

NET ZERO CITIES SGA2-NZC

D1.11

Summary report on new content for capability building

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Disclaimer

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Abbreviations and acronyms

Acronym	Description
WP	Work Package
MMC	Mission-minded cities
MC	Mission City
CCC	Climate City Contract

Summary

This deliverable presents the portfolio of learning opportunities developed by NetZeroCities under SGA2-NZC to support Mission-minded cities in advancing towards climate neutrality, from the beginning of the project in January 2024 to March 2026, and related new content developed (listed in the Appendix). Building on identified gaps and learning needs, these opportunities combine online learning, peer-exchange activities, tool training, and national-level collaboration in eight distinct initiatives: Onboarding, the Learning Hub, the Online Planning Lab, the Tool Training Series, the Twinning Learning Programme, Online Discussion Groups, Group Study Visits, National Mission Ecosystems and Platforms.

The deliverable provides information in two different formats:

- A visual annex aimed for cities and the general public. This city-facing catalogue offers a visual overview of how Mission-minded cities can engage and interact with them according to their needs.
- This written document developed for the European Commission, internal project coordination, as well as for other funded projects and initiatives, with more details on how these programmes have been implemented, participation levels to date, feedback from participants, and planned improvements for future editions.

Together, these opportunities complement each other to provide cities with technical capacities, foster collaboration, and support the implementation of their climate-neutrality actions. In total, 403 unique Mission-minded cities have participated in NetZeroCities learning programs and opportunities to date

Participation numbers across the different learning opportunities demonstrates demand from cities for practical, peer-based learning and accessible resources, which will continue to be developed until the end of SGA2-NZC, providing a foundation for scaling learning activities in the coming years. Specifically, 92 MMCs took part to onboarding sessions, 63 MMCs took part to the online planning lab, 59 MMCs attended a session of the tools' training series, 102 MMC participated to online discussion groups, 19 MMCs participated to group study visits, 22 MMCs participated in twinning programs (organized under SGA2-NZC), and about 150 MMCs took part to online or offline events to build national ecosystems. In addition, more than one person per city participated to the events, as well as several Mission Cities; for instance, the online planning lab was attended by 183 total participants (belonging to 63 Mission-minded cities and 46 Mission Cities, while The tools training series had 248 participants, with registrations from 136 MMCs and 56 MCs.

Resources developed for those capability building initiatives are linked in the visual annex. The new capability building resources developed specifically for the online planning lab (SGA2-NZC T1.4 are listed in the appendix)

Keywords

Capability building, learning, Mission-minded cities, Cities Mission

NETZEROCITIES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIES

CAPABILITY BUILDING FOR MISSION-MINDED CITIES





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AWAITING APPROVAL BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Introduction

NetZeroCities is the platform currently supporting the European Union's Green Deal and the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities by 2030". The platform works as a service-oriented platform that brings together expert practitioners, tools and learning opportunities to help cities overcome structural, institutional and cultural barriers in order to achieve climate neutrality.

In April 2022, The European Commission selected 112 Mission Cities to lead the transition to climate neutrality by 2030. These cities receive tailored

support to accelerate their climate transition from NetZeroCities to plan, implement and monitor their Climate City Contract (CCC).

Beyond the 112 Mission Cities, NetZeroCities also supports Mission-minded Cities (MMC), cities that are not formally part of the Mission, but are committed to reducing emissions and aim for climate neutrality. NetZeroCities offers a range of learning opportunities open to all cities, designed to help cities build skills, share experiences and apply practical solutions to advance their climate goals.

	2025												2026												2027
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
★ Always available													Onboarding												
	Portal Resources												Portal Resources and Learning Hub												
	National-level support (30 countries)																								
🖥️ Online / Peer Learning																									Online Planning Lab 3rd Edition
	Tools Training Series												Tools Training Series												
	Online Discussion Groups												Online Discussion Groups												Online Discussion Groups
👥 In person learning													Study Visits												Study Visits
													Twinning Learning Program (Cohort 4)												
	Twinning Learning Program (Cohort 2 & 3)												Twinning Learning Program (Cohort 5)												





NetZeroCities Learning Opportunities

🔄 Opportunities for Mission-minded cities

🎓 Self-learn

Portal Resources and Learning Hub

💻 Online/ Peer-to-peer

Online Planning Lab

Tool Training Series

Online Discussion Groups

👥 In-person learning

Twinning Learning Programme

Group Study Visits

🌐 National-level support

National Mission Ecosystems



🔄 **Subscribe to the Mission-minded cities newsletter**



Onboarding

The Orientation Phase is a recurring activity designed to inform Mission-minded cities about the Cities Mission's Platform objectives, the concrete services offered by NetZeroCities and ways how to access and make use of the Platform effectively. It also provides the opportunity to learn from the initial climate strategies from Mission Cities and how these cities got started. This Onboarding phase consists of **two online sessions** and provides a space for Mission-minded cities to engage with NetZeroCities, exchange experiences with Mission Cities, and obtain the needed information to understand the Mission approach.

↓ Onboarding for Mission-minded cities

Objectives

- Onboard cities to the Cities Mission Platform
- Enable cities to identify resources and opportunities that support them to reach climate neutrality through the Cities Mission Portal
- Identify cities' interests to shape further activities

Session 1: Introduction to the Mission Platform Offer

The first orientation session provides a brief introduction to the 112 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission within the broader context of the European Commission's five Missions. It also presents the Mission Platform's objectives, vision, and mission, highlighting the opportunities, as well as the concrete service offered by NetZeroCities and available through the Cities Mission Portal. The session includes a guided walk-through of the **Cities Mission Portal** designed for newcomers and those interested in exploring the latest features, updates and tools, followed by a live demonstration.

Session 2: The 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and its key features

The second orientation session focuses on introducing the Mission approach and its key features. A labelled Mission City will present the main components of its climate action plan, illustrating how it builds on existing policies and frameworks (e.g., SECAP, SUMP) to establish a strong foundation for

its journey toward climate neutrality. The session will also introduce the national platforms and key elements of national ecosystems that support and advance the EU Cities Mission.

Upcoming Orientation Sessions

November 2026, February 2027, May 2027 and September 2027.

Register on the NetZeroCities event page!

Resources

Contact us at:
infocities@netzerocities.eu

 [Onboarding guide](#)

 [Scaling up the EU Cities Mission: NetZeroCities services for Mission-minded cities](#)

 [Onboarding Group](#)



The NetZeroCities Learning Hub



The Cities Mission Portal is an online platform designed to support cities in their journey towards climate neutrality by offering access to tools, knowledge and resources. Users of the Cities Mission Portal can currently navigate its contents through 3 main sections:

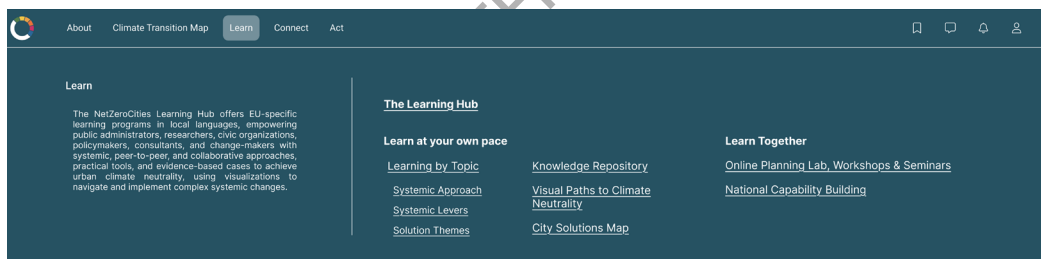
- **Learn:** This section contains the Knowledge Repository, which hosts all learning materials within the Portal
- **Connect:** This section directs the user to sections of the portal that allow peer interaction, such as Groups, Events, Directory, etc.
- **Act:** This section provides the user with links to different Tools in the portal that can help them track progress, find solutions, and plan their next steps.

In order to manage and give structure to the vast collection of knowledge existing within the Portal, The Learning Hub emerged, with the main objective of offering Mission-minded cities structured **learning paths**.



Access from the Portal

Cities can access the Learning Hub in the main menu of the Portal through the “Learn” button, or by hovering over the “Learn” button to choose the section of the Hub they wish to access.



Main Page

The main page of the Learning Hub is divided in two main categories:

Learn together: Which allows to participate in group learning experiences that foster peer exchange and networking.

Learn together

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Tellus ac eleifend cum eu. Netus bibendum vestibulum morbi eget at euismod leo. Amet tristique lacus massa in nunc sed scelerisque. Volutpat vestibulum adipiscing vitae sed sed mattis pharetra non. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur.

National Capability Building

Tailored to local contexts, these learning opportunities help you navigate country-specific insights, resources, and expertise to support on your climate transition.



[Read more →](#)

Online Planning Lab, Workshops & Seminars

Whether you want to gain in-depth expertise, participate in interactive workshops, or attend expert led seminars, there's a learning path for you.



[Read more →](#)



The NetZeroCities Learning Hub

Learn at your own pace: Which offers resources that permit self-pacing and are available for consultation at all times.

Learn at your own pace

Explore resources designed for self-guided learning and discovery. This section works as a personal knowledge library where you can navigate materials at your own rhythm.

Whether you are looking for an introduction to a topic or deeper technical insights, these resources allow you to learn independently and revisit materials whenever needed.

NZC Systems Perspectives

Systemic Levers

Solution Themes

Discover the NetZeroCities systemic approach for tackling complex urban challenges through coordinated action.

What is NetZeroCities?
 NetZeroCities supports Europe and in particular European cities to drastically cut down greenhouse gas emissions...
[Read more →](#)

Mission Cities Systemic Approach
[Read more →](#)

Climate Transition Team
 How can you strengthen your role in leading the climate transition through building a stronger mandate and...
[Read more →](#)

Developing an Action Plan
 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Tellus ac eleifend cum eu. Netus bibendum vestibulum morbi eget at...
[Read more →](#)

Pathways, Indicators & Monitoring
 'Impact Pathways' tell a story about how systemic transformation is expected to unfold. 'Indicators' are a measurable dat...
[Read more →](#)

EU National coordination learning Opportunities
 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur. Tellus ac eleifend cum eu. Netus bibendum vestibulum morbi eget at...
[Read more →](#)

Just transition
 A Just Transition is an approach for a strategically planned process to ensure that the transition to decarbonisation (o...
[Read more →](#)



Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

Navigate the complex landscape of urban sustainability with our interactive visualisations.

Designed to help you discover relevant resources, this dynamic tool allows...



[Explore the interactive visualisations →](#)



Search in the Knowledge Repository

Access the full collection of resources and use filters to search freely based on your interests and needs.

[Read more →](#)



Self-paced Courses

See all self-paced courses

[Read more →](#)



City Solutions Map

Discover how other cities are driving change with our interactive map.

[Read more →](#)



Learning by Topic

The section offers pages with collections of key NetZeroCities resources curated by experts on different topics for climate neutrality in cities. These collections are classified in 3 main categories, each of them accompanied by a visual representation of how these topics relate to one another.

NZC Systems Perspectives: This category contains collections regarding the systemic approach of the NetZeroCities Project.

NZC Systems Perspectives

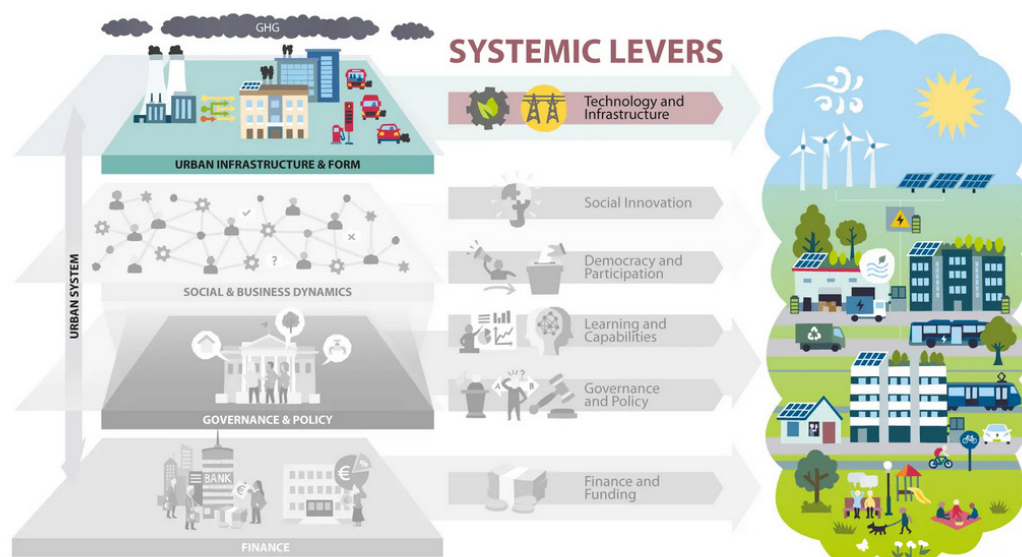
- What is NetZeroCities?
- Mission Cities Systemic Approach
- Climate Transition Team
- Developing an Action Plan
- Pathways, Indicators & Monitoring
- EU National coordination learning Opportunities



Systemic Levers: This category contains a collection for each of the NetZeroCities Levers of Change that compose the urban system.

Systemic Levers

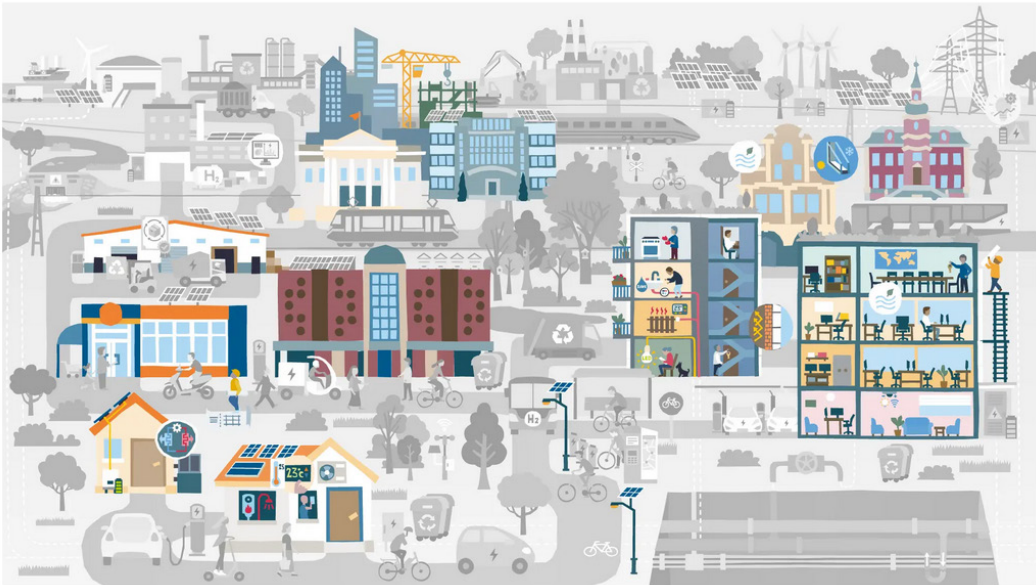
- Technical Solutions
- Social Innovation
- Partnerships and Policies
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Governance
- Financing the Ambition





Solution Themes

-  Buildings and Housing (Stationary Energy)
-  Energy Systems (Stationary Energy)
-  Mobility and Transports
-  Waste and Circular Economy
-  Green Industry (IPPU)
-  NBS, green infrastructures and agriculture (AFOLU)



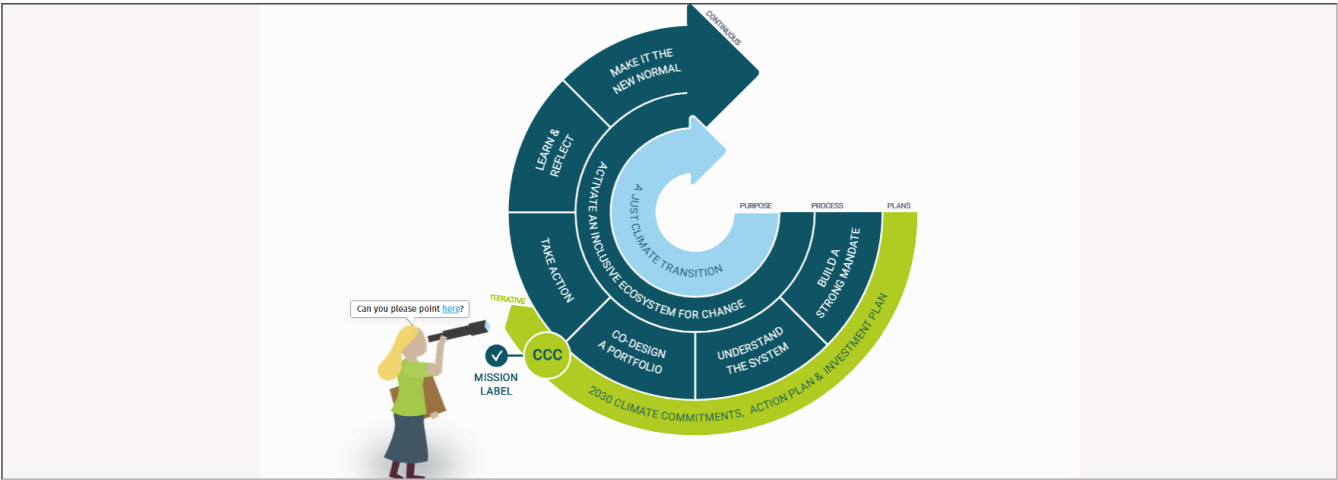
Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

These interactive visualisations include an overarching visualisation of the climate transition, and a step-by-step visualisation of the Climate Transition Map which cites can explore by clicking through different items inside the visual representation.

Learning Offer > Climate Transition Map

Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality

Navigate the complex landscape of urban sustainability with our interactive visualisations. Designed to help you discover relevant resources, this dynamic tool allows you to explore key topics, uncover best practices, and access essential resources tailored to your needs.



Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab



Online/
Peer-to-peer

The **Online Planning Lab** is a free live online course created for city representatives and policy makers from the EU and affiliated countries. It aims to share the knowledge gathered by NetZeroCities and equip participants with the necessary tools to manage a sustainable urban transition. The programme is **structured as a project-based lab, where cities are guided in the development of their systemic action plan**, building on the experience and lessons learned from Mission Cities.

This course is tailored for European cities with the ambition to accelerate their journey towards climate neutrality. Participation is open to **municipalities, researchers, and consultants** supporting cities in this transition.

Online Planning Lab

First Edition - 2025

The first edition, delivered in 2025, was structured around 6 Modules composed of one core and 3-5 spotlight sessions each, taking place twice a week for two hours, from September 16th to December 11th 2025:

Module 1 - "How can the NetZeroCities support my city's climate transition goals?"

Module 2 - "How can we develop capacity to work on the climate transition, go beyond working in silos and collaborate with the city's stakeholders?"

Module 3 - "How might we design an effective climate action plan for and with the city?"

Module 4 - "How might we leverage technical solutions, citizens-led solutions and partnerships to reduce emissions?"

Module 5 - "How might we access diverse funding options and unlock investments in the city for climate neutrality?"

Module 6 - "How might we align local, regional, and national governance to develop effective policies that support the climate transition?"

Interactive visuals from the modules



Second Edition - 2026

The 2026 Online Planning Lab edition will offer a flexible and practice-oriented learning experience to support cities in advancing their climate planning.

The programme is structured around six modules, covering key topics such as policy, technical solutions, stakeholder engagement, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, with an increased focus on practical application.

The programme will combine:

- On-demand content you can follow at your own pace
- 12 live interactive sessions to practice, reflect, and



Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab

exchange with peers from different municipalities

Work with practical tools, learn from real examples, and connect directly with other cities facing similar challenges, with multilingual materials supporting inclusive participation.

Cities and individuals can also receive formal recognition for their participation through certifications issued by NetZeroCities and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.

Join this collaborative learning journey this September and strengthen your city's path towards climate neutrality.

Third Edition - 2027

The third edition of the Online Planning Lab is planned to go from February to March 2027.

Quote

"The Online Planning Lab has been an important learning opportunity for the City of Kalamata as we advance our transition toward climate neutrality by 2030. We particularly appreciate the combination of technical depth and collaborative learning across the Mission Cities community."

26
Sessions

+100
Municipalities
engaged

48
Expert
Lecturers

+30
Showcased
cities

Sign up here to receive all the information for the 2026 edition!

Resources

 [Portal Page: Online Planning Lab](#)

 [Portal Group: Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy: Online Planning Lab](#)

Learn more about the Online Planning Lab:

Report
**Design your city's NetZero Strategy:
Online Planning Lab**



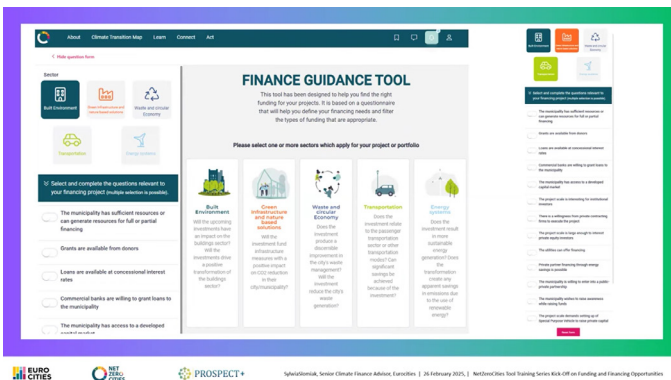
Tool Training Series

Online/
Peer-to-peer

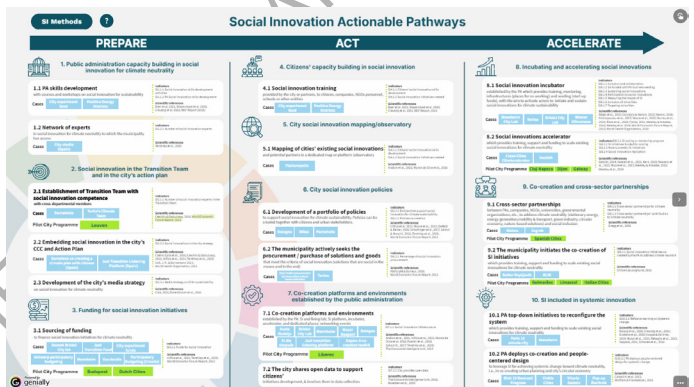
NetZeroCities Tool Training Series is a dedicated online programme designed for Mission-minded Cities and Mission Cities to provide in-depth insights on the tools available on the Cities Mission Portal, as well as key partner organisations. Each session includes a comprehensive presentation of the tool, interactive discussion and Q&A opportunities, and real-world insights from Mission Cities.

NetZeroCities Tool Training Series

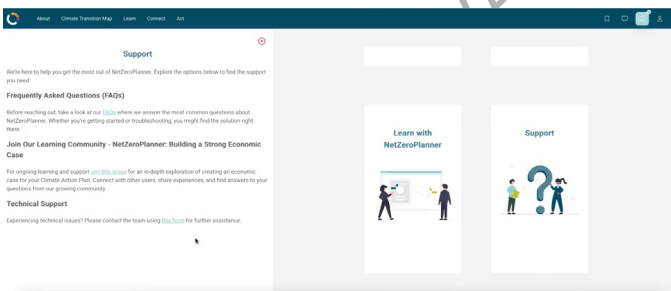
Session: An introduction to finance and funding tools for European cities



Session: Tools and Methods for Social Innovation and Citizen Engagement



Session: Assess and enhance your climate action plan using NetZeroPlanner

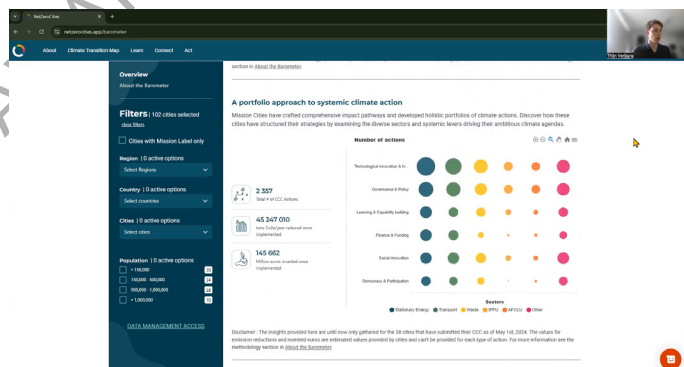


Resources

Learn more about the
Tool Training Series :

Report
Online resources of the Portal
for Mission-minded Cities

Session: NetZeroCities Barometer





Online Discussion Groups

 Online/
Peer-to-peer

These are light-touch, online exchanges over a period of six months, organised around key thematic areas such as the built environment, energy, mobility, and circular economy. The sessions bring together Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities to discuss practical and technical approaches, challenges, and success stories, fostering mutual learning and inspiration in a flexible and dynamic format.



Online Discussion Groups

Cohort 1

The first cohort of Online Discussion Groups was inaugurated in **September 2024 and concluded in February 2025**, spanning across 3 phases:

- **PHASE 1:** Onboarding
- **PHASE 2:** Learn from actionable climate solutions from Mission Cities
- **PHASE 3:** Problem-solving technical sessions

Cohort 2

The second cohort of Online Discussion Groups was **inaugurated in September 2025 and concluded in February 2026**.

- **Onboarding & online kick off**
- **PHASE 1:** Learn from actionable climate solutions from Mission Cities
- **PHASE 2:** Problem-solving technical sessions

Cohort 3

A third cohort is planned in Q1 2027.

Sign up for the newsletter or consult the [NetZeroCities website](#) for upcoming dates.

330

Participants

160

Mission-minded
cities

9

Mission Cities
case studies

4

Thematic
sessions

Resources

 [Online Discussion Groups - Feedback from Cohort 1](#)

 [Online Discussion Group Cohort 2 - Overview & Feedback](#)



Twinning Learning Programme



The Twinning Learning Programme is a 12 to 20-month peer-learning initiative of the EU Cities Mission, facilitated by the Mission Platform, currently managed by NetZeroCities. It pairs one Mission City with one or several Mission-minded cities (also referred to as Twin Cities) across Europe and Horizon associated countries, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experience, and good practices between selected Twin cities and Mission & Pilot cities. Three cohorts of cities, gathering 180+ cities, have taken place or started since 2023:

[Cohort 1](#) | [Cohort 2](#) | [Cohort 3](#)

Starting in December 2025, the programme entered a new phase with its Fourth Cohort, building on feedback and lessons learned from earlier rounds. A new group of **22 Mission-minded cities were selected to join the programme, collaborating with 18 Mission cities over a 12-month period**, with knowledge exchange focused on priority climate actions identified in Mission cities' Climate City Contracts.



Twinning Learning Programme

Fourth Cohort

Cohort 4 of the Twinning Learning Programme launched on December 1st, 2025.

Building on three successful cohorts with Pilot cities, this new group brings together 18 Mission cities and 22 Twin cities from 24 countries for 12 months of peer-learning exchanges, workshops, and site visits.

Each Twinning partnership has been carefully matched based on complementary expertise and shared climate priorities. Over the 12 months, these city pairs collaborate on specific climate actions identified in the Mission cities' Climate City Contracts. Due to high demand and to scale up the programme's reach, additional twins have been included, but will not host site visits.

Fifth Cohort

The fifth cohort of the Twinning Learning Programme will run for 12 months, starting in September 2026. Mission Cities will select their own twins, supported by dedicated Matchmaking Days to facilitate pairing between Mission Cities and Mission-minded Cities.

To guide participants through the process, three preparatory webinars will be in March, providing programme updates and space for questions. A physical matchmaking space will also

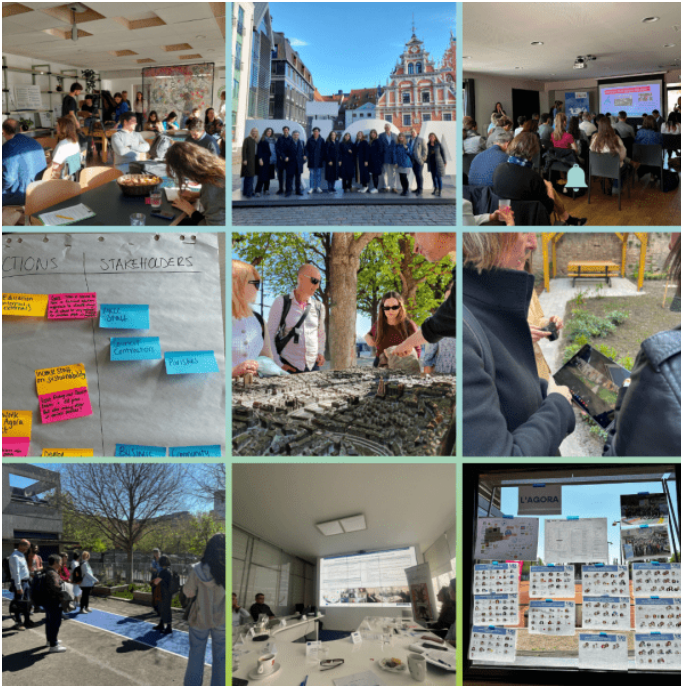
be available during the Cities Conference in May. Twinning pairs will be confirmed in June before the official launch in September.

This upcoming cohort will bring together cities involved in projects such as Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT), RE-Value, UP2030, CLIMABOROUGH, UPPER, ELABORATOR, and GreenInCities, creating a strong joint learning environment across initiatives.

The programme will feature online workshops, two reciprocal city visits (one in each city), and the joint development of an Action Plan.



Twinning Learning Programme



Sára Tóth. Climate Neutral City

The Programme has provided an invaluable platform for sharing the challenges we face and exchanging ideas on how to address them. It made us realise that we share more similarities than differences with other cities in and outside of Europe and being able to deliberate and brainstorm together has been beneficial for our efforts.

18
Mission Cities
(Cohort 4)

22
Twin cities
(Cohort 4)

24
Countries
(Cohort 4)

Resources

 [Twinning Learning Programme](#)



Group Study Visits



Building on the themes and examples discussed in the Online Discussion Groups, the Group Study Visits provide a hands-on learning experience. So far, two cohorts have been organised: The **first Cohort** (Sept-Nov 2025) was composed by 3 Mission Cities, and the **second Cohort** (Sept-Dec 2026) will be composed by 9 Mission Cities.

These are single-site visits to a Mission City where up to three selected Mission-minded cities can explore innovative practices on-site, interact directly with local stakeholders, and gain a first-hand understanding of successful implementation processes in the host Mission Cities.



Group Study Visits

Objectives

- Bridge the gap between online and first-hand exchanges: During the site visits to Mission Cities, participants will learn about concrete actions and understand contextual nuances that might not be evident in online format exchanges.
- Enable systemic transformation: Mission Cities will organise a dedicated workshop on-site to reflect on the local context, barriers and enabling factors.
- Enhance two-way learning: Mission-minded cities will work on specific climate challenge(s) identified in their application and reinforce their capacity to tackle them and scale their climate action by learning from their peers.

Visit Format

Mission cities welcome each 3 Mission-minded Cities in 3-day visits, featuring:

- Site visits to discover innovative actions on the ground
- Presentation on systemic transformation and Mission Cities' key climate actions
- Action planning sessions facilitated by NetZerocities for cities to work on scaling and replicating the key learnings

Cohort 1

3 Mission Cities (Bucharest, Guimarães and Mannheim) hosting 9 Mission-minded Cities.

Cohort 2

9 Mission Cities (Espoo/Helsinki, Glasgow, Krakow, Oslo, Pecs, Podgorica, Prato, Sarajevo, Zagreb) hosting 27 Mission-minded Cities.

Resources



[Group Study Visit - Cohort 2](#)



National Mission Ecosystems



Under the National Mission Ecosystems support, the goal is to overcome common barriers, such as limited enabling conditions, funding constraints, regulatory gaps and data access, by fostering multi-level collaboration through national ecosystems and platforms that bring together cities, public authorities across levels of government, as well as private-sector, academic, research, philanthropies and civil-society actors.



National Mission Ecosystems

What do National Mission Ecosystems do?

- Foster learning, collaboration and encounter among cities facing similar national realities.
- Boosting exchange and inspiration among Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities to find innovative solutions to mobilise resources, enhance engagement and move from planning to climate action.
- Provide coordinated capacity building to cities, addressing emerging needs in close collaboration with NetZeroCities. One example of this is to support Climate City Contracts (CCC) in local languages, helping all cities to design, implement, and scale up successful actions jointly.
- Promote multilevel governance, dialogue, and mutual learning by creating spaces for alignment and collaboration across local, regional, national, and European levels, enabling the acceleration conditions needed for all cities nationwide.

How do National Mission Ecosystems work?

Creating a National Mission Ecosystem means learning together, while building trust, shared ambition, and cultivating a long-term collaboration within and across government levels – local, regional, and national – as well as across sectors.

A dedicated, neutral facilitation team ensures coordination and foster alignment among stakeholders, turning multi-level governance into real progress.

National Mission Ecosystems websites:

- [AUSTRIA- Mission "Klimaneutrale Stadt"](#)
- [CROATIA- Platform Sustainable Finance and Energy Transition](#)
- [DENMARK – Klima Alliance](#)
- [FINLAND- Climate Mission Finland 2030](#)
- [GREECE AND CYPRUS- ClimaNet](#)
- [PORTUGAL- Cidades pelo Clima](#)
- [ROMANIA – M100](#)
- [SPAIN - citiES 2030 – Case Study](#)
- [SWEDEN - Viable Cities](#)



2 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY,
1 PILOT CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Albania)



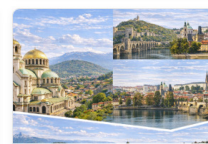
6 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY,
1 PILOT CITY, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Austria)



4 MISSION CITIES, 3 PILOT CITIES, 8
MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Belgium)



5 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



4 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 2 MISSION CITIES,
1 TWIN CITY, 1 PILOT CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Bulgaria)



2 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY, 1
MISSION CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Croatia)



1 MISSION CITY, 1 PILOT CITY, 2 MISSION
MINDED CITIES
National Mission Ecosystem (Cyprus)



7 MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 MISSION CITY,
1 PILOT CITY, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Czechia)



3 MISSION CITIES, 3 PILOT CITIES, 5
MISSION MINDED CITIES, 1 TWIN CITY
National Mission Ecosystem (Denmark)



National Platform

Case Studies

Learn with the case studies on National Mission Ecosystems and emerging national support structures:

- [Italy - National Platform](#)
- [France - National Platform](#)
- [Poland - National Platform](#)
- [Spain - citiES 2030](#)
- [Sweden - Viable Cities](#)
- [Turkey - Insa](#)

Visit the country pages in the portal!

Julien Joubert

supporting the Community of Practice for France, NZC-Energy Cities (Case study-French Emerging National Platform)

What matters most is not only the tools, but the trust built through regular dialogue between cities, ministries and practitioners, this is what allows a national ecosystem to undertake transformational changes.

30

Countries supported at national level

Resources

 [National Mission Ecosystems \(website\)](#)

 [Focus on: National Platforms](#)

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- One-to-one onboarding calls
- Orientation sessions to guide your first steps
- Tailored support to align tools and pathways to your local needs
- Custom technical assistance sessions for your city

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This booklet constitutes the Visual Annex of Deliverable NZC-SGA2 D1.11, “Summary report on new content for capability building”, due in April 2026. Deliverable D1.11 is led by Politecnico di Milano, with contributions from all co-authors listed on this page.

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1 NetZeroCities Learning Programs and Opportunities for Mission-minded cities

NetZeroCities aims to support Mission-minded cities (MMC) through a range of opportunities open to all cities that allow them to access targeted support through peer learning, capability building, and online tools and resources. As defined under NZC-SGA2 T1.4.1 and T1.4.2, this deliverable highlights the learning content and opportunities developed for Mission-minded cities parting from the Gap Analysis detailed on [NZC-SGA2 D1.10](#), as well as the Mission-minded cities learning needs gathered in NZC-SGA2 T1.1, detailed in [NZC-SGA2 D1.1](#), and the usability evaluation conducted under NZC-SGA2 T1.3 and detailed in NZC-SGA2 D1.8.

This deliverable complements NZC-SGA2 D1.6 and D.11 submitted at M24, which are city-facing visual deliverables intended at summarizing, respectively, the over 100 new resources created for MMC made available in the portal (D1.6 developed in T1.3.2), as well as providing a booklet of the online planning lab first edition (Sept to Dec 2025) with structured modules and link to core materials developed (D1.13 developed in T1.4.2). The present deliverable reflects on the overall capability building program provided to MMC from the beginning of the project to the beginning of the third year, offering guidance to cities on the opportunities available as well as providing details to the project partners and the EC on the progresses and outlook.

A visual summary is created for Mission-minded cities to outline all learning opportunities available (**Annex**). It follows the same sequence as the set of opportunities presented below, with each opportunity corresponding to one section:

- Onboarding: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-4435>
- The NetZeroCities Learning Hub: <https://netzerocities.app/home> (Menu: Learn)
- Online Planning Lab: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-4501>
- Tool Training Series: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-4739>
- Online Discussion Groups: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-4541>
- Twinning Learning Programme: <https://netzerocities.eu/twinning-learning-programme/>
- Group Study visits: <https://netzerocities.app/resource-4995>
- National Mission Ecosystems and Platforms: <https://netzerocities.app/countries>

“Mission-minded cities” (MMC) refer all cities committed to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and that are not one of the 112 selected Mission Cities.

MMCs participants taking part to learning opportunity

In total, 403 unique Mission-minded cities have participated in NetZeroCities learning programs and opportunities to date. Presence from Southern European cities (and Türkiye), was particularly strong. Remarkably, many Mission Cities participated in the online learning opportunities designed for Mission-minded cities, indicating the need also for these cities to receive basic and advanced training. Additionally, since the learning opportunities were open to all cities, a small number of cities from other continents also participated.

To provide a more detailed overview of engagement, Table 1 below presents a breakdown of unique Mission-minded cities participation by Learning Opportunity, and Appendix 2 provides further analysis on the participation distribution.

At the beginning of the SGA2-NZC project, a workshop was held to define the learning vision (described in SGA2/NZC D1.5 and in Ricard, Rizzo & Bresciani, 2025) together with all task partners: it resulted in the NetZeroCities Learning Hub value proposition to be defined as “EU-specific learning programs designed to empower and legitimize public administrators, researchers, civic organisations, policymakers, consultants, and change-makers to reach climate neutrality in urban areas with a systemic, peer-to-peer, and collaborative approach, deploying visualizations to overcome the challenges of understand and implement complex systemic change offering practical tools, methods and cases grounded in shared knowledge and pan-European scientific evidence delivered in local languages and utilizing national ecosystems and platforms”.

Table 1. MMC Participation by Learning Opportunities of March 2026

Learning Opportunity	Participating Mission-minded cities
Onboarding	92
Online Planning Lab	63
Learning Hub*	*Launching on May 2026
Tool Training Series	58
Online Discussion Groups (cohort 1 + 2)	160
Group Study Visits (cohort 1)	19
National Mission Ecosystems	150
Twinning Learning Programme in SGA2 (Cohort 4)	22

2 Onboarding

Beginning in the second quarter of 2024, the helpdesk developed a step-by-step onboarding process to assist cities in joining the Mission Portal and accessing NZC services. An [onboarding guide](#) was designed to summarise Mission objectives, available resources, and pathways for cities. It was further revised to integrate new services proposed to Mission-minded cities at the beginning of 2025. Additionally, the helpdesk developed a series of progressively engaging activities for Mission-minded cities:

- **Orientation sessions:** orientation sessions are regularly scheduled webinars that aim to introduce the Cities Mission, present the range of opportunities offered to cities, and to help Mission-minded cities navigate the Mission Portal. City Advisors and representatives from Mission and Mission-minded cities share their experiences and engage with Mission-minded cities.
- **One-on-one meetings:** The helpdesk has been offering direct consultations with individual cities. These meetings provide an opportunity to better tailor the resources and opportunities available to the city's specific needs.
- **An [Orientation Group for New Cities to the Cities Mission](#)** on the Portal has been established to inform Mission-minded cities about ongoing activities and to provide a space to share resources.

3 Learning at your own pace: Portal Resources and Learning Hub

The Mission Portal provides a very comprehensive set of resources for all cities, and it is aimed both at Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities. Since the portal menu redesign in 2025 (reported in SGA2-NZC D1.5) and related landing page (SGA-NZC), the users of the Cities Mission Portal can now navigate its contents through 5 main sections (see SGA2 D1.5 for the extensive explanation):

- About
- Climate Transition Map: a visual map composed of systemic steps to reach the climate transition
- Learn: This section contains the Knowledge Repository, which hosts all learning materials within the Portal
- Connect: This section directs the user to sections of the portal that allow peer interaction, such as Groups, Events, Directory, etc.
- Act: This section provides the user with links to different Tools in the portal that can help them track progress, find solutions, and plan their next steps.

In order to manage and give structure to the vast collection of knowledge existing within the Portal, in particular the 1000+ resources of the “Knowledge repository”, The Learning Hub has been designed in SGA2-NZC T1.3.3 to give structure to the “learn” part of the portal, with the main objective of offering Mission-minded cities structured learning topics. The details of its development and the methodology behind it can be found within [NZC-SGA2 D1.5](#). The “learn” part of the portal, named Learning Hub, has been developed and launched in May 2026.

The Learning Hub structures and provide visual access to opportunities for individual and collaborative learning, through topic-based learning in collections composed by curated content and highlighted resources from the Knowledge Repository, enabling users to easily access resources tailored to their specific needs. The collections are structured according to the topic organisation developed in [SGA2 D1.6 Summary report on new content for Non-Mission cities](#) and iteratively improved by testing. To structure the vast amount of information in a city-friendly manner, topics are organised into three broad categories: **NZC Systems Perspective**, **Systemic Levers**, and **Solution Themes** (Ricard, Mondal, Rizzo & Bresciani, 2024).

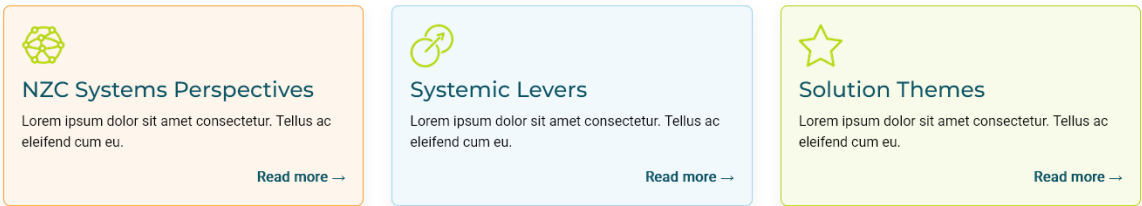


Figure 1. Learning Hub topic categories

Solution Themes

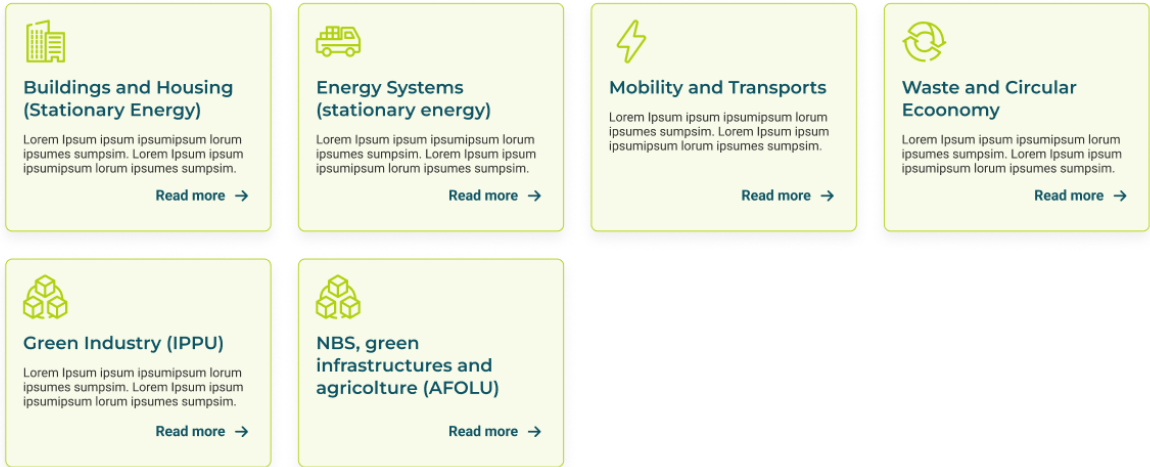


Figure 2. Topics in the category "Solution Themes"

Interactive visualisations have been developed as part of SGA2-NZC T1.3 to be integrated in these topic-based collections to show how the resources relate to one another (described in more details in Gobbo, Bresciani, Gomez Castilla, Ruiz-Vasquez, Figas-Skrzypulec & Magnuszewski, 2026, SGA2-NZC D1.5 and D1.6). The main visualisations are interactive, named “Visual Paths to Climate Neutrality”, and include an overarching visualisation of the climate transition, and a step-by-step visualisation of the Climate Transition Map. Additionally, City Solutions maps are (and will be) also developed to help the user relevant geo-located resources such as Climate City Contracts, Best City Practices, Case Studies and Pilot Projects.

Inside the Learning Hub, the user can also find pages dedicated to learning opportunities that include Workshops, Courses and Seminars to which they can enrol and attend both online and in presence. Within this section the user can find the Online Planning Lab, and other opportunities covered in the next sections of this deliverable.

4 Online Planning Lab

The Online Planning Lab is a free live online course created for city representatives and policy makers from the EU and Horizon Europe associated countries, aiming to share the knowledge gathered by NetZeroCities and Mission Cities, in order to equip participants with the necessary tools to manage a sustainable urban transition. The programme has completed its first edition in 2025, summarized in [NZC-SGA2 D1.13](#), (Ricard, Rizzo & Bresciani, 2026) and has two upcoming editions planned for autumn 2026 and spring 2027. The 2025 edition was composed of 26 live sessions of 2 hours, guiding participants to build an action plan for their cities through a structured sequence of knowledge sharing and interactive activities. Certifications were available to participants who attended all core sessions.

4.1 Participation

The first edition of the Online Planning Lab had a total of 183 participants from municipalities plus 77 consortium participants, summing up 260 total participants. In total, 109 municipalities were represented (as more than one person per city has taken part), comprising 63 Mission-minded cities and 46 Mission Cities, indicating a high relevance of the program.

A closer look at the geographical distribution of participating municipalities reveals a strong presence from Southern Europe and Türkiye, with 20 municipalities from Türkiye, 15 from Spain, 7 from Italy and 5 from Portugal and 3 from Greece, and 1-2 participant respectively from a number of other countries. In addition to their numerical presence, municipalities from these regions showed higher levels of engagement and active participation, frequently contributing to discussions and peer exchange.

Within the 26 live sessions of the programme, facilitators showcased the experience of 31 cities from all over Europe as practical examples throughout the sessions, highlighting diverse approaches and experiences presented by Mission cities (Figure 3) (see [SGA2-NZC D1.13](#) for more details).

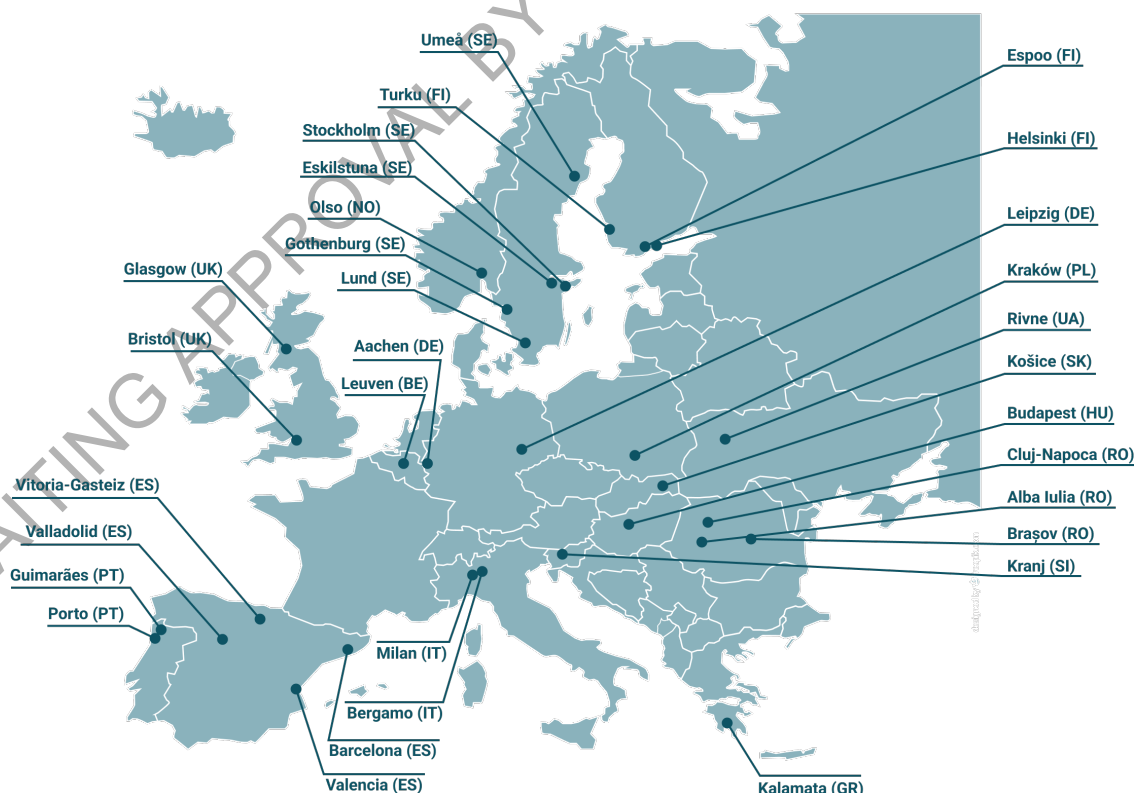


Figure 3. Showcased cities (extracted from SGA2-NZC D1.13)

In terms of registrations, 605 participants registrations were recorded from individuals wanting to receive updates about the Online Planning Lab: those contacts contribute to build the Mission-minded cities mailing list. In total, 264 cities registered, from which 197 were Mission-minded cities, and 67 were Mission cities, with multiple participants per city. This indicates a broad interest for initiatives aimed at MMC, engaged with the programme's content, that can be leveraged for future editions and capability building initiatives.

4.2 Feedback from participants

Feedback was collected through online forms shared at the end of each of the individual sessions, as well as through a final feedback form which covered the Online Planning Lab as a whole.

The individual session forms collected 74 answers from participants across the programme (Table 2). Participants who answered were predominantly representatives from municipalities; the majority belonging to a Mission-minded city (50). Overall, feedback for the sessions was very positive. As seen on Table 2, most participants felt that the session met their objectives either completely (47) or to a great extent (22). Satisfaction levels were high, with an average rating of 4.7 out of 5. Similarly, the chosen format and activities also received an average score of 4.7 out of 5.

The content of the sessions was also perceived as highly applicable, with almost all respondents (72 out of 74) stating they would be able to apply their learnings in their work.

Table 2. Closed-ended questions results

What is your job/role?		Did the session meet the objectives you had in mind?		How satisfied are you with what you gained or learned during the session or activity? (1 being the least satisfied and 5 the most satisfied)		Do you think you will be able to apply or use what you gained from the session in your work?		How appropriate was the chosen format and activities? (1 being the least appropriate and 5 the most appropriate?)	
I work at a municipality (Mission City)	14	Completely	47	Amount of 5 rating	53	Yes	72	Amount of 5 rating	58
I work at a municipality (Mission-minded City)	50	To a great extent	22	Amount of 4 rating	17	No	2	Amount of 4 rating	13
I work at academia	3	To some extent	4	Amount of 3 rating	4			Amount of 3 rating	3
I am a consultant/expert/advisor	3	To a small extent	1	Amount of 2 rating	0			Amount of 2 rating	0
Other	4			Amount of 1 rating	0			Amount of 1 rating	0
				Average rating	4.7			Average rating	4.7

The final feedback form, responses captured the overall learning experience from 8 participants across the Online Planning Lab, rated on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), which received an average score of 4.5/5. Participants were also asked to rate their satisfaction with the Cities Mission Portal as the main platform to access materials and course information on a scale from 1 (not satisfied) to 10 (very satisfied), resulting in an average score of 8.7/10.

Regarding qualitative feedback, participants were asked about aspects of the course they found most helpful, as well as improvements they would like to see (Table 3). As most helpful, participants highlighted the usefulness of having Mission Cities and National Mission Ecosystems as special guests sharing their experiences, and they also valued having a space for open discussion with not only experts but also other municipalities. Regarding improvements, participants pointed to a few sessions that were too packed with content, without much space for discussion, and expressed an interest in learning not only about successes within planning and implementation, but also about challenges and failures faced by cities, as well as a desire to learn about the journeys of smaller and medium municipalities.

Table 3. Feedback quotes from participants

Most helpful	Improvements
"Specialists joining the sessions and presenters were qualified and helpful about Q&A sessions"	"A few sessions were too dense in content with limited space for questions or reflection."
"Learning from real projects helped me to understand the progress"	"Some sessions felt too theoretical, harder to translate into our daily municipal work."
"The facilitated group discussions created space for honest exchange between cities. These were especially useful for smaller cities like ours"	"Try to include experiences from smaller cities and municipalities or those whose urban cores are not densely populated"

4.3 Certifications

In the first edition of the Online Planning Lab (2025), two typologies of certification of attendance were offered: to *cities* and to *persons*. To be eligible for both, participants needed to attend all six core sessions from each module (see [SGA2-NZC D1.13](#) and this deliverable visual annex for the course and module description). In case that a participant missed one core session, there were the possibility to validate attendance if that participant had attended two out of the spotlight sessions of the module.

One certification was directed to the *cities* who participated in the Online Course. This certification was issued by NetZeroCities and was free of cost. All cities who participated and met the requirements were given this certification.

The other certification was directed to all *individuals* who participated in the Online Course. This certification was issued by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and had a cost of 35€ (30€ plus derivative costs). Since this certification had a cost, all participants who wanted to obtain it had to send a confirmation email.

After the finalized revisions, 12 cities received the certification of attendance by NetZeroCities: Bandirma, Çine, Chiclana de la Frontera, Erzurum, Istanbul, Kalamata, Keçiören, Teslić, Torres Vedras, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Vila Nova de Gaia, and Viladecans.

In the case of the individual certifications 19 participants issued a petition to receive it, 13 of which were city officials.

4.4 Future editions

The future editions of the Online Planning Lab will continue to build on the experience of the first edition, on the feedback received as well as adjusting to changing needs due to the geopolitical

situation. In addition, upcoming editions will prioritise accessibility by providing materials translated into different EU languages and introducing support from National Mission Ecosystems, ensuring better support for country-specific challenges.

Second edition: 2026

For the 2026th edition, it is planned to leverage the resources elaborated for the first edition, improve the programme based on feedback received and harness the videos generated during the first edition, strengthening the accessibility of the course as well as the interactive spaces.

The main goal for the 2026 edition is to enhance and strengthen the relationship between participants and forge a sense of community among attendees and facilitators, focusing on the accessibility of the course, and potentially offering accreditation (Appendix C). The 2025 edition accomplished a comprehensive curriculum to deliver to MMC and offer tools and platforms to connect. As the 2025 edition was recorded, an extensive knowledge base is available, and future editions can focus on facilitating interaction between participants. To achieve this goal, we will work with the partners of the task to reinforce their skills in facilitating and prioritizing interactions within participants, as well as strongly supporting the existing tools already established and dedicated portal online groups, as well as leveraging national support.

Content-wise, the course will mostly maintain the 2025 edition approach with six modules composed of a first session more an introductory and general approach, complemented with a series of more specific content. However, the flow of the course will be adjusted based on the feedback received, expanding the sessions on MEL and technical solutions, anticipating the topic of policies before the planning sessions and distributing the sessions on engagement to specific planning stages.

Task partners in charge will revise the videos of the sessions they developed in the 2025 edition to curate the content and develop a two-page written summary of each session which will be used as a pre-read.

Format updates: accessibility, self-study and online presence

Format-wise, the course will take a different approach shifting from all live sessions to a hybrid mode with self-service content (MOOC) plus live sessions for interactive activities. This shift is due to having all sessions from the past edition recorded.

The Mission portal will feature a dedicated page in the Learning Hub dedicated to the Online Planning Lab, where participants will have access to the videos as well as a guide (composed by a brief explanation for each session and useful links i.e., to tools). Participants will be invited to watch the videos for a specific topic before the interactive live session.

Short quiz/tests will be included to self-test the knowledge and the comprehension of the participants of the content explained. The format will contain both multiple choice and open questions (as in a MOOC) and each module lead will be in charge of preparing it with the supervision of the scientific directors.

Live sessions

The Online Planning Lab will have 12 live sessions: One at the beginning of the course as an introductory session, 7 practical sessions, and 4 reflective sessions (every two modules and the last one serving as an ending session for the course).

The 7 practical lessons will serve as a space to practice and exercise, while offering time lapses for Q&As of the content imparted in the videos. They will be an experimental space for participants to interact and engage within practical examples and tools together.

The 4 reflective sessions every two modules will be as a facilitated space to reflect on the relevance of the imparted content for each participant, the barriers and baseline in their municipality of that topic, as

well as examples either from the facilitator or the city which has helped them in their journey. Based on the experience in the latter edition, MMC who participate in the Online Course have already been working in the Mission. These offer a baseline to reflect on the content and how to apply it to their specific contexts. As in the later edition, the course will have two kinds of certifications: the city certification and the individual certification. Building on the learnings of the last editions, the “mandatory” live sessions need to be made more flexible in terms of day and time. The city certification will allow city officials to share the load of the course. The city certification will be issued by NetZeroCities, and to get it, the requirements are the following:

- Attend a minimum of 6 out of the 12 live classes (from the practical and reflective classes)
- For the individual certification, they will be issued by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. And each city will need formalise the request

Third edition: 2027

According to the Grant Agreement, three editions of hybrid online courses are proposed. The third edition will build on learnings from the first and second edition, but with a stronger focus on implementation and finance.

The first edition has been focused on providing comprehensive and structured resources to build a city’s action plan (part of the CCC); all sessions have been recorded and privacy policies included permission to share the videos for further training and research. For the second edition, such videos are used to provide support to cities for self-learning. In the third edition, planned for Spring 2027, it is envisioned that cities will be guided more in the implementation phase, with a focus on financing projects they have planned, possibly including the CFF (City finance framework). Further details will be planned based on learnings from the second edition and will adapt to the geo-political and technological context.

5 Tools training series

[NetZeroCities Tool Training Series](#) is developed under SGA2-NZC T1.3.1 for MMCs. It aims to provide in-depth insights on the tools available on the Cities Mission Portal, as well as key partner organizations. Each session includes a comprehensive presentation of the tool, interactive discussion and Q&A opportunities, and real-world insights from Mission Cities.

As of March 2026, the Tool Training Series has reached a broad range of city representatives, with 248 participants in total across 6 sessions, with registrations from 136 unique Mission-minded Cities and 56 Mission Cities. Individual session attendance averaged 41 participants per session, with high interest across topics.

This programme is being delivered in series to maximize learning continuity and engagement on the following topics:

- Discover the right **funding and financing opportunities** for your climate projects: An introduction to finance and funding tools for European cities.
- Explore Mission Cities’ pathways to climate neutrality with the NetZeroCities **Barometer**
- Assess and enhance your climate action plan using **NetZeroPlanner**
- From Insight to Action: Applying **Finance and Funding Tools** to Advance Climate Projects in European Cities
- From **Social Innovation to Citizen Engagement**: Tools and Methods for Climate Action

- Financing Climate Action in Cities - From Insight to Impact with **Green Bonds & Crowdfunding**

Table 4. Tool Training Series 1 – Participation numbers

Topic	Date	Total No. of Registrations	Unique MMC Registered	Unique No. of cities (MC + MMC)	Total No. of Attendees	No. of Attendees
Discover the right funding and financing opportunities for your climate projects: An introduction to finance and funding tools for European cities.	26.02. 2025	198	66	109	50	44
Assess and enhance your climate action plan using NetZeroPlanner	17.04. 2025	125	22	36	57	50
Explore Mission Cities' pathways to climate neutrality with the NetZeroCities Barometer:	19.06. 2025	62	18	24	29	26
From Insight to Action: Applying Finance and Funding Tools to Advance Climate Projects in European Cities	07.10. 2025	78	22	28	50	43
From Social Innovation to Citizen Engagement: Tools and Methods for Climate Action	27.01 .2026	70	24	37	40	38
Financing Climate Action in Cities - From Insight to Impact with Green Bonds & Crowdfunding	10.03. 2026	95	52	76	58	47

Regarding session content, Series 1 focused on areas such as innovative finance tools and the Monitoring and learning plus economic planning tool for climate action (NetZeroPlanner). In 2026, Series 2 started with a focus on the societal dimensions of systemic climate transitions with a specific focus on Social Innovation and Citizen Engagement, addressing a consistent need expressed by cities across other NetZeroCities interactions, including the Pilot City Programme. This session builds on a [Community of Practice webinar](#) on Social Innovation and Behavioural Change held in September 2025. During the session, [the Social Innovation Actionable Pathways](#) tool and the method, [Shaping Climate Narratives & Activation \(Canvas\)](#), were presented with practical examples from Mission Cities. Together, these sessions ensured that more cities had exposure to vital NetZeroCities resources and knowledge on these topics, essential for both Mission and Mission Minded Cities to shape their systemic climate transition pathways.

6 Online Discussion Groups

The first cohort of the Online Discussion Groups held between September 2024 and February 2025, is described in the visual annex and in more details in SGA2-NZC D1.14. It provided useful insights for improving online learning formats within NetZeroCities. These discussion groups complemented existing peer-learning activities, particularly the Twinning Learning Programme, by offering shorter, more focused exchanges.

[Feedback from participating cities and facilitators](#) informed several practical recommendations for future cohorts, such as streamlining content delivery and using structured guiding questions to maintain focus, strengthening participant interaction through breakout sessions, icebreakers, and dedicated exchange moments, ensuring inclusive participation through flexible language facilitation approaches, and providing more targeted technical support around shared climate-implementation challenges. The Online Discussion Groups also highlighted the importance of integrating reflection exercises to support transferability of knowledge to local contexts.

Building on these lessons, future cohorts will place stronger emphasis on encouraging active contributions from Mission-minded Cities through guidance and facilitation roles such as city moderators or lead cities for specific learning blocks to create more effective and inclusive discussions.

The [second cohort of the Online Discussion Groups](#) brought together over 140 participants from 80 Mission-minded cities. 9 Mission Cities (Espoo/Helsinki, Glasgow, Krakow, Oslo, Pecs, Podgorica, Prato, Sarajevo, Zagreb) presented case studies across 4 thematic sessions, fostering peer learning and exchange of practical experiences. Additionally, 7 technical experts provided targeted support through three dedicated technical workshops, where 3 Mission-minded cities also had the opportunity to share their specific technical challenges, enabling collaborative problem-solving among participants.

The third and final cohort under NZC-SGA2 cohort is planned in Q1 2027.

7 Twinning Learning Programme

The Twinning Learning Program has continued to evolve under SGA2-NZC (based on the experience in NZC and SGA-NZC cohorts) to further answer to cities' needs.

As detailed in NZC-SGA2 D1.18, Cohort 4 of the Twinning Learning Programme launched in December 2025, bringing together 18 Mission Cities and 22 Mission-minded cities in a redesigned 12-month version of the programme. Unlike previous editions, the programme developed in SGA2-NZC now focuses on sharing the learnings from practices that are ongoing or recently completed to share key lessons learned with their paired cities.

Building on these updates, Cohort 5, final cohort under SGA2-NZC and planned to run from September 2026 until September 2027, will introduce a city-led matchmaking approach. Mission Cities will select Twin Cities from a curated portfolio of Mission-minded cities that have already begun to implement climate-related projects as part of 12 European partner initiatives. The objective is to strengthen ownership of the learning process, improve alignment with cities' priorities and increase the impact of peer-learning exchanges.

8 Group Study Visits

As outlined in Deliverable SGA2-NZC D1.16, in 2025, NetZeroCities delivered the first cohort of Group Study Visits, bringing together around 30 representatives from nine Mission-minded cities to visit Bucharest District 2, Guimarães, and Mannheim. The programme combined introductory meetings,

on-site visits, and the development of action plans, and focused on themes such as citizen engagement, energy transition, and urban renovation.

Following the visits, participating cities identified replicable practices and defined key stakeholders and enablers to transfer these learnings to their local contexts. The second cohort builds on the lessons learned from this first experience to further strengthen the impact of the peer-learning programme.

The [second and final cohort of the study visits](#) under NZC-SGA2 will take place in Fall 2026 and up to early 2027. Study visits will take place in one of nine Mission Cities: Espoo/Helsinki, Glasgow, Krakow, Oslo, Pecs, Podgorica, Prato, Sarajevo, Zagreb. Visiting cities will be announced in spring 2026.

9 National Mission Ecosystems and Platforms

NetZeroCities has supported the creation and consolidation of national support and platforms to reinforce the coordination between Mission Cities and Mission-minded cities in several countries such as Greece, France, Italy, Poland, and Türkiye. This work, reported in detail in NZC-SGA2 D1.21, has contributed to the establishment of national climate-neutrality city networks, such as ClimaNet in Greece and INŞA in Türkiye, and to the engagement of approximately 230 Mission-minded cities through national-level collaboration and participation in more than 50 events organised by NetZeroCities in 2025. These activities demonstrated the value of (national) peer collaboration in accelerating climate-neutral transitions, scaling best practices, and informing national policy development.

For the upcoming 2026-2027 period, the aim is to institutionalise National Mission Ecosystems to ensure continuous political, financial, and technical support, integrating climate-neutrality objectives into municipal budgeting and data systems, scaling blended-finance mechanisms and procurement practices, and strengthening cross-sectoral and multi-level learning networks. Peer collaboration opportunities in these country support ecosystems are open to new Mission-minded cities and relevant stakeholders through in person events and online workshops. NetZeroCities as well as CapaCITIES project work in coordination to mobilise learning spaces and multilevel governance between local, regional and national level.

In the visual Annex of this deliverable, specific links to National Mission Ecosystems are provided, as well as [country pages in the portal](#), and case studies on National Mission Ecosystems and emerging national support structures: ([Italy](#), [France](#), [Poland](#), [Spain - citiES 2030](#), [Sweden - Viable Cities](#), [Türkiye - Insa](#)).

To further enable the development of national support and capability building at national level, it is envisioned to create pages on the portal with resources in national languages, generated from translations, from activities of SGA2-NZC task T1.6 “national mission ecosystems and platforms”, CEFS and city support material developed in national languages, as currently [prototyped for resources in Italian language](#). Having a dedicated portal area in local EU languages will aid NetZeroCities results to show up in searches in local languages.

10 Conclusion and Outlook

By supporting Mission-minded cities along with Mission Cities, NetZeroCities contributes to extending the impact of the EU Cities Mission beyond its initial cohort of cities, helping cities across Europe obtain the capabilities needed to achieve climate neutrality.

Looking ahead to 2026-2027, the focus will be on consolidating capability building formats and content, increasing city ownership in peer-learning activities and reinforcing national-level collaboration through capability building materials and activities, and conduct continuous monitoring and improvement based on participant feedback have contributed importantly to the accessibility and

effectiveness of the most recent editions of the learning opportunities, as described in D1.23 “Strategic learnings of working with MMC” (submitted M24). Additionally, it is envisioned to increase challenge-based capability building content and activities, and translations of core materials to increase the reach of learning materials.

Continuous monitoring and adaptation of the content and formats for capability building will be carried out, with a particular attention to emergent needs due to technological developments, and to geo-political developments and policies that are reshaping urban priorities.

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Appendix A: New resources for Capability Building

Table A1. Resources created under SGA2-NZC T1.4

Topic	Link to portal page	Link to presentation or document
Module 1: "How can the NetZeroCities support my city's climate transition goals?"		
1.1 The NetZeroCities program, service offering, systemic approach, what works for Mission Cities	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4508	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4794
1.2 The Mission Approach and the Climate Transition Team	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4509	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4801
1.3 Shaping Climate Narratives	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4511	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4802
1.4 Climate City Contracts	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4512	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4863
Module 2: "How can we develop capacity to work on the climate transition, go beyond working in silos and collaborate with the city's stakeholders?"		
2.1 Developing a transition team, mapping and activating the ecosystem	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4530	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4864
2.2 Transition team & climate leadership	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4513	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4865
2.3 Engaging the private sector	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4514	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4866
2.4 Citizen engagement for systemic climate action	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4515	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4867
Module 3: "How might we design an effective climate action plan for and with the city?"		
3.1 Integrating the Climate Action Plan in the urban planning	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4517	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4637
3.2 Strategic Monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes for Climate Action Plans	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4518	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4883
3.3 Co-Designing a Climate Portfolio	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4516	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4884
3.4 Using NetZeroPlanner to Support Climate Planning, MEL, and Implementation Management to Achieve Net Zero Goals	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4531	https://netzerocities.app/resource-5043
Module 4: "How might we leverage technical solutions, citizens-led solutions and partnerships to reduce emissions?"		
4.1 Levers of change: Technical solutions, social innovation and multi-actor collaborations	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4532	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4885
4.2 Passive solutions to reduce energy demand in buildings	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4519	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4988

4.3 Systemic energy transition at buildings, districts and city level	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4520	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4969
4.4 Data-driven approaches to energy transition in buildings and districts	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4521	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4990
4.5 From cars to collective mobility: behaviour change and digital solutions to boost public transport use	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4522	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4991
4.6 Scope 3 emissions	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4523	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4992
Module 5: "How might we access diverse funding options and unlock investments in the city for climate neutrality?"		
5.1 Introduction to finance: increase finance knowledge of the public administration and learn about options to finance projects	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4533	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4972
5.2 Preparing a pipeline of projects for external financing	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4524	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4973
5.3 Different investor groups and the key priorities and returns profiles for each and instruments	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4525	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4974
5.4 Financing the ambition: Learning from Mission Cities	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4526	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4975
Module 6: "How might we align local, regional, and national governance to develop effective policies that support the climate transition?"		
6.1 Multilevel governance, national platforms and policy strategies	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4534	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4977
6.2 Policy and regulatory innovation	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4527	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4978
6.3 Using Public Procurement Strategically to Achieve Climate Neutrality	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4528	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4981
6.4 Just transition	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4529	https://netzerocities.app/resource-4993

Appendix B: Participation

Figure B1 shows the most active cities per country that have participated in 4 or more events, with the highest participation led by Eskişehir (Türkiye).

Cities with highest participation in each country

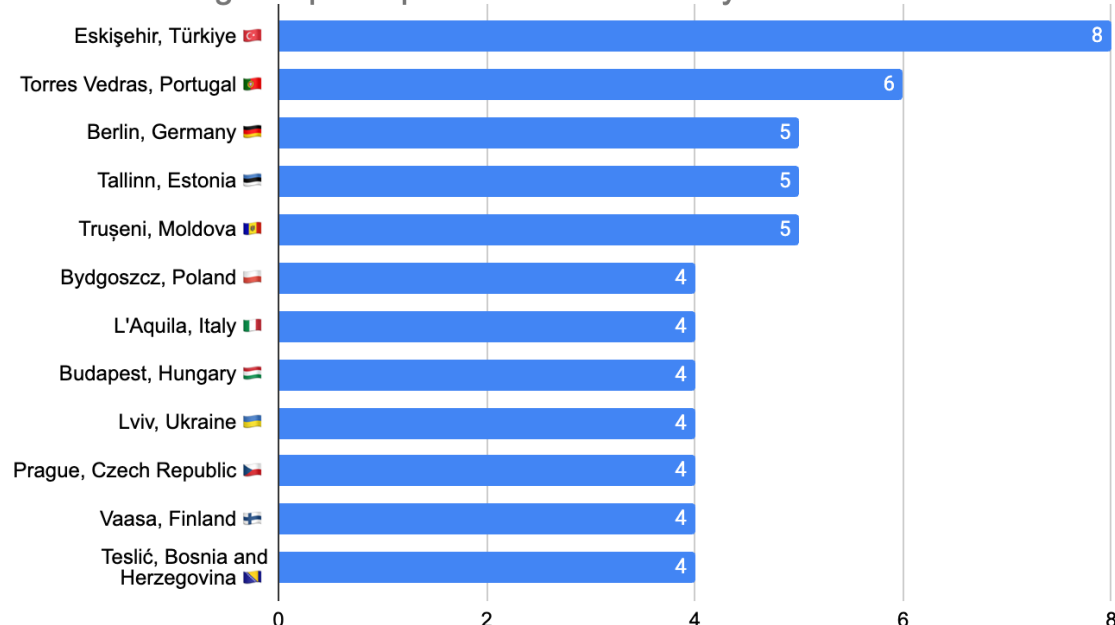


Figure B1. Cities with the highest participation in each country (that have participated in 4 or more events)

Overall, over the first 26 months of SGA2-NZC the consortium has consolidated a complementary set of diverse learning opportunities designed to support Mission-minded Cities in their climate transition journeys. By combining structured online learning, tool training, peer exchange activities and national level collaboration, these opportunities have expanded access to knowledge to cities, strengthening city capacity to implement systemic climate transition.

Table B1 Shows the number of participating cities per category of population based on [OECD](#) classification of cities by population size.

Table B1. Distribution of city participation based on population size (based on OECD classification)

Category	Population Range	Number of Cities
Large Metropolitan Area	1.5 million or more	23
Metropolitan Area	500,000 to 1.5 million	30
Medium-sized Urban Area	200,000 to 500,000	75
Small Urban Area	50,000 to 200,000	155
Below 50,000	Fewer than 50,000	120
Total		403

Figure B2 shows how participation in each learning service is split by city population size. Small Urban Areas make up the largest share in almost every activity, accounting for around 44.57% in the Helpdesk Orientation Phase, 48.28% in the Tool Training Series, 47.37% in the Group Study Visit, and 43.14% in the Online Discussion Groups. On the other hand, participation in National Platforms is highest by cities with population sizes below 50,000 (43.33%), suggesting strong engagement from very small municipalities in national-level structures.

Distribution of participation based on city population size (OECD)

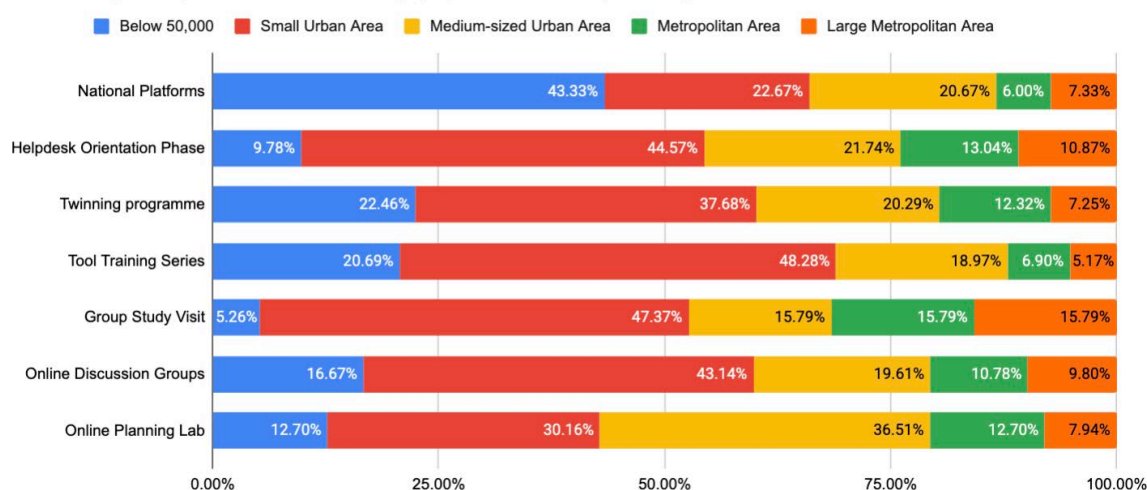


Figure B2. Distribution of city participation based on City Population Size

Larger cities contribute less across most services: Metropolitan Areas typically sit around 6–13%, and Large Metropolitan Areas around 5–11%. The main exception is the Group Study Visit, where participation beyond small urban areas is more evenly spread (15.79% each for medium-sized urban, metropolitan, and large metropolitan areas), implying that in-person/peer-exchange formats attract a broader mix of city sizes. Another notable exception is the Online Planning Lab, where Medium-sized Urban Areas lead (36.51%), ahead of Small Urban Areas (30.16%), indicating this service may be especially appealing to mid-sized cities with enough capacity to engage in planning-focused work.

To further contextualise participation, Figure B3 illustrates participation percentages by European region, providing information on how engagement with the NetZeroCities learning service is distributed across Europe.

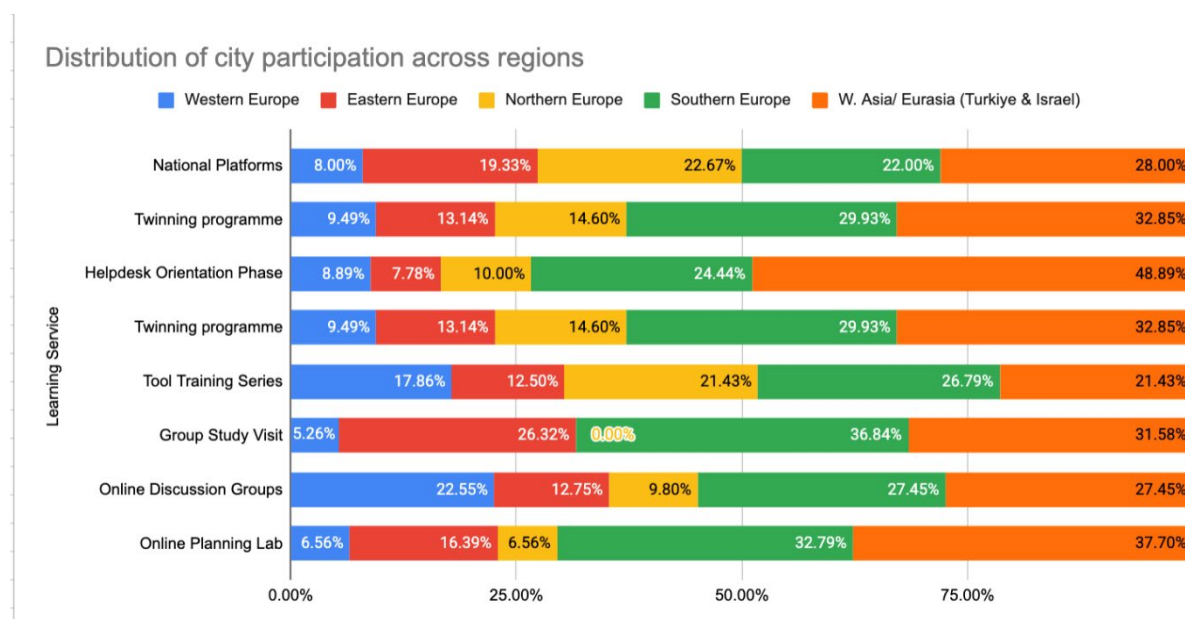


Figure B3. Distribution of city participation across regions

The bar chart shows that Türkiye (West Asia) consistently records the highest participation in most activities, particularly in the Helpdesk Orientation Phase (48.89%), Online Planning Lab (37.70%), and Twinning programme (32.85%). Southern Europe also shows strong engagement, especially in collaborative formats such as Group Study Visits (36.84%) and the Twinning programme (29.93%). Participation from Eastern European cities is mainly concentrated in the Group Study visits and National Mission Ecosystems and platforms (19.33%), and moderate engagement across the other formats. Northern Europe shows a relatively higher engagement in National Mission Ecosystems and Platforms (22.67%) and the Tool Training Series (21.43%) but shows low participation in the Online Planning Lab (6.56%), Online Discussion Groups (9.80%) and is completely absent in the Group Study Visits. Lastly, Western European cities account for relatively lower engagement across most formats, except for the Tool Training Series (17.86%) and the Online Discussion Groups (22.55%).

The data suggest that participation appears more balanced in training-oriented activities such as the Tool Training Series. On the other hand, Southern European and West Asian cities (particularly in Türkiye) are emerging as the most active cities, while Northern and Western Europe may require targeted outreach to strengthen participation.

Appendix C: Accreditation

The course certification and accreditation have been considered as prototypes of potential executive programs. Regarding the accreditation for future editions, for the 2026 edition of the Online Planning Lab, various options have been considered:

- Certificate of attendance free of cost for cities; 30 euros for UPM certificate
- Micro-credentials: 3 credits – participants would absorb the cost (170 euros); minimum number of participants: 15
- Micro-credentials: 3 credits – NetZeroCities would absorb the cost (170 euros X 15 would cost 2550 euros; 170 euros X 20 participants would be 3400 euros) minimum number of participants: 15; max number of participants: to be established by the consortium