



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCities



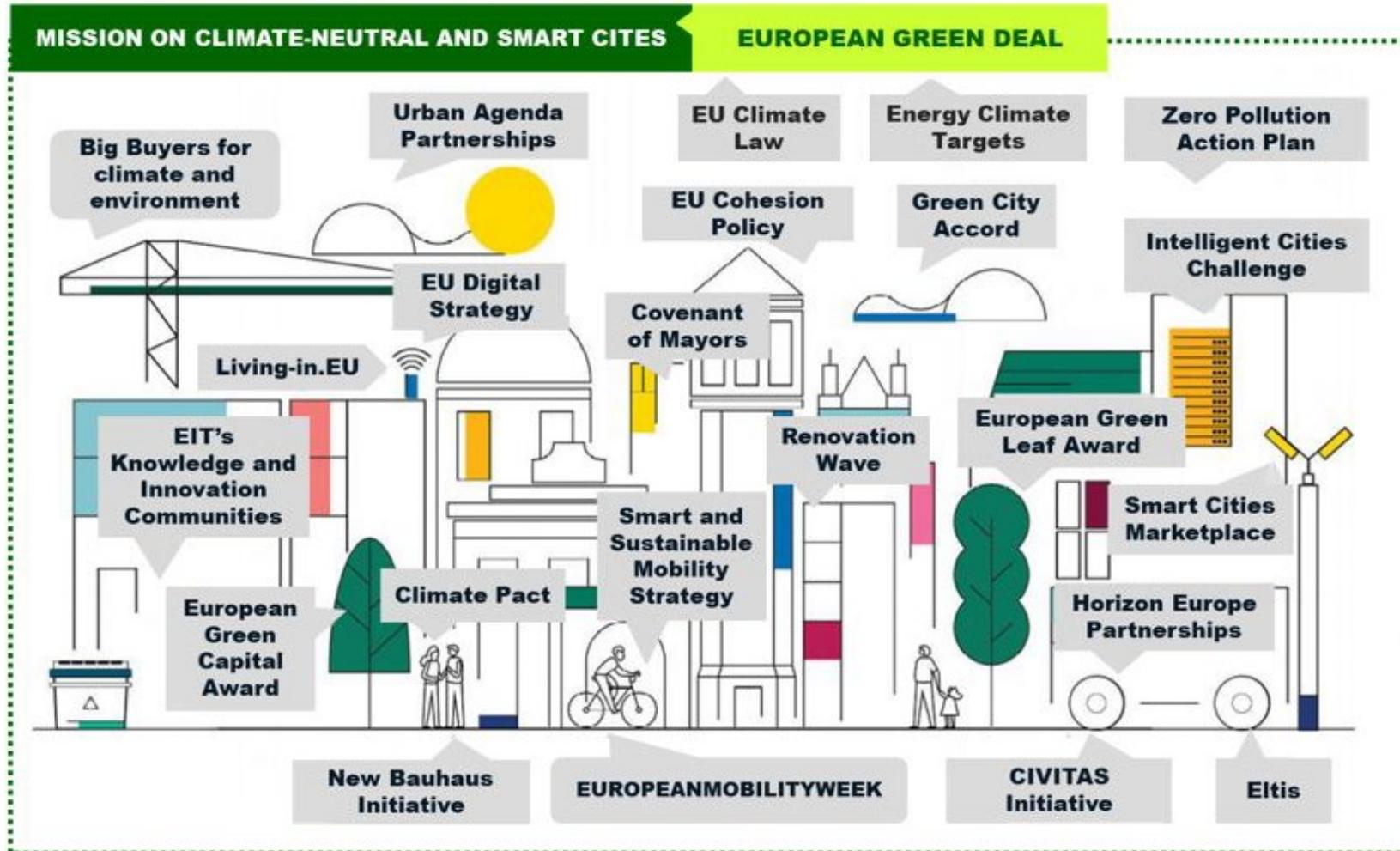
WHY A MISSION ON CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES?

- **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
- Air and noise pollution; congestion; dangerous roads increasing problems in cities – not just GHG.
- The **European Green Deal** at local level – where policy meets people.
- Cities have the **ambitions** to go further – but few have declared readiness to be climate neutral by 2030. We have to help cities address the barriers they face.



EXISTING COMMITMENTS

- More than 150 EU cities already have ambitions to work towards climate neutrality, but only a handful with a 2030 timeline
- Barriers: Lack of administrative capacity, technical knowledge, regulatory barriers, funding and financing





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.

Actions to deliver climate neutrality will bring massive and more visible co-benefits: better air quality, less road congestion, more livable spaces

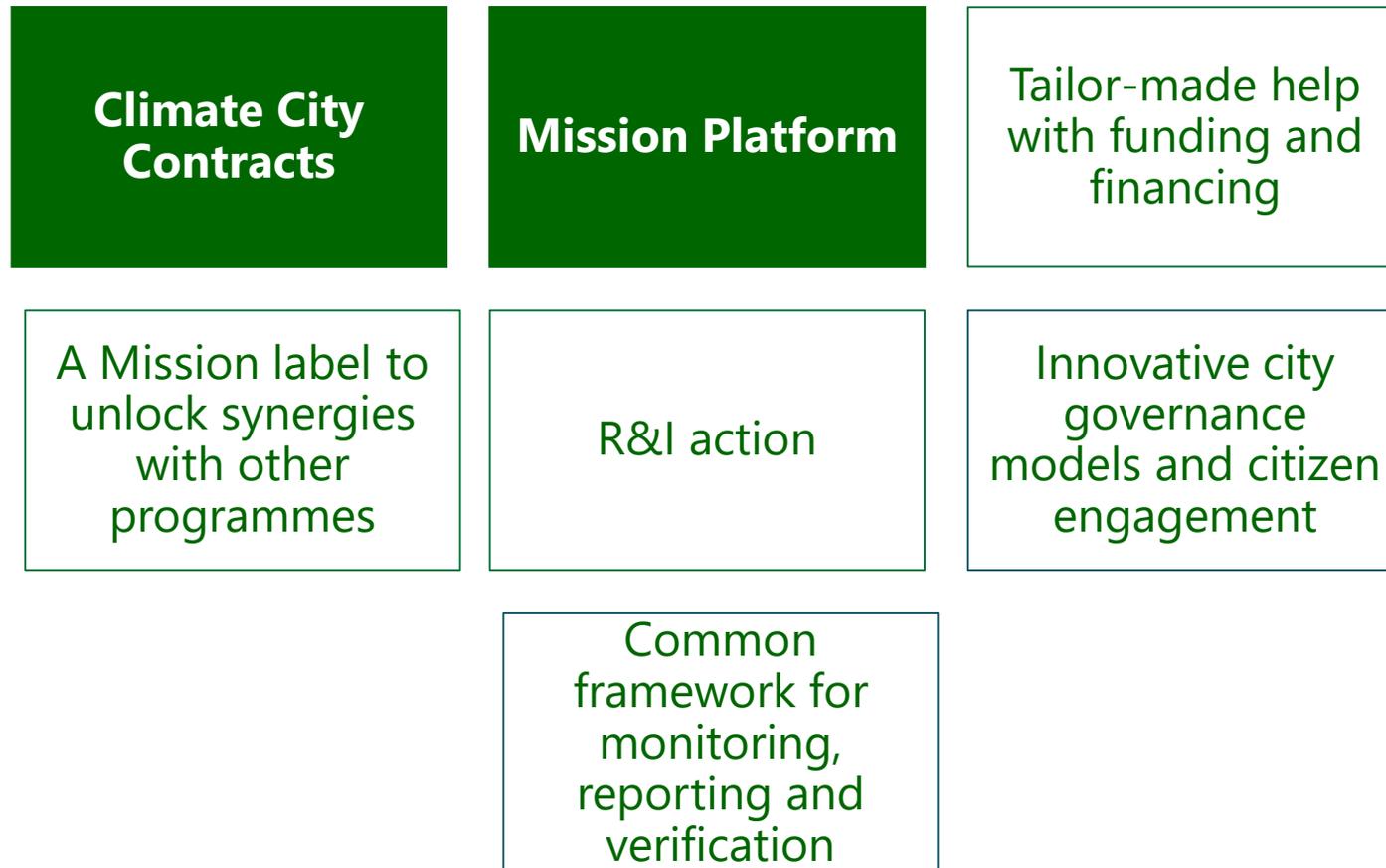


A NEW APPROACH TO URBAN CLIMATE ACTION

- Demand-driven and innovative process based on the needs of the cities
- Systemic change via research and innovation actions across sectors
- Multi-level governance linking local, regional, national and EU levels
- Support for accessing funding and finance on a large scale
- Citizens involved in the design and implementation of the mission



MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION





MISSION PLATFORM

- Run by the NetZeroCities consortium who start work today!
- Co-creation of **Climate City Contracts** with citizens, stakeholders and authorities
- Tailor-made **investment plans**, project preparation and financial advice
- **R&I pilots and demonstrators**: launch calls for proposals for large scale pilots in lead cities that will twin with and mentor other cities



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** 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



MISSION LABEL

- Climate City Contract gives access to a Mission label
- Recognition of quality and feasibility of climate action commitments
- Allowing EU, regions, Member States to support highly visible activities in ‘labelled’ cities
- Boosting investor awareness and confidence



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



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- The Mission Platform will provide support to cities also as regards citizen engagement:
- Involvement of citizens in the Mission in their different roles as political agents, users, producers, shareholders, consumers or visitors
- Inclusion of citizens in the cities' local governance models



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



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

- Coordinate interactions with international organisations and networks of cities;
- Support Global Knowledge Centre to facilitate two-way flows of knowledge;
- Promote European and international solutions that can be replicated and scaled-up;
- Allow for the set-up of joint activities that deepen cooperation with strategically important partners.



Frequently Asked Questions





WHO CAN APPLY?

- Entities of more than 50 000 inhabitants.
- Participation of cities with at least 100 000 inhabitants is especially encouraged.
- For entities from Member States with five or less cities above 100 000 population, a lower threshold of 10 000 inhabitants will apply.
- By default, the applicant city commits the whole city to become climate-neutral. If duly justified, a city may propose to exclude one or more emission sources, but in this case needs to commit to a strategy of climate neutrality for these districts as soon as possible.



CAN SMALLER CITIES JOIN FORCES AND APPLY JOINTLY TO THE MISSION?

- Large cities are especially encouraged to apply because of their potential big impact on emission reduction.
- Groupings of cities of smaller size are generally not encouraged.
- To be nevertheless considered for participation, they would have to
 - be geographically contiguous
 - demonstrate that they can in fact act in a coordinated manner, with a single coordinating entity having authority to make decisions and commitments for the whole grouping



WHAT DOES CLIMATE NEUTRALITY MEAN FOR CITIES?

- Definition of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be applied to urban context
- Climate neutrality for a city by 2030 should be assessed based on: (1) scope 1 GHG emissions, i.e. emissions within the geographic boundary from buildings, industry, transport, waste treatment, agriculture and forestry and from other activities, and (2) scope 2 GHG emissions, i.e. indirect emissions due to consumption of grid-supplied electricity within the geographic boundary and indirect emissions due to consumption of grid-supplied heat or cold within the geographic boundary.
- Comprehensive information will be contained in info kit for cities



HOW WILL THE APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?

- October 2021: Publication of comprehensive info kit for cities to help cities prepare for the Call
- November 2021: Publication of Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities (questionnaire)
- January 2022: Call closes
- By March 2022: Selection of participating cities
- As of mid 2022: Mission Platform works with first cities to develop Climate City Contracts



WHAT ARE THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA?

- the cities' level of ambition
- the cities' levels of preparedness
- the cities' existing and planned commitment to climate neutrality
- the cities' commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders

INCLUSIVENESS – DIVERSITY – GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE

- Assessment by independent experts, validation by the European Commission



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING AMONG THE 100 CITIES?

- Tailor-made advice and support by the Mission Platform
- Help with access to funding and financing via a Mission label
- R&I demonstrators (NB: Horizon Europe open calls will not be restricted to Mission cities.)
- Support through a national coordination network
- High visibility – raised political profile, attractiveness for investment and skilled workers

BUT this requires full commitment in Climate City Contract.



HOW DOES THE MISSION RELATE TO OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES?

- The Mission will not replace other programmes, but build synergies between them.
- A Mission label will be awarded to selected cities that have signed a Climate City Contract, which will recognise the quality and feasibility of their commitments. This label will help create funding opportunities in other city programmes.
- A national coordination network will ensure synergies with national and regional programmes and will also be able to use the Mission label to facilitate access to funding.
- Use of existing planning and monitoring frameworks like Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) is very much encouraged and will not be duplicated in the Mission.



HOW DOES THE CITIES MISSION RELATE TO OTHER MISSIONS?

- Clear synergies with other Missions, in particular the Climate Adaptation Mission and the Mission on Oceans and Waters.
- Links will be developed and duplication avoided, thanks to close coordination of Mission Secretariats.
- In particular, use of Policy Support Facility under the EU Adaptation Strategy, hosted by the Covenant of Mayors, and contribution of the European Climate Pact for citizen engagement will be explored.



HOW WILL CITIES HAVE ACCESS TO FUNDING AND FINANCE?

- Climate City Contracts will include an investment plan, developed with the assistance of the Mission Platform.
- Mission Platform will help explore possibilities under existing funding schemes (Cohesion Funds, Connecting Europe Facility, national programmes etc).
- The Mission label will create further opportunities to access funding and financing.
- The Mission will cooperate closely with the European Investment Bank Group, including possibly setting up a “Blending Facility”.
- Mission Platform will also help with access to the wider finance community, including local sustainable investment, e.g. green bonds.



WHO IS THE MISSION PLATFORM AND HOW IS IT ORGANISED?

- Project “NetZeroCities” (funded under Horizon 2020) will implement the first phase of the Mission Platform and support a first set of 30 cities
- “NetZeroCities” consortium is led by EIT Climate KIC and includes city associations, urban climate experts, funding & finance experts, communication specialists
- Stable long-term structure to be set-up under Horizon Europe in 2022



Email:

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

Web Page:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en



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