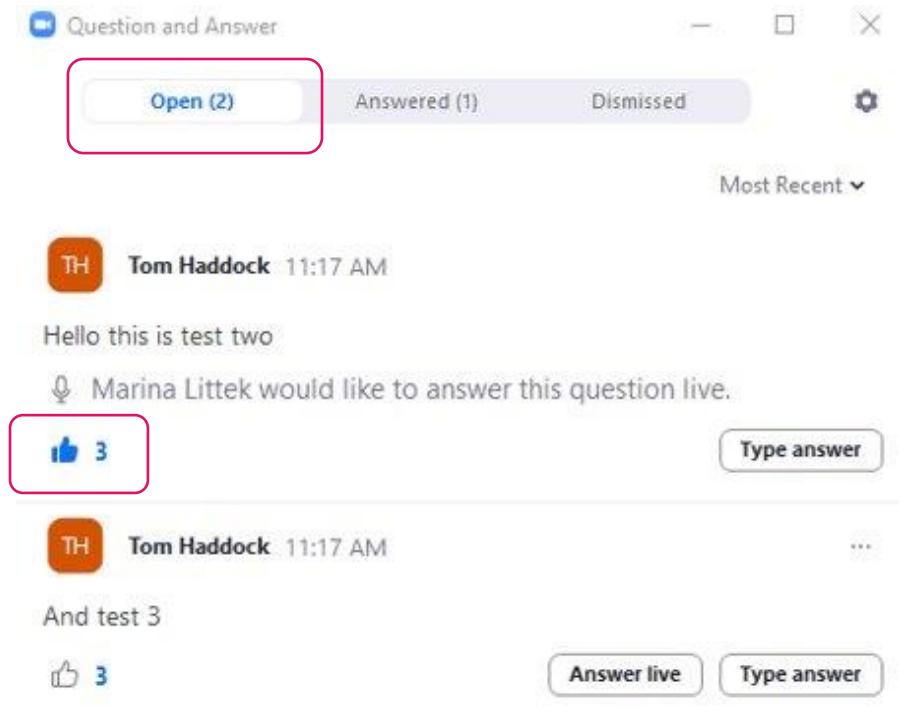


How to use the Q&A

1) Type down your questions



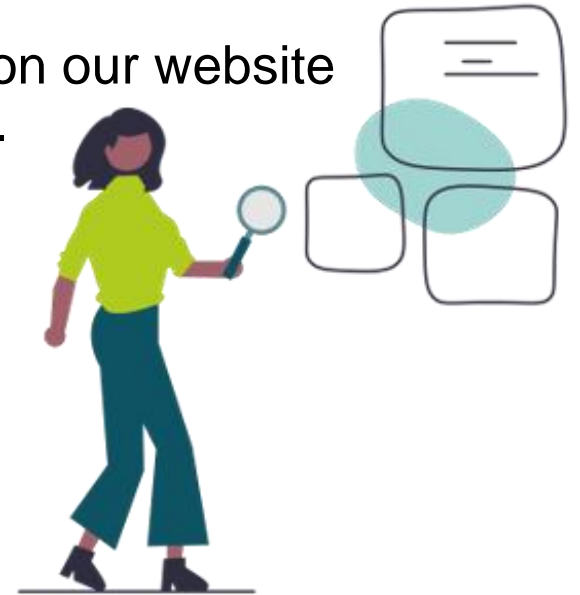
2) Vote up the questions





Disclaimer

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





Pilot Cities Programme Team



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Elisa Abrantes
Communications Lead

Pilot Cities and Twinning Learning Programme – Sigrid Ehrmann, Jehan Bhikoo (**EIT Urban Mobility**), Meline Gonzalez Piloyan (**EuroCities**)
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Key speakers



Will Wade

*NZC Pilot Cities
Programme
Orchestrator*

EIT Climate-KIC



Eva Zanchi

Quality Assurance

EIT Climate-KIC





Call for Pilot Cities

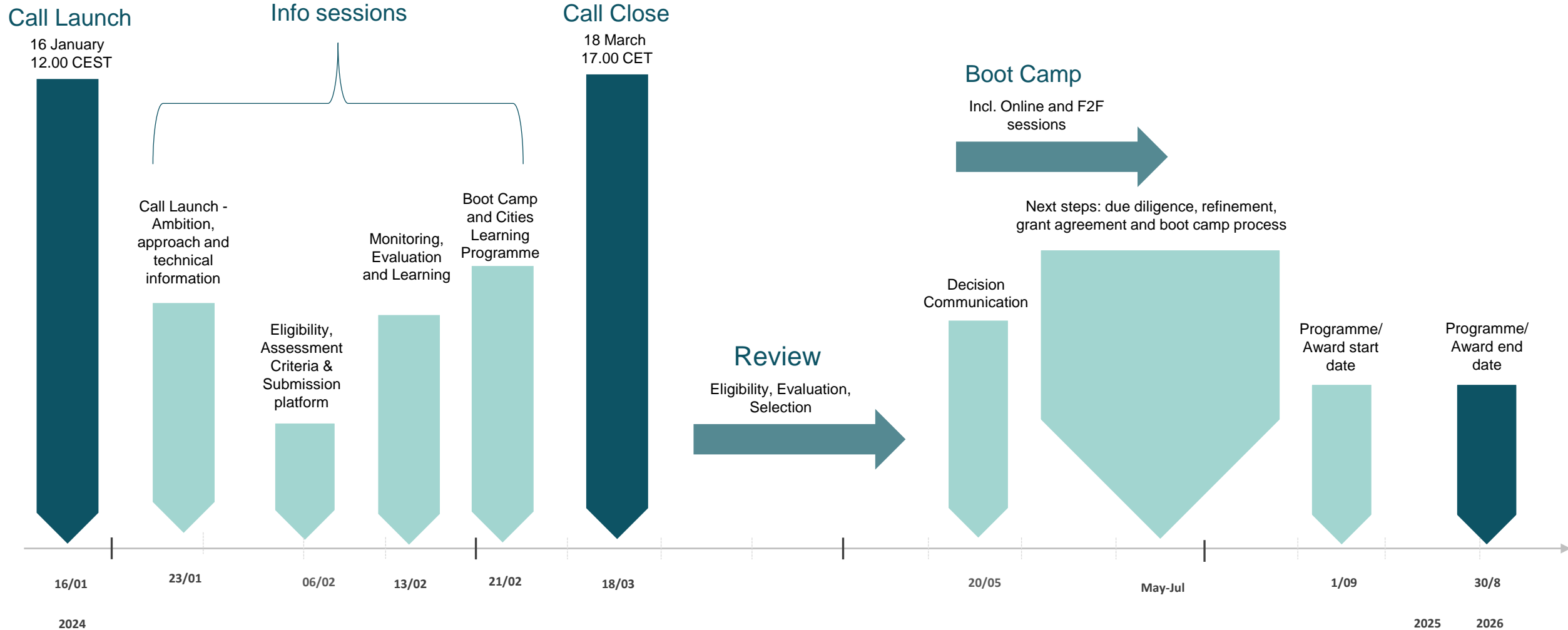
Call Timeline



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Call timeline





Call for Pilot Cities

Eligibility & Assessment Criteria



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Overview

Three-stage process



- **Stage 1: Eligibility**
Assessment of 5 pass/fail requirements related to the conditions of the call. Proposals must pass all eligibility criteria.
- **Stage 2: Assessment of quality**
Score against individual assessment criteria by at least two independent external reviewers. Specific threshold of points for **each** of the criteria groups (and some individual criteria)
- **Stage 3: Strategic selection**
Selection committee selects proposals as a portfolio of Pilot Cities with a funding range between 18 and 26M EUR, based on a range of contextual selection criteria





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

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





Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria

4. **A letter of support from the city mayor (or equivalent) must be provided. In the case of a multi-city proposal, one letter must be provided for each city.**

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

The letter must include:

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

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

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





Stage 2 Assessment

Assessment Criteria

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

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

**EIT Climate-KIC reserves the right to adjust the threshold depending on the overall quality and number of proposals received.*





Mandate to Act

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





Mandate to Act

Criterion	Description
Mandate to Act (15 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political: The pilot activities have a high level of political support and endorsement from the city, with a strong mandate for continued support through political will (5 points),• Strategic: The pilot activities are well connected to the city's overarching vision for climate neutrality and existing activities that will support this. (5 points)• Operational: The pilot activities are well connected to, and supported by, city budgeting and city programming. (5 points)
Understanding the problem(s) (10 points) Individual Threshold 6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City emissions domain(s): The pilot activities are focussed on relevant and important emissions domain(s) for the city, and the city's understanding of the emission domains' status quo is credible and - where available/applicable - backed up with data. (5 points)• Barriers to change: The city has identified systemic barriers and/or opportunities relevant to the concerned emissions domains. (5 points)
Orienting to innovative and systemic solutions (10 points) Individual Threshold 6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Levers: The pilot activities identify multiple, connected levers of/for change relevant to the concerned emissions domain(s), considering and exploiting relevant R&I solutions (and where relevant, inspired by and building upon existing European best practices and available solutions) and the city's overarching carbon neutrality ambition. (5 points)• Entry points: Relevant entry / intervention points for the pilot activities to exploit the levers of change are identified (i.e., where and how, practically, the levers will be used in the two-year programme), and the proposal explains how their interaction will target a system change / transformation, towards climate-neutrality. (5 points)





Capacity to Act

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





Capacity to Act

Criterion	Description
Collaboration and engagement (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder engagement: The pilot activities engage/aims to engage stakeholders that are relevant to these activities and emissions domain(s) concerned and representing a broad spectrum of expertise and experience. Roles of stakeholders are elaborated and an understanding of how the city will collaborate with them to implement pilot activities. (5 points)• Citizen engagement: Citizens are engaged at relevant stages of the pilot activities, and it is clear how their engagement will contribute to garner collective narrative and understanding of climate actions. Where relevant, the pilot activities describe how citizen engagement will contribute to the design and implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Cross-cutting considerations (5 points) <i>Individual Threshold</i> 3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-cutting considerations: The Pilot City proposal demonstrates awareness of how its activities and/or outcomes relate to and cater for cross-cutting themes such as diversity, inclusion, gender dimension, accessibility, and a just transition. The pilot activities outline a practical and proportionate approach to how it will approach how such considerations are treated in the implementation of the pilot activities. (5 points)
Capacity and capability (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading implementation: The proposal details how the pilot activities will be led and coordinated by the city, with representation from relevant city departments, roles, and capabilities, as they relate to the pilot activities and their implementation. (5 points)• Learning assessment plan: The proposal identifies, through a learning plan, how it intends to address capability and capacity needs of the city administration throughout implementation and then retain these beyond the life of the Programme. (5 points)
Soundness of work plan (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sound work plan: The proposed work plan to implement the pilot activities, within the allocated timeframe and budget, is sound and coherent with a systemic approach. Where a pilot cannot be fully implemented with the provided subgrant, a coherent plan is demonstrated for identifying and securing additional resources (by the city or co-financers) to fully implement the pilot within 24 months. (5 points)• Sound budget: The proposed budget is clearly outlined and justified and reflects value for money. (5 points)





Impact

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



Impact



Criterion	Description
Pilot activities' (learning / reflexive) governance (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflexive governance: The proposed governance model fosters transparency and accountability, actively contributes to the implementation of the pilot activities, and engages a diverse range of relevant participants with appropriate roles. (5 points) • Governance for learning: Governance activities support and enable learning and reflection, to drive development and improvement of pilot activities. (5 points)
Pilot activities' outcomes and direct/indirect impact (20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct impact: The proposal outlines substantive, direct impact it aims to have on city-level GHG emissions across one or more emission domains, as a proportion of the city's overall emissions profile. (5 points) • Indirect impact or co-benefits: A wide range of co-benefits of the pilot activities is identified (from a provided catalogue and/or, where applicable, bespoke 'non-standard' co-benefits) and the link demonstrated, with relevant indicators to measure outcomes and impact beyond the scope of direct implementation. (5 points) • Indicator selection: Relevant and balanced set of indicators have been selected from a provided catalogue (and/or, where required, bespoke 'customised' indicators elaborated) for the pilot activities' intended direct impact and co-benefits, with appropriate proposed monitoring of indicators (including how to measure). (5 points) • Pathways to climate-neutrality: The city outlines how they would expect their pilot activities to unlock pathways (i.e., create enabling conditions for long-term change beyond the direct scope of the project) by achieving short-term or medium-term outcomes to transition towards climate-neutrality. (5 points)
Pilot activities' scalability, replication, and risk management (15 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalability of impact: The proposal outlines how the pilot activities could be expanded, and the impact this expansion (scaling) would have (at intervals/over time) upon city-wide GHG emissions. (5 points) • Replication and transferability: The proposal presents detailed assumptions for how learning in and through the pilot activities will be captured and disseminated to support potential transferability and/or replication to other cities across the EU. (5 points) • Risk management: The proposal identifies risks related to both the practical implementation of the pilot activities and the potential indirect impacts and outcomes (such as related to co-benefit factors), with adequate mitigation and appropriate contingency measures. (5 points)





Stage 3 Strategic Selection

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

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

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

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





Decision Communication

- EIT Climate-KIC will aim to communicate final outcomes to applicants by **20 May 2024**
- Final communication will indicate the grant allocation and state the cost eligibility period.
- A **list of selected projects** with a description of the action, grant amounts and legal names of selected applicants and their country, date of the award and duration will be **published on the NetZeroCities Platform**.
- Contract development and signing processes are expected to proceed between **May and late August/start of September 2024**
- With a grant programme start date of **1 September 2024**





Q&A

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria





Submission system

Submission of the proposal in the system



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Submission System - Outline

1. Main functionalities of the System
2. Demo on the example of the NZC PCP Cohort 3 Call (quick overview of the proposal creation process)
3. Useful links and information





Submission System Main Functionalities

1. Review the Closed and Open Calls
2. Create and submit a Proposal for an Open Call
3. Invite a Collaborator to work on a Proposal together
4. Generate a PDF version of your Proposal to share it with your external partners (available in a couple of weeks)





Demo on the example of the NZC PCP Cohort 3 Call

- How to find an Open Call
- How to create a Proposal
- How to invite a Collaborator
- Quick introduction to the tabs of the System
- How to generate a PDF version of your Proposal





Useful links and information

1. Log-in page – [click here](#)
2. Registration instructions – [click here](#)
3. Proposal creation without a collaborator (Budget and Impact Framework templates are inside) – [click here](#)
4. Proposal creation with a collaborator (Budget and Impact Framework templates are inside) – [click here](#)
5. General list of instructions – [click here](#)
6. User support – please, contact us via NZCsupport@climate-kic.org



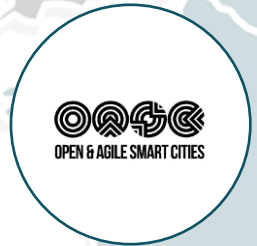
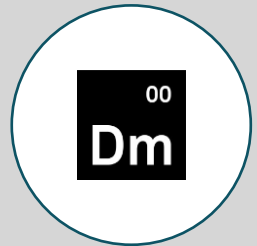


Q&A

The Call & System



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Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



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