EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities
WHY A MISSION ON CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES?

• 75% of EU citizens live in cities (projected to increase to about 85% in 2050)

• More than 65% of energy consumption and more than 70% of CO2 emissions worldwide

• Co-benefits – lower air/noise pollution, congestion and road deaths. Lower energy bills and better energy security. Loveable and liveable cities!

• The European Green Deal is set at EU / national level, but will be implemented at local level – particularly in cities and regions: where policy meets people.

• Cities have the ambition to go further – but few have declared readiness to be fully climate neutral by 2030. We want to help cities address the barriers they face.
OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

1. Deliver at least 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030;

2. Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to put all European cities in a position to become climate-neutral by 2050.
MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION

**Climate City Contracts**
- A Mission label to unlock synergies with other programmes

**Mission Platform**
- R&I action under Horizon Europe

**Tailor-made help with funding and financing**
- Innovative city governance models and citizen engagement

**Common framework for monitoring, reporting and verification**
STRONG SUPPORT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE COMMISSION

Matthew BALDWIN
@BaldwinMatthew_

Strong support in the #COP26 Innovation Summit from President von der Leyen today for our Mission to develop 100 climate neutral cities in Europe by 2030, stressing importance of strong citizens involvement. Real leadership from European cities to deliver on #EUGreenDeal
SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES

• The Mission will not replace involvement in other programmes, such as the Covenant of Mayors or Climate Pact, but build synergies with them.

• A Mission label will help create funding opportunities in EU and other programmes.

• National networks to ensure synergies with national and regional programmes
BENEFITS

• Tailor-made advice and assistance from the Mission Platform

• Unlocking additional funding and financing opportunities through a Mission label

• Research & innovation: funding opportunities for cities to be part of large innovation actions, pilot projects and demonstrators

• Support through a national coordination network

• Networking opportunities, learning and exchange of experiences among cities

• Support with involving citizens in decision-making

• High visibility – raising political profile and attractiveness for investment and skilled workers
CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS

• **Tailor-made plans** on how to reach climate neutrality, adapted to the individual needs of the city, supported by the Mission Platform

• Non legally binding – **Memorandum of Understanding**

• To be **co-created in spirit of multi-level governance**, with the involvement of national authorities, regions and local stakeholders, including citizens and local economic actors

• Focus on innovative (“holistic”) city governance, investment plan, and monitoring and reporting

• Signed by the Mayor (or equivalent), witnessed by the Commission and others
FUNDING AND FINANCING

• Support expected from different EU funding programmes

• Cooperation with the European Investment Bank Group and national Promotional Institutions (e.g. financial advisory, possibly Blending Facility)

• Private investors (individuals, private companies, commercial banks)

• EU sustainable finance agenda offers new opportunities to encourage investors to invest locally
R&I CONTENT

- Portfolio of R&I activities targeting cities and communities will be launched in the Horizon Europe Work Programme for Missions
- **Goals**: develop capacity and showcase possibilities of scale-up and replicability
- **Complementarity** and **synergy** with ongoing and upcoming initiatives, e.g. partnerships

Slido code: #MissionCities
HOW WILL THE APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?

- Publication of the Call for EOI addressed to cities (questionnaire)
  - October 2021
- Selection of participating cities
  - 31 January 2022
- Mission Platform works with the first cities to develop Climate City Contracts
  - Mid-2022
- Publication of comprehensive info kit for cities
  - 25 November 2021
- Call Closes
  - March 2022

149 cities have already pre-registered for the Call for Expression of Interest
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

• Online questionnaire to be filled in by city authorities
• Constitutes city’s explicit request to join the Mission
• More than 150 cities pre-registered to receive information about the Call
QUALIFYING CRITERIA
• Population thresholds – 50 000 (with some flexibility to bring in cities from all Member States)
• Stated ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2030

PRINCIPLES
• Inclusiveness, diversity, geographical balance

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA INCLUDE
• cities’ level of ambition and preparedness (but not just “usual suspects”)
• true geographic diversity – from south and east of Europe, not just north and west
• cities’ commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders

Based on an assessment by independent experts, the European Commission services will choose the 100 cities
GET IN TOUCH

Register and respond to the Call for Expression of Interest:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CNC-Pre-Registration

Email:
RTD-HORIZON-EUROPE-MISSION-CITIES@EC.EUROPA.EU

Web page:
Thank you!

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