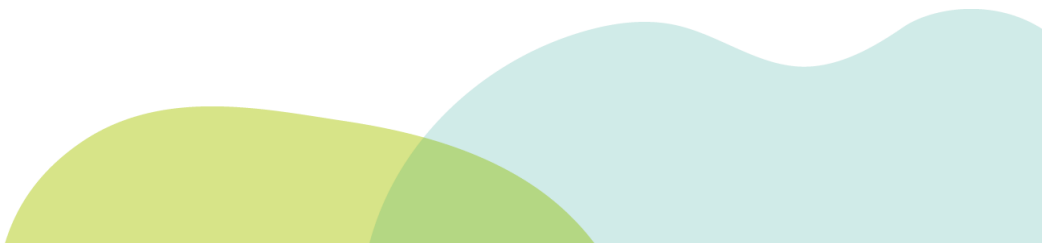


Frequently Asked Questions

Latest update: 16 December 2021

This document provides answers to questions that were raised by participants of webinars, conferences and relevant events presenting the “Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission” and in correspondence with the Cities Mission Secretariat. It is a living document that will be updated with more questions and answers over time.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ABOUT THE CITIES MISSION

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

General	<p>1. How are national authorities expected to take part in the initiative? What will be the role of the state level? Will they participate with funds and enable access to other funding?</p> <p>National authorities have an essential role in the Cities Mission: they will need to be involved in the co-creation and implementation of the Climate City Contracts (CCCs) and the development of related investment plans, in close collaboration with the Mission Platform. A network of national contacts is going to be established and will be supported to prepare for the transition of cities to climate neutrality in their respective countries. Particular tasks of the network will be to involve national funding programmes and to make sure that the national regulatory framework enables cities to take the necessary steps to become climate-neutral. The Mission also foresees the creation of a Mission label (assigned at the signature of the CCC) that would recognize the quality and feasibility of the commitments taken by the city and unlock additional financial opportunities at the European and national levels.</p> <p>2. Will the national level be involved in choosing the first cities?</p> <p>While Member States will be closely involved in the implementation of the Cities Mission, the decision on the selection of the cities that will be part of the Mission will be made by the European Commission, based on an assessment of cities' expressions of interest by independent external experts.</p>
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ENGAGEMENT OF DIFFERENT ACTORS

Collaboration with other bodies and programmes	<p>3. How will be the EIT KIC Urban Mobility be involved or at least taken into account into the Mission-Concept?</p> <p>The EIT KIC Urban Mobility is a partner in the NetZeroCities consortium and will participate in the initial set-up of the Mission Platform. In general, synergies and collaboration with relevant EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities are welcomed and encouraged in the context of the projects supported through the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme.</p> <p>4. Are cities expected to participate by themselves, or is the support of local industry, research centers, and academia in consortia foreseen?</p> <p>The Call for Expression of Interest is addressed to cities and a consortium is not required for this purpose. However, we very much hope and expect cities to draw upon support from all sorts of external actors in the following phases, especially during the preparation and the subsequent implementation of the Climate City Contracts or if participating in calls under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme.</p> <p>5. How is the Mission disseminated through national agencies, ministries, etc.? As a university representative wanting to engage our own city, we may need some additional traction.</p> <p>Member States representatives from Research Ministries and National Agencies are part of the Horizon Europe Strategic Programme Committee that is consulted during the preparation and implementation of the Mission's Research and Innovation Work Programme and calls. In addition, knowledge and know-how will also be spread through dedicated national networks supporting Missions. This will include support to a network of national contacts, a cooperation and coordination network between EU-level actors and complementary national, regional, and local actors to set the basis for a solid governance of the Mission at the national and regional level.</p> <p>6. How do you see the contribution of Living Labs and Incubators?</p> <p>The notion of "living labs" relates to inclusive platforms enabling a range of stakeholders (e.g., urban actors, authorities, companies, research institutions, societal actors, and citizens) to engage in inclusive, collaborative processes. They have been shown to help to identify</p>
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	<p>needs and challenges from diverse stakeholders and citizens' perspectives and at different levels (e.g., neighbourhood, district, city, regional, etc.), co-design and co-create the solutions/approaches, implement, experiment, and test them in real-life settings and evaluate and assess their impact.</p> <p>These innovations can help the cities to develop better climate neutrality solutions drawing on digitalization for instance. The Horizon Europe Mission Work programme will provide opportunities to support this type of initiatives.</p>
R&I entities Updated!	<p>7. As an R&I entity, how can we be engaged in this mission: by contacting cities and offering services?</p> <p>R&I entities can participate in project proposals and consortia under the Horizon Europe Missions Work programme calls, together with cities, following the normal Rules for Participation in Horizon Europe calls. They are also encouraged to make contact with cities and develop ideas for cooperation; they can help to raise cities awareness of the Mission and of the Call for Expression of Interest; they can draw cities' attention to the plans and ideas of other comparable cities. In implementing the Mission, R&I actors can be involved in co-creating Climate City Contracts and citizen engagement activities.</p>
NGOs	<p>8. What role, if any, can NGOs active in cities play in encouraging cities to join?</p> <p>NGOs can play an important role both in the preparation and in the implementation of the Cities Mission. We invite NGOs to contact city officials to raise their awareness of the Mission and of the Call for Expression of Interest. NGOs can make suggestions for the content of cities' possible applications and offer to help mobilise support. NGOs are also well placed to draw cities' attention to the plans and ideas of other comparable cities. In implementing the Mission, NGOs should be involved in co-creating Climate City Contracts and citizen engagement activities. Networking with other cities (twinning, exchange of good practice, participation in joint research and innovation projects) will also be crucial in the implementation phase.</p>
Citizens engagement	<p>9. Should cities involve stakeholders and citizens already at the stage of Expression of Interest?</p> <p>At the Expression of Interest stage, cities will be asked to indicate how they are already engaging citizens and stakeholders and what their future plans are in this respect. As the deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is relatively short (31.1.2022), there may not be enough time to consult stakeholders and citizens at this stage. However, if a city is ready and able to do this, it would be welcome to do so.</p>

SELECTION OF CITIES

Selection criteria New!	<p>10. Diversity of cities seems to be a key criterion for cities to be selected as part of the Mission. What are the other criteria?</p> <p>The assessment criteria (i.e., the factors we will look at in making the assessment) include: cities' level of ambition and preparedness, geographic diversity – including cities from the south and east of Europe, not just the north and west; cities' commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders. The Call for Expression of Interest is not a beauty contest but we are looking to get as much information as possible about the cities that are interested in joining the Mission! We hope that at least one city from each of the Member States will join the Mission. We are looking for a mix of cities with diverse levels of preparedness which cities will describe in the questionnaire of the Call for Expression of Interest. There is no pre-defined support "envelope" per city according to its preparedness level. The type and level of support will very much depend on the specific needs expressed by each city.</p>
New!	<p>11. How will conflict of interest be tackled in the selection of the cities, if there will be input from NZC, which has cities' networks in the consortium?</p> <p>The evaluation of the expressions of interest will be managed by CINEA, the executive agency implementing the Mission Portfolio with the support of external independent experts and in collaboration with the European Commission. The decision on which cities to include in the Mission will be taken by the Commission Services.</p>

FUNDING

<p>Distribution</p> <p>Updated!</p>	<p>12. Can you elaborate more on the 2 billion portfolio and the 300 million? How are these resources being broken down? How much is going to cities and how much is going via Climate KIC etc.</p> <p>The Horizon Europe legislation stipulates that during the first three years of the programme, a maximum of 10% of the annual budget of Pillar II (Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness) shall be programmed through specific calls for implementing the missions. In specific terms, this means that the Commission will make €1.9 billion available from the Horizon Europe programme for the period 2021-23 to start the implementation of the five missions. In this context, the Cities Mission has been allocated a budget of € 360 million for the period 2021-2023 (with we hope more to follow for the subsequent years). The amendment of the Missions 2021-2022 Work Programme is under preparation, and new calls providing many opportunities for participation for cities will be opened as of January 2022, including scale-up and complete development of the Mission Platform, the associated services, and cascading grants for R&I pilots. The EIT Climate KIC is coordinating the NetZeroCities project to develop the concept and first services for the Mission Platform. The project is funded under the previous Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, with a budget of EUR 53 million, out of which 60% is reserved for R&I pilots directly accessible to cities.</p> <p>13. You mentioned that you are "committed to getting the buy-in from other EU programs and the EIB." How will you secure that, and what will that mean in practice?</p> <p>Future funding and financing are essential issues addressed right from the outset. In this first phase, the EU "seed funding" for the Cities Mission activities mainly comes from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation, although we recognize that this will only be a small part of the total funding and financing needed. Over time, other EU funding and financing instruments are also expected to support Mission activities, based on the synergies with other EU funding programmes. Discussions are ongoing with the EIB, who have expressed their readiness to cooperate. Cooperation with the EIB could take a number of different forms, and we are discussing the possibilities with them. Ultimately the vast majority of finance will need to come from the private sector.</p> <p>14. Please confirm that cities who will join the mission and the challenge of becoming climate-neutral cities by 2030 will have real/obligatory support from ERDF</p> <p>The Mission label that will be assigned to cities having finalized and signed their Climate City Contracts is intended to facilitate the creation of targeted funding opportunities from other programmes, including European Regional Development Fund. Details on how this will work are under development.</p> <p>15. There will be a new programme published before the end of the year? In the currently available one there is basically no funds for cities themselves.</p> <p>Yes, the amendment to the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme 2021-2022 will be adopted by December 2021 and new calls will open in January 2022.</p>
<p>Local stakeholders</p>	<p>16. Will there be funding for local stakeholders (other than public authorities) in the support for creating the CCC (in co-creation with mission platform)?</p> <p>Relevant local stakeholders are welcome to contribute to the preparation of the CCC with the local authorities. The Mission Platform will help to facilitate the process and integrate participatory approaches in this process. Citizens engagement will be an essential part of the process, though it is for the cities themselves to decide how to do it.</p>
<p>Smaller municipalities</p>	<p>17. Will funding focus on cities in the stricter sense of the term, or can it apply to smaller municipalities?</p> <p>The basic threshold for participation is set at 50 000 although there is flexibility for those Member States with 5 or less cities of 100 000 (in this case, cities with a population as low as 10 000 may apply). Larger cities are targeted through the call for Expression of Interest because of their potential to have a more significant impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, the Mission aims to be inclusive and ensure diversity of cities; smaller municipalities will also be able to benefit from the Mission's activities and find several</p>

	opportunities in this context.
	<p>18. How much money is spent to support economically weaker cities to improve climate neutrality compared to money spent in this mission on the forerunners?</p> <p>There is no pre-defined envelope per city according to its preparedness level. The type and level of support will very much depend on the specific needs expressed by each city.</p>
Funding for research entities	<p>19. Will funding be available only for cities or also partners such as research entities?</p> <p>Research entities will participate in the topics open under the Horizon Europe Mission's Work Programme, following the standard rules for participation, alongside cities.</p>
Updated!	<p>20. Somehow I find there is a mismatch between the ambition being talked about here and the funding available. Can we talk some concrete numbers here - is it accurate to say, as another participant said, that ballpark cost is 10,000€ per citizen.</p> <p>The Mission Board estimated, based on a study by Material Economics, that transforming 100 European cities of an average size of 100,000 inhabitants into climate-neutral cities by 2030 would cost around EUR 96 billion, or around an average of EUR 1 billion per city (with considerable variations between cities). 94% of the upfront investment would be offset via returns on investments in 30 years. The estimation is based on the experience gathered by Material Economics and tested on seven cities supported via the EIT Climate-KIC Deep Demonstration projects. Horizon Europe is going to provide "seed funding", as explained in the Implementation Plan, by launching large R&I actions, demonstrators and pilots aimed at supporting the transition to climate-neutrality in cities. Through Horizon Europe also the services of the Mission Platform will be fully deployed to assist and support Mission Cities to prepare and implement their Climate City Contracts to fulfil the ambition of achieving climate-neutrality by 2030. However it should be underlined that the vast majority of finance will need to come from the private sector; the Mission budget should be used as the leveraging tool to create the framework conditions for any interested city in the EU to deploy a CCC with its citizens to achieve climate neutrality.</p>
Identification of non EU funds before applying	<p>21. Will identifying other non-EU fund sources be a prerequisite of selection in the call?</p> <p>No, it is not considered as a prerequisite nor eligibility condition.</p>
Co-financing	<p>22. Cities have limits regarding taking loans. How will you enable that they can apply and participate in the call if co-financing will be necessary? The same goes for blended finance and new business models - can current legislation be a barrier?</p> <p>At the stage of the application, cities are not expected to have a fully-fledged investment strategy. An investment plan will be developed as part of the Climate City Contract with the help of the Mission Platform. At that stage, possibilities and barriers should be assessed, and cities will benefit from the experience of other cities that may already have worked with such investment models. And the Mission's work will also include analyzing and addressing regulatory barriers at the regional, national, or EU level.</p>
Incentives to invest in small and medium cities	<p>23. What will be incentives for private investors, especially incentives for institutional investors to invest in small-medium cities?</p> <p>With the assistance of the Mission Platform, cities themselves will need to develop a plan of incentives for institutional investors. Institutional investors are increasingly looking for climate neutral investments as part of their portfolios.</p>
Reserved budget	<p>24. What are the EUR 300 million for? Will there be roughly 3 million euros for every participating city, or are they used in any other way?</p> <p>The current budget envelope reserved for the Cities Mission through Horizon Europe is about EUR 360M for the programming period 2021-2023. This budget will be dedicated to several activities: scaling-up the Mission Platform, offering services and assistance to cities as well as providing opportunities for R&I pilot projects; R&I projects developing, testing, and demonstrating new and innovative solutions for climate neutrality in cities across sectors; deployment of solutions, including scaling up, tailor-made finance advisory and de-risking of</p>

		investments.
The first 30 cities		<p>25. Who chooses the 25-30 cities that will get the most money?</p> <p>The first group of cities that will receive support from the Mission Platform <u>will not</u> receive more money or assistance than the others, they will just receive targeted assistance slightly earlier. A dedicated action in the upcoming Horizon Europe Mission's Work Programme will provide additional resources by around the end of 2022 to scale up and develop the full-fledged Mission Platform that will cater to the needs of all the other cities participating in the Mission.</p>
Horizon Europe		<p>26. Horizon Europe Missions funding - are these calls open to all, or will some of these be restricted to Climate City Contract Cities?</p> <p>Calls under the Horizon Europe programme will not be restricted only to cities in the process of developing a Climate City Contract.</p> <p>27. Are the R&I calls for proposals launched under the Horizon Europe Programme?</p> <p>Yes, currently, the EU funding for the Cities Mission activities mainly comes from Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for research and innovation.</p>
Funding structure		<p>28. The funding and financing is not directly linked to the 100 cities' selection to the Cities Climate Contract? Will the cities have to answer the call for proposals of the other EU programs to get the funds you presented?</p> <p>Funding and financing will have to come from a diverse range of sources – European, national, regional and local, and of course the private sector. The Mission label that will be assigned to cities having finalized and signed their Climate City Contracts is intended to facilitate the creation of targeted funding opportunities from other programmes, including of course European funds.</p> <p>29. The funding structure looks like the intended privatization of cities with such an over-reliance on private finance. How do you plan to avoid that?</p> <p>The scale of the cost of climate neutrality for cities is such that public funding alone will be far from sufficient to reach the goal in a short timeframe. A mix of funding and financing will be needed, and the Mission Platform will advise cities in identifying the most suitable models for their needs. In addition, cities that already have experience with the private investment will share this experience and help others. Access to global finance pools will probably be necessary, but we would also like to encourage investors to invest locally, in their own city, so they and their local community can see and benefit from the results of their investment themselves.</p>
Funding eligibility		<p>30. Succeeding the call for EoI is NOT a precondition for funding eligibility? How and where can cities then apply for funding instead?</p> <p>Participation in the Call for Expression of Interest is a precondition to be part of the Cities Mission. It is not an eligibility condition under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme.</p>
Private funding	co-	<p>31. "Substantial contributions" between 0,5 to 1,5 M € for the cities were mentioned. Is this the EU public-funded part with other additional private sponsoring? As this range of amount, it is not a "substantial" fund on a scale of a big city.</p> <p>This contribution refers to R&I pilot projects supported by the Mission Platform through open calls for proposals addressed to cities. These are additional opportunities on top of the technical assistance and services provided by the Platform and the separate funding opportunities flowing from participation in R&I projects that will be included in the upcoming Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme.</p>
Support for developing the CCC		<p>32. Can the developing of the City Climate Contract be financed by this programme?</p> <p>The co-creation and implementation of the Climate City Contracts (CCCs) and the development of related investment plans, will be done with the support of and in close collaboration with the Mission Platform. Cities will receive support from the Mission Platform for its preparation and subsequent monitoring of its implementation.</p>

New!

IMPORTANT DATES & DOCUMENTS	
Implementation plan Updated!	<p>33. Where can I find the Mission's Implementation Plan?</p> <p>The implementation plan is available online at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/cities_mission_implementation_plan.pdf</p>
EoI Updated!	<p>34. When do you expect publication of the call for expressions of interest?</p> <p>The call for Expression of Interest has been published last 25th of November. The Call will close on 31 January 2022. An Info Kit for cities has also been released ahead of the launch of the call to provide additional guidance and information. All relevant information is available on the Mission's website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en</p>
MISSION LABEL	
Awarding mission label	<p>35. Mr. Baldwin mentioned that the active work with cities would start with 25-30 cities. Will only those receive the Mission Label or others of the 100 cities you accept after the evaluation?</p> <p>All Mission cities having prepared and signed a Climate City contract will receive the Mission label recognizing the quality and feasibility of their commitments under the CCC.</p>
Additional funding	<p>36. Do cities that join the 100 get a preferred position in gaining access to additional funding? And how will this work?</p> <p>It is intended that cities participating in the Mission and completing their Climate City Contract will be able to benefit from the Mission label. The Mission label will create additional opportunities for cities to access EU funds. Details on how this will work are under development.</p> <p>37. Can you already give an idea of the funding picture for after 2023, and will the proposed Mission label give selected cities some preferential access to funds?</p> <p>Cities will need to be able to access other EU funding programmes, including, of course, ongoing calls under Horizon Europe, particularly as cities will be urged to take advantage of the opportunities to build in cumulative, complementary synergies with other EU projects. The "Mission label" concept will be developed and made available to the selected cities, recognizing the quality and feasibility of their commitments under the CCC. The Mission label will be awarded after the city signs the CCC. The Mission label will create additional opportunities for cities to access other EU funds. After 2023, this should result in concrete finance and investment policy recommendations to accelerate the cities' path to climate neutrality in 2030 and help the next wave of cities coming afterward to prepare their plans.</p>
MISSION PLATFORM	
Access	<p>38. Who will have access to the mission platform? Everybody or only the 100 selected cities?</p> <p>All cities selected to be part of the Mission will receive support via the Mission Platform, starting with the first group of cities. In any case, the Mission Platform will also provide web-based services and resources available for other cities not in the 100 cities Mission, such as those cities with a climate neutrality target beyond 2030. It will also offer opportunities for twinning and exchanging experiences to fulfil the 2nd objective of the Mission, to use the 100 cities as experimentation and innovation hubs for all other cities to follow suit by 2050.</p>
The NetZeroCities	<p>39. Net-zero cities support 25-30 cities. What about all the others?</p> <p>All cities selected to be part of the Mission will eventually receive support via the Mission Platform. The NetZeroCities project that is developing the concept and first services for the</p>

project	<p>Mission Platform will assist a first group of cities. A dedicated action in the upcoming Horizon Europe Mission's Work Programme will provide additional resources to scale up and develop the fully-fledged Mission Platform that will cater to the needs of all the other cities participating in the Mission.</p> <p>40. Regarding the net zero project what's the timeline for platforms and city project funding?</p> <p>The NetZeroCities project started on 1st October and will run for 4 years. First assistance and services will be offered by mid-2022. First calls for R&I pilot projects supported by the Platform will be launched after summer 2022.</p> <p>41. Out of 100 selected cities for the Mission up to 30 cities will be selected in a second step to receive exceptional support and attention?</p> <p>All cities selected to be part of the Mission will eventually receive support via the Mission Platform. The NetZeroCities project that is developing the concept and first services for the Mission Platform will assist a first group of cities. A dedicated action in the upcoming Horizon Europe Mission's Work Programme will provide additional resources to scale up and develop the full-fledged Mission Platform that will cater to the needs of all the other cities participating in the Mission.</p>
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MONITORING

Requirements	<p>42. What kind of monitoring requirements do cities need to meet? And are these requirements in sync with the funding available for each City? Is there some benchmark monitoring tool with which we can compare outcomes on a European level? Or do cities have to develop this by themselves?</p> <p>Cities will need to follow a strong and transparent system of measuring and monitoring the progress towards climate neutrality for cities building on existing practice and methodologies. The Mission will encourage cities to use existing monitoring frameworks, such as that used by the Covenant of Mayors. The Mission Platform will support cities to monitor and report on performance; it will provide cities with the know-how to develop a baseline, using established monitoring tools and agreed KPIs to measure and communicate on progress towards achieving the CCC's objective.</p>
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R&I IN PRACTICE

Focus on R&I	<p>43. Why is the main focus on R&I, experimentation, and demonstration? While what we need in cities is scaling up proven technologies to create more impact.</p> <p>The Cities Mission will be initially funded through the Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe. The Mission is rooted in R&I, although it will go well beyond to achieve its ambitious objectives, and cities should be able to access other EU programmes and funds through the Mission label. The Cities Mission Work Programme will provide opportunities for new research, experimentation, demonstration, and scaling up of proven technologies. In addition to practical assistance by the Mission Platform, the Mission will also work with other EU programmes, with the EIB group and national promotional banks, as well as private investors to develop funding and financing opportunities beyond R&I.</p>
Funding structure	<p>44. I guess cities are expected to work with R&I structures as well: if so, are they supposed to pay these structures for their support and involvement in the project and then receive funding from the EU to be reimbursed?</p> <p>Participation within the Horizon Europe (HE) Missions Work Programme is open to cities and any other type of organization, including universities, research centers, private entities, SMEs, etc. Consortia can and should include all necessary expertise and partners to achieve the intended projects' objectives, and all can receive funding according to the standard HE Rules for Participation.</p>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Support to citizens and	<p>45. Will there be guidelines on state aid rules, to avoid traps when developing support to citizens and local SMEs?</p>
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local SMEs	The Mission, including the work of the Mission Platform, intends to provide the necessary technical, regulatory and financial assistance to cities in such areas.
National Contact Points New!	<p>46. In the info kit it is mentioned that there will be national contact points. Is it already clear per nation/member state which institution will be the national contact for the cities?</p> <p>A dedicated network of national contacts will be established to prepare for the transition of cities to climate neutrality in their respective countries. The establishment of this network was the object of a targeted call under the Horizon Europe 2021-2022 Missions Work Programme which closed last September. Evaluations are ongoing and the outcomes will be announced in the coming months.</p>

SCOPE: HOW THE MISSION APPLIES TO CITIES

Delivering outcomes Updated!	<p>47. Default commitment of applicant cities to become climate-neutral by 2030 AS A WHOLE: Do you think that a more significant number of cities will be able to deliver? What is a "duly justified" exception of districts (criteria, examples)?</p> <p>The Mission is indeed bold and ambitious, but we believe its objectives are achievable. The Info-kit for cities (ec_rtd_eu-mission-climate-neutral-cities-infokit.pdf (europa.eu)) provides more information on participation criteria, eligibility, and examples. On possible exclusion of districts or emission sources please refer to Section 2.2.2 Eligibility criterion – ambition of the Info-kit.</p>
Scale	<p>48. On what scale do cities have to become climate neutral by 2030. As a whole?</p> <p>By default, the applicant city would commit the whole city to become climate-neutral. However, where duly justified by the applicant, the city may propose to exclude one or more district(s) or emission sources from the 2030 deadline, but in this case, should commit to a strategy of climate neutrality for these districts as soon as possible, and of course no later than 2050.</p>
The "smart" component New!	<p>49. Can you specify the link between achieving carbon neutrality and the vision of the "smart" city?</p> <p>Smartness and digitalisation are key enablers for cities to become climate neutral. It is crucial to support the twin green and digital transition in order to achieve the climate neutrality target. In practical terms, it is highly unlikely that a city will succeed in becoming climate neutral without deploying a wide range of smart or digital technologies.</p>
Definition of cities	<p>50. Cities means different things in different countries... what about local and regional governments in general? Can counties, regions, districts etc. apply?</p> <p>Entities will be eligible to express their interest to participate in the Cities Mission if their local authorities or their mandated representatives represent one city defined as one or more Local Administrative Units (LAU), or a "greater city" or metropolitan region, taking account of Functional Urban Areas (FUA) where relevant. The key is that there is visible political commitment by the elected representative (usually the Mayor).</p>
Mission Board renewal	<p>51. How will the renewal of the Mission Board work? - The scope of work of the new Board and when it happens.</p> <p>The process for the renewal of the Mission Board is about to be launched. A call for interest will be opened shortly, and new Board members will be selected by February 2022. The mandate of the new Board will focus on advising the Commission during the implementation phase of the Mission on elements such as e.g., the content of work programmes and their revision as needed for achieving the mission objectives, characteristics of project portfolios for missions, adjustment actions, framework conditions that help achieve the objectives of the Mission, communication, policy coordination between relevant actors at different levels, key performance indicators, etc.</p>
Societal acceptance	<p>52. Cities face a lot of backlash on our citizens' financial costs when we make demands on them to be more climate neutral. How does your 100 CNC mission strategy take this into account?</p>

	<p>It is obvious that climate neutrality will be a costly and ambitious undertaking. But there will be plenty of funding and financing opportunities for participating cities. The Mission will contribute with its funds (Horizon Europe), cooperate with other EU and national funding programmes (including structural funds), work with the European Investment Bank, other promotional banks, and private investors to help with these costs. In addition, the cities that participate in the Mission will be able to demonstrate how the co-benefits of climate neutrality (cleaner air, more liveable spaces, less congestion, etc.) outweigh the costs for citizens. The Mission Platform will help cities engage with citizens to convince them of these benefits and involve them in decision-making processes, so they develop ownership of the climate neutrality objective and the city's actions.</p>
Differences in resources	<p>53. I'm convinced that municipalities with less than 10.000 inhabitants (= 25% of the European population) have the same ambitions as bigger ones but completely different personal and structural resources. How will this be addressed?</p> <p>Your view is valid, but it is not intended at this stage to include cities below 50 000 inhabitants in the scope of the Mission (although a lower threshold of 10 000 applies for cities coming from countries with 5 or less cities of 100 000 inhabitants). The Mission wants to bring cities of different sizes and from all corners of Europe within its scope, but most of all, to bring on board cities with very different starting points in terms of climate neutrality. The EU will not meet its European Green Deal objectives if they are addressed only by those who are already well ahead on their journey to climate neutrality. In the same way, this Mission must embrace, right from the start, several cities from across Europe that have more work ahead of them to deliver climate neutrality. To provide a substantial contribution to the emissions reduction target set by the Green Deal, the Mission particularly encourages large cities to apply because of their potentially significant impact on emission reduction.</p>
CCC	<p>54. Contract is received by most as legal / threatening. "Understanding" is a weak. "Commitment" becomes personal (for a city leader). Surely more powerful and enduring?</p> <p>The phrase "contract" is intended to ensure that it is read as a clearly visible, political commitment not just to the Commission but also to its citizens.</p> <p>55. Are the climate city contracts not similar to The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy?</p> <p>Signatories of the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy commit to submitting, within two years after joining, a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), outlining the key actions they plan to undertake to translate their political commitment into practical measures and projects. Given the significant synergies between the Covenant of Mayors and the Cities Mission, cities that are signatories of the EU Covenant of Mayors that have adopted or are in the process of developing their SECAP are therefore strongly encouraged to use their SECAPs as the starting point or as an integral part of their CCC.</p>
Scope 3 Updated!	<p>56. Why do you not include scope 3 in the targets?</p> <p>Scope 3 GHG emissions (out-of-boundary emissions) for the city are not required for inclusion at this stage (except in respect of emissions arising from waste/wastewater generated within the city boundary, treated/managed/disposed within or outside the city boundary). The Mission is however interested in looking further into Scope 3 emissions with participating cities as ultimately, of course, by 2050, they will need to be fully factored into climate neutrality. This indicator will be calculated based on the emissions from out of boundary emissions from treatment of waste produced within the geographic boundary, out-of-boundary emissions from transmission and distribution of energy consumed within the geographic boundary, out of boundary emissions from transportation of citizens living within the geographic boundary, out of boundary emissions from consumption made within the geographic boundary (food, clothes, furniture, materials, etc.) and other indirect emissions.</p>
Exclusion of one or more districts Updated!	<p>57. The Implementation Plan states that cities can exclude one or more districts from the 2030 deadline. Are both exclusions possible (if well justified)?</p> <p>In principle, the 2030 target applies to the whole city, i.e., a city expressing its interest to join the Mission would commit the whole city to become climate-neutral. However, where duly justified, the city may propose to exclude one or more district(s) from the 2030 deadline. In line with the possibility to exclude districts, a city may propose to exclude specific emission</p>

	<p>sources or zones of specific interest from the 2030 target (for example a port), if there are compelling and duly justified reasons. Source of emission in this context refers to a point source of emission, like a specific site or plant. This could be the case either if it is financially or technically not viable to fully eliminate emissions by 2030 or if the zone does not fall under the city's jurisdiction. If the city proposes to exclude specific sources of emissions by 2030, it still needs to commit to and outline a strategy for reaching climate neutrality including these sources as soon as possible.</p>
Exclusion of one or more districts	<p>58. If cities are allowed to exclude areas that are especially Co2-intensive like power plants, ports, or airports, how is this supposed to help tackle climate change?</p> <p>All emission sources will eventually have to be addressed; if a city decides to exclude an emission source or district, it will have to justify this and will need to commit to a strategy for climate neutrality for these districts/emission sources as soon as possible.</p>
Exclusion of one or more districts	<p>59. In implementation plan (p14) "the city may propose to exclude one or more district(s)", Mr. Baldwin presented in slide also "exclude one or more emission sources": e.g. could this be a scope-2 emission source?</p> <p>By default, a city applying to the Mission would commit the whole city to become climate-neutral. However, where duly justified by the applicant, the city may propose to exclude one or more district(s) from the 2030 deadline, but in this case should commit to a strategy of climate neutrality for these districts as soon as possible, and no later than 2050. Similarly, if there are compelling and duly justified reasons, a city may propose to exclude specific emission sources or zones of specific interest from the 2030 target (for example a port), either if it is financially or technically not viable to fully eliminate emissions by 2030 or if the zone does not fall under the city's jurisdiction. If the city proposes to exclude specific sources of emissions by 2030, it still needs to commit to and outline a strategy for reaching climate neutrality including these sources as soon as possible. Source of emission in this context refers to a point source of emission, like a specific site or plant.</p>
Reducing GHG	<p>60. For cities, what matters is the gases expelled from an ICE car tailpipe. Considering new cars' CO₂ limits, in 2030 total CO₂ emissions from cars will increase 12%, compared to 2020; in 2050 will decrease just 27%. How will cities solve this?</p> <p>In addition to promoting the shift to zero emission vehicles, cities can also work towards shifting car traffic to more sustainable modes, like public transport, cycling and walking. In addition to reducing emissions, this will also help to improve air quality and reduce congestion – the "co-benefits" of policies aimed to deliver climate neutrality.</p>
Selection criteria	<p>61. Can a city with the target of climate-neutrality by 2040 be part of the mission without changing this target to 2030?</p> <p>The Mission will work with cities who express the ambition of being climate neutral by 2030, not 2040. By default, the applicant city would commit the whole city to become climate-neutral. Where duly justified by the applicant, the city may propose to exclude one or more district(s) or emission sources from the 2030 deadline, but in this case, should commit to a strategy of climate neutrality for these districts as soon as possible, and of course no later than 2050.</p> <p>62. What is the difference between "level of ambition" and "commitment" in the selection criteria?</p> <p>The level of ambition refers to the aim of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The commitment, which we expect to be embodied in the Climate City Contract, is the engagement of the city and its administration to undertake all necessary actions and resources to achieve the target objective.</p>
Info-kit Updated!	<p>63. What are the examples of the new policies needed to reach net-zero by 2030?</p> <p>The Info-kit for cities (ec_rtd_eu-mission-climate-neutral-cities-infokit.pdf (europa.eu)) provides several examples of policy needs and possible actions to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.</p>
	<p>64. What exactly is the added value for a city in joining this Mission? Can you give concrete numbers of the funding one city might expect?</p>

Value for cities	The added value lies in the cross-sectoral and needs-based, bottom-up approach of the Mission. The Mission (mainly through the Mission Platform) aims to work with each individual city on its plans for climate neutrality. Detailed information on added value is also contained in the Info-Kit for cities (ec_rtd_eu-mission-climate-neutral-cities-infokit.pdf (europa.eu)). Given the demand-driven approach taken by the Mission and the tailor-made support provided to cities, it is impossible to give a definitive figure for the exact funding that each participating city might need, or benefit from.
Synergies with other projects	<p>65. Cities are part of many initiatives already - how does the mission avoid creating more bureaucracy for cities? For example: How will the mission connect with the Covenant of Mayors and use climate reporting on MyCovenant and other reports?</p> <p>This is a very valid point, and the Mission aims to build synergies with existing programmes to add value on both sides, without creating unnecessary additional work for cities. There is a strong synergy of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the Mission. However, while the Mission targets full climate neutrality by 2030, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors are currently setting a range of different mid- and long-term targets with the goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. As a Mission, we aim to work with movements such as the Covenant of Mayors and assist cities in simplifying the bureaucracy, including for progress monitoring and reporting.</p>
Failing to meet the objectives	<p>66. As activities of the programme will start in 2023, do you really and truly think you will achieve neutral cities in just seven years? What happens if a city fails to meet this objective at the end of the program?</p> <p>The urgency of climate change forces us to be ambitious. We will not be able to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal (55% emission reduction by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050) without cities in the vanguard of our efforts. Many cities have already publicly declared their commitment to becoming climate-neutral by 2030. If this is realistic for these cities, we believe that others can do the same – each in their own way, considering their local circumstances. If a city does not meet the climate neutrality objective in the end, there will not be any legal consequences – the Climate City Contracts and their targets are not legally binding. And the process of working with great determination towards climate neutrality will still produce many benefits for citizens (cleaner air, more liveable spaces, less congestion, etc.). However, we do insist that cities that want to participate draw up ambitious and realistic plans. Participating in the Mission will come with high visibility and a significant political commitment.</p> <p>67. What will happen, or what will you do if a city applies but cannot make it until 2030 and wants to get out of the contract after 2, 3, or maybe five years?</p> <p>The Climate City Contracts (or any other part of the Mission) will not be legally binding. So cities do not need to fear accountability in the legal sense, and it will be more about holding fast to a public and visible commitment that the Mayor will make towards the Commission and the city's inhabitants. If a city struggles to meet its objectives, we will, of course, look at its circumstances, but it is also essential that cities submit honest applications building on solid planning that takes possible future difficulties into account. We recognize that some cities may drop out of the Mission along the way.</p>
Declaring readiness	<p>68. How do you expect a major city to declare readiness of "the vast majority of private efforts/investments" to be taken in a cities' application?</p> <p>In the application, we will want to know from cities how much and what kind of funds they have already secured or plan to secure, including private funding. But we by no means expect a fully-fledged investment strategy at this point. Developing an investment plan will be part of the Climate City Contract, and cities will receive support from the Mission Platform in drawing it up. In addition, as part of twinning and best practice exchange, cities that already have experience in acquiring private investment will help others.</p>
Horizon Europe Updated!	<p>69. Why do you leave out the Associated Countries to Horizon Europe? What about cities in non EU countries?</p> <p>Cities that are established in countries associated to Horizon Europe or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe can be involved in the mission by replying to this Call. However, they should be aware that they may not be eligible to receive funding from other EU programmes and this would substantially limit the support they would receive in</p>

	<p>particular from the Mission Platform. Cities should therefore be able to demonstrate in their response to this call how they will be able to meet the objectives of the Mission without help from other EU programmes.</p> <p>As EU funding schemes are usually not available to non-associated third countries, cities established therein would not benefit from this call for expression of interest. They are thus not advised to fill in the questionnaire. However, should they wish to receive information about the activities of the Cities Mission and its international dimension, they can contact the Cities Mission team at the following address: EC-CITIES-MISSION@ec.europa.eu</p>
Co-creating	<p>70. How will co-creation be implemented?</p> <p>The Mission Platform will support cities to explore and adopt an innovative governance model to help develop, implement and monitor progress of the Climate City Contract, and in particular to involve citizens and empower energy consumers. Such innovative methods should include the involvement of local key stakeholders such as civil society platforms to engage with citizens and actively involve them to develop, implement and monitor progress of the CCC.</p>

CCCs

EC role	<p>71. Is the EC co-signing the Contracts and take responsibility for delivery, or is the contract only between mayors and the citizens?</p> <p>The innovative governance device of "Climate City Contracts" (CCC) will be centrally important to the Mission. They are planned to be in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Mayor or political representative of the city and witnessed by the Commission and other relevant stakeholders: they will not be legally binding, but the use of the word "contract" is intended to ensure that it is read as a clearly visible, political commitment not just to the Commission but also to its citizens.</p>
Timeline	<p>72. When would cities sign the MoU? Before entering the project?</p> <p>The first stage of the Mission is a Call for Expression of Interest addressed to cities which we anticipate going out in November, with a deadline to respond by 31st of January 2022. The cities selected on the basis of this call will then work to elaborate and implement a Climate City Contract, in the form of a MoU, with the help of the Mission Platform. We anticipate the first contracts being ready for signature around the end of 2022, as considerable amounts of work may be involved.</p>
Connection with planning instruments	<p>73. Is the Climate City Contract linked to the implementation of the City plans like SECAP and SUMP?</p> <p>Existing SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans) and SUMPs (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans) could indeed be very relevant for the development and implementation of the CCC, although they are not a necessary pre-requisite to submit an Expression of Interest.</p>
Call for Expression of Interest: process	<p>74. Climate City Contracts - how can we as a city apply for becoming one of the cities that sign the climate city contract?</p> <p>A Call for Expression of Interest was launched in November 2021. As part of their Expression of Interest, cities will have the opportunity to set out their ambition to be climate neutral by 2030, including existing targets and planned commitment to climate neutrality. Cities will need to outline where they are starting from as they embark on the climate neutrality transition (their current levels of emissions and the decarbonisation effort required across different sectors, their level of preparedness (existing plans and policies, targets, governance structures, and administrative capacity), and ability to involve citizens and other stakeholders in planning and implementing their climate neutrality plans). The selection of cities for the Mission will be done by the Commission on the basis of an assessment of independent external experts.</p>

SYNERGIES

Circular Cities	<p>75. Nothing is mentioned in the goals and plans about the "Circular Cities Declaration" https://circularcitiesdeclaration.eu/, which the EU is supporting.</p>
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Declaration	<p><i>How would that be considered? It would be great to include them in the planning.</i></p> <p>The Cities Mission will not replace existing initiatives or programmes but rather build synergies between them. All relevant initiatives in which cities are participating and relevant to the Mission's objective are positively assessed as they contribute to achieving its successful implementation. The Circular Cities Declaration is a good example of such programmes.</p>
The New European Bauhaus programme	<p><i>76. Could you explain/connect the following issues: Cities EoI (and their projects of interest) and the forthcoming H. Europe mission cities topics to be launched?</i></p> <p>The Call for Expression of Interest is a different exercise with respect to Horizon Europe calls, and its purpose is to identify the 100 cities that will be part of the Mission. However, being selected among the Mission cities is not an eligibility criterion for participating in calls under the Horizon Europe Work Programme.</p> <p><i>77. How will the Mission exactly connect with the New European Bauhaus programme?</i></p> <p>The Mission connects strongly with the New European Bauhaus (NEB) programme through the innovation perspective. Like the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the New European Bauhaus wants to build a sustainable future through innovation.</p> <p>The Mission will foster renovation of urban spaces in line with the values and principles promoted by the NEB initiative and hopes to see these values reflected in the Climate City Contracts prepared and signed by the participating cities. To support this process, the Commission has launched under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme 2021-2021 actions on collaborative local governance models and lighthouse demonstrators that should create a mutually supportive relationship between Mission and the NEB.</p> <p><i>78. Could you please elaborate a bit how the New European Bauhaus Demonstrator is expected to contribute to the Cities mission? There is a strong link of NEB to the mission.</i></p> <p>The demonstrators are defined as "mission-oriented pilot projects" (see call for proposals). They will contribute to the mission by offering models for engaging with communities on an environmentally sustainable, socially fair, and aesthetically appealing transition. As such, they will serve as early test-beds for implementing the mission and NEB objectives and for gathering local stakeholder support for the mission, including from citizens.</p>
Collaboration	<p><i>79. How important is it to have the increasing number of companies helping local governments implement the Mission, for example, through consulting?</i></p> <p>It is up to each city to decide what kind of help it needs and where to get it from. The Mission – particularly the Mission Platform – will not impose a way of working but will function in a demand-led way. It is, however, important to note that all processes of the Mission, the Call for Expression of Interest, the drawing up of Climate City Contracts, etc., will be designed in a way to make it possible for the city administration to complete all requirements themselves, without external expertise and without being too time-consuming for city officials. We invite cities to let us know if any requirements are unrealistic in practice to adapt them.</p> <p><i>80. What would be the synergies with the partnership driving urban transitions?</i></p> <p>Identification of areas for synergies and of subsequent concrete actions to foster them should be the outcome of a continuous strategic dialogue between the two initiatives to ensure that decided actions will align with their corresponding strategic priorities and plans and account for the progress made. Appropriate mechanisms within their governance structures will be foreseen to facilitate such dialogues and mainstream decisions into their annual Work Plans for their timely implementation.</p>

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

GENERAL ISSUES

Number of cities participating in the Mission	<p>81. Is there a limit to 100 cities, or if, let's say, 200 cities are committed to reaching climate neutrality 2030, I suppose all can sign a contract (MoU)?</p> <p>The Mission aims to substantially contribute to the emissions reduction targets set by the European Green Deal Strategy. Therefore there is no set limit as such for the number of cities entering the process. We have estimated that we will have the capacity and resources to help around 100 cities. But the Mission will try to support as many cities as possible within the limits of the available resources, bearing in mind geographical balance of participating cities and inclusiveness in the sense of also involving cities who are not yet far advanced on their journey to climate neutrality.</p>
Target audience	<p>82. So are you opening a competition for cities/administrations? Who would be the actors? Large networks of cities, research, citizens....?</p> <p>The target audience for the Call for Expression of Interest to join the Mission are the cities. We envisage (mostly) cities applying on their own. In particular, there is no need to form consortia or to join a network of cities. However, the projects to be funded under the Horizon Europe Mission Work Programme can and will involve different types of actors, following the standard rules for participation of Horizon Europe.</p>
Consortium	<p>83. EU programs/project usually requires a consortium from several countries. Will that kind of consortium be needed for the mission as well?</p> <p>To express interest in joining the Cities Mission, there is no requirement to set up a consortium. However, to participate in the calls that will be published through the Horizon Europe Missions' Work Programme, the usual rules of participation and consortium requirements will apply.</p>
Application process	<p>84. What will be the application process? Similar to Horizon Europe, with top-down RIA/IA actions? Who defines these actions?</p> <p>The Call for Expression of Interest is a separate exercise from Horizon Europe calls. The Call for Expression of Interest is directed at cities, and its purpose is to identify the (around) 100 cities that will be part of the Mission. The Commission will choose the participating cities based on an assessment of the expressions of interest by independent external experts.</p> <p>85. Tell us more about the expression of interest - format - which types of questions and how much added materials? Should cities already have an investment plan and plan for the co-creation? How do we prove our preparedness?</p> <p>The questionnaire of the call for expression of interest is built to allow the assessment of mainly four areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's level of ambition; 2. The city's level of preparedness; 3. City's existing and planned commitments towards climate neutrality; 4. City's commitment to involving citizens and stakeholders. <p>If cities have already developed climate plans, investment plans and other relevant material it will be possible and important to signal this through the questionnaire. However, the presence of existing plans is not a pre-condition for participation and the lack of these plans should not discourage cities from applying.</p> <p>More information on the types of questions is covered in the Info-kit for cities (ec_rtd_eu-mission-climate-neutral-cities-infokit.pdf (europa.eu)).</p> <p>86. Who will be the experts assessing the calls?</p> <p>The evaluation of the expressions of interest will be managed by CINEA, the executive agency implementing the Mission Portfolio with the support of external independent experts and in collaboration with the European Commission.</p> <p>87. In order to participate do the cities need already a short concept how they will reach the objectives?</p> <p>As a part of cities' Expressions of Interest, they will need to provide a brief overview of how they plan to reach their high level of ambition, what is their starting point, their level of preparedness, and how they will involve local stakeholders and citizens.</p> <p>88. Could you please clarify that all cities would be available to apply for proposals published in the updated Mission WP in December? Not only those to be selected under EoI?</p> <p>Participation in the Call for Expression of Interest is a pre-condition for being part of the Cities</p>

	<p>Mission. This is a separate call from the rest of the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme. Participating in it is not an eligibility condition to join other calls under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme.</p>
	<p>89. Which will be the typical eligible costs?</p> <p>Under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme the standard Rules for Participation and categories of eligible costs will apply.</p>
<p>Frequency of calls</p> <p>Updated!</p>	<p>90. Will there be a 2nd call for the Expression of Interest (EoI)?</p> <p>No, there is no plan for a second Call for Expression of Interest. The Cities Mission is committed to ensure a balanced geographical representation across Europe and will try to ensure that each Member State is represented. Outreach activities have been intensified across all Member States and targeting cities in particular countries which have not yet come forward to register for the call.</p>
<p>Communication to cities</p> <p>Updated!</p>	<p>91. How will the cities be alerted about the initiative?</p> <p>The Call for Expression of interest is published on the Mission's webpage, and extensive dissemination efforts are being undertaken via different channels (e.g., events, mailing lists, via city networks, through the Mission Platform and its wide network of contacts, via Member States (through Horizon Europe Programme Committees, Permanent Representations, National Contact Points, etc.)). We also published an Info kit for cities which provides details about the Call for Expression of Interest, the Cities Mission and its planned implementation as well as a short guide to urban climate-neutrality (ec_rtd_eu-mission-climate-neutral-cities-infokit.pdf (europa.eu)).</p>
<p>Twinning cities</p>	<p>92. How will the twinning cities be involved? Do they apply separately?</p> <p>This will be managed by the NetZeroCities consortium who will handle the responsibilities of the Mission Platform. The twinning aspect of the Mission will, like other aspects, follow cities' needs. Participating cities can be twinned with other participating cities where this is helpful. Or participating cities can be twinned with cities of a "second wave" of cities that aim for climate neutrality later but that want to be actively involved in the process of learning from forerunner cities. We would like to hear from cities with a later timeline, but at this stage there is no need to apply separately for twinning.</p>
<p>Representation of MS</p>	<p>93. Do you expect a minimum number of participating cities from each Member State? For example, selecting 1-2 cities from each Member State for the mission implementation.</p> <p>There is no maximum limit fixed per Member States. The Mission intends to ensure balanced geographical representation and would like to have cities from all Member States represented in the group. In principle, a minimum of one city per Member State should indeed be included in the Cities Mission.</p>
<p>Selection process</p>	<p>94. How many cities will be selected out of the Expression of Interest process for the first wave?</p> <p>We aim to select around 100 cities, but the final number will depend on the applications we will receive. There is no plan for a second Call for Expression of Interest. The Cities Mission is committed to ensure a balanced geographical representation across Europe and will try to ensure that each Member State is represented. Outreach activities have been intensified across all Member States and targeting in particular countries which have not yet come forward to register for the call.</p> <p>95. How are these 30 cities to receive substantial funding going to be selected?</p> <p>All cities selected to be part of the Mission will eventually receive support via the Mission Platform. The NetZeroCities project that is developing the concept and first services for the Mission Platform will provide initial support to the cities selected through the Expression of Interest. A dedicated action in the upcoming Horizon Europe Mission's Work Programme should provide additional resources to scale-up and develop the full-fledged Mission Platform that will cater to the needs of all the cities participating in the Mission. The identification of this first group of cities that will be assisted by NetZeroCities will be made in collaboration between the project and the European Commission, based on several factors, e.g., the type of assistance</p>

	<p>needed, services available at that stage from the platform, geographical balance, level of preparedness, diversity, etc.</p> <p>96. How will it be decided which 30 cities will be the first ones out of the 100 (or more) to be involved in the large-scale pilots / to start working on the Climate Neutrality Contracts?</p> <p>The identification of the first group of cities to be assisted by NetZeroCities will be made in collaboration between the Consortium and the European Commission, based on several factors, e.g., the type of assistance needed, services available at that stage from the platform, geographical balance, level of preparedness, diversity, etc.</p> <p>97. You mentioned that if you had 300 cities applying to the call of interest, "you won't say no." How will that go practically?</p> <p>This refers to the fact that we have the objective not just of getting 100 climate neutral cities by 2030, but ensuring that all cities get there by 2050. If we have say 300 cities expressing their readiness to be climate neutral by 2030, we may only be able to offer the full assistance to 100 or so, but we will try to keep open links to all the cities that are trying to achieve this ambition. The type and level of services that cities will need will vary greatly; therefore, the offer can be significantly diversified to cater for different needs. Furthermore, additional support and resources could be mobilised through the future Horizon Europe Work Programmes if the demand is indeed high and available resources would allow it.</p>
<p>Use of data collected through the EoI</p> <p>New!</p>	<p>98. What will happen with this massive dataset of expected 150 cities sending the EoI? Will there be a part of it published openly or stay within the EC and NetZeroCities?</p> <p>The call for EOI collects information from participating cities in order to determine their eligibility for the Cities Mission and to assess their current situation in terms of their possible participation in the Cities Mission.</p> <p>As part of promoting and communicating the progress of the Cities Mission, we may use and publish city-specific information, if consent has been given, as part of the EOI survey, such as the city's name, the city's geographical information (e.g. displayed on a map), the city's population and information on existing local climate mitigation governance, strategy and policy to showcase good practices.</p> <p>All other information will be processed and analysed in line with the GDPR and only aggregated results can be published. The results may be published in reports, where statistical information will be shown regarding the subject matter of the call. Information that may be published will be aggregated in a way that will be impossible for the reader to trace back the source of the original information or to extract specific information of a participant city.</p>
<p>Participation to other Missions</p> <p>New!</p>	<p>99. Can a city apply for more than one EU Mission?</p> <p>Cities/regions are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities arising from all Green Deal Missions. Where thematic synergies are possible, the four Green Deal Missions (Ocean, seas and waters; Soils health and food; Adaptation to climate change and Climate Neutral Cities) will look to develop common solutions on specific issues, for example, where it makes sense through the development of joint demonstrators and/or the issuing of cross-mission thematic or area based calls.</p>

HOW TO FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN EUSurvey

<p>Accessing, editing and saving</p>	<p>100. Can we complete the questionnaire in different steps and save. Or do we need to complete in one go?</p> <p>The questionnaire can be completed in different sessions. To ensure that questions already completed in a previous session are available later, the system provides the option to save a draft contribution. The system will store all information present in the questionnaire at the</p>
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<p>New!</p>	<p>time of saving. Information will be stored on EUSurvey servers so it can be made available when the participant resumes the session on the same or on another computer. For further information you can consult the User guide available under "Background documents" on the right hand side of EUSurvey.</p> <p>101. Is it possible to edit the questionnaire with more than one account? If not, is it possible to generate a "City account" instead of a personalized account?</p> <p>The link can be shared among different people who need access to the questionnaire to complete parts of it. There is a user guide under the "Background documents" on the upper right hand side of EUSurvey. See section 'Best practices' in order to understand how to work simultaneously with the questionnaire.</p> <p>102. How can cities access the questionnaire online?</p> <p>Registration is necessary to access online the questionnaire that cities will need to fill in to respond to the call. Registration is possible at any time. Cities who register will receive the link to the questionnaire via email. Here is the link to register: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CNC-Pre-Registration. The link to the questionnaire will be sent via email shortly afterwards.</p> <p>A preview of the questionnaire in pdf format can be downloaded from the Mission's website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/funding/documents/ec_rtd_he-missions-cities-call-questionnaire.pdf</p> <p>103. Is there a limit to the documents we can upload?</p> <p>Participants can upload several files if needed. Maximum file size is 5 MB per file. If the original is larger, please reduce the size so it can be uploaded. Files can be compressed using any available tools, including pdf compression or generation of zip files.</p> <p>104. Is it possible to provide in annex letters of support from local stakeholders? Where could they be uploaded?</p> <p>There is no need to provide letters of support from local stakeholders. Cooperation and partnerships are covered through one of the sections of the questionnaire; space is provided for uploading documents in specific parts of the questionnaire where supporting documentation would help the assessment.</p>
<p>Group applications</p> <p>New!</p>	<p>105. If a metropolitan region coordinates an expression of interest with several cities, should the questionnaire be only submitted by the region or should the questionnaire be submitted by the cities covered by the region too?</p> <p>If an expression of interest is submitted by a metropolitan region, by default the submitter will be committing the whole metropolitan region to the Mission's objective, therefore justifications will need to be provided in case parts of the metropolitan region should be excluded at this stage from the 2030 target. In this case, the metropolitan region should commit to a strategy of climate neutrality for these areas as soon as possible, and of course no later than 2050.</p> <p>The metropolitan region should therefore submit one single application. Cities/municipalities that are part of this metropolitan region will not need to fill in the questionnaire separately.</p> <p>106. How should cities fill in the questionnaire if they are part of a grouping?</p> <p>If the group is composed of two or more local administrative units (LAUs) geographically contiguous, each of them respecting the population threshold set by the Call for Expression of Interest:</p> <p>Each LAU should fill in its own Expression of Interest, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicate that it is part of a group application • indicate which are the other cities part of the group • indicate who is leading the group • demonstrate how it complies with the Mission's ambition

New!	<p>If the expression of interest is coming from a metropolitan region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only one EoI should be filled in and submitted by the metropolitan region the metropolitan region would commit by default the whole area unless explicit exclusions are declared and justified in the questionnaire cities/municipalities belonging to the metropolitan region will not need to fill in separate EoI <p>If the EoI is coming from “agglomerations” or similar entities, the same procedure as the one described for metropolitan regions would apply.</p> <p>If the EoI is coming from a large municipality which includes and has administrative authority over several smaller local administrative units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only one EoI should be filled in and submitted by the large municipality this would commit by default all the smaller LAUs unless explicit exclusions are declared and justified in the questionnaire the single LAUs belonging to this group will not need to fill in a separate EoI
	<p>107. Is there any added value in applying as a grouping (even if the number of inhabitants exceeds the 50.000)?</p> <p>It is not particularly encouraged or needed for the purposes of this call. The decision is left to the city(ies) whether they see this as meaningful or useful, e.g. in view of already existing collaborations or common investments.</p>
Excluding parts of a city New!	<p>108. If the application is for part of a city, do we need to provide population and emission figures for this part only? Do the areas included need to meet the inhabitant-criteria without the excluded section(s)? And would the answer on ambition refer only to the parts of the city that are included in the application?</p> <p>The questionnaire should be filled for the entire city for all sections that cover current or past policies, data etc. Tab 5 – Ambition for climate neutrality, should be filled having the territory in mind which is suggested to become climate neutral by 2030 (i.e. refer to the parts of the city that are included in the application.). Basic indications can be included on the plan for the rest of the city to become climate neutral after 2030.</p> <p>The population in the areas included would need to be above the applicable population threshold.</p>

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY

Population thresholds	<p>109. The lower threshold of 10 000 inhabitants for countries with five or fewer cities over 100 000 population: Which baseline population figures will be considered? What is the reference year?</p> <p>The most recent available validated population figures should be used from Eurostat or national statistics. National statistics can be used as a reference as long as they can be referenced to an official source and the population is currently above the threshold. Population figures that will be required at the stage of Expression of Interest are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of inhabitants; the year of population data; the source of population data.
Agglomeration	<p>110. Can agglomeration apply? Joint cities to reach 50 000 citizens?</p> <p>Groupings of cities of smaller size in order to pass the population threshold are not encouraged. To be nevertheless considered for participation, they would have to: 1) be geographically contiguous; 2) demonstrate that they can act in a coordinated manner, with a single coordinating entity having authority to make decisions and commitments for the whole grouping.</p> <p>111. Concerning the eligibility of candidate cities, the European Commission encourage applications from cities with at least 100 000 inhabitants. Will the</p>

	<p>French "agglomerations" be eligible?</p> <p>"Agglomerations" may apply if the corresponding authorit(y) (ies) have a clear mandate over the whole territory of the agglomeration to adopt and implement the strategy leading to climate neutrality.</p>
Adapting the existing plan	<p>112. We are already working on our investment plan as a part of the EUCF-project (https://www.eucityfacility.eu/). Will it be possible to build upon that existing plan to upscale our implementation activities with EU funding rapidly?</p> <p>Yes, existing plans can constitute a solid starting point and be embedded where relevant in the process leading to the Climate City Contract.</p> <p>113. If a city has already a target to become climate neutral by 2040, can it apply to become part of the city mission with this target?</p> <p>Cities will reach climate neutrality at different times. The Mission is going to work with cities that commit to be climate-neutral by 2030. If this is not possible for your city, one possibility for you to consider would be to propose, where duly justified, to exclude a part (or parts) of the city from the 2030 deadline, but committing to a strategy of climate neutrality for this part at a later date which could be – as in this case – 2040, or earlier, but in any case no later than 2050.</p>
Applicants outside the EU	<p>114. What type of support will be provided by the Mission Platform to cities established in countries associated to Horizon Europe or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe?</p> <p>Cities established in countries associated to Horizon Europe or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe can be involved in the mission by replying to the call for expression of interest. However, they may not be eligible to receive funding from other EU programmes and this would substantially limit the support they would receive in particular from the Mission Platform. Support could include online assistance, citizens' engagement, exchange of knowledge and good practices through twinning and mentoring activities.</p>
Definition of city	<p>115. Many European cities have subdivisions into neighbourhoods with political representation, but no legal personality distinct from municipality. In this case, have we to consider the Municipality as a whole or we can consider City Halls?</p> <p>In the context of the Cities Mission, the term city is used to refer to a geographical subnational jurisdiction ("local administrative unit") such as a town or a city that is governed by a local government as the legal entity of public administration, understanding that the institutions of local governments may vary from country to country and terminology used in national contexts may differ.</p> <p>116. The recommended number of inhabitants is 100 000 for the city or the municipality?</p> <p>The population threshold for participation is set at 50 000. However, we are indeed encouraging the participation of larger cities of more than 100 000. The recommended number of inhabitants applies to the city (as defined by Eurostat) or the Local Administrative Unit (LAU). However, should a district (being a LAU with legal personality) want to apply, the recommendation would apply to the district as well.</p> <p>117. Can a region respond to the expression of interest that the Commission will launch?</p> <p>The call for Expression of Interest is addressed to cities. Regions will have a key role to play in the preparation of the Climate City Contract with the local administrations, the national level, and all the relevant stakeholders that will be engaged in this process. City states such as Hamburg or broader metropolitan authorities such as Ile de France will be treated as metropolitan regions and may therefore express their interest and be part of the Mission.</p>
Codes and IDs	<p>118. How do you consider métropoles, communautés urbaines, communautés d'agglomérations in the following question: "what type of unit is your city according to Eurostat?" They are not a LAU nor a FUA. No Eurostat code found</p> <p>The indication of Eurostat CODES and IDs is just meant as a means for identifying who is</p>

	concretely applying and not to restrict eligibility. If the city cannot find the corresponding CODE or ID in the list, then answer the question <i>"What type of administrative unit is your city according to Eurostat?"</i> with "not applicable" and provide the national identification in the free text box of the following question. Clicking on "not applicable" will trigger a follow-up question where opportunity is given to define the national administrative name and/or code that uniquely identifies the city. This information is used to clearly identify the city. Please refer to names and codes for national administrative units, such as wards, counties and councils. If both national administrative name and code are available, please include both.
Templates New!	119. Is there a template for the City's declaration / letter of commitment? No, there is no specific template to follow.
Commitment New!	120. Who is to decide on the "Commitment" section? Do you need to attach documentation to this that shows the person's right to undertake the commitment? In the commitment section it is indicated that a letter or a declaration should be provided, signed by a city representative (e.g. Mayor, Deputy Mayor or authorised delegated representative within the city administration) confirming the city's interest to join the Cities Mission and to commit to the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2030, as defined in the context of the Mission.

SECTION 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

City representative New!	121. Should the city representative be the legal representative of the City? The representative filling in the questionnaire for the city is considered as a contact person; it does not necessarily need to be the legal representative. The contact person will have to confirm (by ticking a tick box at the end of section 2. Additional Information) that they have the consent of the city administration to respond to the Call for Expression of Interest and to submit the questionnaire on its behalf. They will also confirm that the information contained in the answers to the questionnaire is correct and complete.
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SECTION 3. CURRENT EMISSIONS

EU-ETS installations New!	122. On EU-ETS installations: Combined heat and power plants and heat plants from our local utility company (100% owned by the city) take part in the ETS. These plants are the backbone of district heating and undergo a process of transformation (away from coal and gas to local renewables and later hydrogen). Should they be included in the emission figures are not? Direct emissions from any large-scale energy generation or industrial facilities located within the city boundary which are registered under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) can be exempt from the Mission on the basis that municipalities have very limited influence over their operation and there is a dedicated EU process to reduce emissions from these sources. It is optional for cities to include them if measures are foreseen. However, the emissions associated with district heating should be included by the City as indirect emissions, meaning through the emissions arising from the consumption of the heat generated by the EU ETS registered facility. Cities involved in the Mission would have the possibility to adjust the local emission factor to reflect the reduced emissions due to the transformation away to local renewable energy sources. Please consult the Info Kit for further information.
Off-setting New!	123. Can you specify what role carbon offsetting will play in the 2030 neutrality objective? The objective of the mission is to aim for net zero emissions by 2030. The reduction of GHG emissions at the source should be considered as the absolute priority. Any residual emissions (those that are impossible to eliminate at the source within the period) will need to be

compensated through carbon removals in preference within the city boundary (e.g. nature-based or industrial removals) or carbon credits. In any event, all carbon removals and carbon credits should be robust and of high quality, i.e. certified based on the regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals, to be proposed by the European Commission in 2022. Mission's cities will need to report to the Commission on the amount, origin and type of certified carbon removals used to neutralize the remaining residual emissions. The level of residual emissions should be as low as possible and will depend on the situation of each individual city. As a guideline, it should not exceed 20% of the baseline GHG inventory for the whole targeted geographical area of the city. Beyond 2030, residual emissions should diminish overtime.

124. Can we use non EU credits to reach carbon neutrality (decentralized cooperation policy?)

There are two ways for a city to address its residual emissions, carbon sinks (natural and technological) and carbon credits. The use of Carbon Credits from outside the city's boundary to account for any residual emissions within the city boundary will be subject to certain rules and restrictions to be able to credibly demonstrate a city's climate neutrality (i.e., using formal credits/certificates verified and/or validated under rigorous standards by certified third-party auditors) in line with European Commission legislation and guidelines. Carbon Credits should be focused on nearby projects where possible, within the country or at least within the European Union and provide concrete additionality and co-benefits. Further information can be found in the Info Kit, Part II, Section 2.5 Accounting for residual emissions.

125. Regarding compensation of residual emissions, are other possibilities beyond carbon sinks and carbon credits possible? (For example, specific technologies for direct air capture, etc.)?

Cities will be permitted to utilise this technology within the scope of the Mission, as a carbon sink to account for any 'residual emissions'. Only applications which result in permanent sequestration of the CO₂ (i.e., injected into geological structures) will be allowable. For further information please consult the Info-kit for cities, PART II – A SHORT GUIDE TO URBAN CLIMATE NEUTRALITY, where there is a specific section 2.5 Accounting for residual emissions.

Impact of digital technologies

126. Considering the "smart" component, do you plan to consider the GHG impact of digital technologies in the Plan? Together with not considering the scope 3, it can be tricky

New!

Any direct or indirect emissions resulting from the energy end-use of digital technologies have to be considered. Cities are further encouraged to assess the environmental impact of any smart city solutions they put in place. Scope 3 emissions (with the exception of the waste/wastewater sector), are exempt from the 2030 target. However, if cities working towards climate neutrality wish to account for and include other Scope 3 emissions at their own discretion, they are welcome to do so. The Mission will re-evaluate the possibility of including other Scope 3 emission sources in the post-2030 era, when leading cities have achieved climate neutrality as currently defined.