

CCC HIGHLIGHTS

A DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORTERS

SUMMARY

The EU Mission Label has been awarded to 33 cities as of September 2024 — with 10 cities receiving the Label in October 2023 and another 23 in March 2024. The Label recognises each city's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2030, as set out in their respective Climate City Contracts (CCCs). This factsheet, as part of a wider series titled “CCC Highlights”, explores the **wide range of supporters** who signed the labelled CCCs, particularly the Climate Commitments Document.

Main takeaways:

- **Broad engagement:** The 33 Mission-labelled cities secured **837 signatories**, averaging **25 per city**, from **government, businesses, civil society organisations, knowledge institutions, and service providers**. The number of signatories demonstrates both the robust support from cross-sector stakeholders and the shared recognition of the importance of collective action to achieving climate neutrality.
- **The private sector is the largest group among the signatories: businesses** represent **36%** of signatories, with sectors like **transport, energy, and architecture** being the most represented.
- **Active Civil Society constitute the second largest signatories group: 21%** of signatories are civil society organisations, with strong participation from **business associations** and **community groups**.
- **Multi-level Governance:** All cities included local government signatories, while many also engage actors from **regional** and **national** levels for broader institutional support.





First Cohort of Mission Label Cities (Label awarded in October 2023)	Second Cohort of Mission Label Cities (Label awarded in March 2024)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sønderborg • Cluj-Napoca • Klagenfurt • Mannheim • Valladolid • Vitoria-Gasteiz • Madrid • Stockholm • Valencia • Zaragoza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ioannina • Kalamata • Kozani • Thessaloniki • Heidelberg • Leuven • Espoo • Lahti • Lappeenranta • Tampere • Turku • Barcelona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seville • Pecs • Malmö • Guimaraes • Lisbon • Florence • Parma • Marseille • Lyon • Limassol • Izmir

WHAT IS THE MISSION LABEL?

The Mission Label is the European Commission's recognition of cities' successful development of their CCCs, which outline the overall vision for climate neutrality and contain an action plan and investment strategy.

BUILDING SUPPORT: THE FIRST CLIMATE CITY CONTRACT SIGNATORIES

The first 33 Mission-labelled cities illustrate how CCCs serve as innovative governance tools, fostering collaboration and shared ownership of the journey towards climate neutrality. The **33 CCCs were backed by 837 signatories** across various sectors, including multiple levels of government, knowledge institutions, businesses, service providers, and civil society organisations. On average, each city secured 25 signatories, highlighting a broad level of engagement. Significant variations exist: **Valencia led with 169 signatories**, while other cities recorded far fewer. It is important to note that the number of signatories does not necessarily reflect the quality of the contracts or the extent of each actor's involvement during implementation.

When examining the types of signatories across all cities, **firms** constitute the largest group, making up **36%** of the total (Figure 1), with **297 signatories**. **Civil society organisations** follow, representing **21% (176 signatories)**. **Government entities, service providers, and knowledge institutions** account for **16%, 14%, and 13%**, respectively. A small portion (**1%**) of signatories could not be categorised due to a lack of data.

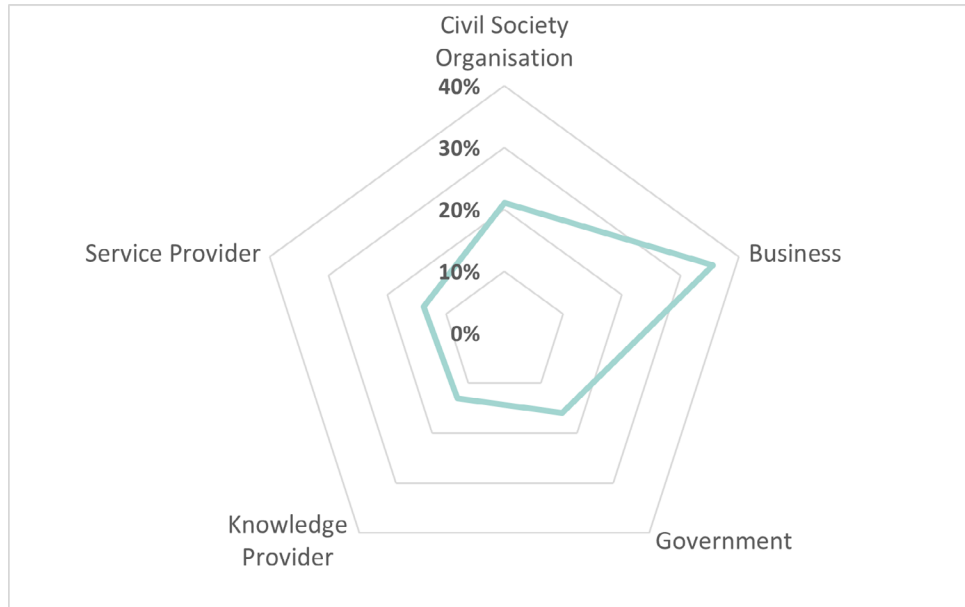


Figure 1. Total number of signatories by group

VARIABILITY ACROSS CITIES

While the overall trends show that firms and civil society organisations as the dominant groups, city-level data reveals **significant variability** in the composition of signatories (Figure 2). Some cities, like **Valencia, Malmö, and Tampere**, demonstrate particularly strong engagement with the **business sector**, as more than **50%** of their signatories are comprised of companies. In contrast, cities like **Izmir** and **Valladolid** stand out for their involvement of **civil society organisations**, with this group accounting for **53%** and **44%** of their signatories, respectively. **Valencia** and **Kalamata** also demonstrated many signatories from **academia and research institutions**, while **Stockholm** and **Sønderborg** focused their efforts on gathering support from **service providers**.

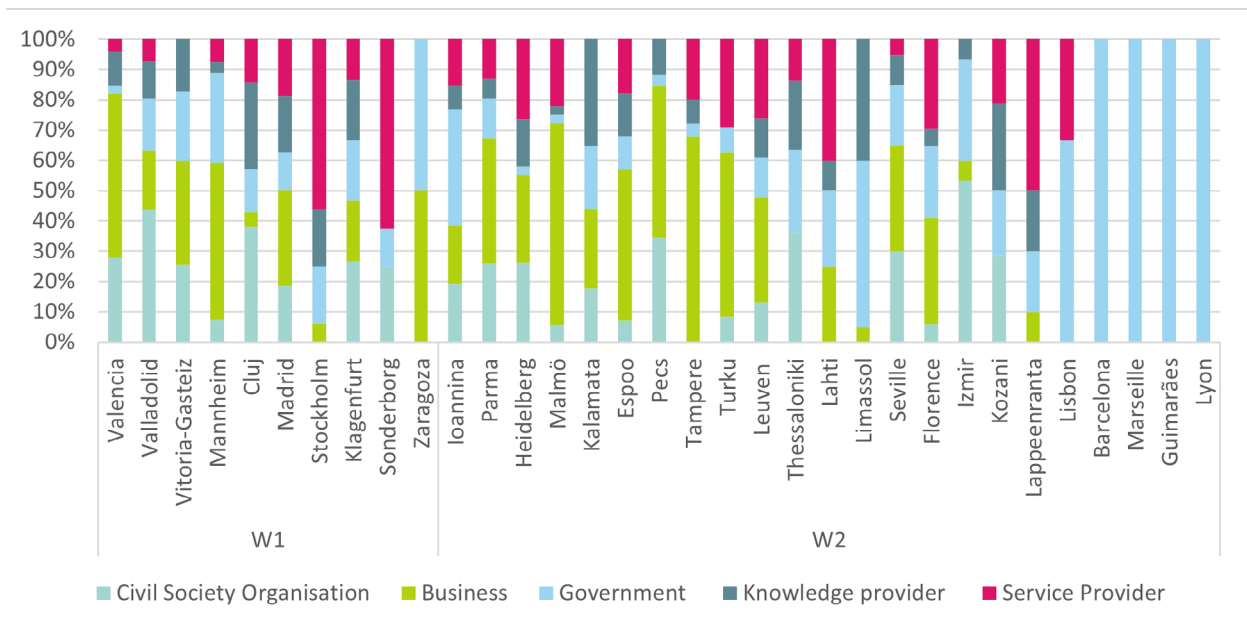


Figure 2. Composition of signatories by group, per city





GOVERNMENT SIGNATORIES: FROM LOCAL TO NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Every city included **signatories from the local government**, with at least the mayor or the city council involved (Figure 3). Only **8 cities** restricted their government signatories to the **local level**. In contrast, most cities gathered signatories from multiple levels of government. **Ioannina and Limassol** stood out for their many government signatories, with 20 and 11 bodies signing their respective CCCs, respectively. The **local level** is the most represented across all cities, accounting for **66 signatories**, primarily mayors and city councils. **Metropolitan and regional levels** feature a mix of **technical and regulatory agencies, political representatives, and government departments**. Meanwhile, **national-level** signatories are predominantly from **ministries and government departments** (Figure 4).

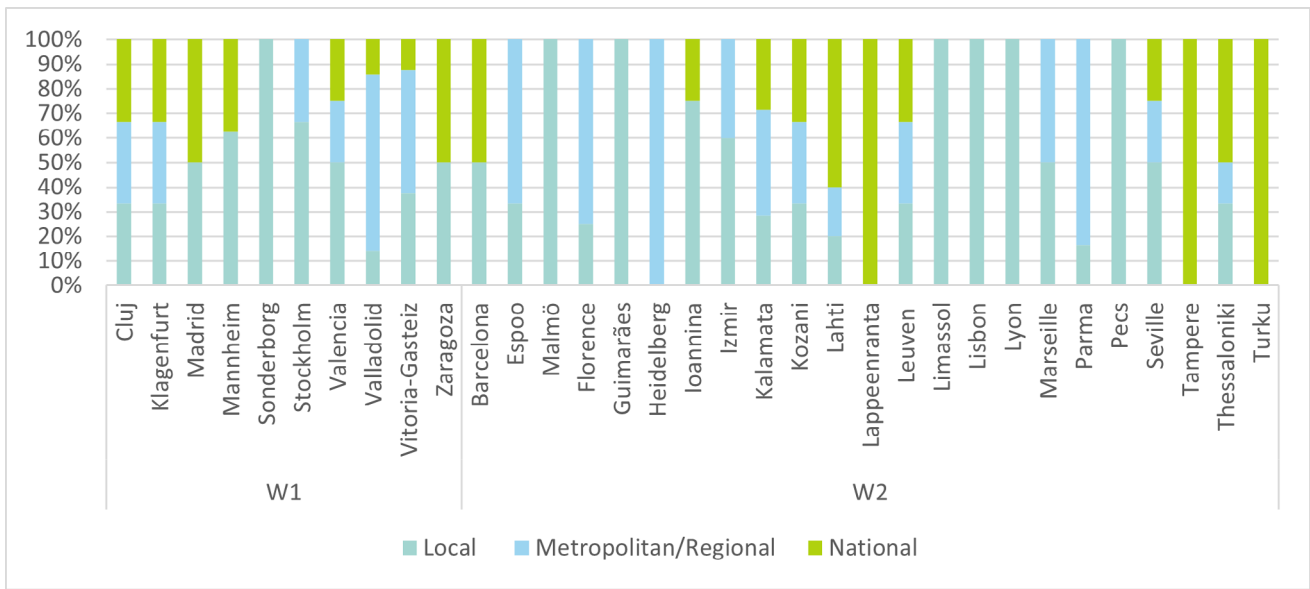


Figure 3. Government entities by level of government, per city

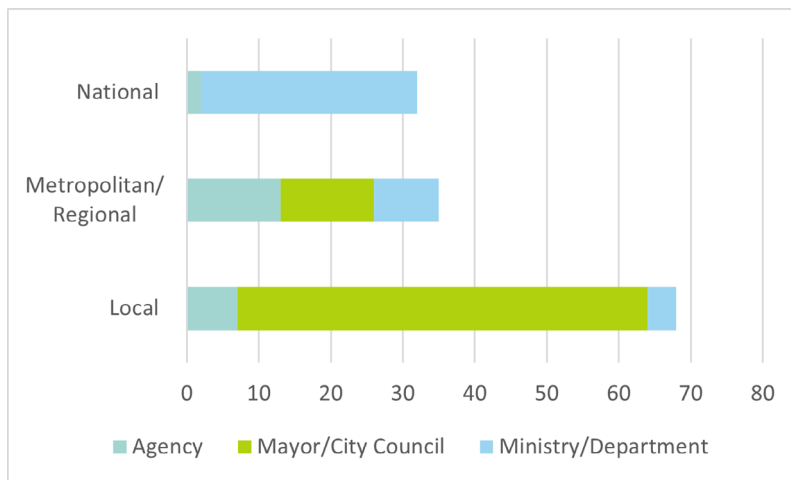


Figure 4. Government entities by level and type of actor





BUSINESSES: THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A VITAL PARTNER IN CLIMATE ACTION

Businesses form the largest group of signatories in the Climate City Contracts, representing 36% of the total signatories. Within this group, private firms make up the majority (85%), while consultancies, categorised separately from general for-profit firms, account for 12%. Additionally, innovation parks and industrial clusters make up 3%.

When looking at businesses by sector and considering only those with available sectoral data (17% of the business signatories lack this information), the **transport sector** is the most represented, accounting for **13%** of the signatories within this group. This is followed by the **energy sector (9%)** and the **built environment/architecture sector (8%)**, highlighting the crucial roles these industries play in driving climate-related transformations (Figure 5).

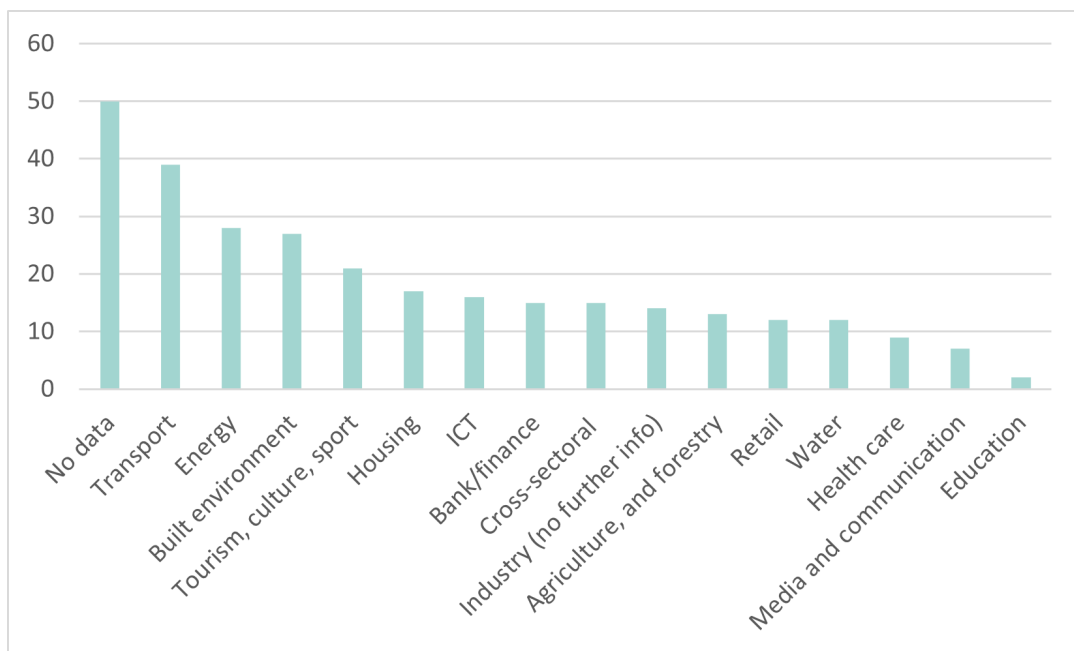


Figure 5. Businesses by sector

CIVIL SOCIETY: A DIVERSE AND ENGAGED GROUP

Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in the Climate City Contracts, representing 21% of the signatories. These organisations are internally varied and are categorised into different groups (Figure 6). **Business associations** — such as professional orders and chambers of commerce—make up the largest share, accounting for **57%** of CSO signatories. **Community associations** represent **33%** and include neighbourhood groups, thematic organisations like youth or cultural associations, and charity groups. Other categories include **trade unions (5%)**, **foundations (3%)**, and **sports clubs (2%)**, highlighting the wide range of non-governmental actors committed to climate action.

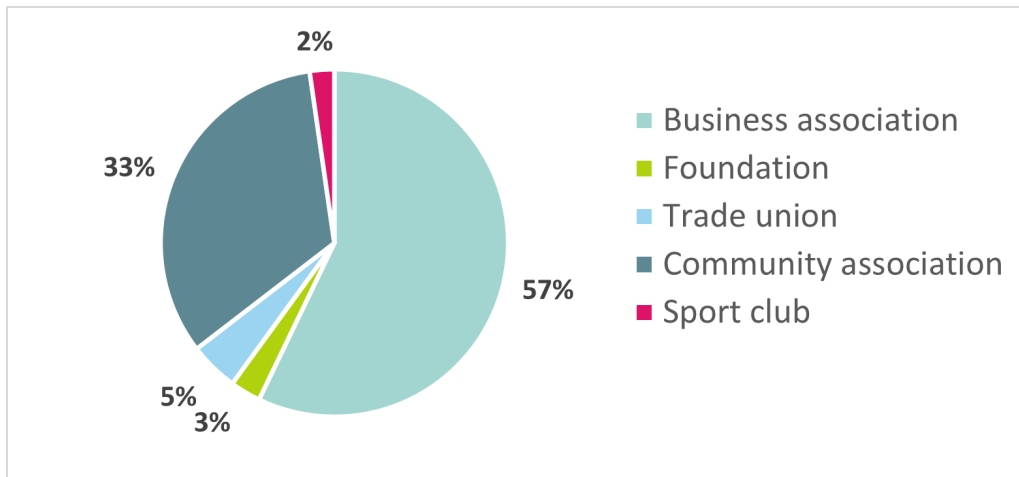


Figure 6. Civil Society Organisations by type

SERVICE PROVIDERS: A DIVERSE GROUP OF ACTORS AND SECTORS

Service providers represent **14%** of the CCC signatories. This group was categorised separately from public government entities and private firms due to the varying ownership structures across countries, which often makes it difficult to track their affiliations. Service providers encompass a broad range of entities that deliver public services. Their involvement extends beyond utilities to include a variety of sectors crucial for urban life (Figure 7). **Waste and water management** was the most represented sector, with **23%** of signatories, followed by the **transport sector (21%)** and **housing (18%)**. **Energy services** (comprising electricity, heating, gas, etc.) represent **13%**, while **healthcare** accounts for **8%**.

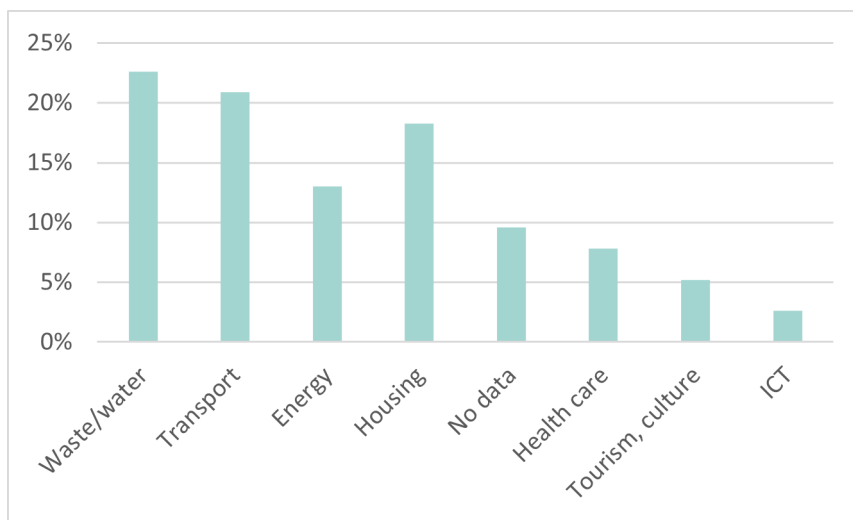


Figure 7. Service providers by sector

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