



Call For Twin Cities

8 April – 31 May

Communication Toolkit

Summary

On 8 April, the Cities Mission Call for Twin Cities Cohort 2 opens until 31 May 2024. The call is open to any city within EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries who are not currently part of the Twinning Learning Programme, Pilot Cities Programme, or the Cities Mission and are committed to reaching climate neutrality before or by 2050. Selected Twin Cities will join a 20-month tailored learning programme for knowledge sharing and transfer of good practices between European cities.

Twin Cities will be matched with the [second cohort of Pilot Cities](#) selected in January 2024. Working individually or as clusters, Pilot Cities are testing new approaches to a rapid **climate transition** within the Horizon Europe programme. Their work, and the transfer of their learnings to Twin Cities is a crucial part of accomplishing the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities ("[EU Cities Mission](#)"), which aims for 112 cities to be climate neutral by 2030, and for all European Cities to follow suit by 2050.

The overarching objective of the Twinning Learning Programme is to foster lasting connections between cities facing similar challenges and sharing interests in different emissions domains on the road to climate neutrality. It will enable an accelerated transition towards climate neutrality across Europe, as Twin Cities will embed the learnings from Pilot activities in their local contexts, replicating solutions that work across multiple systems related to climate neutrality from buildings to waste, using various levers of change, including social innovation, governance, finance, and policy.

About this toolkit

This toolkit is here to provide you with **text and visuals, as well as guidance to help you communicate** on the Cities Mission Call for Twin Cities, Cohort 2.

The materials in this toolkit can be adapted to match your communication style and priorities. If you have questions related to communication, please reach out to [us](#)!

Relevant Links

- [Twinning Learning Programme Webpage](#)
- [Pilot City Programme Webpage](#)
- [Pilot Cities, Cohort 2](#)
- [Press Release](#)

Visuals

Download the visuals [here](#).

Sample Tweet Language to Use:

📄 Apply for the Call for **#TwinCities** as part of the EU Cities Mission
 Join a tailored city-to-city learning programme for knowledge transfer & replicate solutions that work towards **#climateneutrality**

📅 Deadline 31 May 2024

<https://netzerocities.eu/twinning-learning-programme/>
#MissionCities #EUMissions

Sample LinkedIn post:

📄 Apply for the Twinning Learning Programme as part of the EU Cities Mission.

🎯 Join a tailored learning programme aimed at facilitating knowledge transfer, enabling your city to replicate solutions that work towards **#climateneutrality**. #TwinCities will collaborate closely with the #PilotCities selected in January 2024 to test innovative approaches to decarbonisation for a rapid urban climate transition.

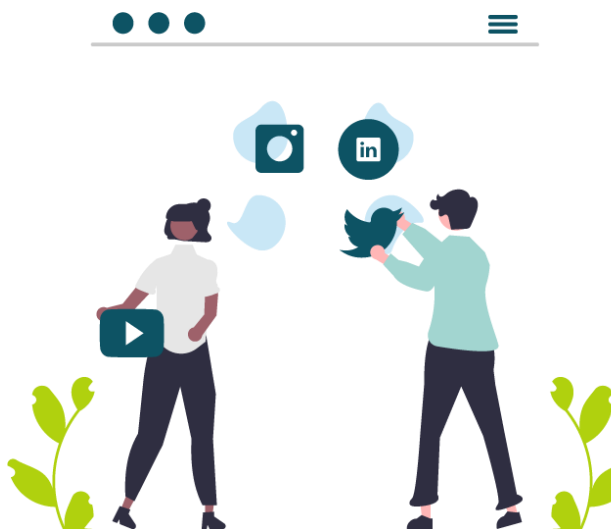
The call welcomes applications from cities located in EU countries or #HorizonEU associated countries, committed to climate neutrality before or by 2050. Applicants should not be already engaged in the Cities Mission or the Twinning and Pilot Cities Programmes.

📅 The Call is open from 8 April to 31 May 2024

👉 <https://netzerocities.eu/twinning-learning-programme/>
#EUMissions #MissionCities

Accounts to Follow:

We will be promoting the Call for Twin Cities on social media. You can follow us, tag us, and share content from the following accounts:



- **Twitter**

- [@NetZeroCitiesEU](#)
- [@EUScienceInnov](#)
- [@childp_child](#)
- [@RosalindeEU](#)

- **LinkedIn**

- [@NetZeroCitiesEU](#)
- [@EU Science, Research and Innovation](#)
- [Patrick Child](#)
- [Rosalinde Van der Vlies](#)

- **Instagram**

- [@EU Science](#)
- [@NetZeroCities](#)

- **Hashtags:**
 - #TwinCities
 - #PilotCities
 - #EUmissions
 - #HorizonEU
 - #MissionCities

About the Twinning Learning Programme

The Twinning Programme is a 20-month learning programme that aims to exchange knowledge and build capabilities across cities involved in the [Pilot Cities Programme](#) and Twin Cities. The programme will be based on a knowledge sharing approach from Pilot Cities to Twin Cities, while also enabling a peer learning framework, allowing Pilot Cities to also learn from Twin Cities' experiences. The programme will consist of three facilitated modules: Getting started, Co-creating, and Capitalising. Upon completion of the learning cycle, Twin Cities will embed the learnings from pilot activities across the city via a Twin City Action Plan.

About the EU Cities Mission

EU Missions are a new way to bring concrete solutions to some of our greatest challenges. They have ambitious goals and will deliver tangible results by 2030, by putting research and innovation into a new role, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration, as well as by engaging citizens. EU Missions are a novelty of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for the years 2021-2027.

Since climate mitigation is heavily dependent on urban action, we need to support cities in accelerating their green and digital transformation. The [Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission](#), in short the EU Cities Mission, involves local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. The EU Cities Mission contributes to the [European Green Deal](#) in building a low-carbon, climate-resilient future through research and innovation.

About NetZeroCities

NetZeroCities is a consortium consisting of 34 partners from 27 European countries, managing the EU Cities Mission Platform. NetZeroCities supports the [112 European cities](#) known as the Mission Cities in drastically reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to achieve climate neutrality.

NetZeroCities works as a service-oriented platform supported by world-class practitioners to help cities overcome the current structural, institutional and cultural barriers they face in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. NetZeroCities aims to enable European cities and citizens to show the way forward towards an inclusive, thriving, climate resilient and sustainable future. To do so, it tailors advanced capabilities related to systemic change, citizen engagement and democratic governance, capital and financial structuring, and social innovation, to ensure cities have access to the best expertise available anywhere in the world.

Acknowledgment of EU Funding - Requirements

In further communications, disclosure of EU funding is required (e.g., in presentations, further social media posts, etc.).

Please use the EU emblem and funding disclaimer in all materials. You can refer to [this EU guidance](#), with special attention to the funding disclaimer notes.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ambitious cities invited to connect with peers and apply to EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission Twinning Learning Programme

From today (8 April), cities across the EU and Horizon Europe-associated countries are invited to apply to join the EU Cities Mission’s peer exchange programme and speed up their journey towards climate neutrality.

Facilitated by NetZeroCities, the consortium currently managing the Cities Mission platform, the Twinning Learning Programme will pair applicants with second cohort of ‘Pilot Cities’ on the Mission, who act as innovation hubs, to pursue activities related to rapid decarbonisation.

Cities are twinned according to common circumstances and challenges, allowing them to benefit from each other’s knowledge and experience. In turn, this shared learning can be distributed back across the Mission network for other cities to access, accelerating their efforts on climate action.

The cities accepted to the 20-month programme will also have access to world-class practitioners and experts to facilitate learning opportunities, as well as financial support for reciprocal visits with their paired city. After completion, Twin Cities will embed their learning from pilot activities across the city via an Action Plan.

Applications are welcomed until 31 May from cities that are not already part of the Cities Mission or its ongoing Pilot and Twinning programmes.

In September 2023, 40 cities from across Europe were announced as the [first cohort of Twin Cities](#), joining the growing network of cities engaging with the EU Cities Mission to make more than 100 cities climate neutral by 2030.

Commenting on her experience in the first cohort of the programme, Kristina Kebeck, a research associate at the Climate Coordination Office in Cologne, said: “Our programme was a successful mix of professional exchange and networking. We experienced the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz during a bicycle excursion early in the morning on Day 1 (with slightly over zero degrees...) and a walk-around the medieval city centre in the evening. In workshop-blocks our project partners from Vitoria-Gasteiz, Barcelona and Valencia, as well as the twin city, Soria, presented their projects and lessons learned. We had a great time exchanging and learning from each other, e.g. on the issue on how to get citizens involved in the rehabilitation of buildings. In interactive workshop sessions, we commonly drafted an action plan for Soria and us, Cologne, to implement proximity offices according to our needs. What a blast!”

Ends

Background

1. Eligibility criteria for cities include:
 - a. Being located in EU countries or associated countries of Horizon Europe
 - b. A commitment to 2050 climate neutrality
 - c. Not being part of the EU Cities Mission, and not yet being a Twin or Pilot City
2. Guidance and application documents are available [here](#).

SAMPLE EMAIL TO CITIES

Dear X,

We are thrilled to announce that the Cities Mission second Call for Twin Cities is now officially open! The Twinning Learning Programme aims to foster collaboration and drive systemic change towards climate neutrality by pairing cities that are not yet engaged with the Cities Mission with Pilot Cities through a Twinning Learning Programme.

The Call that just launched will give access to a 20-month tailored programme that will facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building between selected Pilot and Twin Cities through meetings, site visits and workshops. Twin Cities will follow a programme comprising three modules: Getting Started, Co-creating, and Capitalising. At the end of the learning cycle, Twin Cities will develop an Action Plan tailored to their local context based on the experiences gained.

The Call for Twin Cities is open to any city within EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries who are not currently part of the Twinning Learning Programme, Pilot Cities Programme, or the Cities Mission and are committed to reaching climate neutrality before or by 2050.

Applications are accepted until 31 May 2024, at 23.59 CEST. Successful Twin Cities will be announced in September, with the learning programme set to commence by late September 2024.

More information on the Twinning Learning Programme is available on our website:

- [About the Twinning Learning Programme >>](#)
- [Browse the second Cohort of Pilot Cities to be paired with >>](#)
- [Download the Call Guidelines here >>](#)
- [Submit your application >>](#)

Any questions about the Twinning Learning Programme?

Join our webinar on 18 April from 14:00 – 15:15 CEST. This will be the opportunity to ask all your questions on the Twin Cities Cohort 2 Open Call as well as on the Twinning Learning Programme to the team in charge of the Call.

- [Register for the info-session webinar here >>](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

Note that this opportunity is part of a broader commitment from the EU Cities Mission and NetZeroCities as the Mission Platform to extend support beyond the Cities Mission to all European cities working towards climate neutrality. In the upcoming months, additional opportunities will emerge, through accessing tailored resources, guidance, and exchange platforms. In the next couple of days, NetZeroCities will circulate a survey to assess cities' needs to accelerate their climate transition journey. We encourage you to share your insights to make sure the initiatives they develop are tailored to your city's needs. Stay tuned!

Best regards,

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