

# NET ZERO CITIES



**EU MISSION PLATFORM**

**CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES**



Funded by  
the European Union



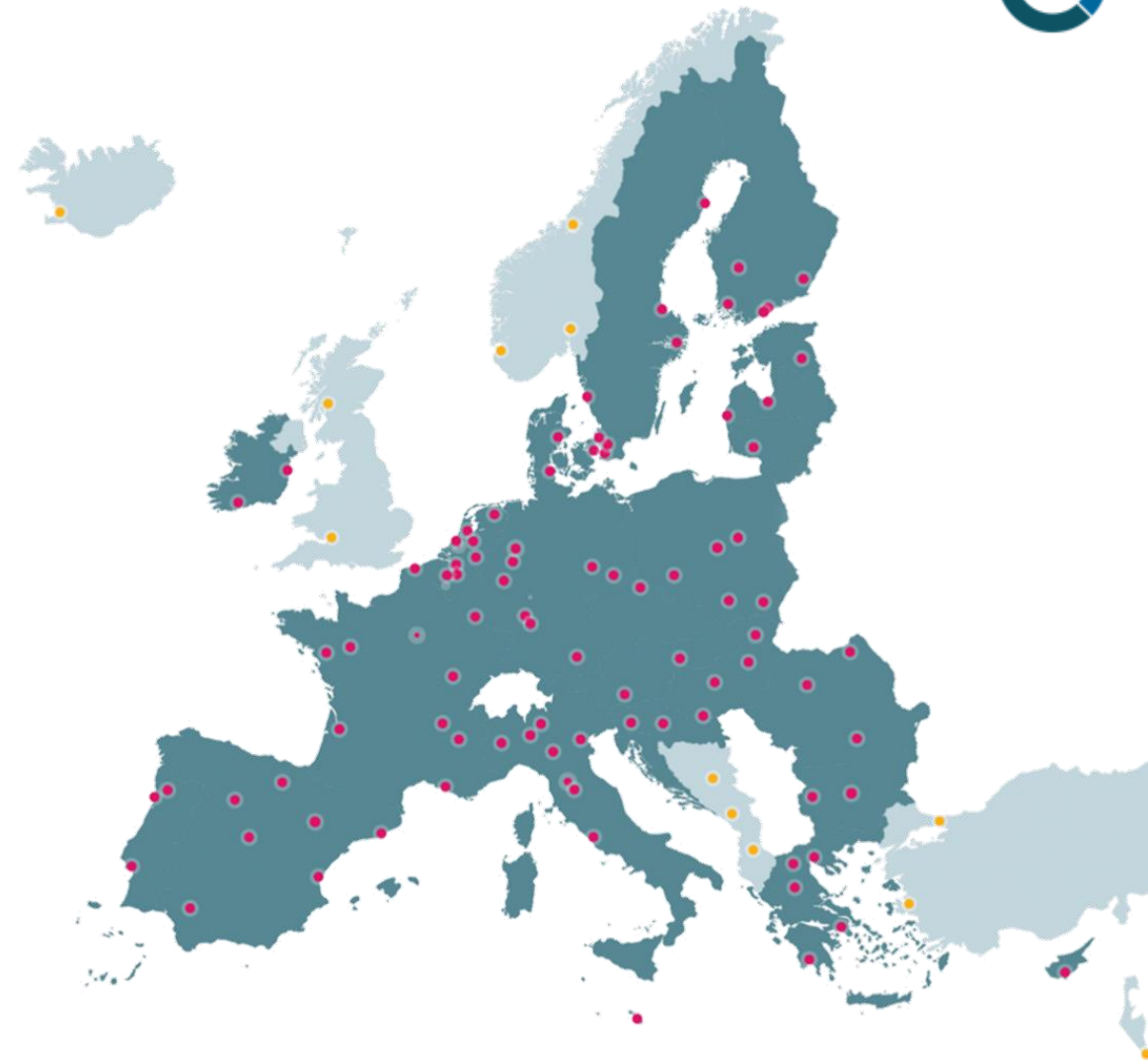
# Supporting the EU Mission for “Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030”

The EU has launched a Mission [“100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030”](#).

The objectives of the Mission are

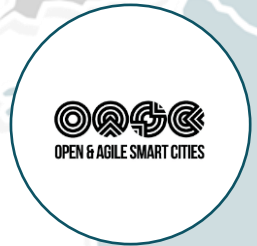
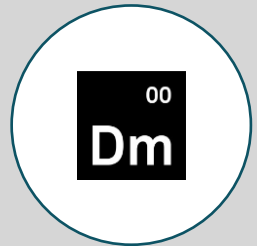
- to achieve **100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030**.
- to ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to **enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050**.

**NetZeroCities**, coordinated by **Climate-KIC**, currently manages the Platform to support the Mission. We will help Europe in its ambition to achieve climate neutrality by providing cities with **world-class expertise and services** tailored to their needs.



**100** EU cities & **12** cities from  
Horizon Europe Associated Countries







# The Journey to Climate Neutrality

Systems Change



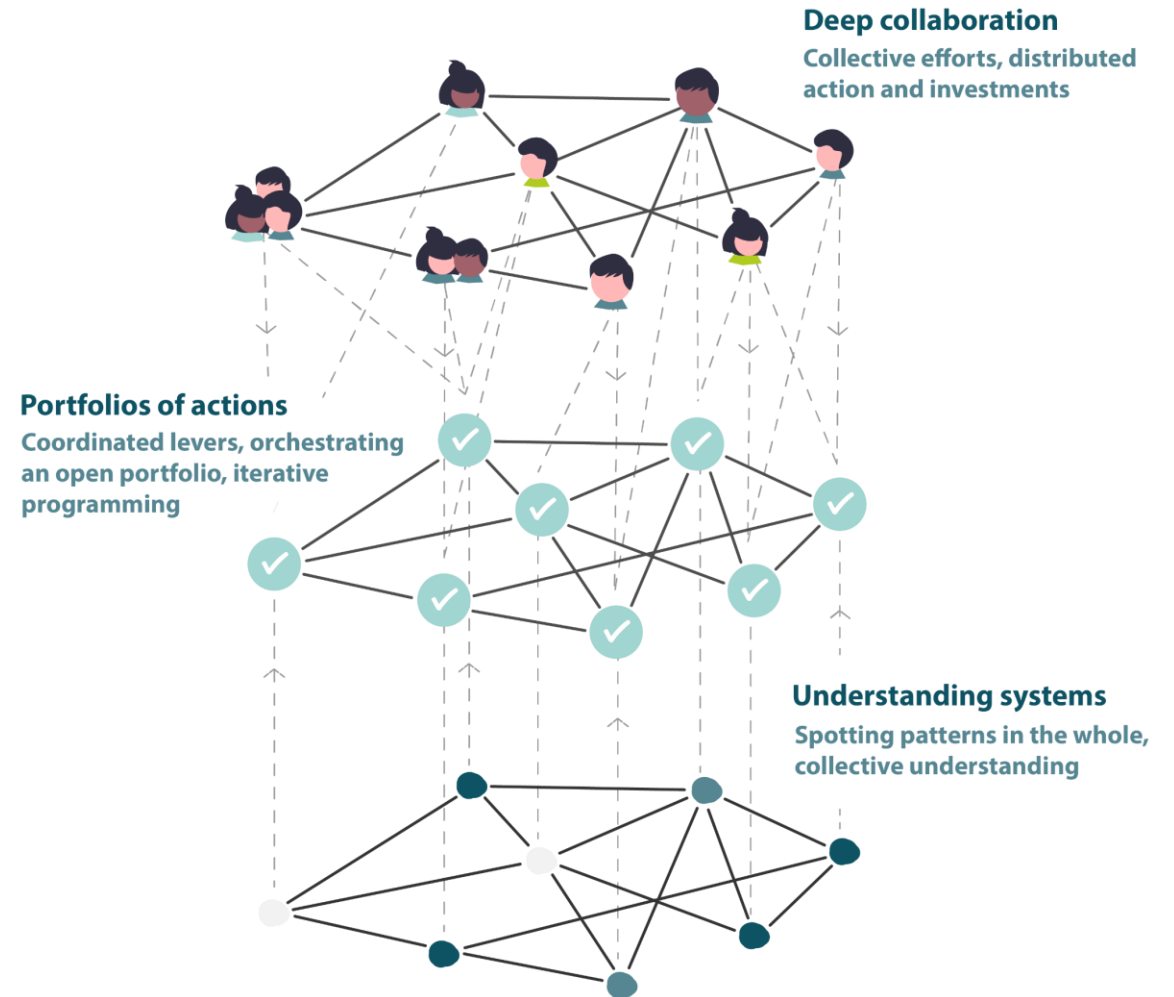
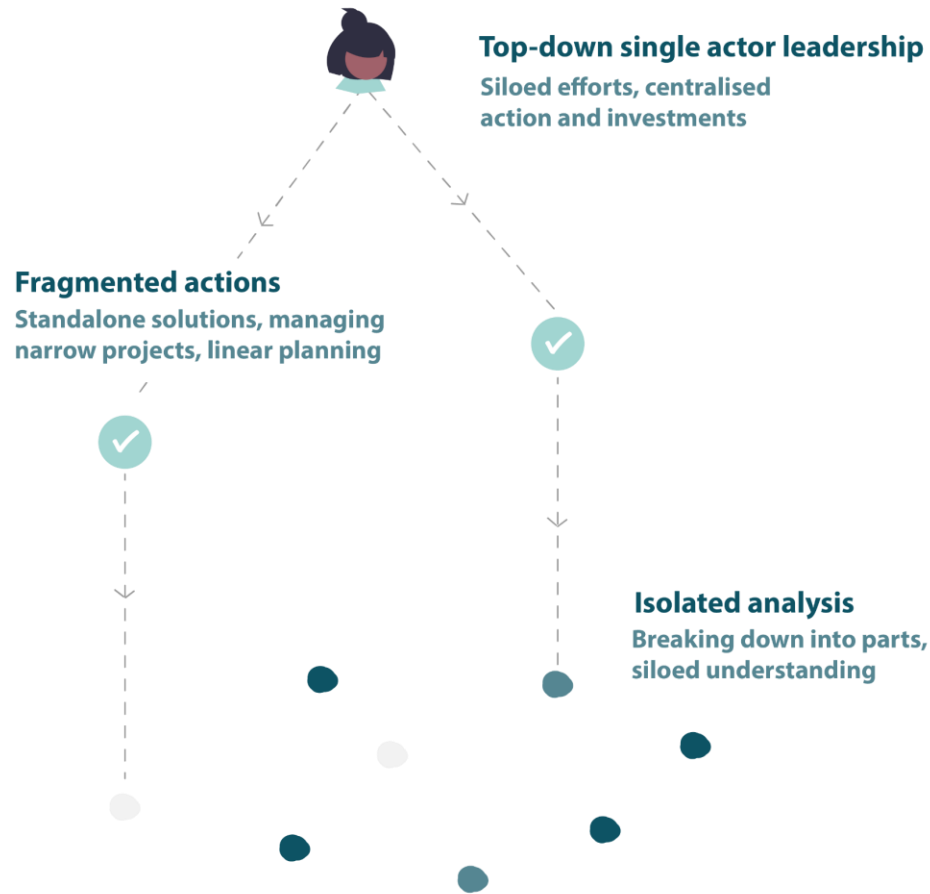
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# Supporting Cities towards Climate Neutrality





# Systems Approach to Change

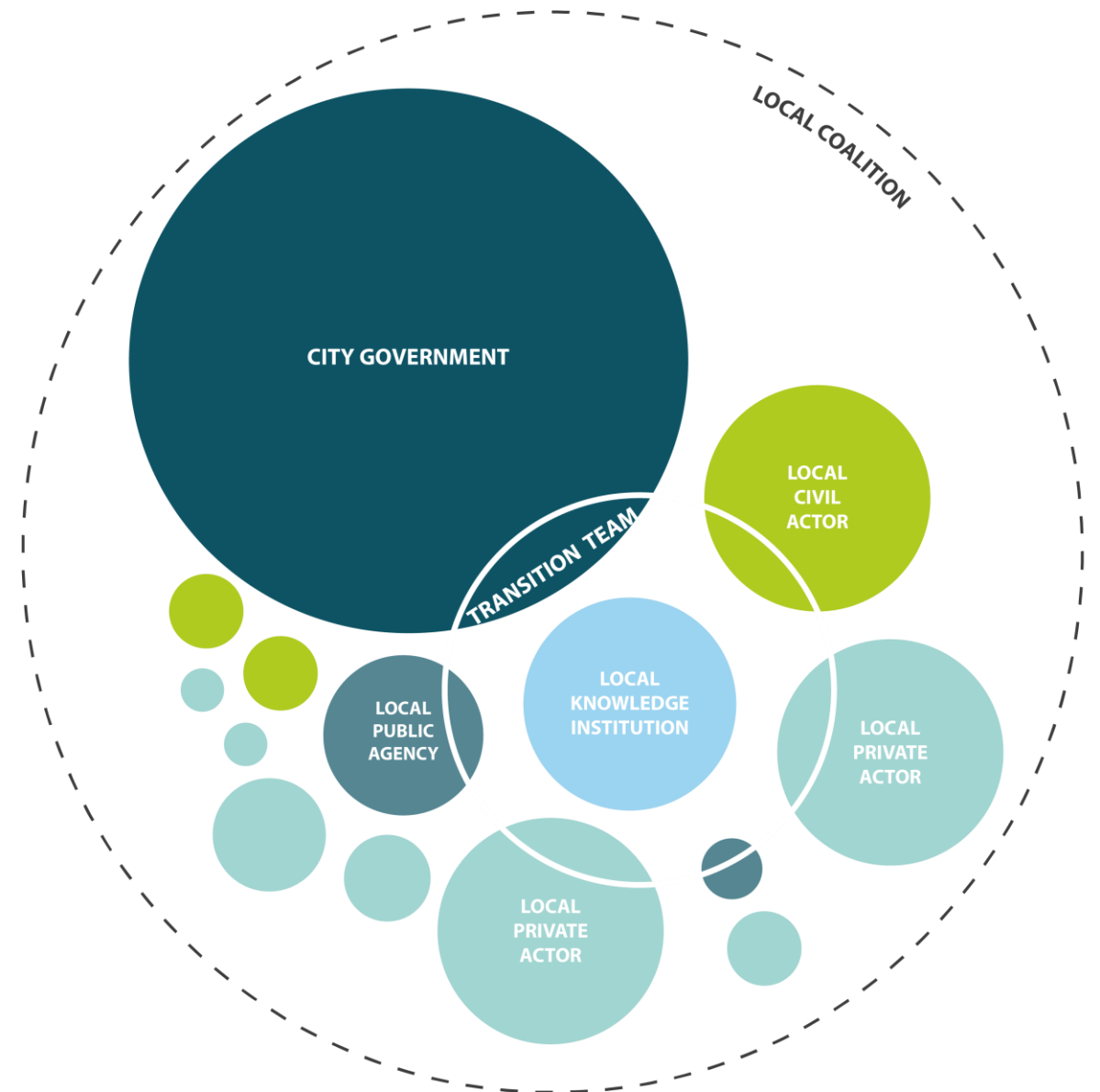




# Deep Collaboration

To transform entire value chains and emission domains the collaboration and coordinated action of **multiple actors across sectors** will be needed - public sector, private sector, knowledge institutions, citizens and civil sector, media.

This is possible but needs a confident and skilled team at the centre of this coalition to support and coordinate all actors in playing this difficult part that is collaborating for transformation. It needs a **Transition team to orchestrate the process.**



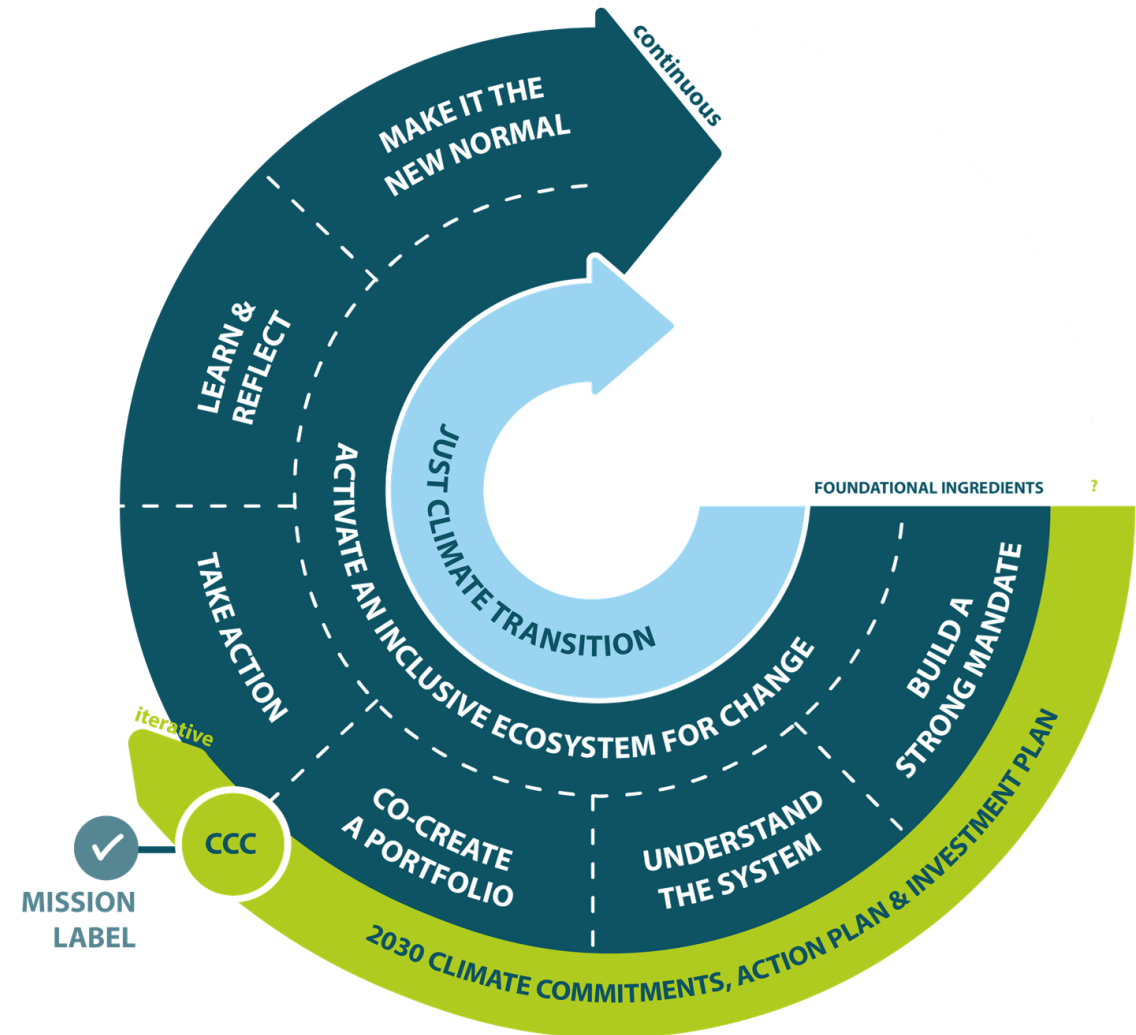


# Climate Transition Map: An Ongoing Journey

The journey to climate-neutrality will be an **iterative process**, operating at different levels at the same time.

The Climate Transition Map focuses on **building 7 core elements for the transition:**

- A strong mandate
- A good understanding of the system
- A strong local ecosystem
- A coherent portfolio
- Transformative action
- Learning and reflection
- Normalised 'net zero' practice





# Climate City Contract: A Roadmap to Climate Neutrality

A multi-level government collaboration tool to help cities collaboratively address barriers to accelerate transformative action.

The Climate City Contract (CCC) has three interlinked components:

- **Commitments**
- **Action Plan**
- **Investment Plan**



Cities Mission Climate City Contract





# EU Mission Label: Unlocking Cities' Potential on Climate Neutrality

- The EU Mission Label is an acknowledgement of the Mission Cities' plans to achieve climate neutrality (Climate City Contracts).
- This label, awarded by the European Commission, aims to facilitate cities' access to public and private funding to reach climate neutrality by 2030.
- On 12 October 2023, the first ten European cities were awarded the EU Mission Label.
- On 25th March 2024 an additional 23 European Cities were awarded the EU Mission Label





# Cities Mission Capital Hub

The Capital Hub will help cities overcome barriers to climate action by providing **initial project development assistance** and **connecting public and private financial institutions to the cities.**

Four steps:

- Action & Investment Plans
- Technical Assistance
- Project Financing
- Capital Facilitation





# Meet the City Advisors



**Jane McLaughlin**



**Sozvin Al Youssef**



**Francisco Gonçalves**



**Vlatka Berlan Vlahek**



**Julie Delcroix**



**Gabriela Uchoa**



**Svea Heinemann**



**Bob D'Haeseleer**



**Deniz Celik Bulgurlu**



**Anna Sokolowska**



**Justyna Wiczorkiewicz-Molendo**



**Keira Webster**



**Anna Huttunen**



**Jakob Stolt**



**Nilofer Tajuddin**



**Joanna Komperda**



**Alvaro Soldevila**



# Supporting Cities at every Step of their Journey

The **Capability Building Programme** provides 6 modules on the NetZeroCities Portal that allow cities to access resources and support in specific areas:

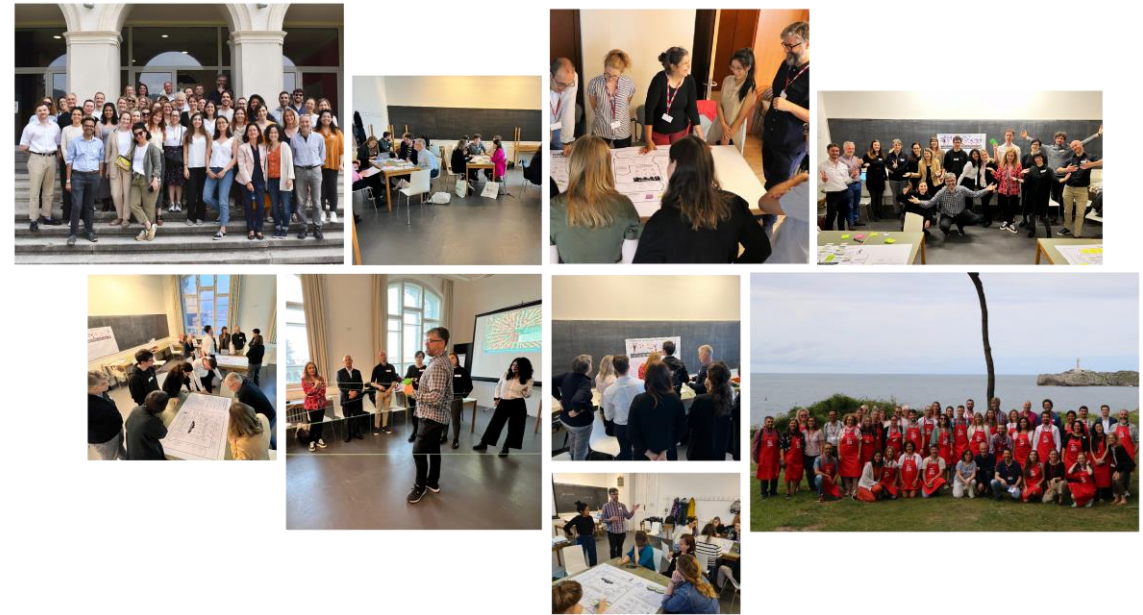
- Building a shared understanding
- Activating ecosystems for change
- Setting up a baseline for action
- Experimenting with a portfolio of actions
- Building a strong economic case
- Developing a financing strategy





# The Summer and Winter Schools

- The Summer/Winter Schools are a learning experience to **design Climate City Contracts (CCC)**, their monitoring and iteration.
- The Schools involve cities in an **exciting laboratory of practice based and active learning in groups.**
- The Schools are part of a **larger capability building programme** that provides online and offline learning opportunities to support Mission Cities at different stages of their CCC design process.



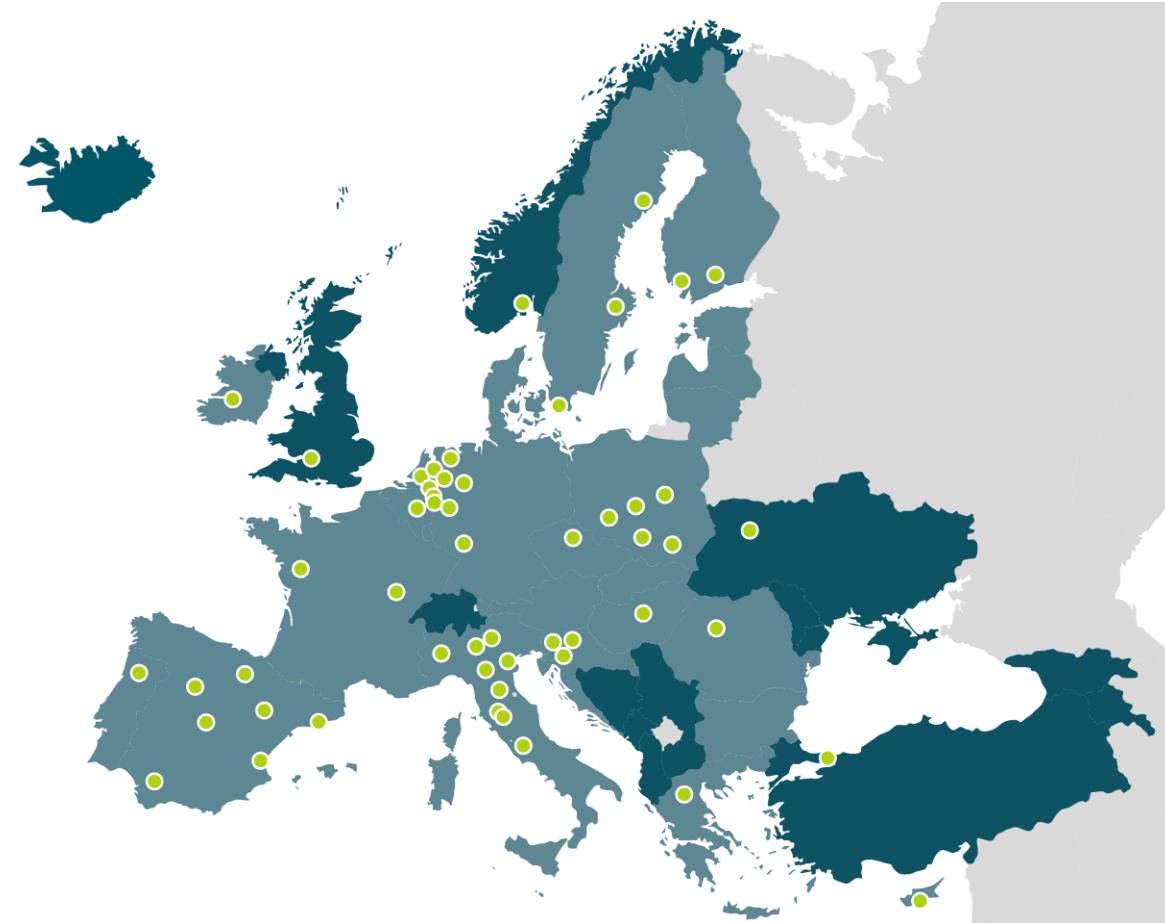


# Pilot City Programme

The NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme supports 79 cities to **test and implement innovative approaches to rapid decarbonisation**, working across thematic areas and functional silos in support of systemic transformation.

The **first cohort of cities**, composed of 53 cities from 21 countries, is already contributing to accelerate the EU Cities Mission.

The **second cohort of cities**, composed of 26 cities from 16 countries was announced on 23 January



NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme

Cohort 1



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# Join The NetZeroCities Portal



NetZeroCities.app



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# Get in touch with NetZeroCities!



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[NetZeroCities](https://www.instagram.com/NetZeroCities)



[NetZeroCitiesEU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[NetZeroCities EU](https://www.youtube.com/NetZeroCitiesEU)



[www.netzerocities.eu](http://www.netzerocities.eu)



[hello@netzerocities.eu](mailto:hello@netzerocities.eu)



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# CAPACITIES

Advancing national support  
for climate neutral cities

# More than 100 entities



15 core countries – partners  
and associated partners  
RO, AT, SE, IT, CZ, EL, HU,  
NL, SK, ES, PT, TR, PL, FR,  
FI



Supporting countries  
BE, BG, EE, DE, SI, UA



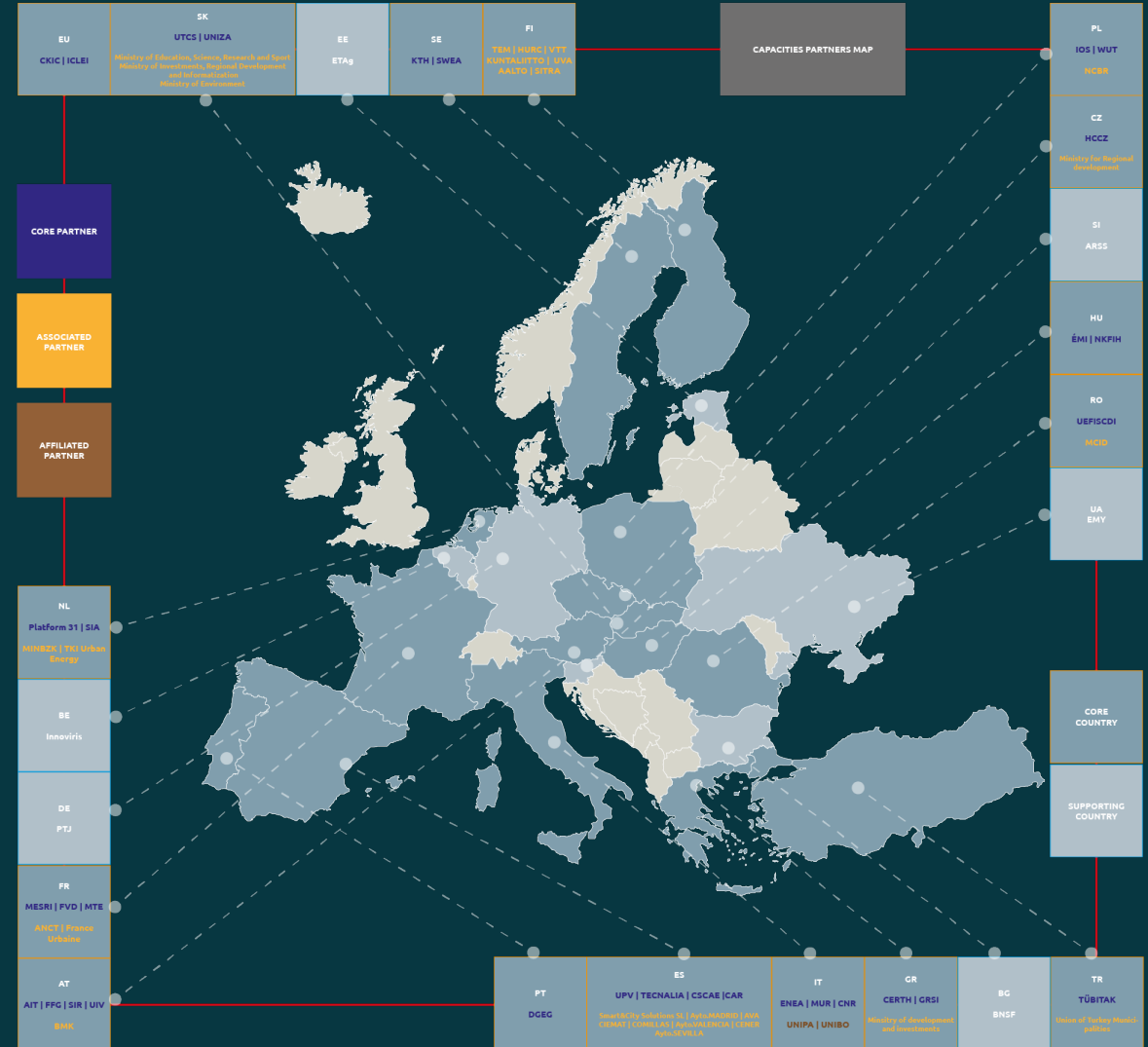
Synergies with other EU  
stakeholder platforms and  
initiatives to support the  
Cities Mission

# CapaCITIES Partners Map

15 Core Countries representing a country team, including ministries, policy agencies, R&I funding agencies, national networks and research organisations.

6 supporting countries following and learning from the activities of CapaCITIES.

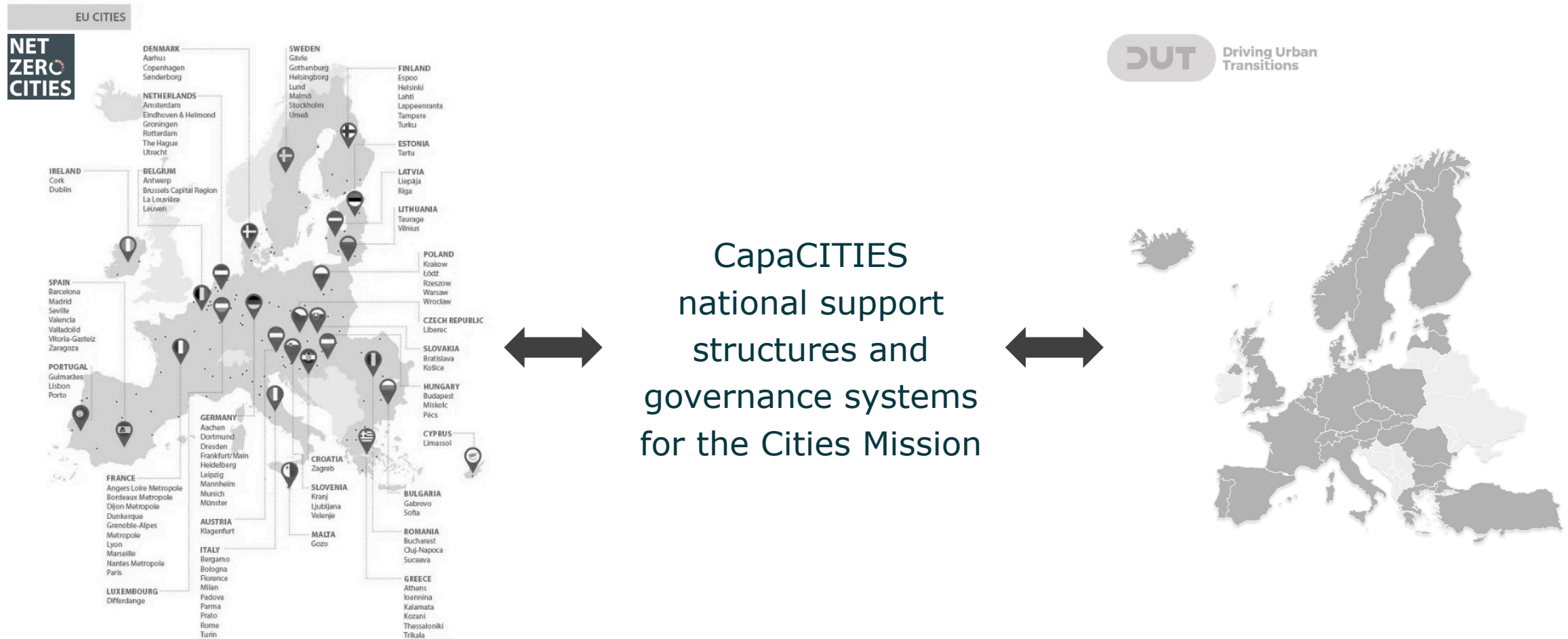
**Coordination and Core Team:** UEFISCDI (RO), FFG (AT), Viable Cities (SE), ICLEI Europe, ENEA & MUR (IT)



# Capa**CITIES**

supports, connects, empowers and inspires national authorities, national ministries, funding agencies and agencies responsible for urban transitions in their efforts to implement the Cities Mission nationally.

# CapaCITIES Embedded in the European Landscape



establish interface with the Mission platform and its services to serve both cities and national level aligned

utilising the DUT network of national and regional R&I funding authorities and policy makers

# CapaCITIES Activities

To support the countries in their journey

A **Transnational Alliance** to showcase good practices so that they can be shared and learned from on a larger scale

**Capacity building sessions** based on the Core Countries' specific issues addressed in the self-assessment provided by ICLEI's expertise

**Learning materials** to deepen the understanding of the design and process behind national support structures, barriers and levers to implementation, good practices for engaging relevant stakeholders and supporting smaller cities and non-mission cities

**Webinars and one-on-one workshops** with the Core Countries to assist in the set-up of a countries' **Transition Lab** to advance the national change processes

**Communication efforts** such as a website, a Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (C&D&E), a newsletter, and ambassadors in each country to disseminate and leverage results.

# Capacity Building

- Opportunity to develop national support structures for climate neutral cities
- For Core countries to learn and build thematic capacity on the key drivers and enabling factors at the national level
- A self-assessment template to identify concrete needs and interests for the series of capacity building sessions

# Transnational Alliance

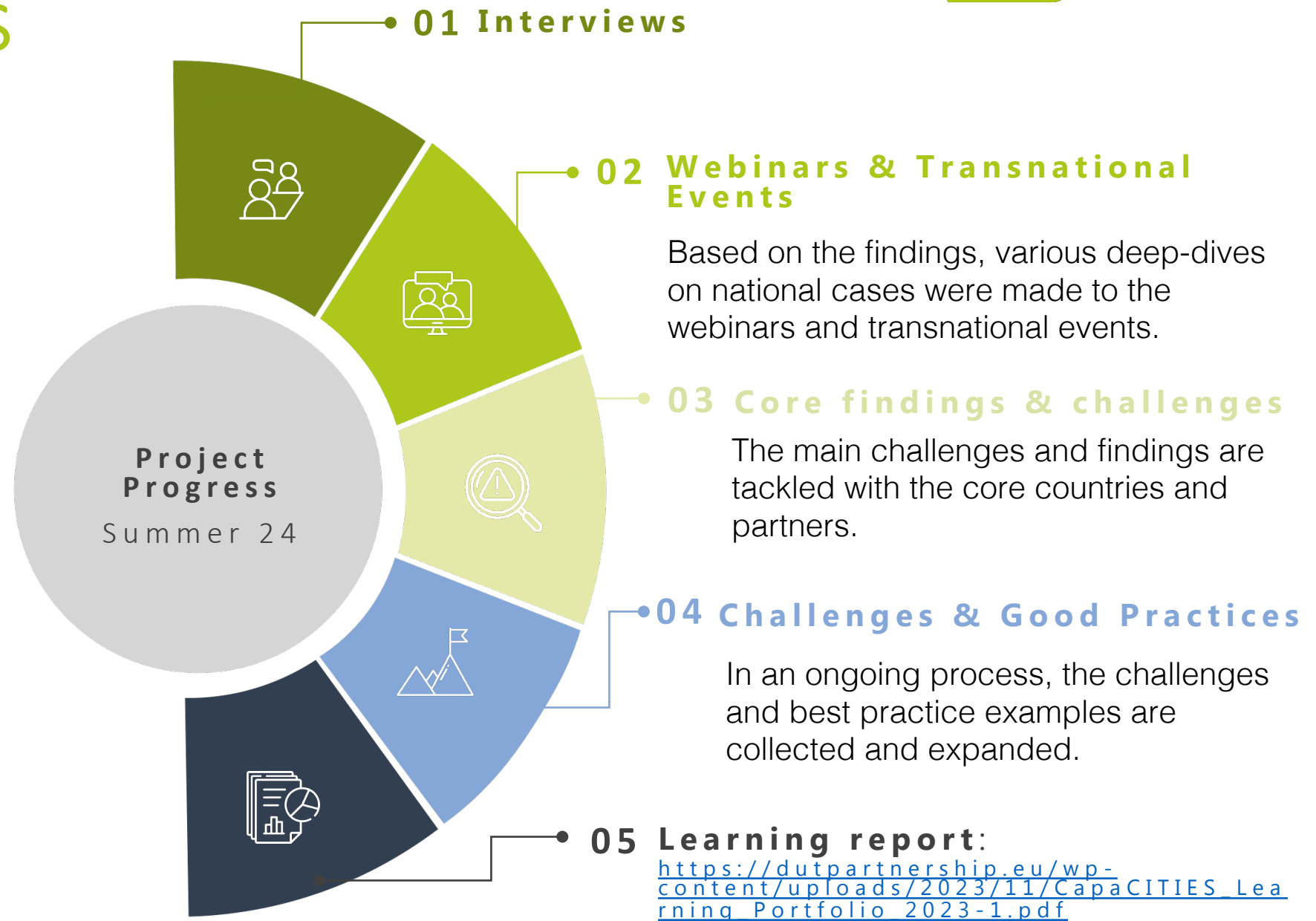
- Opportunity for national partners to promote and share their ongoing activities
- Open to all national, regional, and local authorities and city representatives to provide a space for learning and sharing with other authorities facing similar challenges
- A platform for interaction building upon good practices on national governance structures

# Transition Labs

based on a Viable Cities' format, a method that brings the necessary people to the table and into dialogue helping coordinators of national support structures to empower the relevant actors and to create the appropriate structures to implement the Cities Mission.

# CapaCITIES

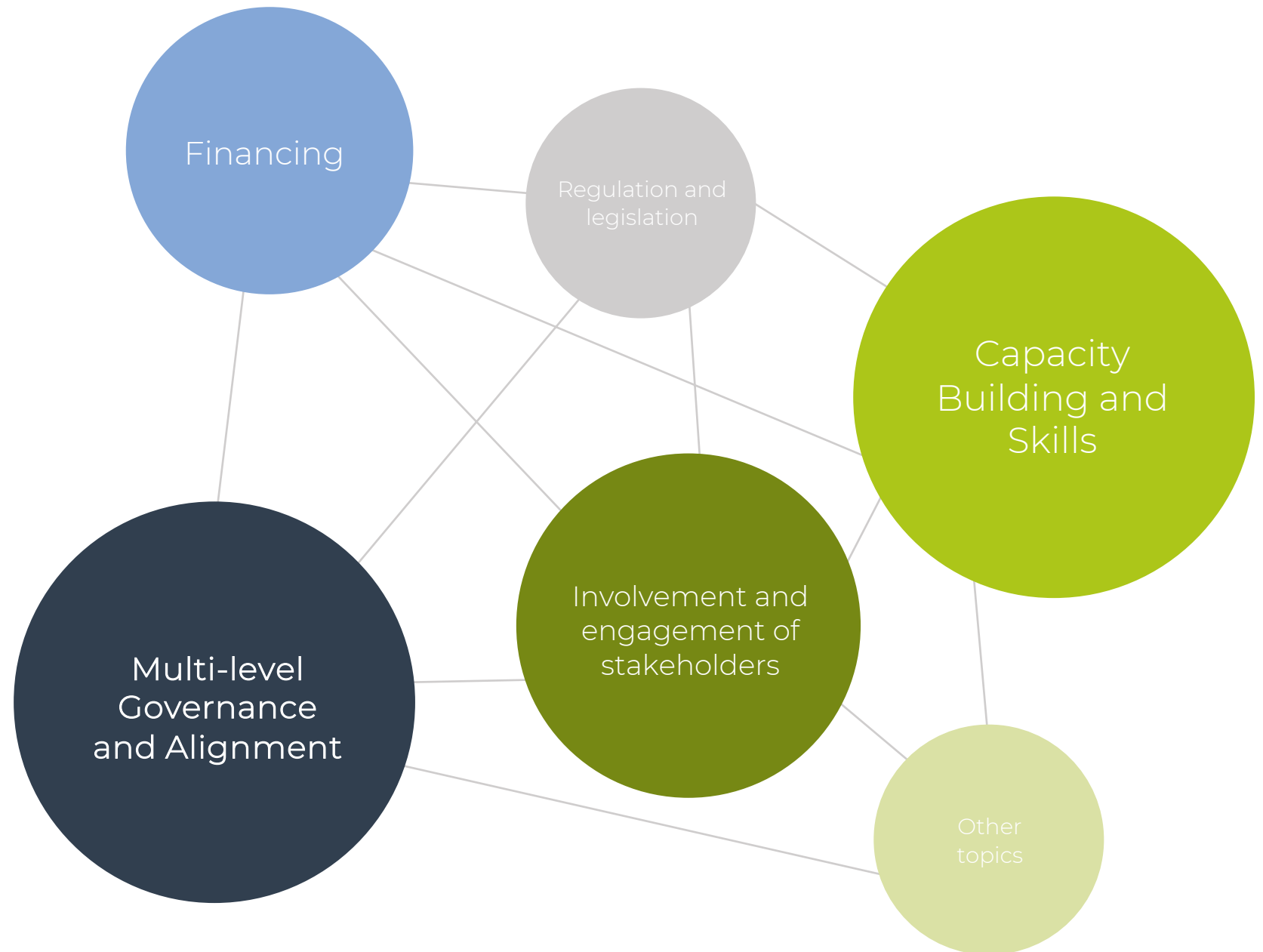
Project Progress



# CapaCITIES

Core challenges & activities

Overview of the core countries' challenges and activities



## A prerequisite for successful Cities Mission implementation

Requirements relevant for multi-level governance:

- Knowledge sharing with different governance stakeholders
- Lean, formalised, and flexible knowledge management and structures (regular meetings, working groups, national events etc.) to enable trust building and long-term actions

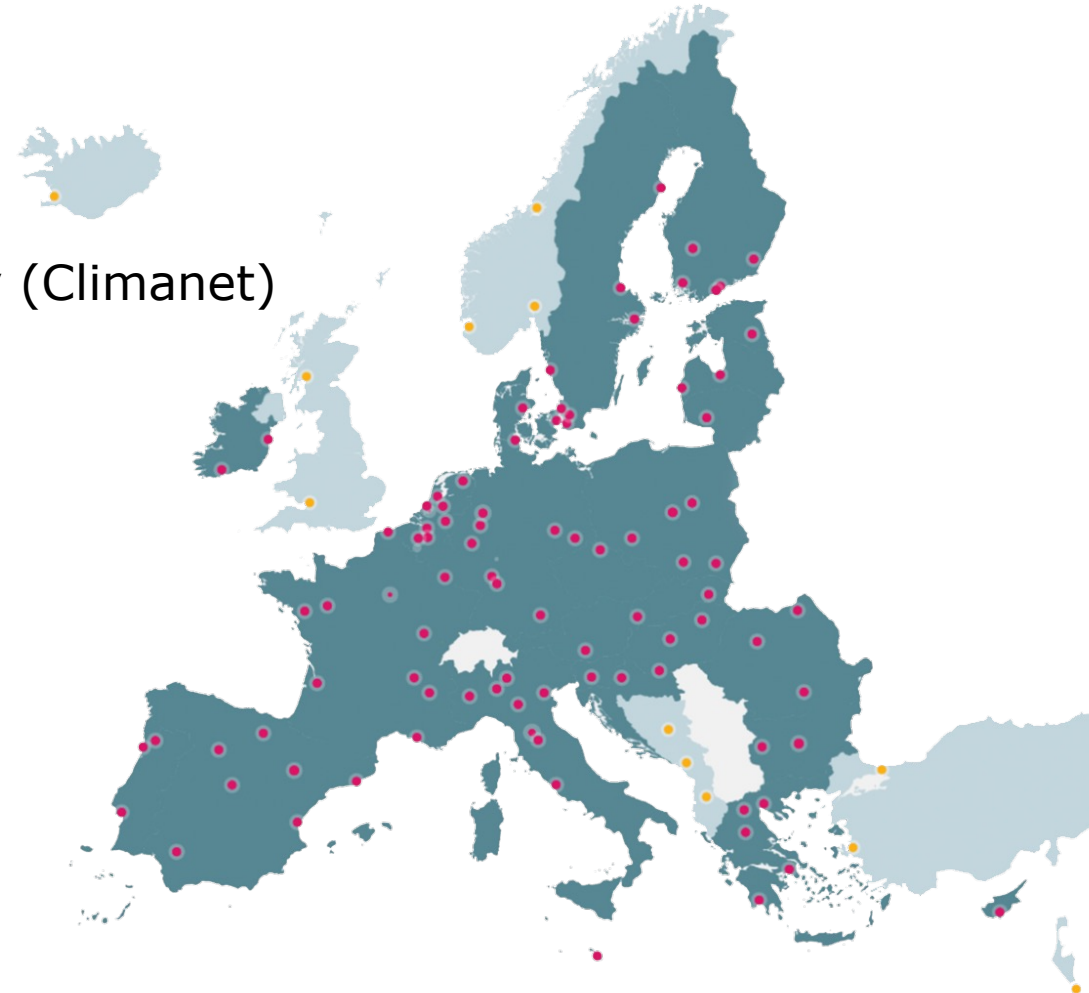
Advancing the Cities Mission implementation in 15 EU countries:

- Decision-makers to involve and work with the citizens and to understand their needs
- Clear commitment and legal framework in the form of a climate law to reach climate goals
- Clear and transparent access to financing for cities
- (Political) leadership needs a holistic approach
- Consolidate trust and facilitate implementation (e.g. funding programs, human resources, private-public regulatory and administrative procedures collaboration)



Austria – National Climate-neutral Cities Mission  
Cyprus – Mission Cities Network Cyprus  
Finland – National Cities Mission Network  
France – French Mirror Group  
Germany – National Cities Mission Platform  
Greece – Network of Municipalities for Climate Neutrality (Climanet)  
Italy – Expert Working Group  
Netherlands – Dutch National Support Structure (NSS)  
Poland - Ad hoc Working Group of Polish Mission Cities  
Romania - Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100)  
Spain – citiES2030  
Sweden – Climate-neutral Cities 2030

Strong engagement formats in Croatia, Portugal,  
Greece, Türkiye



# Reflections on current Cities Mission platforms



- Emerged through both bottom-up and top-down approaches
- Current focus is mostly on knowledge exchange, peer-learning, thematic support
- Direct national level support (funding, technical support, policy support) is still lacking in many countries
- The national level is part of the governance structure of several existing platforms
- The regional level is still missing in the multi-level governance collaboration

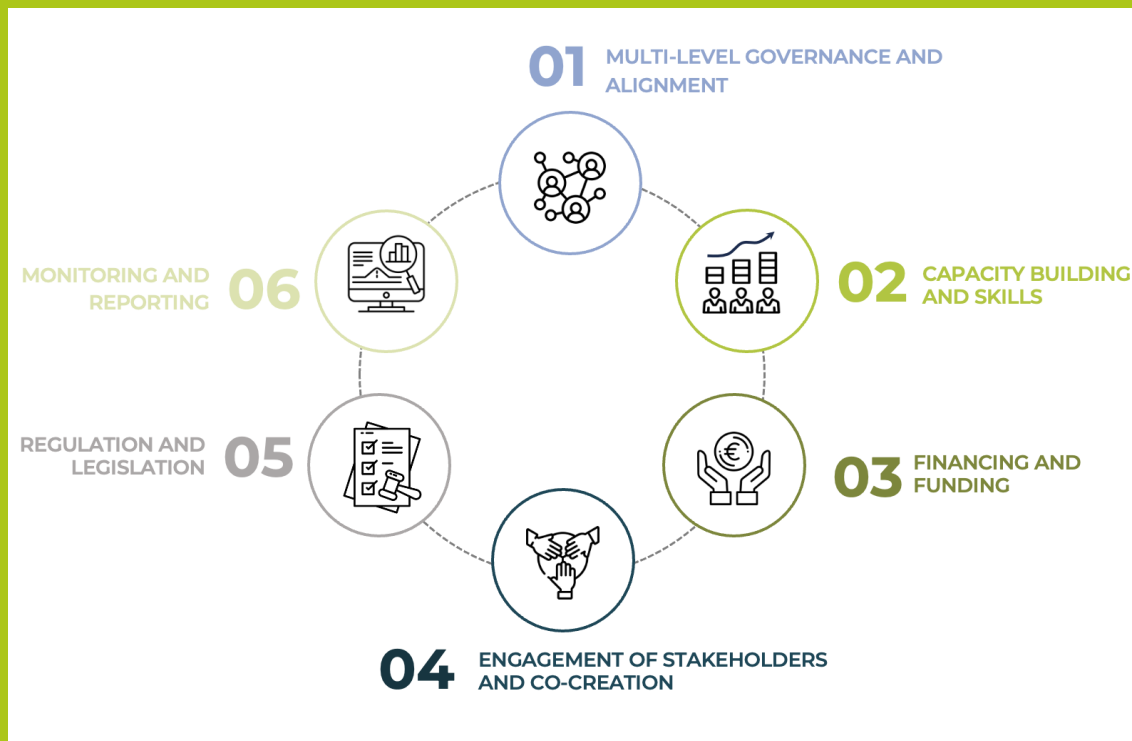
- Close collaboration within and across national ministries relevant to the implementation of the Mission, commitment and mandate on individual level
- Funding to support cities in their climate neutrality work (e.g. development of the Climate City Contracts, capacity-building, human resources, etc)
- Regular discussions between relevant ministries and cities on national regulatory and policy barriers
- Broad involvement of cities in the national platforms
- Broad involvement of key stakeholders
- Aligning the Climate City Contract process with other mandatory climate strategies
- Enabling the local work on the Climate City Contracts to contribute to national climate legislation, policies and strategies



- Technical support as many cities lack technical expertise and knowledge (investment planning, GHG emission calculations, etc)
- Support in compiling and maintaining data as cities in many countries have limited access to quality data or completely lack reliable data collection systems
- Support in addressing regulatory and policy barriers hampering or slowing down cities' climate neutrality work
- Need for capacity-building to increase local knowledge and expertise
- Funding support



# Reflection on challenges at the national level



- Mission requires a more active role for government in coordinating and formulating goals and entails the need to develop new means of cooperation and coordination at different levels
- Generate and maintain momentum
- Complex ecosystem and lack of alignment
- Financing and Funding constraints
- Sensitivity to Political Environment

## Learnings:

- Clear communication of ambitions needed
- Eagerness to act, focus on concrete actions
- Improved coordination and disentangling complexities needed
- Involving all interested cities



Advancing national support  
for climate neutral cities

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