Call for national networks of local authorities – EU City facility

European City Facility (EUCF) - Background

The new pan-European City Facility is set up under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union: tailor-made, rapid and simplified financial support (in the form of EUR 60,000 lump sums) and related services will be provided to a large number of cities and municipalities in the European Union to enable them to develop relevant investment concepts.

Cities and municipalities play a key role in a sustainable European energy transition. They have a tremendous potential to build comprehensive sustainable energy investment programs (i.e. investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy). They also play a key role in pooling smaller projects into larger investment portfolios and in mobilizing the significant financial resources required for the energy transition.

Although the potential is immense, there are fundamental obstacles. In many cases, there is a lack of credible, robust and sufficiently mature investment concepts (including identification of the potential project pipeline, legal analysis, governance analysis, basic financing strategy, and roadmap for implementation). However, such investment concepts are an initial prerequisite for access to different sources of funding.

In this context, the Facility addresses two fundamental barriers for sustainable energy investments:

• Financial and legal capacity of local authorities to transform their long-term energy and climate strategies (e.g. SEAPs, SECAPs etc.) into appropriate investment concepts.
• Lack of aggregation of fragmented smaller projects (for example in the building sector) and thus lack of attractiveness for the financial sector.

The resulting investment concepts will represent an initial step towards a fully-fledged business and financial plan and – in this way - facilitate the subsequent mobilization of (local) investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Sources of funding may come from the private sector, but also from other EU-funded instruments such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), various Project Development Assistance (PDA) facilities, such as the ELENA facility of the European Investment Bank, or various national investment platforms.

European City Facility (EUCF) - Timeline

The EU City facility is run by a consortium of 5 partners: Energy Cities, Adelphi, Climate Alliance, Enviros, FEDARENE.
Start of the project: 09/2019 – 48 months

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant 5 Agreement No 864212.
Work assignment

We will need the support of national partners for promotion and dissemination of the EUCF in order to recruit potential applicants. In addition to the consortium, there will be a country expert assigned per country who will run a technical helpdesk. The national network will focus on the promotional activities and will liaise with the country expert or the Core Management team for technical questions.

We are looking for 1 national network of local authorities per country in each EU Member State.
The national networks will be subcontracted by Energy Cities, Climate Alliance or FEDARENE and will be coordinated by the EUCF Core Management Team who will also ensure that all national networks have a common understanding of the EUCF and are provided with all the necessary material and information to carry out their work.

The national network will have to:
- Organise a half-day info session for potential EUCF beneficiaries in the country and liaise with the country expert and the Core Management Team for the agenda. Ideally this session should take place at the latest the month of launch of the 1st call (indicatively the session should take place between January 15, 2020 and April 15, 2020) or at the latest before the 2nd call.
- Organise up to 3 webinars (one before each call except for the one for which a physical info session will be organised) to present the EUCF in collaboration with the country expert. The webinar(s) will be in national language, will be recorded and made available online on the network’s website and on the EUCF website during the whole duration of the EUCF. The webinar will gather at least 30 potential beneficiaries except for countries in which there are less than 150 municipalities, towns or cities in which a minimum number of 10 potential beneficiaries needs to be reached.
- General communication about the EUCF:
  - At least 1 direct emailing to member cities and potential EUCF beneficiaries in the country before each call
  - At least 4 articles published in the network’s newsletter & and 4 articles on the website of the network
  - Regular publication on social media (at least 5 posts before and during each call opening period)
  - Publication on at least 10 national/regional platforms, websites, newsletter relevant for potential EUCF beneficiaries
- Whenever possible promotion at events

The national network will compile a report after each event (template provided by the EUCF Core Management Team) and a final report on the communication activities.

Application process
Description of the of the organisation including a list and short description of 3 relevant events, physical or online, (on the topic of sustainable energy and/or finance) organised by the applicant (as main organiser) attended by potential EUCF beneficiaries in the past 5 years (including number of participating local authorities) – maximum 2 A4 pages
A description of the main communication channels of the organisation including an outreach strategy for non-member potential EUCF beneficiaries and a short description of the EUCF info session to be organised (date, potential location and potential link to another event) – maximum 2 A4 pages

NB: For Belgian applicants only: the applicant should demonstrate the ability to reach out to all Belgian municipalities and organise a bilingual/trilingual event.

List of members

All documents need to be sent in English to info@eucityfacility.eu by Wednesday 15 January 2020 COB.

**Selection criteria for national network of local authorities**
The national network of local authorities should represent a high number of potential EUCF beneficiaries in the country.
The national network of local authorities should have the capacity of organising a large event mobilising a high number of potential EUCF beneficiaries in the country.
The national network of local authorities should be able to ensure a good promotion and outreach in the country beyond its membership base.
The national network of local authorities must have staff able to communicate and write in English.
### Criteria & Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description / Proof needed</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of the Applicant</td>
<td>represent a large amount of potential EUCF beneficiaries</td>
<td>List of members</td>
<td>1 to 10 for the percentage (rating based on the number of members compared to the number of local authorities in the country: 1 low percentage – 10 high percentage)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>have the capacity of organising a large event mobilising a fair amount of potential EUCF beneficiaries in the country.</td>
<td>List and short description of 3 (physical or online) relevant events (on the topic of sustainable energy and/or finance) organised by the applicant (as main organiser) attended by potential EUCF beneficiaries in the past 5 years (including number of participating local authorities)</td>
<td>1 to 10 (1 not relevant – 5 very relevant)</td>
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<td>Promotion</td>
<td>has a national network of contacts (reaching beyond its membership base) and good communication channels</td>
<td>Description of the communication tools and channels</td>
<td>1 to 10 (quality of the communication tools and channels 1-low – 5 high)</td>
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<td>Involvement in the Covenant of Mayors</td>
<td>Applicant is an official Covenant Supporter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bonus points: 5</td>
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### Financial offer
Lump sum of EUR 5,000 for staff costs, all taxes included
On presentation of the invoices and receipts, expenses incurred for organisation of the info session (room renting, catering, printing, travel costs for the country expert...) will be refunded up to a maximum of EUR 1,500 EUR.

### Selection procedure
Ranking of applicants

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