



How to strengthen national governance for achieving the Cities Mission Capacity Building - The case of Greece



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Greece's Representation in Climate-Neutral

- **Six Greek cities** in Europe's 100 climate neutral by 2030 (Athens, Thessaloniki, Kalamata, Ioannina, Trikala and Kozani).

- Greece is among the countries that have achieved an increased number of cities participating in the Mission (ranked 6th) and this is mainly due to the **commitment, ambition, capacity and hard work** of the selected Municipalities, as well as the initiatives of the **Ministry of Environment and Energy**.

- A total of 22 notable applications was submitted by Greek municipalities / municipal partnership bodies, most of which concluded in January 2022 a Memorandum of Cooperation at the initiative of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy to **accelerate their transition to climate neutrality and in their digital transformation**, while simultaneously recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.



Memorandum of Cooperation for the European Mission

- A extended **Memorandum of Cooperation** (MoC) for the European Mission "100 Climate Neutral Cities by 2030", was signed on Friday, February 3, at the Ministry of Environment and Energy in which Greek Municipalities participate, creating a **"network" of 85 Greek cities**, which are committed to work on climate neutrality by 2030
- The ultimate goal is to help cities **accelerate green transition**.

"Following the six Greek participations in the EU Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities, the creation of a network consisting of 85 Greek cities demonstrates society's interest and eagerness to proceed with the green transition," Environment Minister Kostas Skrekas.

EU MISSIONS CLIMATE-NEUTRAL
& SMART CITIES
**Greek Cities alliance
towards Climate
Neutrality by 2030**

Green
transition



Memorandum of Cooperation for the European Mission



- The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation is a **pan-European important initiative** for the achievement of the objectives of the European Mission, which is the achievement of climate neutrality by 2030, **strengthening the networking between cities, the transfer of know-how and good practices** and securing funding from national and European programs.
- The municipalities that participate in the cooperation memorandum are committed to:
 - to implement **environmental and sustainable policies** within the framework of the European Green Deal,
 - to integrate **local policies** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) with the aim of **making cities more human, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**,
 - to **protect biodiversity**,
 - promote **sustainable public procurement** and the **Circular Economy**;
 - to design and implement in practice **Sustainable Urban Mobility** as well as **Sustainable Food** and at the same time
 - to invest and finance **sustainable investments**.

The “Smart Cities” program in Greece

- The Greek Ministry of Digital Governance has invited 17 of Greece’s largest municipalities (*Athens, Thessaloniki, Patra, Heraklion, Piraeus, Larissa, Volos, Peristeri, Rhodes, Ioannina, Chania, Acharnes, Nikaia-Agios Ioannis Rentis, Halkida, Kordelio-Evosmos, Kallithea and Trikala*) to submit their strategic plans for their participation in the “Smart Cities” program
- Budgeted at 90 million euros with funds from the Recovery Fund, the program aimed to contribute to the **digital transformation of Greece’s cities through the development of new technologies and tools.**
- The “Smart Cities” scheme aims to gradually **transform Greek cities** into “smart” cities **through the development of new infrastructure, digital platforms and IT systems.**
- The program’s solutions will give cities the opportunity to use technology and data to improve urban infrastructure and e-services, and support local economy.
- The aim of the program is to **upgrade everyday life for citizens and local communities through digital projects** that best meet the priorities of each municipality, through a list of projects divided into seven categories:

- sustainable mobility
- energy saving
- reduction of energy footprint for municipal buildings
- improvement of services for citizens and businesses
- improvement of quality of life
- strengthening local democracy, consultation and transparency
- protection against cyber attacks and enhancement of digital infrastructure



National Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) 2021-2027

- The same principles concerning also climate neutrality and digital transformation **are incorporated in the development strategy** for the country based on smart specialization with **Research, Technology and Innovation as the main driving forces** that is formulated by the General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI).
- This strategy is planned and implemented simultaneously both at **national and regional levels**, through interaction processes between the two levels.
- The priority sectors that have emerged for the period 2021-2027 are the following:
 - Agri-food sector
 - **Digital technologies**
 - Life Sciences, Health, Medicines
 - Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries
 - **Sustainable Energy**
 - **Environment and Circular Economy**
 - Materials, Construction & Industry
 - **Transport & Supply Chain**



National Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) 2021-2027

- For the correct governance of this Smart Specialization Strategy the following criteria are taken under consideration (among others)
 - ✓ **Updated analysis of the challenges** to the diffusion of innovation, including digitization
 - ✓ Existence of a competent body responsible for the governance of the smart specialization strategy
 - ✓ **Monitoring and evaluation tools** to measure performance against strategy objectives
 - ✓ **Effective implementation** of the business discovery process
 - ✓ Necessary actions to **improve national or regional research and innovation systems**
 - ✓ Actions to support the **industrial transition**
 - ✓ Measures to strengthen **international cooperation**





Additional Related Initiatives

- **CERTH/HIT and GSRI are representing Greece as Partners in both DUT and CapaCITIES initiatives**, contributing to the effort:
 - ❑ of shaping a European environment that will favour urban climate neutrality transitions for national, regional and local authorities.
 - ❑ **initiating and strengthening national change processes by creating national networks and governance structures** and by providing specific support to public authorities to establish favourable conditions and measures for cities to achieve the relevant mission of cities .

Coming Events:

National event will be held in Thessaloniki in the context of CapaCITIES @ end of April →
We will be very glad to see you there! For more info please contact Mrs. Matina Loukea (mloukea@certh.gr)