

Launch of the national Mirror Mission Cities Hub in Romania (M100) & CapaCITIES Workshops

18-19 December 2023
Cluj-Napoca
Radisson Blu Hotel, 1 Stadionului Str.

Between 18-19 December, representatives of the European Commission, national and regional authorities, cities and associations of municipalities, academia, support organisations and urban communities from Romania and Europe are coming together in Cluj-Napoca to debate the progress of the Horizon Europe "Mission for 100 smart and climate-neutral cities by 2030" implementation at national level.

For two days, the European national platforms supporting the Mission Cities implementation in their contexts will exchange on their challenges regarding the transition to climate neutrality and on the driving factors towards their sustainability in a changing world.

On the first day, 18 December, the attendees will participate in the launch of the Mission Mirror Cities Hub Romania (M100). M100 is governed by a Coordination Committee involving the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE), the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (MCID), the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration (MDLPA), the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, and the Ministry of Education. UEFISCDI will ensure the secretariat for the Coordination Committee formed of delegates from all the mentioned ministries, led by the state secretary from MIPE, Ovidiu Cimpean. This Coordination Committee includes representatives from the three selected Romanian Mission Cities: Cluj-Napoca, District 2 – Bucharest and Suceava.

The M100 national hub aims to support the implementation of the "100 Climate-Neutral Smart Cities by 2030" Mission objective to facilitate access to European funding sources for climate change mitigation actions and accelerate efforts to limit global warming. In this context, M100 will have two objectives: to support the three Romanian cities selected under the EU Mission - Cluj-Napoca, Suceava and Bucharest - District 2, in implementing green transition projects and identifying funding sources; and to launch a Mirror Mission, using EU-level tools to assist 10 other Romanian cities on the path to climate neutrality. To this end, M100 will launch a call for applications to select the 10 cities that will be part of the Mirror Mission and achieve climate neutrality by 2035.

On the second day, CapaCITIES will organise a series of workshops for the project consortium partners and national stakeholders from Romania, aimed at capacity building regarding funding for the cities and the design of the national events to better engage key stakeholders.

Additionally, cities from Romania and beyond will have the opportunity to exchange on Cluj-Napoca's journey towards the EU Mission Label and the climate city contract (CCC) preparation in a dedicated workshop.

During these two days, in an exhibition area, participants will review the CapaCITIES learning portfolio, providing feedback on how to further develop it in order to respond to the needs of the authorities and cities.

Social experiences and site visits in Cluj-Napoca will immerse the participants in city's climate-neutral projects and lifestyle.

CapaCITIES is a support action for national and regional authorities in 15 European countries to advance their governance structures and strengthen dedicated support for cities to achieve the climate-neutral Cities Mission.

The project is funded under the EU Missions programme of Horizon Europe.

Register here: <https://www.brainmap.ro/registration-capacities-m100>.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 - 18 December | Progress of the Mission Cities national support structures and launch of M100

Welcome and Keynote Speeches

10:00

Emil Boc - Mayor of Cluj-Napoca

Patrick Child - Cities Mission Manager, Deputy-General Director, DG Environment, European Commission

Cristian Bădescu - Ambassador, Embassy of Romania in the Kingdom of Norway

Mihai Alexandru Ghigiu - Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Romania

Ovidiu Cimpean - Coordinator of Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100), State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects



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Mirror Mission Cities Hub Romania (M100): funding and support (panel)

10:40

Ramona Moldovan – Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Energy**Eduard-Tatian Mititelu** - State Secretary, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization**Liviu Băileșteanu** - Director, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration**Adina Socaci** - Executive Director, National Agency for Environmental Protection Cluj, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests**Ovidiu Cimpean** - Coordinator of Mirror Mission Cities Hub (M100), State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects**Laura Hetel** - Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, DG RTD, European Commission**Adrian Curaj** - General Director, The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation FundingModerator: **Marzia Mazzonetto**, Founder and CEO Stickydot

Lunch Break

12:30

Multi-level governance: challenges of the national Mission Cities platforms in a changing landscape (panel)

13:30

This panel showcases examples of national structures set up in support of the Cities Mission. It highlights different governance models, funding instruments, alignment of the national level with the European level, challenges and key success factors in various political landscapes, focusing on the driving factors regarding their sustainability aspect in a changing world.

*The evolving European landscape of national Cities Mission support structures:***Heidi Johansson** - European Regions Research and Innovation Network, NetZeroCities**Gudrun Haindlmaier** - Austrian Institute of Technology, CapaCITIES*National structures for implementation, governance and finance of climate-neutral cities:*

France: Marion Gonzales - France Villes et territoires Durable – Mirror Group for the Cities Mission

Sweden: Emina Pasic – Swedish Energy Agency, Viable Cities**Spain: Julio Lumbreras** - Director of the CitiES 2023 platform**Romania: Ovidiu Cimpean** - Coordinator of M100 Mirror Mission Cities Hub**Albania: Roberta Talarico** - Founder and President, Al-Green

Norway: **Malin Kock Hansen** - DOGA/Design and Architecture Norway

Austria: **Helmut Strasser** - Salzburg Institute for Spatial Planning and Housing

Moderator: **Lena Holmberg** - Lund University, Learning Strategist at Viable Cities

Participatory governance: Stakeholders support for the Mission Cities implementation in Romania (panel)

15:00

This panel brings on stage representatives from the academia, business, civil society, national and regional support initiatives together with the national competence centers for the Mission Cities and Climate Adaptation which will cooperate with the national hub M100 to provide support to all the cities in Romania in their journey towards climate neutrality.

Victoria Zinchuk - Director, Head of Romania, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Bianca Faragau - Institutional Policy Officer, Permanent Representation of the European Investment Bank

Marius Cristea - World Bank Romania

Cristian Otgon – Head of Smart Specialization Department, NV Regional Development Agency, ROREG

Bianca Muntean - Coordinator The EDIH in Transilvania

Grațian Mihăilescu - Founder, UrbanizeHub, Cities Mission Board Member

Participatory governance: the role of academia in driving sustainability

15:45

Daniel David - Rector of the Babeș-Bolyai University

Călin Emilian Hîrțea - Dean, School of Political Science, Public Administration and Communication, Babes Bolyai University

Ciprian Dobre - Vice-Dean, Faculty of Automation Control and Computers, University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, coordinator of the Centre of Competence for the Cities Mission

Bogdan Varga - Cluj-Napoca 2030 Net Zero City Coalition, director of Electric Mobility Applied Research Center, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Moderator: **Marzia Mazzonetto**, Founder and CEO Stickydot

Coffee Break

16:30

Cities for Cities: actions towards climate neutrality (panel)

17:00

This panel brings together representatives from the three Romanian Mission Cities (Cluj-Napoca, District 2 – Bucharest and Suceava) and other cities paving the way to the green transition, aiming to discover current actions and challenges, also focusing on how the European and the national level may support them in their current climate-neutral plans.

Ion Lungu - Mayor, Suceava Municipality

Elena Tudose - Public Administrator, Bucharest - District 2 Municipality

Dalila Ciucan - Project Manager, Cluj-Napoca Municipality

Marcel Pîrvu - Circular economy specialist, Cluj-Napoca Municipality

Paul Moldovan - City Manager, Bucharest – District 6 Municipality

Valentin Voinica – Project Manager, Alba Iulia Municipality

Moderator: **Justyna Wieczorkiewicz-Molendo**, NetZeroCities City Advisor

Closing remarks for Day 1

18:00

Laura Hetel - Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, DG RTD, European Commission

Tarek El Azzouzi – NetZeroCities Partnership Manager, Climate KIC

Adrian Curaj - General Director, The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Networking & social dinner

19:00

Day 2 - 19 December | Focus on CapaCITIES support portfolio for the 15 EU countries

Workshop: Mobilizing finance for climate neutral cities - investment planning in cities, redirecting public funding, attracting private finance (ICLEI Europe)

09:00

How can municipalities pay for transition to climate neutrality? What structural changes to municipal financing are necessary to achieve this goal? How can multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration support this process? This workshop will create space for cities,

national governments, financial institutions, researchers and more to exchange on challenges and potential solutions for financing climate neutral cities. The NetZeroCities and CapaCITIES partners will facilitate conversation on roles that different actors can play in this process and share approaches for financing climate-neutrality from the EU Cities-Mission work.

Panelists: **Wolfgang Teubner** (ICLEI), **Fedra Vanhuyse** (Viable Cities), **Harry Wain** (BwB), **Venera Vlad** (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), **Snezhina Kovacheva** (EIB), **Sissy Windisch** (Cities Mission Board)

Coffee Break

11:00

Workshop: Accelerating learning through Transition Lab Forums – Best practice from core countries' multi-level governance meetings during 2023 (Viable Cities)

11:15

Welcome to this workshop where we share experiences from organizing national multi-level stakeholder meetings during 2023! These have been designed in various ways with regards to activities and participants, in accordance with the national contexts. At this workshop we exchange experiences, success-factors and ideas for the future. The results from the workshop will be included in the Learning Portfolio as well as in the reporting. It will also be distributed through NetZeroCities.

Workshop (in parallel): Cities' exchange – how to design a successful CCC

11:15

Hands-on discussions between the city representatives on the process of designing the CCC and Cluj-Napoca's journey to the EU Mission label.

Lunch Break

13:00

Site Visit in Cluj-Napoca

14:00 - 17:00

The Someș River

The Someș River is the water that flows through the city of Cluj-Napoca, but also a true emblem of the city. The Someș river is divided into two streams: the Small Someș and the Big Someș. We have restored two sections of the Someș river banks in Cluj-Napoca, which are an example of good practice, both at the national and European level.

The Railway Park

The reintroduction of the Railway Park in the heritage of green public spaces of Cluj Napoca is considered an important victory for the whole community and at the same time a huge opportunity to rehabilitate functionally, ecologically and landscaping this important green space.

Onisifor Ghibu high school

The "Onisifor Ghibu" high school in Cluj-Napoca has been modernized through the construction of a new building and the expansion of the sports hall. In total, the value of the works financed by the Cluj City Hall, with European funds, amounts to €6 million.

The Firemen's Tower

Thanks to a project financed by European funds, The Firemen's Tower or the "Tower of the 3 ages" has been restored to the people of Cluj in a contemporary version.

At the local level, the Firemen's Tower became the sixth objective of the Urban Culture Centre of Cluj-Napoca City Hall, alongside the Casino building in Central Park, the Tailors' Tower, the Youth Centre and the Dacia and Marasti cinemas.

King Ferdinand Street

The oldest street in Cluj-Napoca and an important investment objective in the historical area of the municipality, Regele Ferdinand Street, has been modernised through an urban regeneration project financed by European funds.

51 trees were planted as part of the rehabilitation process. An automatic irrigation system with rain/humidity sensor was installed for them.

Mihail Kogalniceanu Street

Mihail Kogalniceanu Street has a historical load, but also a special architecture.

Several sections of the street have been pedestrianised. The section of Mihail Kogălniceanu Street between Hermann Oberth Street and Gaál Gábor Street has being transformed on the basis of the "urban garden" concept.

The University Street

On University Street it is proposed to restore the statue "Saint Mary Protector" (transmuted in

1957) to its original place and to create a square on the current parking lot.



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