

# One-pager '100 Climate Neutral Cities in Europe by 2030' (14 & 21 June)

Version 17 May 2021

## Key-message: You need an ecosystem to raise a climate-neutral city

The mission is set; 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030 and a climate-neutral continent by 2050. But how can we help European cities reach this target? Similar to the village that is needed to raise a child, we need each other to bring about climate-neutral cities. And like growing up, innovations for climate-neutral cities need the opportunity to learn, (inter)act, fail, learn and grow.

The mission-driven event is structured by a cross-sectoral perspective on the following key themes:

- Circularity (in particular Energy-Water-Food-Waste)
- Sustainable Buildings and Energy
- Smart & Green Mobility
- Urban leadership: How can the government act as an orchestrator and facilitate systematic change?

## Focus

Our aim is to gain insights in the earning potential of EU cooperation on '100 Climate-neutral Cities by 2030'. The event stresses the importance of well-functioning quadruple-helix ecosystems for realising the vision of the 'Climate Neutral City' through concrete business opportunities now and in the near future. These ecosystems integrate public and private partners, combine digitalisation and sustainability, and work from local to (inter)national scale.

Complex problems require not only broad approaches combining multiple solutions, but also require a (value) chain and system changes for developing new markets. Ecosystems experience financing and collaboration structures as important obstacles for the creation and scaling of climate-neutral solutions in cities. Investments are needed on process innovation, innovative procurement, mixed finance/funding and public-private partnerships, all supported by multi-level governance. Therefore we will focus on co-creating insights that enable mission-driven collaboration and blended finance/funding mechanisms.

Climate-neutrality is a continuous journey of learning-by-doing and sharing our learning experiences with each other. Developing climate-neutral and sustainable solutions through co-creation requires building relations and creating conditions for (international) collaboration. An international learning environment is key to amplifying innovative best practices and disclosing new markets: therefore we need to continue building relations and to create conditions for (international) collaboration.

## Objectives

- Mapping opportunities for business (in particular SMEs) for climate-neutral city-related topics in the Green Deal and Post-COVID Recovery funds, and the mission plan '100 Climate-neutral cities by 2030'
- Strengthen current and develop new partnerships and commitment for long-term collaboration within a European context (networks, ecosystems, funding, financing)
- Investigate possibilities for combining local, regional, national, European and international funds for scaling and making the climate-neutral and smart city market infrastructure more mature
- Defining the building blocks of the climate-neutral city and how to apply them towards 2030 to create sustainable, resilient and livable cities

## Deliverables

First steps towards:

- Ecosystem analysis for each of the cross-sectoral topics with the aim of forming 5-10 comprehensive consortia
- The 'prototype' of the climate-neutral city
- Leadership manual on mission-driven innovation (from innovation to mass), quadruple-helix collaboration, multi-level governance and blended funding

During the summer period after the mission, these first steps will be developed into concrete plans, to be executed from Q3 2021 onward.

## What does this mean for the event?

The main questions during the opening, lunch and closing sessions are based on creating a shared value by bringing together perspectives, abilities and language. At 14 June this is: 'What are the needs of the private sector?' At 21 June we focus on the reverse: 'What are the needs of the public sector?'