

Conclusion

Because national ecosystems present various situations regarding the support they provide to local authorities to achieve the EU Cities Mission objectives and that NZC have limited resources in the framework of Task T1.6 of NZC-SGA2, differentiated support will be provided to the different national ecosystems. It will focus on establishing and reinforcing national platforms as a multi-actor community of practices supporting local authorities in achieving climate neutrality.

In detail, the organisation of annual in-person events in 28 countries will be supported for three years (countries in clusters 3, 4 and 5). Mentoring and advice services will be provided to countries in cluster 2. Tailored support in the format of technical assistance and co-design with national and local stakeholders will be provided on an annual basis to the countries of clusters 3 and 4. These countries of clusters 3 and 4 have been identified to receive the most substantial support. This choice is based on a dual rationale: firstly, the national support program for other cities than the Mission ones has not yet been developed there, meaning that Mission Cities and other cities do not currently meet regularly at the national or regional level. Secondly, there is a strong interest from several key actors to structure a support offer, suggesting that with targeted assistance, a significant impact can be achieved.

Due to the focus on these countries where multi-actor ecosystems aligned on the EU Mission approach are developing or emerging, there is a need to support them in their development pathways (especially in terms of governance, engagement of key partners, design of services, securing resources) to create meaningful collaborating spaces for local authorities. This support will especially focus on:

- Supporting the formalisation of the governance structure of the national platforms.
- Animating a community of practices.
- Engagement of cities beyond the Mission Cities, and technical assistance.
- Alignment of the CCCs and national frameworks.
- Unlocking funding for cities.
- Bringing national regulatory barriers to the attention of national authorities.

The evolution of the dynamics of each national ecosystem and the impacts of the support will be analysed on an annual basis and adjusted according to the evolution of the different countries between the different clusters.