

Portuguese Stakeholder event: Mission Area Climate

**Neutral and Smart Cities** 

Report on the first reflections & preliminary contributions from the Portuguese community towards the mission's codesign





## **Background**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, the Portuguese National Innovation Agency (ANI) and the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) held an online stakeholders' event on the European Commission's Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. This one hour online information session was held through Zoom and joined together **131 participants** from several Portuguese entities (companies, researchers, higher education institutions, associations and other interface entities), with the objective of presenting the Mission's expected main goals and implementation activities and collect feedback from the Portuguese community.

This report is the result of the discussion held between Paulo Ferrão, Board Member of the Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Cities, and Portuguese stakeholders attending the online session based on the **presentation of the preliminary report "100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030 - by and for the Citizens"**. The main discussion topics are presented below.

### Main discussion topics

- The Mission's Board composition reflects a diverse profile of stakeholders, enriching the discussion and the definition of the Mission.
- Cities take up little space on Earth but consume more than 65% of energy. Therefore, the great revolution will have to take place in the cities, including consumption patterns and lifestyles. The Green Deal priorities are a major "revolution", since aim for Europe to be the first carbon neutral continent by 2050.
- The Mission's goals are to support, promote and showcase **100** European cities in their systemic transformation towards climate neutrality by **2030** and make these cities into experimentation and innovation hubs for all cities, thus leading on the European Green Deal and on Europe's efforts to become climate neutral by 2050. This Mission fits very well in the **economic recovery plan**.
- The concept of 'city' is flexible, as it can be a big city or a neighborhood, and should promote a better quality of life for the citizen. Consequently, the citizen must be involved in this inclusive and bottom up process.
- In the last decade, European cities have made ambitious plans for climate action. More than 10,000 cities have signed the "European Covenant of Mayors", under which the signatory cities are committed to targets of 40% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030. The Mission goes beyond these objectives by proposing a goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030 and promoting a 'Climate-neutral City Contract', to be signed by local, national/regional authorities and the European Commission.
  - The Climate City Contract will include the objectives and targets, and will specify the strategy and action plan for the transition, identifying the stakeholders and their responsibilities.
  - The co-funding from the European Commission for the implementation of the signed contracts had not been defined yet.
- The selection of the cities will be a process of co-creation, that starts with a proposal with the detailed strategy, that if successful, is followed with the signature of a Climate City Contract. The European Commission will fund the implementation of the contract. The proposal can be led by one or more city councils.
- The role of digital technologies will be crucial to this Mission to promote efficiency in the use of resources and improve decision-making processes, for example, through the modeling of urban systems in terms of mobility, energy consumption in buildings or urban metabolism. The Mission can also contribute to encourage private investment, promote voluntary data sharing, guarantee open platforms and create opportunities for all, on a global scale.





The discussion highlighted the need to guarantee data interoperability and to produce harmonized guidelines in phase 2 of the process.

The citizen, as both an actor and decision maker, is also of key importance in all its dimensions, for example, in the uptake of renewable energy (which at different levels depends a lot on the options of the citizen as a consumer) or with the adoption of healthier lifestyles, through the use of smooth transport, the promotion of healthy diets with a lower ecological footprint, the consumption of local products or physical exercise.

It was also acknowledged the importance of the dimension of the humanization of cities and "Happy Cities" in this context. It is important to understand how to promote greater public participation, with a legislative system that defines the participation model and that is not normally heard and involved in the planning process.

During the session, a set of 3 questions was asked to the participants:

- (1) Do you consider the focus of the mission, as presented, adequate to the needs of Portugal (Y/N)? The majority (95%) of the participants considered that **the Mission's objectives were adequate to the national needs**.
- (2) What are your priorities for fighting climate change in your city (i.e. mobility, public transport, pollution, energy, wind energy, electric mobility, etc.)?

Participants considered that their priorities to fight climate change are heavily related to **mobility** (including public transportation), **energy and buildings**, followed by **circular economy**, **clean fuels and digitalization**.



(3) How would you consider getting involved in contributing to this mission, both personally and professionally?

Finally, participants highlighted the following engagements actions (with keywords) towards this Mission: Awareness raising, pilot projects, consultant, project management, awareness actions, industrial symbiosis, digital twins, trainer, collaborative research, biodiversity, industrial symbiosis projects, citizen engagement, artificial intelligence, new business models, training of citizens, R&I, policy making, open data, reduce the use of car, develop communication tools, geospatial information, community mobilization, monitoring, change of habits, recycling, citizenship, collaborative research and networks, technology transfer and end-user.





#### Final remarks

This online information session was widely praised by participants and the majority considered it of great importance for learning more about the Mission Area Climate Neutral and Smart Cities and what could be expected for Portugal and Portuguese stakeholders. There is an understanding that this Mission Area proposes a very ambitious program, beyond R&I activities, and thus future communications on how the Mission will be implemented, how will the Mission involve the citizens to participate are eagerly expected.





## **ANNEX I:** Agenda

# Stakeholder Event

# Missions in Horizon Europe – Missions Climate, Soil and Cities

Online discussion and information sessions with the national community

JUNE 16 2020 | 11:00-17:30

VIA ZOOM / COLIBRI

PLEASE FIND THE AGENDA ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

16:30 - 17:30

THEMATIC WORKSHOP 3 | MISSION CITIES

16:30-16:3

**Opening Remarks** 

National Innovation Agency (ANI)

16:35-16:50

Presentation of the Mission Cities and its Roadmap

 Paulo Ferrão, University of Lisbon, Member of the Mission Board, Mission Climateneutral and smart cities

16:50-17:20

Interaction with stakeholders

17:20-17:30

**Conclusions and Final Remarks** 

**Event website** 





#### **ANNEX II:** MB Presentation









# $\label{eq:period} \textbf{PERIN} \ \ \text{Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network}$







