



EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES



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25-26 JUNE 2024

CITIES MISSION CONFERENCE 2024

EMPOWERING CITIES - THE
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART
CITIES MISSION IN ACTION

FULL PROGRAMME

Palau de La Música, Valencia

NET ZERO CITIES

EU MISSION PLATFORM | CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



Valencia
Cities
Climate
Week



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CITIES MISSION CONFERENCE 2024 TUESDAY 25 JUNE

Cities Mission
Conference

EURESFO

Energy Cities
Annual Forum

Joint Plenaries

Breaks &
Networking

09:00 - 09:50

Registration - Lobby

09:00 - 09:50

Networking & breakfast - Hall Naranjos

10:00 - 10:20

Cities Mission Conference Open and Welcomes- Sala Joaquín Rodrigo

Speakers:

- Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment & Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission
- María José Catalá, Mayor of Valencia

10:20 - 11:00

City Leadership in Achieving Climate Neutrality: Progress, Challenges, and Innovation - Sala Joaquín Rodrigo

Speakers:

- André Sobczak, Secretary General, Eurocities (moderator)
- Filipe Araújo, Vice Mayor of Porto
- Dagur B. Eggertsson, Deputy Mayor of Reykjavik
- Pau Solanilla, Commissioner of International Relations and City Promotion, City of Barcelona
- Eline Vigre, Advisor, Horizon Europe & Mission Climate Neutral Cities by 2030, City of Stavanger

11:00 - 11:20

Coffee & Networking - Hall Naranjos

11:20 - 13:00

Thematic Peer-to-Peer Exchange Breakout Sessions

These sessions will facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among Mission Cities, focusing on the practical aspects and collaborative strategies for the effective implementation of Climate City Contracts (CCCs). Focusing on city-to-city learning and sharing with a focus on the above thematic challenges/areas.

Positive Energy Districts with projects ASCEND & Neutralpath - Sala Lucrecia

Mobility with projects metaCCAZE and CLIMABOROUGH - Sala Martín y Soler

Adaptation & Nature with ReGreenation & GreenIn Cities - Sala de Exposiciones

Urban Design & Planning with UP2030 & CLIMABOROUGH - Sala de Multiusos

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch & Marketplace - Hall Naranjos

14:00 - 15:30

Policy Lab: Built Environment - Patio de los Bambues

This session will bring together Pilot Cities (Cohort 1) from the cluster on built-environment, to present the policy-related challenges of their pilot activities. Participants will act as challenge solver cities in the formulation of policy recommendations, facilitated by thematic policy experts, as part of the general co-creative approach of the policy labs.

This will be an opportunity for Mission Cities to:

- Learn from thematic policy experts about EU policies in the built environment sector and assess their impact in Mission Cities.
- Exchange views and policy challenges with other European Mission Cities, in a dedicated discussion table.
- Exchange with the European Commission representatives.
- Gain visibility about your city-related challenge in the built environment sector.
- Gain support to advocate for your cities needs towards the EU decision-makers in the next EU mandate post-2024.

Confirmed speakers from cities of:

Alejandro Alonso European Project Officer City of Valencia / Karla Sitar Head Economic Development and Transition Office City of Velenje / Clara Lorente Martín Project Manager at CIRCE / and representatives from: Vitoria-Gasteiz, Barcelona, Valencia, Dresden, Zaragoza, Paris, Kozani, Velenje.



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Climate City Contracts as Instruments of Governance & Facilitating Access to Finance - *Sala Joaquín Rodrigo*

This city panel will focus on how cities use Climate City Contracts (CCCs) to align with other European and national programmes and initiatives, aiming to streamline processes and funding for climate action. It will showcase successful processes, emphasising vertical & horizontal stakeholder coordination mechanisms, risk mitigation strategies, and the establishment of cross-departmental transition teams, promoting a collaborative and aligned approach to climate initiatives.

Confirmed speakers:

Niina Nousjärvi, Development Manager City of Espoo / Dr Katalin Döbrönte, Management Consultant City of Pécs / Irene Garcia Head of the Climate Change Department City of Madrid / Ioannis Fallas Director Cluster of Biodiversity and Environment City of Kozani / Mar Jiménez, Senior Project Coordinator - NetZeroCities, Eurocities / Silvia Gugu, Senior Governance Expert, ICLEI Europe

14:00 - 15:30

Climate City Contract Lab - *Sala de Exposiciones*

This session will consist in a deep dive into the CCC drafting and submission process. It will include a chance to be inspired by cities that have successfully submitted in previous windows, and it will involve facilitated breakout sessions on the Commitments, Action plan and Investment plan by thematic area, as well as the chance to ask questions.

We encourage you to join this session if you are a city planning to submit in Window 4, and would like to:

- Learn from cities that have already submitted, and how to create a strong climate transition narrative
- Find out more about the CCC pre validation process and stages
- Join one of the interactive CCC mini deep dives featuring examples of best practice and have a chance to ask questions on:
 - Governance, Democracy, Social Innovation
 - Inventories and Impact Pathways
 - Investment Plan

There is also the possibility of booking a 1:1 slot on the 25th to clarify any specific questions you might have around your Greenhouse Gas Inventories. To book a 20 minute in person slot on the inventories on Tuesday 25th June, please fill out [this form](#).

Confirmed speakers from cities of:

Rossana Tori Project Manager Climate Neutral & Smart Cities Mission City of Milan / Chiara Cervigni Climate Expert City of Bologna / Alex Minshull Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager City of Bristol / and representative from Miskolc.

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break - *Hall Naranjos*

16:00 - 17:30

Making the Mission Label work for your City - *Sala Joaquín Rodrigo*

Making the Mission Label work for you: This information session will feature the Cities Mission Secretariat from the European Commission and examples from Mission Cities of how the label has facilitated their activities for climate neutrality. It will furthermore be an opportunity to discuss ideas how the use of the Mission Label could be expanded in the future.

Confirmed speakers:

- Philippe Froissard, Head of Unit, Strategy, Policy Coordination & Urban Transitions
- Aino Kulonen, Environmental coordinator, City of Turku
- Agnes Schönfelder, Climate City Advisor and City coordinator EU Mission/EU Green Deal, City of Mannheim
- Wolfgang Hafner, Coordinator of the Smart City Strategy and Mobility Officer, City of Klagenfurt

16:00 - 17:30

Challenge Workshops

- Advancing Multi-City and Multi-Stakeholder Governance (Spanish Cities) with Beatriz García-Moncó & Itxaso Molinero - *Patio de los Bambues*
- Accelerating Individual Action for City-Wide Decarbonisation (Galway) with Sharon Carroll - *Sala Lucrecia*
- Measuring Success in Climate Project Portfolios (Lund) with Mikael Edelstam - *Sala Martin y Soler*
- Maximising the Potential of Climate City Contract Partners (Turku) with Maria Granlund - *Sala de Exposiciones*

These Challenge Workshops will engage cities in deep discussions and peer-to-peer learning on specific themes relevant to the Pilot Cities Programme projects, such as mobility. The workshops aim to provide opportunities for challenge owners to receive diverse perspectives and insights, while attendees gain a deeper understanding of the theme and its implications for their own proposals, fostering collaboration and innovative thinking among participating cities.

17:30 - 20:00

Cocktail reception & informal discussions - *Hall Naranjos*



CITIES MISSION CONFERENCE 2024 WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

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08:30 - 09:30

Breakfast with Cities Mission Mayors - Sala Martin y Soler

A political exchange between Mission City Mayors and Mission Managers to collect feedback from Mission Cities on the progress of the Mission. Access to this session is restricted.

08:30 - 09:30
Registration - Lobby

08:30 - 09:30
Breakfast & Networking - Hall Naranjos

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome & Introductions - Sala José Iturbi

Short welcomes to the day, including a video message from Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Iliana Ivanova.

09:45 - 10:45

Opening Plenary - Sala José Iturbi

This session opens a very special day of the Valencia Cities Climate Week: a shared moment between the Cities Mission Conference, the European Urban Resilience Forum and the Energy Cities Annual Forum. This represents a crucial opportunity to discuss the role of local and regional governments in achieving climate (neutrality and adaptation) targets in the broad framework of sustainable development. Speakers are:

- Rosalinde van der Vlies, Clean Planet Directorate, DG RTD & Deputy Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission (moderator)
- Harriet Tiemens, Director, Metropolitan Region of Arnhem-Nijmegen
- Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven
- Jevgeni Ossinovski, Mayor of Tallinn
- Nadezhda Bobcheva, Deputy Mayor of Sofia
- Eckart Würzner Mayor of Heidelberg

10:45 - 11:15
Coffee Break - Hall Naranjos

11:15 - 12:30

Panel: Unlocking Climate Finance for Urban Transformation - Sala José Iturbi

Opening with a video message from Nadia Calviño, President, European Investment Bank, This session will be focused on how the Climate Cities Mission are addressing one of the biggest challenges – financing the climate transition in cities and diving into the concept and operationalisation of the Climate City Capital Hub. The Climate City Capital Hub aims to bring private and public capital together in a neutral platform to ensure the maximum amount of projects get finalised. Confirmed speakers:

- Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment & Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission (moderator)
- Jesús Julio Carnero, Mayor, City of Valladolid
- Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor, City of Leuven
- Fabien Perez, Deputy Mayor, City of Marseille
- Teresa Czerwinska, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
- Jaana Kiiski, Member of the City Development Board, Lappeenranta
- Allison Lobb, Executive Director, Bankers Without Boundaries

12:30 - 13:30

Panel: Leveraging multi-level governance for climate action: national, regional and local cooperation - Sala José Iturbi

This panel will focus on national and regional cooperation, engage in a discourse on challenges, share inspiring examples of the success stories, and chart a course for empowering and enhancing collaboration between national and regional entities in the Climate-Neutral & Adaptation Missions journeys. Confirmed speakers:

- Lina Liakou, Global Director of City Engagement & Practice, Resilient Cities Network (co-moderator)
- Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI Europe (co-moderator)
- Maider Etxebarria, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz
- Elina Rantanen, Deputy Mayor of Turku
- Elina Bardram, Director for Adaptation & Resilience, Communication and Civil Society Relations, DG CLIMA & Mission Manager for Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission
- Rosalinde van der Vlies, Clean Planet Directorate, DG RTD & Deputy Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission
- Ovidiu-Vasile Cîmpean, State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania



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13:30 - 14:30
Lunch - Hall Naranjos

14:30 - 15:45

All hands on deck: how do national platforms help cities go climate neutral? - *Patio de los Bambues*

Explore effective multi-level collaboration for climate-neutral cities, focusing on successful national platforms. Discuss key challenges, needs, and criteria for impactful national platforms. Foster understanding of how national platforms support cities in achieving climate neutrality targets and engaging stakeholders. Share case studies on innovative governance approaches.

Confirmed speakers:

- Ovidiu-Vasile Cimpean, State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania
- Taina Tukiainen, Research Director University of Vaasa, Finnish Platform
- Jordi Peris, Tenured Professor, University of València, CitiES2030
- Maximilian Jäger, Innovation Mobility Expert, AustriaTech, Austrian Climate-Neutral Cities Mission

14:30 - 15:45

Our Common Mission: Collaboration for a Resilient and Climate Neutral Future - *Sala José Iturbi*

In a crucial moment for the EU Missions, when cities and regions are actively engaging with projects and activities and set their expectations, this session aims to reflect on the opportunities to maximise cross-Missions collaboration through analysing tools integration.

14:30 - 15:45

Adaptation Finance: Bridging the Gap Between Financiers and Cities for climate-neutral cities and regions - *Sala Lucrecia*

In the session we recognise that addressing climate adaptation challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving both government and investor participation. While there are existing maturity assessment models for measuring public authorities capabilities in technical aspects of adaptation, there is a need for models that focus on funding and finance capabilities for adaptation. Furthermore, this session delves into the opportunities and barriers to financing climate adaptation actions in cities. It will feature financing experts that will present successful business cases which have attracted financial institutions' interest, and also city practitioners sharing their experiences in maturing projects to bankability level while ensuring resilience co-benefits.

14:30 - 15:45

Decarbonisation of Heating and Cooling - *Sala Martin y Soler*

From the Mission's first Climate City Contract and Investment Plans, the decarbonisation of heating and cooling is one of the main challenges faced by Mission's cities. This session will show how your city can learn from other cities that have been frontrunners in this initiative. You will also learn about the regulatory framework required for decarbonisation.

14:30 - 15:45

Beyond Recycling: Waste Prevention in Circular Strategies - *Sala de Exposiciones*

This session has been crafted to showcase exemplary practices in waste management strategies, aimed at equipping your city with practical insights from pioneering urban centers. The session will frame waste management through the concept of circularity, highlighting the interconnectedness of resources and emphasising the importance of fostering a closed-loop system that reduces environmental impact and enhances resource efficiency.

15:15 - 16:15

Round Table of Spanish Mayors: Spanish Cities part of EU Cities Mission - *Sala Joaquín Rodrigo* Organised by the City of València

15:45 - 16:15
Coffee Break - Hall Naranjos



CITIES MISSION CONFERENCE 2024 WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

- Cities Mission Conference
- EURESFO
- Energy Cities Annual Forum
- Joint Plenaries
- Breaks & Networking

16:15 - 17:30
Engaging Stakeholders: Innovations for Climate Action - *Patio de los Bambues*
Dive into innovative approaches to stakeholder and citizen engagement in climate action and the implementation of Climate City Contracts. Discuss barriers, network power, and role of systemic engagement. Explore building distributed networks, inclusivity, prototyping culture, and dialogue.

16:15 - 17:30
Cities Mission Dialogues: Forward-looking Perspectives on finance, procurement, and policy needs to achieve 2030 climate neutrality (Cities Mission Conference Attendees only) - *Sala Joaquín Rodrigo*
This session will provide an opportunity for cities to reflect on the future of the Mission in their cities. Cities will share their perspectives on key challenges and opportunities faced or anticipated within the overarching and interlinked topics of finance, procurement, and policy. The session will be a collaborative dialogue to surface short- and long-term needs and recommendations for Mission support. Confirmed speakers:

- Gianluca Borghi, Deputy Mayor of Parma
- Fabien Perez, Deputy Mayor of Marseille
- Rosalinde van der Vlies, Clean Planet Directorate, DG RTD & Deputy Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission
- Matijn van Stam, Public Affairs Coordinator for Sustainability and Environment, The Hague
- Maiju Juntunen, Planning Officer, Tampere
- Agnes Schönfelder, City of Mannheim

16:15 - 17:30
Multi-level Governance: Coordinating for Climate Adaptation - *Sala de Ensayos*
This session will bring together resilience projects working on regional resilience to address questions including: how are we approaching the regional scale? What does climate resilience mean at regional level? What challenges have regions found in the different projects so far, in planning and implementing resilience interventions? What lessons learnt can be shared? What are knowledge gaps? How can regions be best supported?

16:15 - 17:30
Cities and Energy Communities: Working Together for a Fairer Energy Transition - *Sala Lucrecia*

16:15 - 17:30
Building National Climate Strategies with a Bottom-Up Approach - *Sala Martin y Soler*
In their efforts to contribute to a more sustainable future, cities often face the hurdle of having insufficient information to appropriately assess their respective pathways towards climate neutrality. In this session, EUCityCalc partners will present project findings and recommendations to improve dialogue between government levels for climate policies. They'll introduce a free training program to help cities optimize tool usage and facilitate stakeholder workshops.

16:15 - 17:30
Navigating Forward: Policies for a Water-Resilient Europe - *Sala de Exposiciones*
This session will explore strategies for building a water-resilient future in Europe. It will do so by bringing together stakeholders from EU institutions, regional and local public authorities and private stakeholders to discuss a possible way forward.

17:45 - 18:30
Closing Plenary - *Sala José Iturbi*
Drawing on the discussions from this busy day of the Valencia Cities Climate Week, this plenary session aims to bring to the audience reflections on the main issues discussed and in particular, on collaboration as a key tool for cities and regions to advance in climate neutrality and resilience towards ambitious goals.

Closing discussion: Enhancing Urban Climate Initiatives Through Collaboration

- Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director Europe, ICLEI Europe
- Thomas Osdoba, NetZeroCities Programme Director, EIT Climate-KIC
- Claire Roumet, Strategic partnerships, EU Policy & Overall Coordination, Energy Cities
- Jennifer Baker (moderator)
- **Closing:**
- Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment & Mission Manager, 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, European Commission
- Hugo Morán Fernández, Spanish State Secretary for the Environment
- María José Catalá, Mayor of Valencia
- Andrius Grigonis, Deputy Mayor of Vilnius
- Carlos Mazón Guixo, President de la Generalitat Valencia

20:00 - Late
Networking cocktail & dinner - *Hemispheric*

