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SEPTEMBER 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From Global Climate Momentum to Local Climate Action

Climate finance, investment-ready projects, resilient cities and the partnerships that turn ambition into implementation.

Knowledge | Partnership | Climate Action

mlgp4climate.com

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> ***"At MLGP4Climate, we believe that successful climate action begins with strong local partnerships and shared capacity."***

SEPTEMBER 2026 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL & SEPTEMBER FOCUS

04 Foreword: From Climate Ambition to Local Action

05 September Focus: From Global Climate Momentum to Local Climate Action

06–07 Clean Cities, COP31 & Global Climate Momentum

CLIMATE, RESILIENCE & DATA

08–14 Nature-based Solutions, Water, Drought, Flood Risk & Climate Data

17 The Age of Electrification

CLIMATE, RESILIENCE & DATA

22–23 Integrated Climate and Disaster Risk

32–33 Air Pollution, Public Health & Resilient Cities

35 Climate-Ready Buildings

37 Enhanced Transparency Framework

40–41 Clean Energy Potential & Türkiye's Electricity Transition

CITY-ACCEL, FINANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

15–16 Stronger Partnerships & the EU Covenant of Mayors

18 MLGP4Climate Expert Meeting

19–21 CITY-ACCEL: From Climate Plans to Investment-Ready Projects

CITY-ACCEL, FINANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

24–26 From Climate Targets to Investment

34 Understanding Climate Finance

39 From Climate Plans to Climate Investments

POLICY, OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY

27–30 The New Era in the EU Budget

31 EU–Türkiye Cultural Cooperation Opportunity

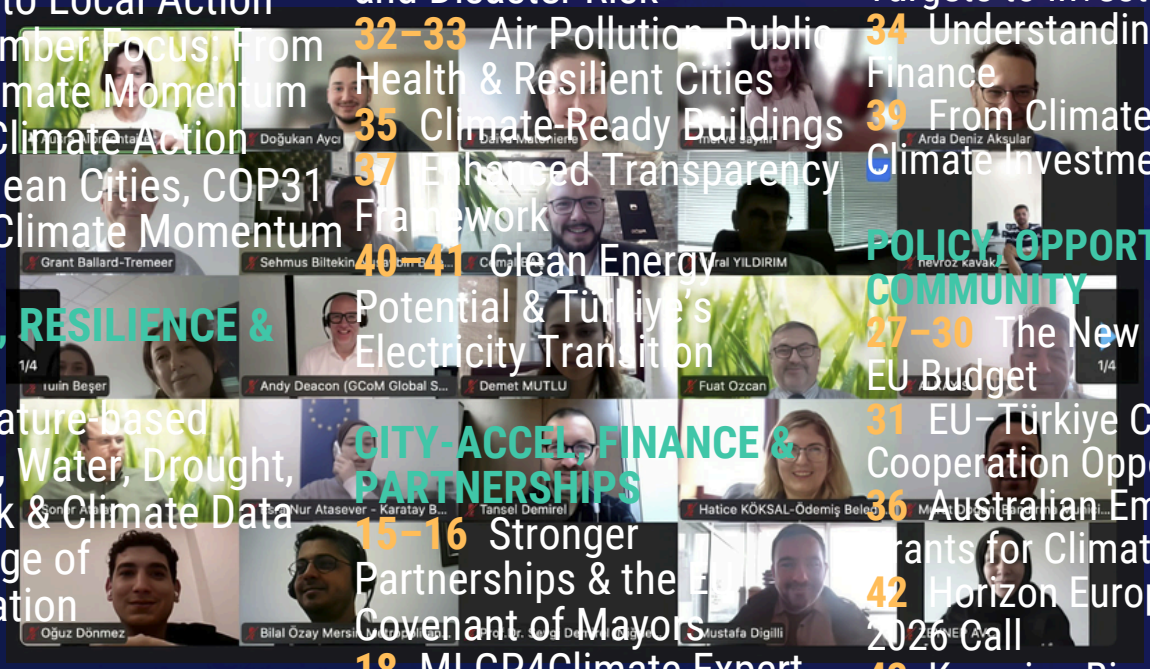
36 Australian Embassy Grants for Climate Resilience

42 Horizon Europe DUT 2026 Call

43 Kunming Biodiversity Fund 2026 Call

44 Voluntary Subnational Review of Türkiye

45–46 Resource Library & Global Climate Community



From Climate Ambition to Local Action

from ambition to implementation



DAIVA MATONIENĖ
Lead

Climate action is increasingly moving from setting targets to answering a more practical question: how do we turn ambition into implementation?

For cities, this means developing projects that can move beyond climate plans and become concrete, investable solutions. It also means strengthening the partnerships, knowledge and capacity needed to make those projects happen.

This month, CITY-ACCEL took an important step in that direction. Through LAB 1 and LAB 2, municipalities and partners came together to explore how SECAP priorities can be transformed into stronger project concepts and prepared for future financing opportunities. The discussions also highlighted the growing role of digital and AI-supported tools in project development.

Across this issue, we look at the wider context of this transition: climate finance, urban resilience, electrification, disaster and climate risk, air quality, European cooperation and the role of cities in the lead-up to COP31.

These themes may seem different, but they share a common point: climate action becomes meaningful when it is translated into decisions, investments and implementation at the local level.

At MLGP4Climate, we believe that this transition requires collaboration across municipalities, financial institutions, international organisations, experts and local stakeholders.

The work ahead is substantial. But so is the opportunity to build stronger, more resilient and more sustainable cities together.

PLANS → PROJECTS → IMPLEMENTATION

September 2026 Focus: From Global Climate Momentum to Local Climate Action

THIS MONTH, WE EXPLORED

September 2026 highlighted a key moment for the global climate agenda. Cities, governments, businesses, investors and civil society came together during Climate Week NYC to discuss the next phase of climate action.

The message was clear: climate commitments must translate into implementation, investment and measurable impact.

FROM GLOBAL DIALOGUES TO LOCAL SOLUTIONS

As cities face increasing climate risks, local governments are becoming central actors in delivering the transition.

The challenge is to connect global momentum with practical local delivery turning climate plans into a clear sequence of priorities, projects and implementation.



THE PATHWAY FROM MOMENTUM TO DELIVERY



The next step is building a clear pathway from global momentum to local delivery.

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Clean Cities, Resilient Futures

World Cleanup Day: Responsibility Starts With Us

World Cleanup Day reminds us of the relationship we build with our environment and the way we manage our natural resources.

Waste management is not only about keeping our environment clean.

Protecting natural resources

Proper waste management conserves resources and reduces pressure on our planet.

Reducing pollution

It cuts emissions, prevents contamination, and creates cleaner air, water, and soil.

Supporting the circular economy

Reusing and recycling materials keeps resources in use and drives sustainable economies.

Building healthier ecosystems

Clean environments support biodiversity, strengthen resilience, and improve quality of life.

Climate action begins not only with major transformations, but also with the choices we make every day.

WHAT WE CAN DO TODAY

- Reduce consumption
- Reuse and recycle
- Separate waste properly
- Support local environmental initiatives

Clean cities are not only more liveable; they are also more resilient and sustainable cities.

Antalya Prepares for COP31

Registration Opens for the COP31 Green Zone

COP31 will bring the global climate agenda to Antalya, creating a platform where climate solutions, partnerships and innovative ideas come together.

GREEN ZONE: A SPACE FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND COLLABORATION

The Green Zone will provide a space for dialogue, knowledge sharing and showcasing climate solutions from different actors around the world.

Local Governments | Civil Society | Science & Innovation | Climate Communities

United Nations Climate Change | COP31 TÜRKIYE ANTALYA

Visitor Registration Now Open

For the latest information and details, please visit:

cop31.tr/register-to-visit

Create your COP31 visitor account and register for the Green Zone.



COP31 Venue: Antalya

Visitor registration: cop31.tr/register-to-visit



IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Green Zone will be closed to visitors during the Leaders' Summit on 11–12 November.

As COP31 approaches, climate action continues to be shaped not only through negotiations, but also through the participation and collaboration of communities worldwide.

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Nature-based Solutions:

The New Infrastructure for Climate Resilience



Building climate-resilient cities by working with nature

Rising heatwaves, wildfires, floods and droughts are reminding us of a fundamental reality: climate adaptation is not only about building stronger physical infrastructure, but also strengthening nature's own capacity to protect communities.

CLIMATE RISKS OUR CITIES FACE



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS CAN HELP CITIES TO



Good ideas are not enough. Scaling nature-based solutions requires a clear pathway.

Planning → Project Development → Financing → Implementation

FOR CITIES, KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE



- Green infrastructure



- Rainwater management systems



- Urban ecosystem restoration



- Nature-based adaptation projects

CONNECTING RESILIENCE TO COP31

As COP31 approaches, cities are increasingly asking: How can we become more resilient to growing climate risks?

One of the answers may already exist in nature itself.

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CLIMATE RESILIENCE | DROUGHT & FLOOD RISK

Can Drought Increase Flood Risk?

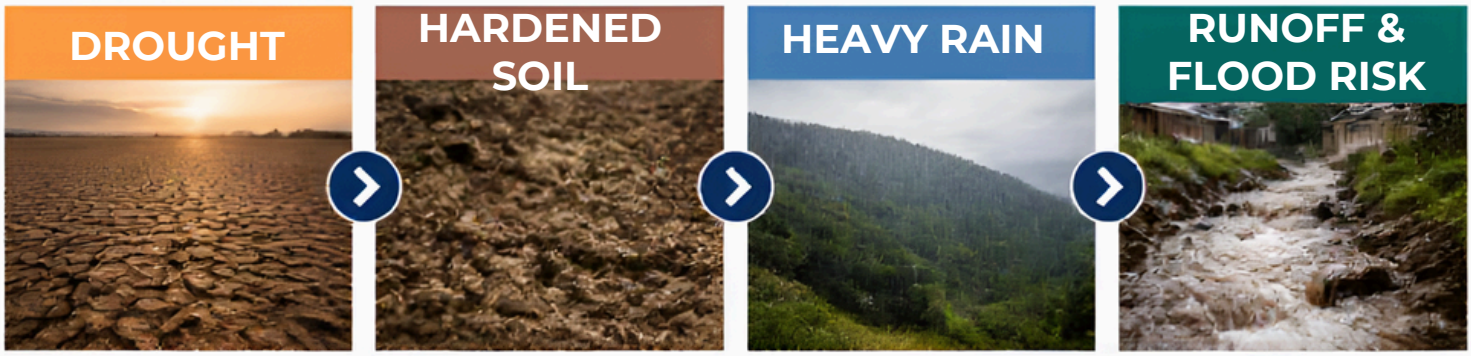
When drought and flooding become part of the same climate-risk chain



We often think of drought and flooding as completely separate hazards. But as the climate changes, these risks are increasingly becoming connected parts of the same chain.

HOW THE CONNECTION WORKS

Long periods of drought can change the structure of soil. When soil becomes dry and hardened, it may absorb less water when intense rainfall arrives.



THE RESULT

- More surface runoff
- Higher risk of rush flooding
- Loss of soil and ecosystems

Climate resilience is strengthened not only through major infrastructure investments, but also through healthy ecosystems.

Protecting soil can also help reduce flood risk.

WHAT CAN HELP

- Prevent overgrazing
- Support healthy soil management
- Protect vegetation cover
- Scale up nature-based solutions

Resilient cities do not only manage water. They also consider how water reaches the soil.

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Beyond 1.5°C: Is a Return Still Possible?

UNEP warns that global warming is likely to exceed 1.5°C in the coming years. Decisions made today will shape the path ahead.



> Every fraction of a degree matters.

Crossing 1.5°C intensifies pressure on people, ecosystems, infrastructure and economies. Each additional fraction of a degree increases climate risk.

WHAT IS AT RISK?

- Extreme heat: threats to health and urban liveability.
- Coastal risk: greater risks for islands and low-lying cities.
- Water and food security: growing stress on supplies.
- Cities and economies: rising disruption and adaptation costs.

OVERSHOOT. PEAK. DECLINE.

The best remaining pathway is to make overshoot as small and short as possible, reach the lowest temperature peak, and create the conditions to return below 1.5°C.



1. Cut emissions now
2. Strengthen resilience
3. Enable a safe return

Deep emissions cuts, strong adaptation and carefully governed carbon removal must advance together.

Exceeding 1.5°C is not a destination. It is a warning to make the peak lower, the overshoot shorter and the transition faster.

FOR CITIES, THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR

Every tenth of a degree changes future costs and risks. Clean energy, resilient infrastructure, nature-based cooling, water security and inclusive adaptation must advance together.



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CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2026
| GLOBAL AGENDA

From Climate Commitments to Real Impact

A Critical Week Begins in New York



New York Climate Week 2026 | SEPTEMBER 20–27, 2026
NEW YORK CITY

New York Climate Week brings leading climate actors together to shape the global climate agenda.

ENERGY.
IMPACT.
ACTION.

This year's focus is built around three connected priorities:
Energy, Impact and Action.

FROM TARGETS TO TRANSFORMATION

- Actionable policies
- Measurable results
- Finance-ready investments
- Stronger collaboration

Climate finance, the energy transition, nature-based solutions, resilient cities and clean technology investment are shaping the next phase of climate action.

Commitments → Policies → Investment → Impact

A clear pathway from global commitments to local impact.

ON THE ROAD TO COP31

How can we turn climate goals into real transformation?

Global ambition creates impact when it becomes local action.

The Carbon Gap Is Not Shared Equally

Per-capita emissions reveal a different global climate picture.

4.7

tonnes of CO_2 per person

WORLD AVERAGE

Total emissions alone do not tell the whole story. Per-capita data shows how differently countries contribute to the global carbon balance.

WHY DO EMISSIONS DIFFER?

- Energy systems
- Industrial structure
- Consumption patterns
- Economic development
- Population dynamics

NET ZERO NEEDS CONTEXT

Net zero means knowing where emissions come from, which sectors must change, and where reductions are possible.

READ THE DATA IN CONTEXT

Climate action becomes more effective when carbon data is read in context.

Emissions → Context → Sector change → Fair transition

How can we read carbon data more accurately for a fairer climate transition?

Better data. Fairer action. Stronger transition.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE | EDUCATION

Climate Risk Does Not Stop at the School Gate



Protecting learning in a changing climate

171+ million students

Students affected by climate-related hazards in 2025

KEY RISKS

- Storms
- Floods
- Extreme heat

WHEN LEARNING IS INTERRUPTED

- Less learning time
- Higher absence
- Risk of not returning

BUILDING RESILIENT SCHOOLS

Strong risk data, early preparation, resilient schools and sustainable finance can protect education.

Climate hazards → Interrupted learning → Resilient schools

Resilient cities protect people's futures.

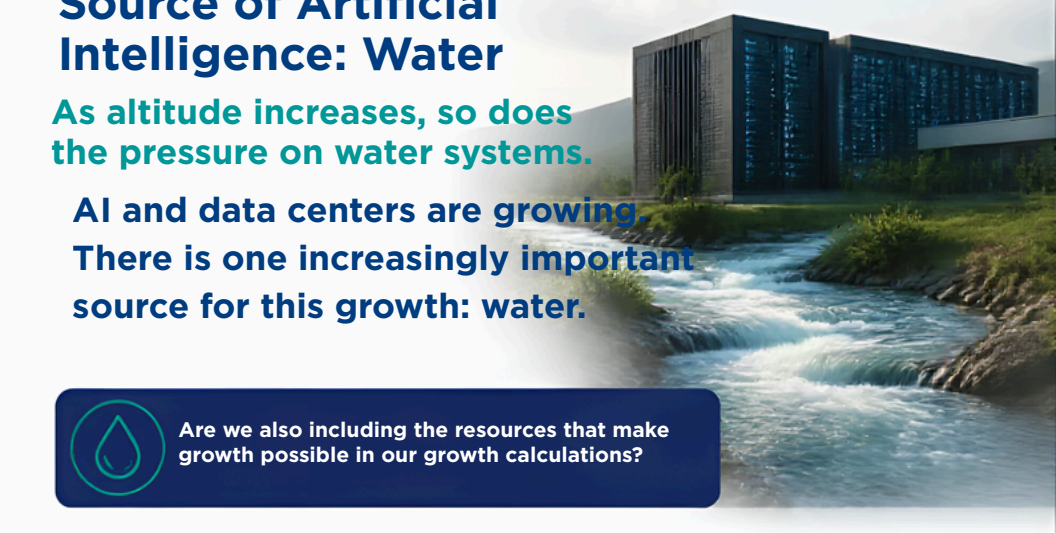
MLGP4Climate | Connecting global climate goals with local action

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The Invisible Source of Artificial Intelligence: Water

As altitude increases, so does the pressure on water systems.

AI and data centers are growing. There is one increasingly important source for this growth: water.



Are we also including the resources that make growth possible in our growth calculations?

WATER SECURITY IS AN INVESTMENT ISSUE.

Water security is no longer just an environmental issue, but also a matter of economic resilience and investment.

INVESTMENT AREAS

- Watershed protection
- Pond rehabilitation
- Groundwater recharge
- Better water management

MEASURABLE | VERIFIABLE | INVESTABLE

THE ROLE OF AI: MEASURING AND VERIFYING

AI INFRASTRUCTURE → ARE BASQUES → MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION → DURABLE INVESTMENT

AI and digital technologies can play a role not only in generating results, but also in measuring and verifying those results.

For sustainable growth, water systems must be resilient, measurable, and accountable.

The intersection of water security and climate finance could be one of the critical investment areas.

Stronger Partnerships for More Resilient Cities



MLGP4Climate and the Environmental Municipalities Union strengthen cooperation on climate action

MLGP4Climate and the Environmental Municipalities Union (GGB) have signed a Commitment of Cooperation to strengthen collaboration on climate action, sustainability and green transformation.

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T.C. ÇEVRECİ BELEDİYELER BİRLİĞİ

THIS COOPERATION WILL SUPPORT MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH

Knowledge and experience sharing

Exchange on climate action and sustainable urban practices.

Joint project development

New cooperation opportunities and climate initiatives.

Climate finance access

Stronger capacity to reach national and international climate finance.

FROM CLIMATE AMBITION TO LOCAL ACTION

Strong networks, peer learning and cooperation help turn climate goals into practical solutions.

MLGP4Climate continues to build partnerships that strengthen municipal climate capacity, support knowledge exchange and improve access to climate finance.

Together, we accelerate climate action for resilient cities.

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Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy EUROPE

EU COVENANT OF MAYORS | CLIMATE RESILIENCE

2026 EU Covenant of Mayors Ceremony

Local Leaders for Affordable Energy and Climate Resilience



On 15 October 2026, local and regional leaders will meet in Brussels to discuss faster climate action and resilient energy systems.



KEY TOPICS

- Affordable and secure energy
- Renewable energy investment
- Local climate resilience
- SECAPs into investment plans
- Climate finance and implementation

FROM CLIMATE TARGETS TO REAL INVESTMENTS

Cities are moving beyond ambition. The next step is transforming SECAP priorities into feasible, financeable projects.



ACTION PLANS → PROJECTS → FINANCING → IMPLEMENTATION

EVENT INFORMATION

- Brussels
- 15 October 2026
- 2026 EU Covenant of Mayors Ceremony

SECAPs define priorities. Capacity turns them into impactful projects.

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ENERGY TRANSITION | CITIES | COP31

Are Cities Ready for the Age of Electrification?

How clean electricity is shaping the future of urban energy systems

Cities are key drivers of the clean-energy transition. Electrification, renewable energy and efficiency are changing how cities move, operate and grow.

ELECTRIFICATION MEANS

- Cleaner energy systems
- Electric and low-carbon mobility
- More efficient buildings
- Greater renewable-energy integration

GCOM FOCUS

GCoM is engaging with the Electrify Now campaign to connect global energy ambition with local innovation and city action.

Electrify Now

35%

of final energy demand from electricity by 2035

GLOBAL AMBITION NEEDS LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

The transition depends on international targets, city leadership, strong partnerships and practical solutions.



Future cities will be shaped by cleaner, smarter and more resilient energy systems.

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NETWORK & PARTNERSHIP

MLGP4Climate Expert Meeting

New Partnerships and Future Perspectives for Local Climate Action





MLGP4Climate brought together climate experts and key stakeholders to strengthen local climate action, improve access to climate finance and shape future priorities.

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

- Turning climate targets into practical action and investment
- Strengthening municipal access to climate finance
- Enhancing the role of local governments towards COP31
- Developing new partnerships and project opportunities

CLIMATE ACTION REQUIRES MORE THAN AMBITION

Implementation depends on strong partnerships, technical capacity, access to finance and investment-ready projects.

MLGP4CLIMATE PRIORITIES

- Strengthen municipal climate-action capacity
- Expand knowledge exchange on climate finance and project development
- Grow the local climate-action ecosystem through new partnerships

OUR JOURNEY: BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM

DIALOGUE → KNOWLEDGE → PARTNERSHIPS → LOCAL ACTION



Climate goals are implemented in cities. Transformation starts locally.

We thank all experts, municipalities and stakeholders who contributed to this exchange.

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FEATURED STORY

CITY-ACCEL:

Turning Climate Plans into Investment-Ready Projects



From SECAP priorities to bankable climate solutions

Cities across Türkiye are developing ambitious climate plans. The next challenge is transforming these plans into concrete projects that can attract investment and move from strategy to implementation.

CITY-ACCEL helps municipalities bridge the gap between climate ambitions and financeable solutions.

FROM CLIMATE GOALS TO REAL INVESTMENTS

SECAPs set priorities. Investment readiness requires clear project concepts, technical preparation, feasibility work, financial models and suitable funding mechanisms.

SECAP ACTIONS → **PROJECT CONCEPTS** → **INVESTMENT READINESS** → **FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES**

CITY-ACCEL LAB: BUILDING CAPACITY TOGETHER

A COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY TOWARDS COP31

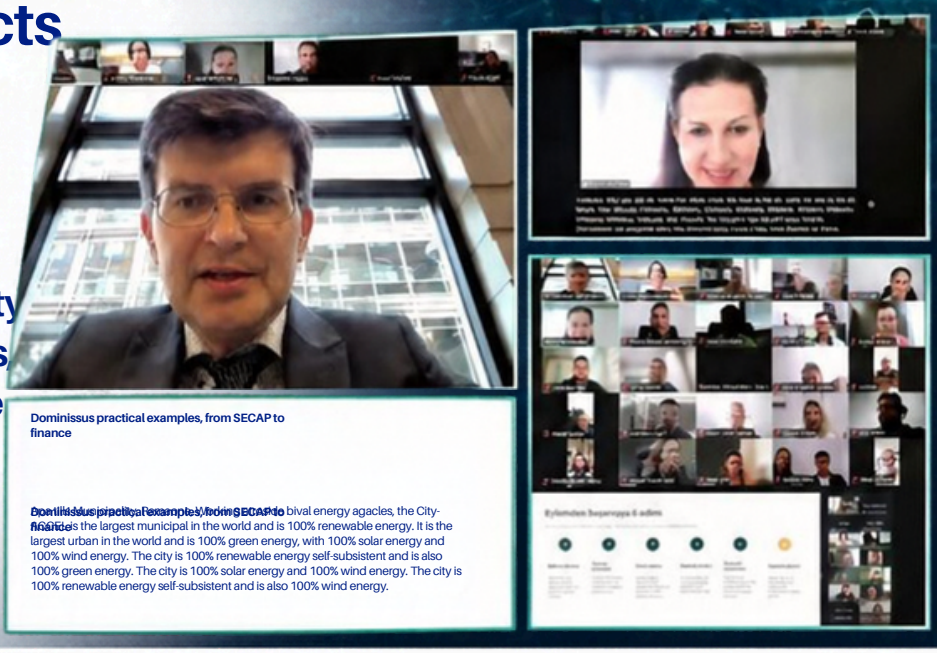
Helping cities turn climate commitments into projects with measurable environmental, social and economic impact.

FEATURED PROGRAMME

CITY-ACCEL LAB 1 | The First Step Towards Investment-Ready Climate Projects

Bringing climate ambitions, project development and finance together

CITY-ACCEL's first LAB brought together municipalities, civil society organisations, financial institutions, international investors and climate stakeholders around a shared ambition: how can SECAP targets become practical, implementable and finance-ready projects?



LAB 1 EXPLORED

- What makes a climate project investment-ready?
- What do financial institutions look for in projects?
- How can SECAP actions become concrete project ideas?
- How can artificial intelligence accelerate project development?

THE CITY-ACCEL APPROACH

- PLANNING
- PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
- FINANCING
- IMPLEMENTATION

Turning climate strategies into real investment opportunities.

BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

CITY-ACCEL creates a platform for stronger municipal capacity, better access to climate finance, multi-stakeholder cooperation and more concrete climate investments.



SECAP → PROJECT CONCEPT → INVESTMENT READINESS → IMPLEMENTATION

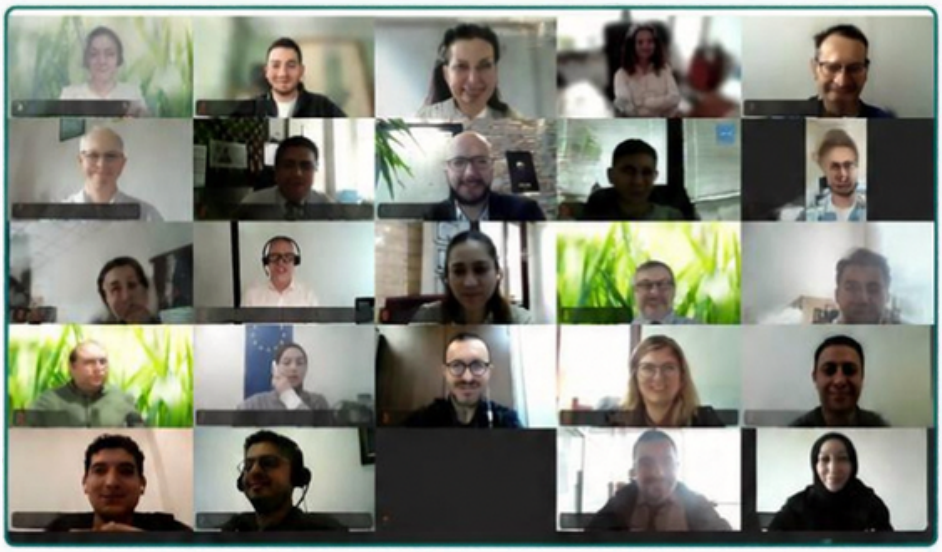
The first step has been taken. The journey continues through collaboration, learning and stronger climate projects.

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FEATURED STORY | CITY-ACCEL

CITY-ACCEL LAB 2:

From Climate Ambition to Investment-Ready Projects



CITY-ACCEL LAB 2 brought municipalities together to explore how SECAP priorities can be developed into stronger project concepts and potential investment opportunities.

Setting climate targets is important. Real transformation begins when those targets become practical projects that are ready to move towards financing.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How can municipalities turn SECAP priorities into stronger project ideas and finance-ready solutions?



LAB 2 EXPLORED

- What makes a city finance-ready?
- What makes a climate project investable?
- How can SECAP actions become structured project concepts?
- How can project concepts be adapted to different funding and financing opportunities?
- How can AI-supported tools contribute to project development?

THE CITY-ACCEL PATHWAY

SECAP PRIORITY → **PROJECT CONCEPT** → **FINANCING PREPARATION** → **IMPLEMENTATION**

Reaching climate targets requires more than ambition. Cities need well-developed projects, technical capacity and financing approaches that match their needs.

LAB 2 gave municipalities an opportunity to examine priority projects in greater detail, identify areas for further development and prepare for time next steps towards financing.

We thank all participating municipalities, speakers and partners for contributing to the session.

The journey from climate ambition to investment continues.

Climate Risks and Disaster Risks Must Be Addressed Together



Building stronger resilience through integrated risk management

Climate change and disaster risks are deeply interconnected. Effective risk management brings together climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

UNDRR & REAP GLOBAL SYNTHESIS REPORT

The report explores how countries, regions and institutions are advancing integrated approaches to connect disaster risk reduction and climate action.

BUILDING RESILIENCE REQUIRES

- Strong governance
- Better collaboration
- Shared risk understanding
- Aligned financing
- Effective monitoring

FROM RISK KNOWLEDGE TO LOCAL ACTION

For cities, resilience starts with understanding risks and turning knowledge into action.



SECAPS AS A TOOL FOR LOCAL RESILIENCE

Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans help cities understand climate risks, define priorities and develop concrete actions for a more resilient future.



Resilient cities are built through integrated planning, strong partnerships and effective implementation.

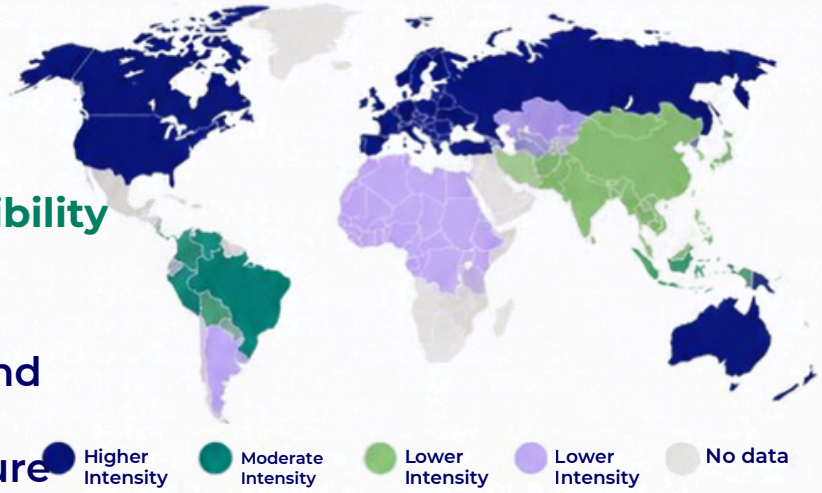
CLIMATE DATA INSIGHT

The Carbon Gap Is Uneven

Understanding climate responsibility through per-capita emissions

Understanding the climate challenge requires looking beyond total emissions. Per-capita emissions reveal a different picture of global carbon responsibility.

EMISSION INTENSITY (PER CAPITA) A CONCEPTUAL COMPARISON



Note: This map shows qualitative differences in emission intensity per person, not country rankings.

GLOBAL AVERAGE

≈ 4.7 tonnes CO_2 per person

CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY LOOKS DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON HOW EMISSIONS ARE MEASURED

Global average

Shows the overall level of emissions worldwide.

VS

Per-capita perspective

Reveals how emissions differ between people and places.

EMISSION LEVELS VARY WITH

- Energy systems
- Industrial structures
- Consumption patterns
- Economic development
- Population dynamics

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

The path to net zero is not only about reducing emissions. It requires understanding where emissions come from, which sectors need transformation and where the greatest reduction opportunities exist.

BETTER CLIMATE ACTION STARTS WITH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DATA

TOWARDS COP31

How can we read carbon data more accurately to support a fairer and more effective climate transition?

POLICY FEATURE | CITY-ACCEL

From Climate Targets to Investment: A New Project Development Approach for Cities

The journey from SECAPs to bankable projects



Abdulvahap Sevim

International Local Government Strategist | Climate Finance Advisor

From Climate Plans to an Implementation Economy

Cities around the world are no longer treating climate change only as an environmental challenge. They are addressing it as an economic, social and infrastructure transformation. Cities are developing strategies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions while strengthening resilience to climate risks. In this process, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, or SECAPs, have become important roadmaps for defining urban climate priorities.

Yet a critical question remains: how will climate targets become real investments? Preparing a climate plan is only the first step. The greater challenge is to turn its priorities into projects that are technically prepared, economically viable and ready for assessment by finance institutions.

1 | The New Challenge: Finance or Project Preparation?

Climate-finance discussions often begin with a familiar question: Is enough finance available? For cities, a more practical question is emerging: How many projects are ready to receive it?

Public funds, development banks, investors and private capital are increasingly looking for climate opportunities. But an idea rarely becomes an investment without technical feasibility, cost analysis, a revenue model, risk sharing, an implementation plan and sufficient institutional capacity.

> **“The critical capacity of the next decade will be project development.”**

Climate Action • Sustainable Cities • Climate Finance • Local Governments

2 | SECAPs Must Become Investment Portfolios

SECAPs define priorities for energy, emissions reduction and climate adaptation. But a SECAP document is not, by itself, an investment file. Strategic goals must be developed through a clear chain that connects policy priorities with implementation.

THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CHAIN

SECAP PRIORITY → PROJECT CONCEPT → TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PREPARATION → FINANCING MODEL → IMPLEMENTATION

This transformation enables cities to turn climate goals into investments that create environmental, social and economic value.

3 | A New Municipal Capability: Investment Readiness

Traditionally, municipal climate work has focused on planning and target-setting. The next phase requires municipalities to answer more operational questions: What is our priority climate project? What is its investment size? Which financing model is appropriate? Is the technical preparation sufficient? Which international financial institutions could be relevant partners?

The task is no longer only to produce projects. It is to produce projects that are investable.

INVESTMENT READINESS MEANS

- A clear project concept
- Technical and financial preparation
- A credible financing pathway
- Institutional capacity for implementation

4 | CITY-ACCEL: Building a Bridge Between Plans and Finance

CITY-ACCEL is designed to address this gap. Its approach supports municipalities in analysing SECAP priorities, developing project concepts with investment potential and strengthening their readiness for financing.

THE CITY-ACCEL APPROACH

PLAN

Assess SECAP targets and climate priorities.

DEVELOP

Shape concrete project concepts.

PREPARE

Build technical, economic and financial analysis.

IMPLEMENT

Support the path from investment decision to delivery.

New technologies, including artificial intelligence, can also help accelerate project development, data analysis and the matching of projects with suitable financing opportunities.

5 | COP31 and the Age of Implementation

The next phase of climate diplomacy will focus not only on announcing targets, but on showing how those targets can be implemented. Cities are at the centre of this shift: energy transformation takes place in cities, transport solutions are delivered in cities, buildings are upgraded in cities and resilience is built locally.

> **“The future climate agenda will require not only more ambition, but more capacity to develop implementable projects.”**

Conclusion | The Cities That Can Deliver

Climate action will not be unlocked by increasing the volume of finance alone. The deeper need is for cities that can develop well-planned, technically prepared and finance-ready projects. SECAPs express a city’s vision. Real transformation begins when that vision becomes an investment project, and when investment becomes implementation on the ground.

The competitive, resilient and sustainable cities of the future will be the cities that can turn climate targets into investment-ready projects.

Climate Action • Sustainable Cities • Climate Finance • Local Governments

Entering the New Era in the EU Budget

Dr. Arda Deniz Aksular, PMP



A new seven-year period covering 2028–2034 is approaching for the EU Budget. Why does this matter? Because every cent of EU funding we receive will ultimately come from this budget. So, it is important to have at least a basic understanding of how this system works.

In the corridors of Brussels, tough interinstitutional negotiations have already begun over this enormous budget, which is set to reach €2 trillion. Although the new framework has not yet been fully finalised, we can say that it has largely taken shape.

The budget is emerging as a product of Europe's effort to become a global actor while, at the same time, remaining committed to its principles. Although we tend to see Europe from the outside as "a bloc", it is in fact a complex structure made up of 27 Member States, candidate countries, institutions and actors with different priorities a structure characterised by plenty of debate and, inevitably, plenty of struggle. The impact of this fragmented structure can also be clearly seen in the budget.



As in every budgetary period, major changes are once again on the horizon. The key concept defining the new period is “performance.”

A stronger focus on performance will apply to Member States, candidate countries and all countries seeking to benefit from EU funds. In short, the EU is increasingly shifting its focus from what you do to what impact you actually create when allocating funding. We heard the footsteps of this approach in the previous period; now it has burst through the door with considerable force.



There is also a visible effort to simplify the fragmented funding structure. Whether this will actually result in simplification, however, is something only time will tell. Around 20 different funds are expected to be brought together under roughly 10 headings.

Some funds, meanwhile, are set to undergo quite a transformation. So, what will happen to the major programmes that matter for Türkiye?

First, although there will no longer be a heading called “EU Programmes”, we can say that Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ will largely remain independent. In fact, these programmes, which are already complex enough, look set to become even more robust. For instance, European Solidarity Corps (ESC) will be integrated into Erasmus+.

Interreg, or the Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, in which Türkiye currently participates through three programmes, will also largely continue.



As for Digital Europe, we will now see it under the European Competitiveness Fund. The emphasis here appears to be shifting towards the expectation that digital technologies should be deployed in ways that enhance competitiveness. The influence of competition with China and the United States, perhaps?

For Türkiye, the biggest change concerns the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance IPA, the cornerstone of EU support for candidate countries.

The IPA structure is evolving into a more integrated model under Global Europe, covering both Member States and candidate countries. In fact, it is quite possible that — hard as it may be to believe — the acronym “IPA” will eventually disappear from our dictionaries altogether and survive only as a piece of nostalgia. For those who have grown attached to IPA, 20 years is no small thing.

The Commission is designing the new Global Europe as a single, more integrated external action instrument worth €200 billion. EFSD+ could become investment guarantee mechanisms under Global Europe, perhaps even taking on something of a “no-name” identity.



Climate and the environment remain a major horizontal priority. As in the previous period, the Commission is proposing that approximately 35% of the EU budget for 2028–2034 contribute to climate and environmental objectives. We will continue to feel the strong influence of the Green Deal across many different funding areas.

In fact, in the new period, the question will increasingly shift from “Which fund can I use to finance the Green Deal?” to “How will this investment’s contribution to the green transition be measured?” In other words, greenwashing is about to get harder!

Another major dynamic in the budget and therefore in EU funding is the increasingly central role of defence, naturally driven by the Russia–Ukraine war.

Green and digital priorities do not disappear in the new period. But whereas they were the defining priorities of the previous period, Green and Digital are now joined by Competitiveness + Defence + Security. It is therefore much more realistic to say that these four dimensions will shape the expectations of the new period. A stronger defence perspective is naturally making the EU a more security-oriented global actor, and this is clearly reflected in its budgetary priorities.

So, this is the emerging picture of the new period. Perhaps “the summary of the summary” would be more accurate.

It is worth keeping all of this in mind as we plan our steps, search for funding opportunities, developing our projects and looking for partners. Let’s see, as with every budgetary period, just how much the terminology will change. And will we manage to learn and get used to all this terminology before the seven-year period is over?

We will see together!



FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

New Project Opportunity for EU-Türkiye Cultural Cooperation



A new call for project proposals has been launched under Ortaklaş: Culture, Dialogue and Support Programme, implemented by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) with the support of the European Union.
The call aims to strengthen cultural and artistic cooperation between cities in Türkiye, the European Union and EU Candidate Countries, while supporting sustainable networks and dialogue among local actors.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Municipalities
- Cultural and artistic organisations
- Institutions and relevant stakeholders working in the cultural sector

KEY DATES

Application deadline:
18 December 2026

Online information session:
28 September 2026 | 14:00

Join the online briefing session
https://lnkd.in(dXa7bd5V?utm_source=chatgpt.com

WHY IT MATTERS FOR CITIES

For local governments, culture is an important part of sustainable urban development and cooperation between cities.

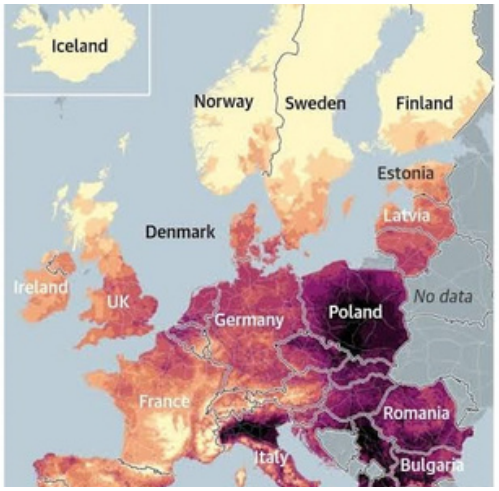
This call offers an opportunity to develop new partnerships, strengthen cultural exchange and build lasting connections between cities across Türkiye and Europe.
For municipalities, cultural cooperation can be more than an exchange of experiences. It can become a platform for new partnerships, networks and locally rooted projects.

AIR QUALITY | PUBLIC HEALTH

Air Pollution in Europe: Progress, But Is It Enough?

43,083 deaths. One year. One country.

A public-health perspective on measurement, evidence and better urban decisions.



In 2023, an estimated 43,083 premature deaths in Italy were attributed to exposure to PM2.5 concentrations above the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline levels.

THE FIGURES ALSO MATTER ACROSS EUROPE

Poland: 25,268

Germany: 21,640

European Union: approximately 182,000 premature deaths

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS

The figure is 57% lower than in 2005.

But looking only at the European average can hide significant differences between countries, regions and cities.

MAKE THE PROBLEM VISIBLE

Where are pollutants concentrated?

Which communities are most exposed?

Which measures are actually delivering results?

Clean air should not depend on where you live.

MEASUREMENT IS THE FIRST STEP

Measurement is not the goal. It is the first step towards improving air quality, reducing health risks and making better decisions in our cities.

Air quality is therefore not only an environmental policy issue. It is also closely connected to public health, transport, energy, spatial planning and climate action.

Better data can lead to better decisions — and ultimately, healthier cities.

Source: European Environment Agency (EEA), Harm to human health from air pollution in Europe: burden of disease status, 2025.

MLGP4 CLIMATE

Resilient Cities Start by Preparing Today

Research and innovation help cities prepare before risks become crises.

From Climate Risks to Urban Resilience



As climate change intensifies, the resilience of cities is becoming more critical than ever. Across Europe, heatwaves and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, longer, and more severe.

These impacts are not only increasing temperatures.
They are also putting pressure on:

- **Urban infrastructure**
- **Ecosystems**
- **Public health and quality of life**

So how can cities prepare for a changing climate?

Research and innovation are key drivers of climate adaptation.

Through Horizon Europe, projects are developing solutions that:

- **Strengthen urban resilience**
- **Advance nature-based solutions**
- **Protect critical infrastructure**
- **Improve early warning systems**

Climate adaptation is not only about preparing for the future.
It is about managing today's risks more effectively.

For local governments, the key questions are:

- **Are our cities ready for extreme heat?**
- **How can we integrate nature into urban solutions?**
- **Are our investments reducing climate risks?**
- **Are decisions supported by data and scientific knowledge?**

The resilient cities of tomorrow will not simply respond to risks.

They will anticipate, prepare, and act.

What Is Climate Finance?



Turning climate ambition into investment-ready solutions

Climate finance refers to financial resources directed towards the transformation needed to achieve climate targets, including greenhouse-gas reduction, climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure investments.

ACCESSING FINANCE IS ONLY PART OF THE CHALLENGE

How can we turn good ideas into finance-ready projects?

A CLIMATE INVESTMENT NEEDS

- A clear project definition
- Technical preparation
- Feasibility studies
- A financial model
- An appropriate financing source

FROM CLIMATE TARGETS TO INVESTMENT



As COP31 approaches, one of the most important priorities for cities will be turning climate targets into concrete, feasible and implementable investments.

Climate finance becomes meaningful when ambition is translated into projects that can be prepared, financed and delivered.

MLGP4Climate September Bulletin

Are our buildings ready for the climate of the future?

READY?

A new global analysis combines building age, architectural structure, and local climate data to reveal which regions face higher thermal vulnerability risk.

48 MILLION PEOPLE

Around 48 million people worldwide live in buildings not designed for today's climate conditions.

BY 2100 COULD TRIPLE

Research shows this number could triple by 2100 due to the impacts of climate change.



VULNERABLE BUILDING STOCK

HIGH ENERGY USE • LOW COMFORT • HIGH RISK

CLIMATE-READY BUILDINGS

ENERGY-EFFICIENT • COMFORTABLE • RESILIENT

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE FINDINGS

The findings point to important priorities in p

- Improve the energy efficiency of existing older building stock
- Promote climate-responsive design that can withstand extreme heat and cold
- Develop climate-sensitive zoning and building standards
- Reduce energy consumption from heating and cooling

For local governments, this study is a reminder that building climate-resilient cities starts at the building scale—not only with energy efficiency.

Planning and construction decisions made today will determine how resilient cities are to climate change in the future.

Read the study:
https://lnkd.in/d3SMeKTY

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

MLGP4 CLIMATE

Australian Embassy Grants for Climate Resilience and Community Development



The Australian Embassy has opened applications under the Direct Aid Program (DAP) 2026–2027 for small-scale development and humanitarian projects to be implemented in Türkiye.

Up to US$25,000 in grant funding

PRIORITY AREAS

- Climate change resilience and adaptation
- Community resilience to disasters
- Sustainable development
- Social and economic empowerment
- Youth education and empowerment

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Local governments
- Civil-society organisations
- Universities and research institutions
- Non-profit community groups

KEY DETAILS

Application deadline:
12 October 2026

Maximum grant:
US$25,000

WHY IT MATTERS

This is a relevant opportunity for organisations developing projects focused on climate resilience, local capacity-building and community impact.

What Is the Enhanced Transparency Framework?

From climate targets to measurable progress and trust

Announcing climate targets is important. But how do we know whether those targets are being achieved?



THE ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK

The Enhanced Transparency Framework, or ETF, is the common framework established under the Paris Agreement for countries to regularly measure and report their emissions, progress towards climate targets and climate policies.

THE LOGIC IS SIMPLE

TARGETS → MEASUREMENT → REPORTING → TRUST → FINANCE

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR CITIES

The same approach matters for municipalities. To make a SECAP action finance-ready, it is not enough to answer: What do we want to do?



A STRONG PROJECT ALSO ASKS

- **What is the current situation?**
- **What is the target?**
- **How will impact be measured?**
- **How will results be verified?**

FROM DATA TO FINANCE

The SECAP → Project → Bankable → Financing chain explored through CITY-ACCEL is built on this foundation of data, measurement and transparency.

A KEY CONCEPT ON THE ROAD TO COP31

ETF — the Enhanced Transparency Framework. In climate finance, trust begins with information that can be measured and verified.



MLGP4 CLIMATE

Accelerating climate action through local leadership

MLGP4Climate supports cities and regions to deliver ambitious, integrated and inclusive climate solutions.



Climate change is a defining challenge of our time. Cities and regions are on the front line — facing growing risks, but also uniquely positioned to drive transformative solutions.

MLGP4Climate is a global partnership that mobilises local and regional governments to accelerate climate action aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We connect local leadership with finance, knowledge and networks to turn ambition into impact.

> Local action, global impact.

OUR APPROACH

Empower local leaders
We support cities and regions to set ambitious goals and deliver results that matter.

Mobilise climate finance
We help unlock and direct finance towards high-impact, locally led projects.

Build knowledge and partnerships
We share expertise and foster collaboration across governments, sectors and communities.

FROM CLIMATE PLANS TO CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

Turning local climate ambition into finance-ready projects.



1. Climate Plan

Set a clear vision and priorities for a low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive future.

2. Project Development

Design and prepare bankable projects that meet local needs and investor expectations.

3. Climate Finance

Access funding and partnerships to turn projects into reality at scale.

4. Local Impact

Deliver measurable results for people, planet, and prosperity.



Climate plans create direction.
Finance-ready projects create real impact.

MLGP4 CLIMATE

TOWARDS COP31 | MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Can the Mediterranean's Clean Energy Potential Become Investment?



The Mediterranean is moving towards becoming one of the new centres of the global energy transition. According to new analyses, the region has a total of 552 GW of solar and wind capacity under development or announced.

Realising this potential is expected to require approximately US$792 billion in investment.

THE KEY SIGNALS

- 361.3 GW of capacity is targeted to come online by 2030.
- Renewable-energy investment is critical for energy security and the decarbonisation of industry.
- Spain and Egypt are among the leading actors in the region's transformation.

552 GW
total solar and wind capacity under development or announced.

US$792 billion
investment required.

361.3 GW
of capacity is targeted to come online by 2030.

But project announcements alone are not enough to turn major potential into real transformation.

WHAT SUCCESS REQUIRES

- Stronger electricity grids
- Appropriate financing mechanisms
- Accelerated permitting processes
- Regional energy cooperation

COP31 in Antalya could become an important turning point for the Mediterranean's clean-energy future and for financing the region's climate transition.

The energy transition is no longer only a technology issue. It is also a question of investment, cooperation and climate diplomacy.

MLGP4 CLIMATE

Türkiye's Electricity Map Is Changing

From Energy Generation to Intelligent Energy Systems



126,476 MW
Total Installed Electricity Capacity

62.8%
Renewable Energy Share

Hydropower	Solar	Wind	Natural Gas
25.6%	21.7%	12.1%	19.9%

The Next Priorities

- Energy Storage
- Energy-Efficient Buildings
- Smart & Flexible Grids
- Local Clean Energy Solutions

Future cities will not only consume energy — they will manage it intelligently.

Source: Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES | HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe DUT 2026 Call Opens: New Opportunities for Sustainable Urban Transitions



The Horizon Europe – Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) 2026 Call is now open, supporting cities in their transition towards a climate-neutral, resilient, circular and sustainable future.

The call will support international, multi-partner research and innovation projects addressing the urban challenges faced by cities.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Sustainable urban transformation
- Energy transitions and Positive Energy Districts
- Sustainable mobility
- Circular-economy approaches
- Climate-neutral and resilient urban solutions

KEY DATES

Stage 1 deadline:
17 November 2026

Stage 2 deadline:
15 April 2027

WHY IT MATTERS FOR CITIES

For MLGP4Climate, this call represents an important opportunity for municipalities to develop international partnerships, turn climate targets into innovative projects and strengthen their capacity to access European funding opportunities.

DUT 2026 connects urban ambition with collaborative research, innovation and practical pathways towards sustainable transitions.

MLGP4 CLIMATE

Kunming Biodiversity Fund 2026: Call for Project Proposals



Biodiversity conservation is no longer only a nature-protection priority.
It is also an important part of city policy, local governance and development investment.

The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) 2026 Call supports projects aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration
- Aligning policies with biodiversity targets
- Mobilising resources
- Fair and equitable benefit-sharing

AVAILABLE SUPPORT

Single-country projects:
up to **US$500,000**

Multi-country projects:
up to **US$800,000**

KEY DEADLINE

Phase 1 application deadline:
15 September 2026

WHY IT MATTERS

The call connects biodiversity goals with practical action across cities, local governments and development investment.

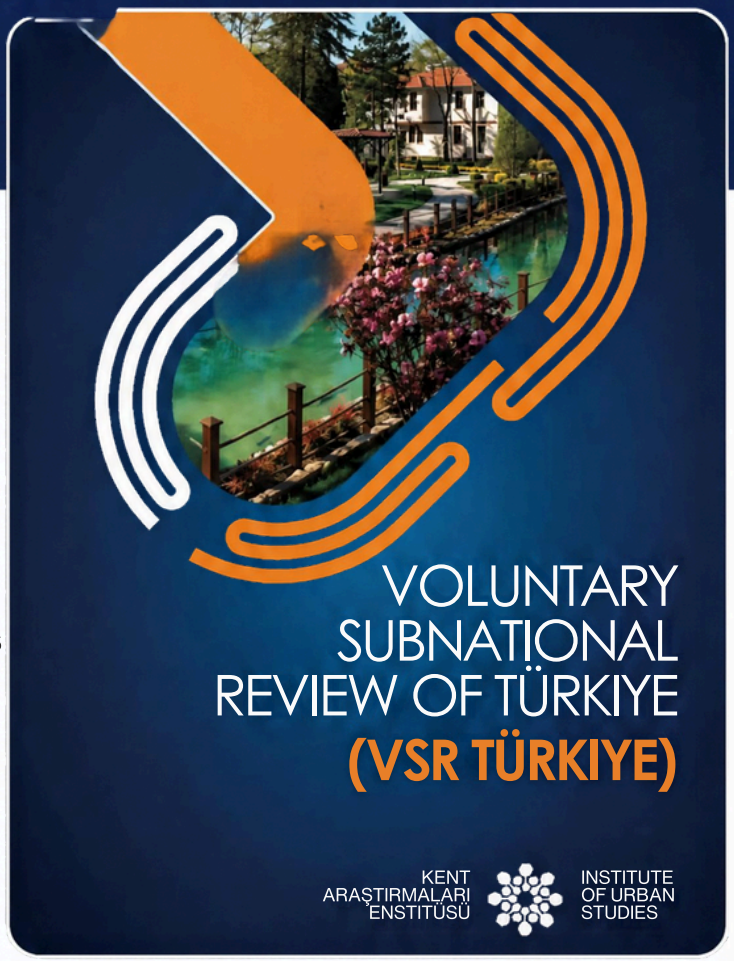
CALL DETAILS AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

https://lnkd.in/gUFMsbPY?utm_source=chatgpt.com

NEW PUBLICATION | BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Local Face of Sustainable Development in Türkiye: VSR Türkiye

A new resource has been added to the MLGP4Climate Library.



Prepared by Dr Cemal Baş, the Voluntary Subnational1 Review of Türkiye (VSR Türkiye) examines how the Sustainable Development Goals were implemented at the local level in Türkiye between 2015 and 2025.

The report looks beyond good practice to examine:

- **Municipal implementation capacity**
- **Governance and coordination challenges**
- **Institutional barriers**
- **Financing needs**

The study draws on fieldwork and stakeholder contributions covering Türkiye's 12 NUTS-1 regions, different types of municipalities and professional levels.

VSR Türkiye also seeks to connect local-government experience with the national and international sustainable-development agenda.

It is also the first VSR study from the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) region.

For anyone seeking to understand the role of local governments in sustainable development, this report is vn important reference.

VSR Türkiye is now available in the MLGP4Climate Library.

EXPLORE THE REPORT IN THE MLGP4CLIMATE LIBRARY

PUBLICATION AT A GLANCE

TITLE	Voluntary Subnational Review of Türkiye (VSR Türkiye)
AUTHOR	Dr Cemal Baş
PERIOD	2015–2025
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Türkiye's 12 NUTS-1 regions
KEY THEMES	Local implementation, Governance, Institutional barriers, Financing

MLGP4Climate Bulletin | September 2026

Online Resource Library

Where local knowledge drives climate action.

1,650+
Publications & Resources



POLICY

SECAP Strategies

Turning Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans into structured climate pathways for local governments.

INVESTMENT

Climate Finance Insights

Knowledge resources supporting bankable projects, funding access and investment readiness.

IMPLEMENTATION

Local Action Tools

Practical guidance, examples and shared solutions helping municipalities deliver climate action.

Knowledge connects cities.
Action transforms the future.

Explore the complete MLGP4Climate Resource Library
mlgp4climate.com/mlgp library

MLGP4 CLIMATE



COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

Growing a Global Climate Community

A stronger network creates stronger climate action.

Communication connects people, strengthens partnerships and turns local climate action into shared global impact.

Nearly 4,600	1,275+
LinkedIn Followers	Instagram Followers

We share climate knowledge, sustainable city solutions and inspiring stories to expand climate awareness and engagement.

Join our digital ecosystem and stay connected with knowledge, partnerships and local climate solutions.

linkedin.com/company/mlgp4climate

Community Growth • Strategic Visibility • Climate Action Network

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS | MLGP4CLIMATE

From Urban Ambition to Practical Climate Action

A monthly editorial briefing on city transformation, climate finance and cross-border cooperation.



Each month, we bring together the initiatives, knowledge and opportunities helping cities move from climate ambition to implementation.

CITY-ACCEL LABS

Turning SECAP Priorities into Investment-Ready Climate Projects

City-ACCEL supports municipalities in translating Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan priorities into structured, financeable climate projects.



CLIMATE & ENERGY TRANSITION

Editorial coverage of climate change, energy transition and sustainable urban development.

FUNDING & GRANTS

New European funding opportunities and grant calls for municipalities and their partners.

EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

Expert meetings, city exchanges, learning sessions and partnerships that move local action forward.

Connecting municipalities, institutions and communities across Türkiye, the Western Balkans, the Baltic countries, Ukraine and EU cities.

EXPLORE THE LATEST UPDATES

Discover new resources, funding opportunities, project developments and events from the MLGP4Climate network.

mlgp4climate@mlgp4climate.com

MLGP4 CLIMATE

Every City We Connect, Every Story We Share...

brings us closer to a climate-resilient world.



LET'S BUILD RESILIENT CITIES TOGETHER

MLGP4Climate is a joint initiative designed to empower local municipalities, support transboundary climate adaptation plans, and secure investments from international financial institutions.

Join the movement: mlgp4climate.com

MUNICIPALITIES

200+ Active Partners

KNOWLEDGE

1,600+ Resources

COMMUNITY

4600+ Followers

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CLIMATE



MLGP4CLIMATE | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Cities Change When Cooperation Becomes Capacity.

A monthly editorial briefing on sustainable cities, climate action and cross-border cooperation.

Turning shared knowledge into practical urban transformation.