



The value of social engagement in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission



EUROPEAN UNION

**EU
MISSIONS**



Mission overview

Given the key role that cities can play in contributing to the Green Deal's goal of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030, the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission aims to support cities in accelerating their **green and digital transformation**.

Objectives

The mission activities are designed to support the achievement of **two key objectives**:

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

How to get involved

In line with the objectives of the mission, a distinction must be made between activities and measures for **a) the 100 selected cities** (from EU Member States) + **12 mission cities** (from associated countries) and **b) for all cities in Europe** that want to learn from the examples. In general, Horizon Europe supports the mission of cities through its mission work programme and both mission cities and all other European cities can participate in projects. As far as mission cities are concerned, these have been selected by the European Commission on the basis of their plans to achieve climate neutrality and now want to deepen these plans through a contract (**Climate City Contract**)

- **Climate City Contracts (CCC)**: non-legally binding document through which each of the 112 selected cities commits to the commission, regional authorities and citizens to actions and investments to become climate neutral by 2030. The CCC are based on a **co-creation process** with **local stakeholders** and **citizens**. In the contract's finalization, cities are supported by the **Mission Platform**, which provides them with tailor-made technical, financial and regulatory advices. In addition, the Mission Platform also supports the management of pilot city programmes and twinning activities . More information [here](#).

Useful LINKS

Mission NCPs ([link](#))

Mission Platform ([link](#))



Funding opportunities

A very important role is given to **research and innovation projects**, which are an **essential vehicle for accelerating the drive towards climate neutrality**. For this reason, the Mission is also active in funding research and development projects involving cities, local governments, academia, private sector and civil society organisations.

Here are the **open calls 2024** within the 2023-2025 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission work programme

[HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-01](#): Rethinking urban spaces towards climate neutrality

[HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-02](#): Zero-pollution cities

[HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-03](#): Mobility Management Plans and Behavioural Change

[HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-04](#): Integrated peri-urban areas in the transition towards climate neutrality

Other Funding Opportunities

[Horizon Europe Cluster 5](#)
[Driving Urban Transition](#)
[LIFE](#)
[European Urban Initiative](#)
[New European Bauhaus Initiative](#)

The role of social engagement

Social engagement, is crucial to enable sustainable urban living and an accelerated transition. Indeed, the entire Mission is built around the involvement of citizens and key stakeholders in the process of achieving climate neutrality. Based on these assumptions, various initiatives are launched by the Mission to foster and raise awareness on social engagement in a co-design and co-implementation perspective. More information and details [here](#).



Some social engagement insights

Here are some insights on social engagement activities carried out by **CLIMABOROUGH project** (funded under HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-02-01) which aims to bridge the gap between design and implementation of urban innovations, particularly in the face of climatic change and its consequential needs for adaptation and mitigation.

Social engagement strategies used in the project:

- Online and Onsite Community Building Events such as workshops and seminars
- Online and Onsite Forums and Groups
- User-Generated Content Campaigns such as citizen science initiatives; testimonial stories etc.
- Living Labs

Target groups involved

Citizens, policy makers, researchers, end users, civil society organizations and players in the business sector.

A particular successful example of Social Engagement activity within the project:

The project organises a series of webinars and online workshops dedicated to carbon neutrality and to the paths that cities are taking to bridge the gap between the design and implementation of urban innovations, particularly in the face of climate change and the resulting adaptation and mitigation needs. During these events, the work in progress of CLIMABOROUGH cities will be showcased. These are cities that the project gathers and that are currently working on the definition, development, testing and implementation of climate products and services focused on the transition from waste to circularity or on the transition from isolated energy and mobility systems to integrated services. Webinars and workshops are designed to **stimulate discussion** within and outside the partnership and **foster interaction, dialogue** and **mutual learning**.

What made this initiative so successful

The direct involvement of cities and the cooperation between them.

For more information about the project and its activities check the [CLIMABOROUGH website](#).

