

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

JUNE 2026

European Urban Initiative - Innovative Actions Call 4

Opening date: 25 February 2026

Closing date: 15 June 2026

Through dedicated funding and tailored support, the European Urban Initiative (EUI) invites cities to implement, test, and refine locally driven innovative solutions in real urban settings.

Call 4 focuses on projects that are ready to implement, build on existing strategies and deliver measurable results within the project timeframe.

To support applicants, the European Urban Initiative and national contact points organise national information days and guidance sessions. These sessions are highly recommended, as they provide practical advice, clarification on eligibility and evaluation criteria, and space to ask questions directly to programme representatives.

Open to cities above 25 000 inhabitants.

Why it matters: Last opportunity in the current MFF for direct urban piloting projects with relatively high co-financing and strong visibility across urban policy topics

[Find out more](#)

City-to-City Exchanges

Continuous open for applications

This EUI service proposes funds to connect cities facing urban development challenges with cities that have expertise in these areas. The exchange is bilateral and aims to provide quick solutions.

Applicants outline their specific needs and propose a potential partner city. It is required to focus on a specific policy challenge related to the design and implementation of Sustainable Urban Development within Cohesion Policy.

Relevant stakeholders may also participate in the exchange alongside the urban authority if justified in the application.

[Find out more](#)



SEPTEMBER 2026

LIFE PROGRAMME

Opening date: 21 April 2026

Closing date: September 2026 (day not yet disclosed)

The LIFE Programme remains the European Union's flagship funding instrument for environment, climate action and the clean energy transition.

LIFE supports projects under four main strands:

- Nature and Biodiversity – protection, restoration and implementation of EU environmental legislation
- Circular Economy and Quality of Life – waste reduction, air, water, and environmental governance
- Climate Mitigation and Adaptation – climate neutrality, resilience strategies, local adaptation planning
- Clean Energy Transition (CET) – capacity building, governance innovation, citizen engagement, energy communities, financing schemes and market uptake measures

Why it matters: Core EU programme for climate/environment projects; many Energy Cities members have been successful in past LIFE sub-calls (esp. Clean Energy Transition)

[Find out more](#)

Horizon Europe

Cluster 5 - Climate, Energy and Mobility

Opening date: 11 December 2025

Closing date: different ones (check the work programme)

Missions - namely, Adaptation to Climate Change and 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

Opening date: 4 February 2026

Closing date: 23 September (Adaptation to Climate Change) and 8 October (100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission)

Horizon Europe's 2026-2027 Work Programmes are now published and constitute a major EU research and innovation funding opportunity for local authorities and city-led consortia. The programme funds innovation across societal challenges, with Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility and the EU Missions being especially relevant for urban transitions, including renewable and local energy systems, building and mobility decarbonisation, and governance models for climate resilience.

Typical action types include RIA (100% co-funding), IA (up to 100% for public bodies) and CSA (up to 100%).

On the Missions side, both the 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change ("Mission Clima") Mission feature in the work programme with urban energy, mobility, climate adaptation and resilience calls.

Why it matters: Horizon Europe is the EU's main programme for innovation and climate action. It enables cities to test and scale ambitious solutions, de-risk innovation and build strong partnerships — helping turn EU policy goals into concrete local impact.

[Find out more](#)



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

EPAH 2026 technical assistance 3rd Call for applications

Opening date: 16 February 2026

Closing date: 31 March 2026

The European Commission's Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) Programme provides tailored technical assistance to local governments and organisations working closely with them to tackle the root causes of energy poverty, based on a structured and comprehensive approach.

Why it matters: Whether launching or improving an energy poverty initiative, EPAH technical assistance helps turn ambition into practical action — from identifying vulnerable households and improving access to renovation support, to addressing financing challenges and strengthening local strategies or one-stop-shops.

Selected applicants receive tailored support to design, refine or scale up concrete measures, from initial assessment through to implementation.

[Find out more](#)

EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028

Opening and closing dates: no single EU-wide calendar (check programme page)

**Countries with open calls for the moment:
Hungary and Slovakia**

The EEA and Norway Grants finance national programmes (managed country-by-country) that support Europe's green transition, democracy and social resilience, often through pilots/demonstrations, capacity-building, governance and policy implementation, stakeholder engagement, and partnerships between beneficiary and donor countries.

Eligible countries (beneficiaries). The Grants support 15 EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Co-funding varies by programme/call, but the Grants' contribution is commonly up to 85% of eligible costs (i.e., 15% co-financing), with some schemes allowing higher rates and some calls requiring no co-financing (100%).

Why it matters: For Energy Cities members in eligible beneficiary countries, the EEA and Norway Grants can be a practical complement to Horizon Europe: they often fund implementation-oriented work (capacity-building, local pilots, multi-level governance, community engagement).

[Find out more](#)



European Energy Communities Facility

For cities supporting energy communities, this is a practical way to strengthen local citizen-led projects, reduce investment risk and prepare initiatives for larger programmes such as LIFE or Horizon Europe.

A new call is expected in May 2026. The Facility also offers national information sessions and country-level guidance to support applicants.

Why it matters: For cities supporting energy communities, this is a practical way to strengthen local citizen-led projects, reduce investment risk and prepare initiatives for larger programmes such as LIFE or Horizon Europe.

Stay up to date by signing-up to the mailing list to receive call alerts and important updates about the project

[Find out more](#)

European City Facility

The European City Facility (EUCF) is an EU support mechanism co-funded under the LIFE Programme (Clean Energy Transition) and led by Energy Cities that helps municipalities and local authorities turn energy and climate plans into bankable investment concepts for sustainable energy actions.

A new call is expected in Fall 2026. The Facility also offers national information sessions and country-level guidance to support applicants.

Stay up to date by signing up to call alert below and receive important updates about the project

Why it matters: The EUCF is a strategic instrument for Energy Cities members, helping municipalities in transforming climate ambition into tangible investments. With a €60 000 lump-sum grant, cities can develop solid Investment Concepts that transform SECAPs and local energy plans into bankable projects. This strengthens their ability to attract EU funds and private finance. EUCF also builds internal capacity, improves financial structuring skills, and enhances credibility with investors. For cities with limited resources, it provides low-risk, high-impact support to accelerate local energy transition and scale implementation-ready sustainable energy projects.

[Find out more](#)



PROJECT MATCHMAKING SESSION

In-person matchmaking exclusive for Energy Cities Members

**30 April 2026
Guimarães, Portugal**

If you are developing a project idea, looking for partners, or hoping to join a strong consortium for upcoming EU calls, this session is for you.

During the Energy Cities Annual Forum in Guimarães, we will host a dedicated Project Matchmaking Session on Thursday, 30 April 2026, from 11:00 to 12:30. The session is designed to transform early ideas into concrete collaborations. Participants will have the opportunity to briefly present project concepts, explore shared interests, and connect with potential partners around objectives, roles and relevant funding programmes such as LIFE, Horizon Europe and the European Urban Initiative.

Whether you come with a well-developed proposal or just the spark of an idea, the session offers a practical and supportive space to test concepts, build partnerships and identify clear next steps towards future project development.

If you are considering applying for EU funding in 2026, this is the ideal moment to start building your consortium.

During this session, you will be able to meet in-person representatives of the European Commission Agencies and the European Urban Initiative.

[Register here](#)

Energy Cities members can obtain a maximum of 3 free tickets. If more people from your organisation would like to attend, you will have to purchase a ticket with a discount code. [Check the terms and conditions for the registration.](#)