

NET ZERO CITIES



EU MISSION PLATFORM

CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES



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NetZeroCities:

Introduction to the Mission Platform Offer for Mission-minded Cities

09 September 2025



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Services and Support

What's in for your city



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Fulfilling the Second Objective of the EU Cities Mission: Helping all European cities to follow suit

Aims of the Mission

The Cities Mission will involve local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to

1. Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
2. Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050





Main elements



Who? All cities wanting to learn and embark on a journey towards climate neutrality, at any stage of their journey. Depending on their climate commitment, they will have access to different levels of support.



What? Tools, resources, and approaches developed by Mission Cities, including the Climate Transition Map and exclusive peer learning opportunities (site visits, twinnings, learning courses)



How? A mix of online and in person learning activities, starting from the Portal and including online groups, study visits, twinning with Mission Cities, and engagement at national/regional level.





The Mission Platform as an **accelerator of climate action** for all cities wanting to become climate neutral

Peer Learning



- Online Discussion Groups
- Thematic Study Visits to Mission Cities
- Twinning Learning Programme
- National events

Capability Building



- Online Planning Lab for city officials
- Training Series
- Learning Journeys

Tools & Resources



- Self-service tools for planning, portfolio development, financing, ...
- Access to Case Studies, Climate City Contracts, research publications, ...

← Tailored technical assistance and helpdesk →



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Tools & Resources

Format: Online





NetZeroCities Portal

All of the Latest on Climate Neutrality under one roof

A one-stop-shop useful for any city, regardless of where it finds itself in its journey to climate neutrality.

The NetZeroCities Portal gathers the following tools and resources:

- Climate Transition Map
- Finance Guidance Tool
- Knowledge Repository
- User Directory
- News Feed
- Events
- And much more!



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NetZeroCities Portal Tools



Explore Tools

Here, you will find tools to empower and track your progress, supporting you to make and maintain sustainable change.



Barometer

The NetZeroCities Barometer is a data-based dashboard which shows how the 112 Mission Cities are progressing in their journey towards climate neutrality.

[Barometer →](#)



Engagement Strategy Tools

Use the Engagement Strategy Tools to identify your city's top engagement needs and find tailored strategies to effectively engage citizens and stakeholders.

[Engagement Strategy Tools →](#)



Finance Guidance Tool

This tool has been designed to help you find the right funding for your projects. It is based on a questionnaire that will help you define your financing needs and filter the types of funding that are appropriate.

[Finance Guidance Tool →](#)



NetZeroPlanner

NetZeroPlanner allows you to analyse the impact of your city's Climate Action Plans and improve them to ensure you reach your decarbonisation goals.

[NetZeroPlanner →](#)



Solution Bundle

Explore dynamic and interactive visualisations of city systems. Solution Bundles currently cover: E-Mobility & Electrification
Carbon Capture Storage & Removal

[Solution Bundle →](#)



Solution Outliner

Identify and prioritise decarbonisation solutions for your city. The Solution Outliner uses contextual parameters like ambition, barriers, enablers, and co-benefits to automatically present a list of solutions and extra information.

[Solution Outliner →](#)



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Join the Tool Training Series!

A dedicated programme providing an overview and training on NetZeroCities tools and key partner resources.



Explore Tools

Here, you will find tools to empower and track your progress, supporting you to make and maintain sustainable change.



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Capability Building

Format: Online + In-person



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Design Your City's Net Zero Strategy:

Online Planning Lab

**Launching in
September 2025!**

WHAT?



Free online course open to all cities committed to climate neutrality!



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NetZeroCities online course for all cities

- **A project-based Mini-Lab** to develop a systemic **action plan** for your city
- With interactive live sessions, and peer-to-peer activities for cities
- Financed by the European Commission, this program is **completely free** for participants.





NetZeroCities online course for all cities

6 Modules addressing key aspects of the net-zero transition, for building the city action plan, step by step



In short:
6 core + 20 optional
live interactive
spotlight sessions on
specific topics for you
to choose from!





NetZeroCities online course for all cities

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?"





NetZeroCities online course for all cities



Key resources translated in multiple EU languages: All essential materials will be translated to ensure accessibility for diverse participants.



Certification: Completing all 6 core sessions grants the participant with a ***certification of completion***, and also unlocks dedicated feedback sessions with NetZeroCities experts.



Spotlight Sessions: After the core session of each module, learners can take these optional sessions to explore **specific topics in depth**, complementing the knowledge acquired during the core sessions.



Flexible Participation: Participants can also take modules and sessions individually if they wish to focus on specific topics only, but *certification requires the completion of the 6 core sessions*.





Peer Learning at National Level

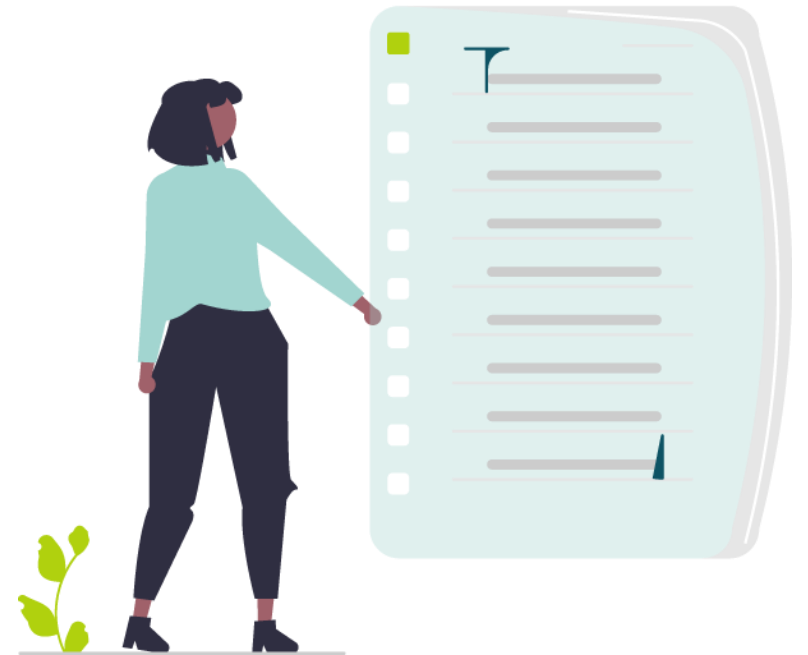
Format: Online + In-Person





Key elements of national ecosystems that advance the EU Cities Mission

- Cities form a **community of practice** for joint collaboration to overcome challenges and boost opportunities
- Real **multi-level governance** across local, regional and national authorities to support cities in their climate neutrality work
- Real **multi-stakeholder collaboration** across public authorities, industry, academia, social sector and civil society
- **Mission approach** for climate neutral cities, following the EU Cities Mission methodology
- **Facilitating organisation** with a strong mandate to coordinate the work at national level in order to advance the implementation towards climate-neutral cities





Examples of existing national ecosystems that advance the EU Cities Mission:

Some countries already have well-established *national platforms* supporting cities along their climate neutrality journey. However, it is important to highlight that **there is no such thing as a perfect national platform**.

- Viable Cities (Sweden)
- citiES2030 (Spain)
- Mission: Climate-neutral City (Austria)
- M100 Mirror Cities Mission Hub (Romania)





Peer Learning at EU-Level

Format: Online + In-Person



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Helping Cities to collaborate and share knowledge and capacity on Climate Action

Peer Learning Opportunities with Mission Cities..

- Online Discussion Groups
- Group Study Visits
- Twinning Programme





Online Discussion Groups

Online



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Online discussion groups (Cohort 1)

Cohort 1 (Sept 2024 – Feb 2025): 75 cities – 180 participants

- Phase 1: **onboarding** to the EU Cities Mission
- Phase 2: thematic online **discussion groups**
8 Mission Cities presented real case studies and lessons learned
- Phase 3: **technical support** sessions (5 thematic sessions),
- Phase 4: **Group Study Visit preparation** (cities invited to apply for in-person group study visits)

Cohort 2: design and launch (March-June 2025)



Snapshot from ODGs Cohort 1 programme (recap)



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What is in for your city in the next cohort of Online discussion groups?

1) Gain **first-hand experience from leading Mission Cities**, climate actions and projects and acquire practical insights from real-world examples.

Four peer-learning groups (**Nov-Dec 2025**)

- Innovative financing - **Florence and Malmö**,
- Decarbonising the energy sector and district heating - **Pécs, Lund and Espoo**,
- Built environment(including circular construction and building renovation)- **Helsinki and Oslo**,
- Citizen engagement and behavioural change - **Grenoble-Metropole**.

2) Access the resources of [EU Cities Mission Portal](#)

3) Join **tailored technical support sessions** on your specific themes of concern. (**January-Feb 2026**)

4) Join [study visits hosted by labelled Mission Cities](#). (**Spring 2026**)

Register [here](#) by **15 September!**

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUPS PHASES & TIMELINE

ONBOARDING

SEPTEMBER 2025

Recurring Orientation Sessions will be organised to help new cities joining the Thematic Groups familiarise with the EU Cities Mission. These sessions will introduce the support and learning opportunities available through the Mission Platform and will consist of two online meetings.

ONLINE KICK-OFF

14 OCTOBER 2025 – 11:00-12:00 CEST

Introduction of participants, presentation of the programme and showcase of the cities' climate action.

PHASE 1 LEARN FROM ACTIONABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FROM MISSION CITIES

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

Four peer-learning groups will be established to strengthen cities' capacities on innovative climate action, showcasing case studies from Mission Cities in thematic webinars open to all cities:

- Innovative financing - **Florence and Malmö**,
- Decarbonising the energy sector and district heating - **Pécs, Lund, and Espoo**,
- Built environment (including circular construction and building renovation) - **Helsinki and Oslo**,
- Citizen engagement and behavioural change - **Helsingborg and Grenoble-Métropole**.

PHASE 2 PROBLEM SOLVING TECHNICAL SESSIONS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026

A series of problem-solving workshops will guide the cities in an interactive format, to reflect on new local interventions by tackling technical barriers. Each workshop will be tailored to the specific needs expressed by participating cities.

Take the next step on your learning journey and apply to join a Group Study Visit in Mission Cities!

Cities that have been actively involved in the Online Discussion Groups, will have the opportunity to apply to the different group study visits in Mission Cities, to go in-depth on the knowledge exchange upon completion of phase 2. The travel costs will be covered by the NetZeroCities budget and the exchanges will be supported by facilitators.



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Group Study Visits

Online + In-Person



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Group Study Visits – autumn 2025



2.5-day structured visits for Mission-minded cities to observe and reflect on real-world climate actions in Mission Cities

Sign up for
next cohort in
spring 2026



Group Study Visit in 2nd District of Bucharest, Romania
Bucharest's Green Transformation: Rethinking Mobility, Energy, and Buildings for a Sustainable City



Group Study Visit in Guimarões, Portugal
Guimarões' climate journey – a Model for a One Planet City



Group Study Visit in Mannheim, Germany
Mannheim's energy transition and urban greenery: a model to achieve climate neutrality



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Twinning Learning Programme

Online + In-Person



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Twinning Learning Programme

Aimed at creating a **two-way knowledge exchange** between Mission Cities and Mission-minded Cities (= Twin Cities) across Europe based on showcasing Mission Cities' progress in implementing their Climate City Contracts and other climate strategies by

- Engaging with Twin Cities facing similar climate challenges, while gaining fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and tailored solutions to accelerate their climate neutrality plans.
- Enable Twin Cities to **identify actionable and replicable climate solutions and prepare for their local implementation** in close coordination with their Mission City counterpart



180 cities are now engaged in the **NZC Twinning Learning Programme**, making it the largest peer-learning initiative under the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities!



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Mission Cities



Aachen



Bristol



**2nd district
of Bucharest**



Dunkerque



**Eindhoven-
Helmond**



Elbasan



Gabrovo



Guimarões



Mission Cities



Ioannina



Kozani



Liberec



Padova



Reykjavik



Sarajevo



Sofia



Stockholm



Torino



Umeå

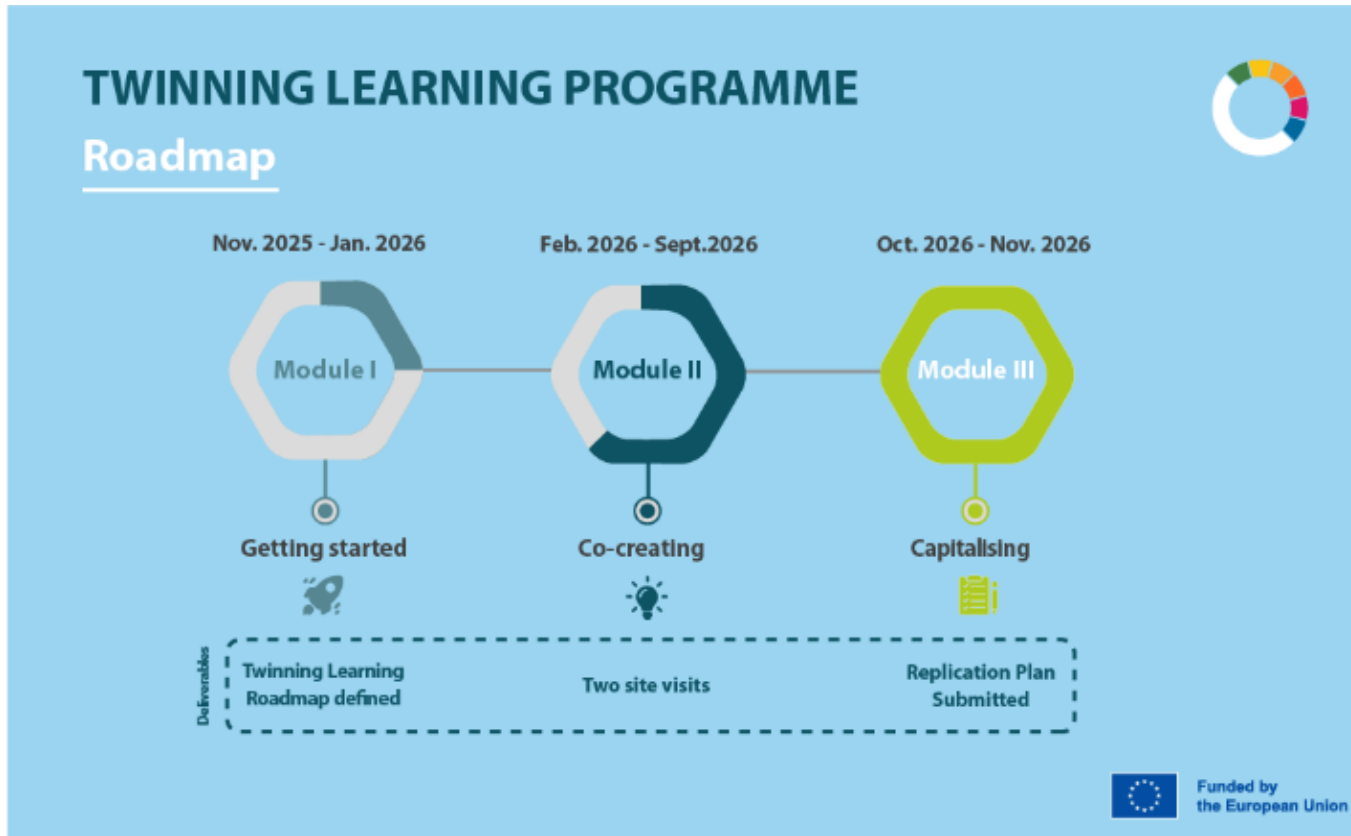


Warsaw





A flexible learning structure over 12 months



Learning activities

- Kick-off meeting
- Workshop – Design the learning roadmap
- Site visit to the Mission City
- Site visit to the Twin City
- Workshop – Replication Roadmap





Expression of Interest now open!

**CALL FOR
TWIN CITIES**

NET ZERO CITIES

Apply by 12 September

Team up with a Mission City!

**PART OF THE
EU MISSIONS**
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

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The poster features a light blue background with a green and blue wavy bottom. It includes illustrations of city buildings and trees, with curved arrows indicating connections between them. The European Union flag is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.



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How to get started?

3 easy steps!



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Step-by-step Onboarding

Step 1

Introduction to NetZeroCities

- [Book a 1:1 with the Helpdesk here](#)
- Join the orientation sessions
- Complete a quick survey to help us support you better!

Step 2

NetZeroCities Portal registration

- [Register on the Portal](#)
- [Join the orientation portal group](#)

Step 3

Support and Learning Pathways

- Explore resources, tools, and connect through Twinning, thematic discussions, and study visits.



[Scan and download the Step-by-Step Guide here!](#)



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Any Questions?



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Upcoming

Step 1: Orientation Session



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Join the NetZeroCities Orientation sessions!

- Orientation session 1:
23 October 2025, 13:00
- Orientation session 2:
30 October 2025



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Join the NetZeroCities Orientation group and the New Cities' Newsletter!

- NetZeroCities Orientation group [here](#).
- Join the newsletter via [this form](#)!



Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



@NetZeroCitiesEU



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