

# 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

Philanthropy's Role in Ensuring a
Just and Fair Transition Through
the EU Cities Mission



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Introduction
- 8 PART 1

# HOW PHILANTHROPY ENGAGES IN THE CLIMATE CITY CONTRACTS

14 PART 2

PHILANTHROPY'S
PLACE-BASED CONTRIBUTION
TO CLIMATE-NEUTRALITY

**20** PART 3

# THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF EUROPEAN PHILANTHROPY

- **26** Recommendations
- 29 Conclusion
- **30** Glossary
- 31 Annex
- **42** About the partner organisations

## **Foreword**

**By Alberto** Francesco Anfossi

Secretary General, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo



and Delphine Moralis Chief Executive, Philea

Achieving climate-neutrality by 2030 is an ambitious goal that demands a collective effort from a wide range of stakeholders, coupled with the ability to translate these efforts into concrete actions at the local level. Foundations, with their unique position as catalysts for change, are well-positioned to play a pivotal role in this process.

any of the leading European foundations are deeply rooted in local contexts, functioning as key intermediaries and "local antennae" that can effectively detect and respond to regional needs. With long-standing experience in funding initiatives across the social, environmental, research and innovation sectors, foundations possess both the expertise and the resources to collaborate with civil society organisations, local communities and cities. In doing so, they can help drive the achievement of the ambitious targets outlined in the EU Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.

At the general strategic level, foundations' role could be relevant in helping to overcome specific weaknesses and bottlenecks of programme implementation at the local level. The implementation of the European Commission's Resilience and Recovery plans in some European countries suggests the existence of what one could call "valleys of death", an analogy to the terminology used in innovation

One such "valley" is the gap between setting an objective and organising it into a well-defined and effective set of fundable and feasible projects, able to deliver the expected results. For example, objectives like setting up a city digital twin or reorganising the municipal transport/ energy/waste management system sit atop the rise on one side of the valley, while the implications in terms of the consensus and change of citizens' behaviour at the individual and collective level sit atop the other.

In this respect, foundations can support cities in reaching experts from the project design phase (e.g. engineers, legal professionals, etc.) down to project management and reporting. The level of support could be nuanced from just providing funds for a very specific expertise to A second "valley" could relate to the opportunity of identifying possible sources of private funding for a project. The elements of the project in the design phase can be shaped to make the project more interesting or feasible for an investor (e.g. an institutional investor) or a company to (co)finance it. In this case, foundations can activate finance practitioners and/or communities of investors working in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) or blended

An illustrative example of such an initiative is the "Next Generation WE" call for proposals, launched by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo in the northwestern region of Italy. This programme provides approximately €10 million to local municipalities with the aim of sup-

porting them in securing public funding; efficiently allocating and managing these resources; assessing their impact; ensuring transparent financial reporting; and fostering the design and implementation of projects that demonstrate long-term sustainability, both socially and financially.

This analysis underscores the critical role that foundations can play in bridging the gaps between the high-level climate objectives of the Cities Mission and their practical implementation at the local level. Foundations' ability to

provide expertise, financial support and strategic guidance makes them valuable partners in ensuring that ambitious climate targets translate into actionable and adopt vision-based and values-driven funding models that support ecosystems rather than isolated projects.

The following pages are the result of an extensive work conducted by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Philea. Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, with its longstanding tradition of fostering cultural, social and economic development in the northwest of Italy, brings a deep understanding of the philanthropic landscape and its impact on society.

Meanwhile, Philea, as a leading network of European foundations and philanthropic organisations, provides a broad perspective on emerging trends, best practices, and collaborative approaches in the sector, having facilitated thematic peer-learning networks among its members (notably on climate, democracy, equality and transversal issues). Their combined knowledge and resources

Foundations' ability

to provide expertise,

financial support and

strategic guidance

makes them valuable

partners in ensuring

that ambitious climate

targets translate into

actionable and well-

structured projects.

have ensured a rigorous and comprehensive examination of the contribution of philanthropy to the EU mission.

This first-of-its-kind exploration and collaborative effort seeks not only to define the role of philanthropy in achieving EU climate goals, but also to map the projects, local actions, annual programmes and overarching visions that foundations actively foster on a daily basis. Through this detailed examination, the work seeks to unravel the multifaceted contributions of philanthropic organisations, shedding light on their stra-

tegic approaches, sustained efforts and critical influence in shaping both local and global climate agendas. The study sets out more than just a framework – it establishes an intention, a bold vision that can inspire not only the philanthropic sector but also governments and civil society organisations. In doing so, it highlights the transformative potential of strategic philanthropy, encouraging cross-sector collaboration in the pursuit of a more sus-

be added to the municipal staff, to a complete externalwell-structured projects. Moreover, the data on European isation of the activity. This is a real need. Competences philanthropy and the knowledge of the field further enare not always easy to access in cities' staff, and in most hance the potential of having foundations as key partners cases the budget for preliminary or prospective activities in the implementation of the Cities Mission. They can take is lacking. The support of a foundation at this stage can a broad view on decarbonisation, embracing technical help ensure that cities have a well-structured preliminary tainable and resilient future. solutions that include cultural and social dimensions and project, which is often necessary to secure public funds.

## Introduction

"We want to be the front runners in climate-friendly industries, green technologies, and green financing. But we also must be sure that no one is left behind. In other words, this transition will either be working for all and be just, or it will not work at all."

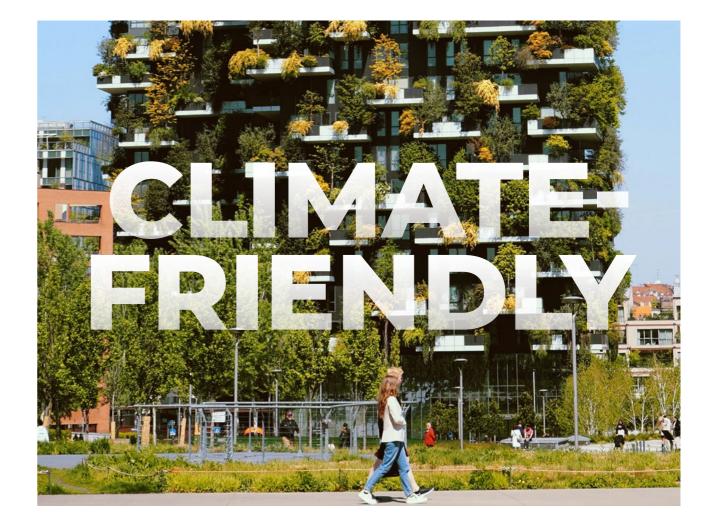
With these words, European Commission President
Ursula von der Leyen announced in 2019 the strong ambition to
achieve climate-neutrality by 2050 through the European Green
Deal, which established a legal obligation for the EU and its
Member States to become the first net-zero continent by 2050.

ities have been identified as playing a pivotal role in Europe's transition, not only because urban areas are significant sources of GHG emissions, accounting for close to 70% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but also because change, experimentation and transformation happen at the local level and are driven or adopted by people. Urban areas are the testbeds for technology-driven solutions for the reduction of GHG emissions but are also the places where these solutions can be co-created with residents based on their needs; be backed by experimental policy interventions; and leverage existing infrastructure to facilitate their uptake.

In this context, the <u>EU Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral</u> and Smart Cities by 2030 (EU Cities Mission) has been developed. To date, most cities out of the 100 selected by the European Commission have submitted their Climate City Contract (CCC), a roadmap to guide cities' actions and investments which includes three components – Commitments, Action Plan and Investment Plan.

More than an administrative tool, this unique governance instrument results from an iterative co-creation process with multiple stakeholders from both the private and civil society sectors. 52 cities from 17 EU Member States and 2 non-EU states have received public recognition by the European Commission through a Mission Label which acknowledges the overall vision and pathway of each city, aiming at boosting the city's agency and confidence in untapping further partnership opportunities, such as with foundations and philanthropic organisations.

Urban spaces and quality of life of urban residents have been key focus areas of philanthropy, using a variety of methods. This includes engagement in arts and culture; infrastructure and social housing improvement; protection or upgrading of public spaces; workforce training; social inclusion; economic development; and natural resource management as well as advocating for larger policy shifts.<sup>2</sup> American and European philanthropy can be considered largely, though not exclusively, urban phenomena.



While place-based giving is not a new concept, we recently have seen more funders reaffirm their commitment to places as units of change<sup>3</sup> and call for additional funders to be strategic, align efforts and aggregate risk capital.<sup>4</sup> However, experts assert that, due to a lack of data and only a small number of networks that link philanthropic funders working on cities, there is a risk that funding does not always go where it has the most impact or that money is only spent on a small selection of needs.<sup>5</sup>

Considering the long-term relationship of philanthropy and cities, and the existence of a specific, pan-Europe-an and time-bound framework linked to cities, where does philanthropy<sup>6</sup> fit into the picture on the EU Cities Mission? How have foundations and philanthropic organisations been involved in the shaping and making of cities' ambitions to achieve climate-neutrality through the EU Cities Mission? What can we learn from philanthropy's involvement to date? Which opportunities at local, national and European levels remain untapped, and where can philanthropy step in to unlock the potential of this transformation and ensure that the environmental transition goes hand in hand with social justice?

- 1 The European Cities Mission launched a call in September 2021 to set out on a path towards "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030". 362 candidate cities were considered eligible to participate in the Cities Mission.
- 2 City Funders: Case Studies on Philanthropic Engagement in Urban Contexts

- 3 No Place Like Home: The Power of Place-Based Philanthropy
- 4 Philanthropy's role in urban revitalization
- 5 Philanthropy's drive for 'better cities' needs data and collaboration boost: experts
- 6 See the glossary at the end of the document.

,

#### **About this briefer**

his briefer aims at being a starting point of a broader and ongoing reflection on philanthropy's role in contributing to Europe's just and fair transition. Considered as a living document, it strives to provide a first snapshot of how foundations and philanthropic organisations have engaged at city level to support the place-based journey towards climate-neutrality.

It aims to speak to the key institutional players of the EU Cities Mission, such as the European institutions and city representatives, but also hopes to raise an interest across the philanthropy sector for this transition framework. It wishes to shed a light on those cities that have already involved philanthropic organisations, bringing forward the

diversity of the field, and further understand the ways in which philanthropy has approached (or is trying to) the ambitious pathways for change.

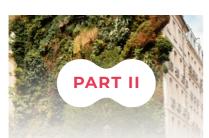
The briefer also includes a specific focus on Italy, looking into the current engagement of Italian foundations in the nine cities selected in the framework of the EU Cities Mission and contextualised with the available data on Italian philanthropy and environmental funding.

In conclusion, recommendations to both the institutional level and to philanthropic organisations hope to give substance to philanthropy's added value, providing tangible pathways to increase and improve mutual collaboration in the framework of the EU Cities Misson.

#### THIS BRIEFER IS STRUCTURED IN THREE MAIN PARTS + ONE ANNEX



Analyses the evidence from the 52 Climate City Contracts publicly available on the NetZeroCities platform.



Explores how a placebased approach and a structured commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action defines the strategic approach of many foundations.



Leverages additional data on European philanthropy to highlight its untapped potential.

#### **ANNEX**

Lists the foundations engaged with the Climate City Contracts and summarises their contributions & lists other key foundations working on climate-neutrality.

### **Methodology**

his study is the result of desk research and semi-structured interviews with several foundations which took place in February 2024. The 52 Climate City Contracts (CCC) published on the NetZeroCities website

were screened to identify specific mentions of foundations and philanthropic organisations either throughout the document or as signatories. In addition to this, a deeper reflection was tabled through interviews with the few European foundations, members of Philea, that have engaged more intentionally with specific cities.

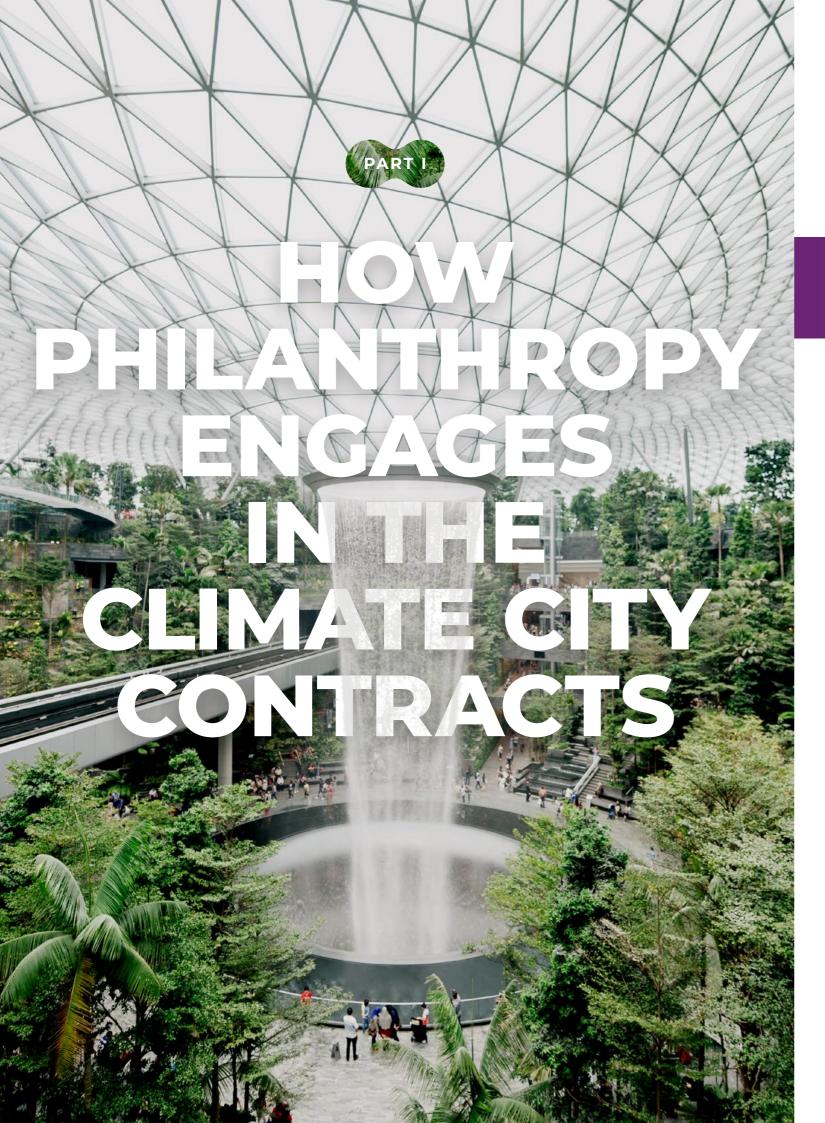
Moreover, the knowledge gained during two funders-only meetings organised by Philea in 2023 and 2024 provided additional overall awareness of the specific role that philanthropy can play in this framework. Both the breakout conversation during Philea's EuroPhilantopics event in 2023 held with the European Commission as well as the session held on the side of the Philea Forum

2024 were opportunities to gather concrete examples of the ways in which foundations have started to engage with cities across Europe; the challenges they face; and the ways in which Philea could provide capacity-building support through peer-learning and information sharing.

These conversations resulted in a strategic partnership agreement between Climate-KIC and Philea who joined forces to channel philanthropic funding into climate programmes and support various actors – from businesses and public authorities to grass-roots organisations and communities – to catalyse systemic change. Through a series of online conversations on collective imagination, new skills and economies, Philea and Climate-KIC shared additional knowledge, hoping to inspire both city representatives and philanthropic organisations to identify challenges and opportunities for mutual collaboration.

The briefer brings together the desk research, interviews and conversations held throughout 2023 and 2024.





The quantitative and qualitative analysis of the 52 Climate City Contracts (CCCs) available on the NetZeroCities website (See also Annex: Part 1) reveals that a total of 58 foundations are referenced across 22 cities in 11 EU Member States.

11 |

**22** 

58

38

- 20

EU MEMBER STATES

CITIES

FOUNDATIONS

This diversity

of foundations'

engagement sheds

light on a strong

asset of the sector:

its independence

and ability to

complement

government

funding.

SIGNATORIE

KEY ACTORS

he ways in which foundations support European cities vary, reflecting the diversity of European philanthropy. In some cases, they are formal signatories of the CCCs, in others they appear as external partners. Moreover, philanthropic support comes in many shapes and forms: through grants, technical assistance and expertise, or the implementation of their own programmes and projects.

When foundations are involved on a formal level, this also varies considerably. A total of 38 foundations have

officially signed the CCCs (in 22 cities across 9 EU Member States), demonstrating their commitment to and endorsement of cities' pathways towards climate-neutrality. In addition to these, 20 foundations (in 11 cities across 7 EU Member States) are not formal signatories but are mentioned as key actors, partners, or project leads within the CCC framework. The distinction reflects the different organisational approaches to philanthropic support, acknowledging that some foundations opt for acting as a strategic enabler of urban cli-

mate action while others may

want to make explicit contractual commitments.

The variety of philanthropy's engagement can also be found in the practical ways in which each organisation deploys its private resources for the public good. Some provide institutional backing without specific

operational commitments: For example, Fondazione CRT (Turin, Italy) is included for its potential role in relevant actions, while Fondazione Cariparma (Parma, Italy) is recognised for both its institutional position as well as its broader climate-related programmatic activities. Others, like Life Terra (Kozani, Greece), are not CCC signatories but actively contribute to nature-based solutions beyond the CCC framework.

At the other end of the spectrum, some foundations take a highly operational role, committing to multiple specific actions within the CCCs. Fondazione Golinelli

(Bologna, Italy), Fondazione Cariplo (Milan, Italy), and Valencia Clima i Energia Foundation (Valencia, Spain) stand out for their hands-on contributions, often spanning different thematic areas, from education and innovation to energy efficiency and urban greening.

This diversity of foundations' engagement sheds light on a strong asset of the sector: its independence and ability to complement government funding. Considering that some foundations are purely grantmaking organisations, others run their own programmes and

others mix the two approaches, philanthropy's toolbox is extremely rich and can be mobilised in different ways, leading to the sector's robust diversity. This diversity can be captured in the different types of support schemes and actions that are mentioned across the CCCs.

# Providing funding for climate-neutrality

Providing funding and investments for climate actions remains a defining characteristic of the ways in which philanthropy engages in the EU Cities Mission. For example, Laudes Foundation (Madrid, Spain), Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (Turin, Italy), Fondazione Cariplo (Milan and Bergamo, Italy), and Fondazione Social Venture Giordano Dell'Amore (Milan, Italy) provide funding and impact-driven investments to support the energy transition. These foundations are mobilising philanthropic capital across the spectrum from grants

The unavailability of

data on investment

is a limitation as it

blurs the possibility

of deepening the

analysis of capital

needs, funding

sources and the

investment readiness

of projects, in

addition to hindering

transparency.

to impact investing in social entrepreneurial projects that require patient capital.

Funding is a crucial aspect in the achievement of climate-neutrality goals. The funding gap for climate actions across the 112 Mission Cities (100 cities in the EU and 12 cities in countries associated with Horizon Europe) could be around €650 billion, requiring hugely innovative financial solutions (NetZeroCities). Funding information is included in the Investment Plan, one of the 3 key documents (along with the Action Plan and Commitments) of the CCCs. The Investment Plan describes sources of investment to support the

actions planned to achieve climate-neutrality by 2030. The award of the Mission label is also intended to facilitate public and private funding, acknowledging the bankability of projects included in the Action Plan and the estimate of available municipal funding and grants outlined in the related Investment Plan.

However, the Investment Plans are not currently included within the publicly available CCC documents. As such, the economic effort of foundations towards climate-neutrality actions within the CCCs is currently unavailable. Publicly available funding information is limited to an overview of the costs of planned actions in various sectors (e.g. energy, waste, transport, buildings) and their impact. For example, operational costs estimated in Valencia's CCC total €4.2 billion, with an estimated impact reduction of 1035 kt CO2e.

The unavailability of data on investment is a limitation as it blurs the possibility of deepening the analysis of capital needs, funding sources and the investment readiness of projects, in addition to hindering transparency. Philanthropic organisations can (and do) provide additional funds and investments to support cities in their transition towards climate-neutrality. They can also invest patient or risk capital in innovative projects that may not attract immediate public or corporate funding, and they can offer stability and a long-term perspective, essential for initiatives that span several decades. Philea's latest mapping on "Environmental Funding by European Foundations", which analyses

8518 grants by 126 foundations spread across the 13 thematic issue categories, shows that funding to trade and finance ranks fourth in the distribution of funding across the thematic issue categories. If funding to trade and finance were considered a "Cinderella area" in previous editions of the mapping, the leap to the fourth position is largely a consequence of grants directed at either climate finance work, or other sustainable finance initiatives. Together, these account for more than 75% of the €163 million included in this issue category.

Publicly sharing data enables collaboration, drives innovation and helps make informed decisions. It is critical for the development of a targeted onboarding strategy of philanthropic actors and the co-design of public-private-philanthropy partnerships. The launch of the <u>Capital Hub</u> by NetZeroCities is a helpful step in enhancing the fundability of city climate initiatives and working with cities to identify the most appropriate financial structure for their projects, acknowledging there are many ways a single project can be financed.

However, it is not only about the quantity of philanthropic capital but also about its quality. Although philanthropy is often called upon to "fill the gaps", the sector understands that philanthropic capital is dwarfed by public funding, and that to be "on the right side of history" its true potential lies in the quality of its

resources. "Philanthropy has the privilege of freedom of action, which must be coupled with responsibility. Shifting from bidding mechanisms and short-term projects to flexible, mission-oriented support is crucial." writes <u>Carola Carazzone</u> of Assifero. The transformational process triggered by the framework of the EU Cities Mission offers an interesting opportunity to take this responsibility seriously, and this briefer contains several examples of how this can be done.

## **Engaging with communities**

Supporting citizen and community engagement is another distinctive approach to philanthropy's involvement alongside Mission Cities and reflects the recog-

nition of the importance of local communities to address local issues and achieve global goals, such as Europe's just and fair transition. Considered as key partners with lived experience rather than beneficiaries, citizens and communities lie at the heart of philanthropy's work.

Social movements and community-driven initiatives have been sparked as a result of support received by foundations and philanthropic organisations. For example, organisations like Valencia Clima i Energia (Valencia, Spain) and Fondazione per l'Innovazione

Urbana, Rusconi, Villa Ghigi (Bologna, Italy) are leading public participation efforts in urban sustainability projects. Because of their value-based missions, foundations dedicate particular attention to neglected communities and develop specific support schemes or projects targeting more specifically low-income households.

For example, in the frame of their Fair Urban Transition programme in Madrid, Porticus enabled the partnership between the municipality and the European Anti-Poverty Network (mentioned in Madrid's CCC), which represented 75 institutions working with at-risk communities. The network reinforced the social dimension of the city's climate action by developing participatory processes for the revision of Madrid's Roadmap Towards Climate-Neutrality and facilitating the inclusion of youth and adults in two deprived neighbourhoods of Madrid.

Similarly, Mercator Stiftung supported the INCLU:DE project to ensure that cities' climate initiatives and ambitions are socially just and consider vulnerable populations. Both Dortmund and Heidelberg (Mission City) were part of the process aiming at ensuring that their climate interventions include social equity considerations and benefits as well as developing a methodology for scaling up just and inclusive climate action.

Community foundations are considered as one of the most promising developments in philanthropy, referred to as a "quiet revolution". They are increasingly gaining visibility and recognition, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic as they played crucial roles in responding to local crises. Moreover, community foundations are increasingly

working on addressing the climate crisis and aligning their efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (ECFI, 2022). Considered as "the hidden champions of philanthropic climate action, their unique approach is rooted in local engagement, and as a result, climate-action is community based. Community foundations driving climate action have (at least) two distinctive characteristics: The first is their ability to broker new local partnerships around climate, the second is the creation of positive climate spillovers (Dombrowski

and Mereta, 2024). Considering their critical role in place-based climate action, it is surprising that only two community foundations appear in the CCCs: the Bucharest Community Foundation (Bucharest, Romania) and the MiskolcErt Community Foundation (Miskolc, Hungary). It is even more so considering that there are fewer community foundations in central and eastern Europe than in the rest of the continent, with Romania hosting 18 of them and Hungary only 7 out of the 815 registered across Europe (ECFI, 2022). Strengthening the involvement of community foundations in Mission Label cities can be yet another way of reinforcing a philanthropic approach ensuring a just and fair transition towards climate-neutrality because these organisations can act as funders, implementers, convenors and connectors, leveraging their deep under-

standing of local contexts to make significant impact.

Considered as key partners with lived experience rather than beneficiaries, citizens and communities lie at the heart of philanthropy's work.

7 "Philanthropy Back to the Drawing Board", by Rien van Gendt, p. 67.

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

#### **Specific fields of intervention**

Philanthropy contributes across many specific thematic areas related to climate:

#### **EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

e.g. Fondazione Golinelli in Bologna, Italy; BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation in Barcelona, Spain; Excecyl Foundation in Valladolid, Spain.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOUSING AND INDUSTRY

e.g. TYS in Turku, Finland; Fondazione Casa Amica in Bergamo, Italy; Stiftung Mercator in Heidelberg, Germany; Tammenlehväsäätiö in Tampere, Finland.

#### **GREEN AREA MANAGEMENT**

e.g. Inea Foundation in Valladolid, Spain.

#### **URBAN INNOVATION**

e.g. Las Naves and BIT Habitat in Barcelona, Spain.

The breadth of philanthropy's contributions emerging from the analysis of the 52 CCCs (see Annex) showcases how foundations can provide financial backing and at the same time partner in the implementation of initiatives shaping the transition to climate-neutral cities.

When it comes to energy efficiency in housing, for example, there are a wealth of experiences that showcase the added value of philanthropic support as financial contributions are linked with social returns. For example, TIMA Charitable Foundation, Bodossaki Foundation and others have been investing in the energy efficiency of care homes in Greece, demonstrating that by significantly lowering energy costs, operational savings can be turned towards upgraded operational services. "This could even be a stated requirement by donors, whereby based on the estimated savings accrued, the care home would have to stipulate the additional services it would provide over the next few years – e.g. an additional full-time nurse, two part-time physiotherapists, etc." says Paul Kidner from the TIMA Charitable Foundation.

Another key finding from our analysis of Part1 of the Annex is the alignment of foundations' work with the emissions field of actions outlined in CCC impact pathways:

#### **ENERGY SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION**

e.g. Fondazione Casa Amica, Bergamo, Italy; Valencia Clima I Energia, Valencia, Spain; TYS, Turku, Finland – with dedicated actions focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency and decentralised energy models.

## WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECTS

e.g. BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation, Barcelona, Spain; Tammenlehväsäätiö foundation, Tampere, Finland.

#### **NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

e.g. Castilla y Leon Natural Heritage Foundation, Valladolid, Spain; Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana Rusconi Villa Ghigi, Bologna, Italy).

#### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS**

e.g. Stiftung Mercator, Heidelberg, Germany, Laudes Foundation, Madrid, Spain.

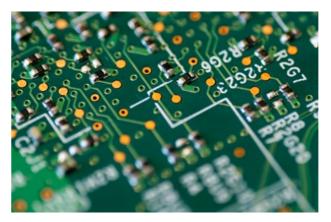
#### TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

e.g. Cartif Foundation, Valladolid, Spain; Fondazione Social Venture Giordano Dell'Amore, Milan, Italy; Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin, Italy.

#### TRANSVERSAL ACTIONS

e.g. Fondazione Golinelli's Young Digital Entrepreneurship Camp in Bologna, Italy; BIT Habitat Foundation, Barcelona, Spain – impact multiple fields, bridging sustainability, education, and business innovation.

While some actions may not fall neatly into a single category, this overview broadly highlights a focus on energy-related projects, possibly reflecting both philanthropic funding trends and the complexity of financing infrastructure-heavy sectors like mobility and the built environment, which require larger scale public-private collaboration.



The data from the CCCs can be viewed together with Philea's latest mapping on "Environmental Funding by European Foundations", (an analysis of 8518 grants by 126 foundations spread across 13 thematic issue categories). In this study, the energy category ranks third, with €231 million in investments. While the "consumption and waste" and "transport" categories have consistently been considered "Cinderella" issues in earlier editions of this research, "consumption and waste" has now moved out of that category. Interestingly, in this taxonomy, grants tackling waste reduction, recycling and composting as well as all aspects of waste disposal have been paired with support for work directed at reducing consumption levels. The analysis demonstrates that the majority of grants in this category promote recycling and reuse projects, but that support for work tackling over-consumption in a more fundamental way - for example by challenging the advertising and marketing industries, or promoting more low-consumption lifestyles - is extremely low (1.5% of the €74 million spent on this category).

There is a focus on energy-related projects, possibly reflecting both philanthropic funding trends and the complexity of financing infrastructure-heavy sectors like mobility and the built environment, which require larger scale public-private collaboration.

### **Use of technology**

When it comes to leveraging technology in addressing climate change, the intersection of artificial intelligence and climate governance emerges as a critical strategic domain. Here, too, philanthropy has a role to play in ensuring that civil society can be an active and effective partner in shaping the regulation that will set the direction of AI in Europe. The European Artificial Intelligence & Society Fund, a pooled fund hosted by the Network of European Foundations, brings together 17 partner foundations who work on different areas – from technology to social cohesion and human rights. This initiative seeks to empower civil society to influence AI policies, ensuring that AI serves the public good with a strong focus on environmental sustainability and climate-neutrality.

Al-driven technologies have the potential to optimise energy efficiency, enhance urban mobility, improve climate modelling and support more informed decision-making processes through early-warning systems and predictive models. By committing to ethical, transparent and socially responsible technological development, philanthropic organisations contribute to the fair use of Al, ensuring that it fosters inclusive and sustainable progress. Philanthropy's involvement highlights how technology, when leveraged effectively, can drive systemic change, making cities more efficient, resilient and climate neutral.

## A multidimensional approach

Overall, the findings of the current analysis demonstrate that foundations are essential players in the climate-neutrality transition. Their contributions extend beyond traditional grantmaking to include technical expertise, citizen engagement, urban experimentation and policy innovation. The strategic engagement of philanthropic foundations in climate action underscores a multidimensional approach to climate-neutrality - one that merges mitigation, adaptation and systemic transformation through specific funding programmes and targeted actions. Their investments in participatory governance, technological innovation, and multi-stakeholder ecosystems exemplify a paradigm shift where philanthropy catalyses just, science-based and scalable pathways toward net-zero emissions. Going forward, addressing the knowledge gap around the financial efforts by foundations in the frame of the EU Cities Mission will be necessary.



The analysis of Part 2 of the Annex reveals that a placebased approach and a structured commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action define the strategic approach of many foundations directly or indirectly involved in the EU Cities Mission.8

AMONG THE FIELDS OF ACTIVITY COVERED BY THESE FOUNDATIONS, THE RECURRING ONES ARE:



#### **RESEARCH** AND INNOVATION



# **CITIZEN AND**



## COMMUNITY **ENGAGEMENT**

per il clima e la



#### **ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION THROUGH** NATURE-

BASED **SOLUTIONS** 



## **ENERGY TRANSITION**



in in Padova, Italy

#### ADVOCACY

dessium's People & Nature programme; the Ford Foundation's Natural Resources and Climate Justice Program (New York, USA); Porticus's Caring for the Earth sector of work; or Fondazione Cariparo's Quality-of-life area of intervention exemplify this deep place-based engagement. This long-term commitment to sustainability is reflected in a wide array of short-term

A recurring emphasis across these initiatives is a holistic approach to climate justice, one that integrates social and environmental concerns while empowering local communities to become active agents in the pursuit of climate-neutrality and the broader decarbonisation

process in their cities. Rather than addressing climate action as a purely technical challenge, many of these foundations adopt an inclusive framework that recognises the disproportionate impacts of climate change, and seek to promote equitable and socially responsible transitions. This holistic approach aligns with Fondation de France's study on the notion of "just transition philanthropy". Characterised by its systemic approach which considers the interconnections of climate, socio-economic, democratic and geopolitical crises, just transition philanthropy adopts a long-term perspective and establishes trustbased and horizontal relations with its partners while collaborating with other stakeholders such as public authorities, companies, NGOs and citizens.

A recurring emphasis across these initiatives is a holistic approach to climate justice, one that integrates social and environmental concerns while empowering local communities to become active agents in the pursuit of climate-neutrality and the broader decarbonisation process in their cities

8 Of the 16 foundations listed in Part 2 of the Annex, 10 are Philea members.

## Fostering partnerships with regional and national governments

#### **Supporting climate-neutrality** in Spain: citiES2030

An illustrative example of just transition philanthropy linked to the EU Cities Mission comes from the Laudes and Porticus foundations. These two foundations work closely together as part of a strategic partnership to realise the philanthropic aims of the Brenninkmeijer family, who are the founders of both organisations. Both foundations collaborate to develop and execute philanthropic strategies that address systemic issues and drive positive social change. The Laudes Foundation responds to the dual crises of inequality and climate

change by supporting brave, innovative efforts that inspire and challenge industry - such as fashion or the built environment - to harness its power for good.

Although the Laudes Foundation does not appear in any of the CCCs, it has provided strategic funding to the development of the Spanish national platform citiES2030 (see Annex). This multi-stakeholder space for collaboration and innovation aims at supporting the transition of 17 Spanish cities towards climate-neutrality within the framework of the European

Cities Mission. The platform deploys a series of support services to member organisations to facilitate the transformation towards healthier and more sustainable cities. These services range from capacity-building for the stakeholder ecosystem to support in drafting the CCC, to the connection with similar processes in other European cities, as well as supporting the development of innovations and strategic communications, or assisting cities in structuring financial plans. Members of the citiES2030 include cities, academic institutions, representatives of the private sector and civil society organisations, among which are some foundations and associations of foundations, such as Porticus and Fundaciones por el clima.

Porticus became a member of citiES 2030 due to the influence that the Cities Mission had on the framing of its international "Fair Urban Transition Program" launched in 2021. Focusing on two cities, one of which is in Europe (Madrid), the foundation developed the programme in parallel with the Cities Mission: Information and relevant approaches of the Cities Mission were included in the programme and acted as a reference, such as the principle of "leaving no one behind", which resonated with Porticus's mission. As climate policies in cities are inextricably linked to equity and social justice issues, the programme's goal was to ensure that cities' transition to a regenerative post-carbon economy positively impacted the lives of poor and vulnerable people.

The programme had three main strands of activities: strengthening coalitions, civic engagement, and the capacities of civil servants to influence climate policies. All in

> all, Porticus aimed at providing capacity and voice to communities and civil servants, enabling them to influence policies effectively. The strategy focused on demonstrating that transition in cities can be fair, and then scaling these efforts to the European level and influencing global trends. The programme funded pilot projects to provide lessons for others or adopted innovative models like the doughnut economy and the Community Land Trusts in Belgium to experiment and replicate them in Madrid. By doing so, the aim was to share learnings at both International and local levels.



At the end of 2023, the ecosystem of partners working in the two cities involved in the Fair Urban Transition programme (Madrid and Bengaluru) took part in a participatory budget co-creation process with Porticus to decide on how to use the funds for the remaining period of the programme. This opportunity resulted among other things in a coordination unit in each of the cities. In addition to that, the partners in Madrid launched a Laboratory of Narratives and Learning for a Fair Transition to leverage the lessons learned to help others in the transition.

The involvement of Fundaciones por el clima in the citiES2030 platform opens another interesting reflection on the link between the EU Cities Mission and the role of national philanthropy infrastructure organisations. As an initiative of the Asociación Española de Fundaciones (AEF), Fundaciones por el clima aims at promoting the commitment of the Spanish foundation sector to climate action, encouraging Spanish foundations to actively engage in addressing the climate crisis and the social inequalities it generates.

The development of this initiative is supported by Philea's European Philanthropy Coalition for Climate (Climate Coalition), which leverages the role of national philanthropy infrastructure organisations to nurture national commitments in Europe. The Climate Coalition is considered as the European chapter of the global Philanthropy for Climate movement of 900 foundations sharing a commitment to meaningful climate action. It connects a diverse group of foundations, philanthropy infrastructure organisations and other partners to accelerate transformational change. It provides foundations with a framework to in-

tegrate climate across their work, from their programmes to their investments to their operations and beyond, regardless of their size, geography or mission.

#### **Local transition journeys** in Sweden and Romania

Two additional examples of national coordination of local transition journeys are KlimatKontract 2030 in Sweden and the M100 National Hub in Romania. The first is a strategic innovation programme launched in 2013 which paved the way for the mission-driven work aligned with

the EU Cities Mission. As a joint initiative of Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency, and Formas, the Viable Cities programme brings together actors in 48 Swedish cities - municipalities, business, academia and civil society and government agencies who work together to create ecologically, economically and socially sustainable cities, adopting a holistic approach to urban development. The initiatives in Viable Cities are based on a mission-oriented approach where key initiatives are the national coordination of CCCs through KlimatKontract 2030; mission infrastructure for coordination and support; system demonstrators for experimentation and implementation; and Transition Labs for orchestration and reflexive learning.

Similarly, M100 is a "Mirror Mission" through which cities in Romania are assisted in their green transition process. M100 supports both the three Romanian cities already selected in the EU Mission (Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest, and Suceava), but also other cities aiming to achieve climate-neutrality, thus encouraging a collective and coherent path towards a greener horizon. Serving as a dynamic platform for collaboration, the M100 Hub catalyses innovation by uniting thought leaders, tech pioneers, and urban visionaries to reimagine sustainable urban landscapes. Its relevance lies in its ability to bridge thematic areas such as green technology, circular economies and social equity, creating a comprehensive approach to urban sustainability and thus making it an exemplary practice for cities and city-regions aiming to achieve climate-neutrality and build resilient, inclusive communities.



#### **Pioneering national** deployment of climate action in Denmark: Realdania and its DK2020 programme

In Denmark, Realdania has been working since 2014 to ensure that all 98 municipalities across the country have (96) or will have (2) climate action plans in line with the Paris Agreement aiming at reducing their CO2 by 76% compared to the baseline year. In 2017, the foundation set up the DK2020 programme to assist municipalities in preparing ambitious, local climate action plans to lead the way

to climate-neutrality. Of these 98, 6 have net-zero by 2030 as their target and in some cases even before that date. Another 5 municipalities have set 2040 or before as a target. It is also not unlikely that municipalities will revise those targets within the next 2 years, bringing them closer to net-zero in 2030. This work is the result of Realdania's engagement in the foundation and development of C40 since 2014. Although Realdania isn't involved directly in the EU Cities Mission, it prepared the ground for the alignment of all Danish municipalities around a similar framework used by other megacities around the world. Philea's "Cities of Tomorrow" entry on Realdania further explains how foundations can drive the transformation of an entire country by acting as a trustworthy enabler of change.

#### The role of philanthropy infrastructure

In summary, there are four national platforms across Europe: citiES 2030 (Spain), EcoCités (France), Viable Cities (Sweden) and M100 (Romania). In these cases, national agencies embrace and deploy the Cities Mission model, leveraging the platforms as a tool to centralise information, coordinate cross-policy programmes, promote capacity-building efforts, build multi-stakeholder partnerships and increase the visibility of the joint actions. Supporting the development of these digital platforms in alignment with the just transition approach is a promising pathway for philanthropy to engage in the Cities Mission.

The example of citiES2030 – which involves a group of foundations brought together through the Spanish chapter of Philanthropy for Climate as part of a platform of stakeholders, funded by a foundation, aiming to support the transition of 17 Spanish cities towards climate-neutrality – shows how the Cities Mission framework can act as a way to connect, scale and accelerate place-based climate actions supported by just transition philanthropy. Moreover, considering that Fundaciones por el clima

has engaged in sister commitments in the UK, France. Poland and Italy - all developed by national philanthropy infrastructure organisations and all working towards a common goal of climate resilience and social equity - the role of foundations and national philanthropy infrastructure organisations appears to be even more powerful. Foundations can support the development of multi-stakeholder platforms that connect the different cities at national

level, and foundations having committed at national level to Philanthropy for Climate can become members of such platforms, rooting their commitment in a tangible framework such as the Cities Mission.

Philea's recent report "Climate Change and Philanthropy Infrastructure: Supporting the Ecosystem to Act" (2025) underscores the pivotal role of national philanthropy infrastructure organisations in advancing efforts to combat climate change by using the 4C framework and adding a fifth C which brings forward their role in catalysing transformation and acting as thought leaders around emerging trends. They appear to be essential in mobilising, equipping and connecting the philanthropic community

for a meaningful response to the climate crisis. Three-quarters of Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisations (PIOs) aim to catalyse transformations by incentivising large-scale change, expanding stakeholder engagement, and demonstrating leadership. In addition to the role of PIOs in advancing climate philanthropy, PIOs can support the EU Cities Mission because of their proximity to the local level: The 26 PIO members of Philea represent 7,500 additional foundations that operate at the local and national levels.

# Philanthropy and the Italian Mission Cities cluster

There are nine Mission Cities in Italy. Seven of these have already obtained the Mission Cities label, while two – Rome and Padova – have yet to achieve this. Each of the nine Mission Cities hosts one or more philanthropic institutions, potential ideal partners for cities striving to achieve climate-neutrality by 2030. Italian foundations of banking origin, for example, all have a regional focus/mission, hence the Italian context can be considered unique in this sense.

The Cities Mission

framework can act

as a way to connect,

scale and accelerate

place-based climate

actions supported

by just transition

philanthropy.

The latest data on the Italian philanthropy sector show that there are 8356 foundations (Istat, 2022), with a total annual expenditure of €1.4 billion (ACRI and Assifero) and total assets of €41.2 billion (ACRI). These figures should be considered in the frame of additional context stemming from Philea's most recent mapping on European public-benefit foundations, which lays out the recent history of philanthropic organisations in Italy. In 2017, legislation for the

Italian non-profit sector that introduced the concept of philanthropic organisations came into effect. These entities, recognised as part of the non-profit sector, can be established as either foundations or associations. Their purpose is to deploy money, goods or services – including investments – in support of disadvantaged individuals or for general-interest purposes. Philanthropic bodies get the economic and non-financial resources to develop their activities mainly from public and private assets, donations and legacies, capital gains and fundraising activities. These organisations are under the aegis of Assifero. Foundations of banking origin, which are represented by ACRI, have a special regulation and definition, and do not



appear in the third sector reform. They are also included under the category of "Foundations". Therefore, the expenditure figure above for both ACRI (€1.0475 billion) and Assifero (€400 million) were included as one figure as they represent different components of the Italian philanthropy sector.

Although to date the involvement of foundations in the Climate City Contracts (CCC) has been limited in terms of numbers - only four cities have foundations as signatories (Turin which has two, Milan, Bergamo, and Florence) - their impact has been critical. In Turin, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo is considered as a main partner due to the financial support it has provided to some of the most significant action plans of the CCC, as well as its contribution of knowledge and expertise. In Bergamo, the Climate Transition Strategy funded by Fondazione Cariplo is a core and highly valued element of the city's CCC. Florence has also greatly benefited from the substantial support of Fondazione Capellino, which backed the Firenze Climate Change project, and from the expertise and network of Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità, which receives regular funding from Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze. In these cases. it can be said that the role of foundations and philanthropy has been crucial in enabling the drafting and approval of the CCCs.

However, for the other cities, there is no available information. In Parma, Prato, Bologna and Padua (the last city has not yet received the EU Mission Label, so its CCC is not available), philanthropic foundations do not appear among the signatories and do not have an official or formal role. Nevertheless, the commitment of these institutions – particularly the foundations in Parma and Padua – toward addressing the climate crisis makes them important stakeholders who should not be excluded from the process. In fact, ways to encourage their involvement can and should be found. It is also critical to note that no cities south of Rome have been selected among the

100 European cities, leading to a necessary reflection on the territorial discrepancies of the transition between northern and southern Italy. Only Naples (Campania Region) and Bari (Puglia Region) are deploying smart city transformation initiatives and have developed long-term visions to achieve climate-neutrality by 2050: However, these initiatives are not framed by the EU Cities Mission.<sup>9</sup>

The absence of Mission Cities or the urban areas part of the NetZeroCities Twinning Program indicates that a reflection is necessary when it comes to the ways in which cities are paving the way for a country's or continent's journey towards climate-neutrality. If we consider that in Italy, the North is more populated than the South and also has a higher number of large cities, one could wonder about the role of rural and remote areas in Italy's transition towards climate-neutrality. While cities are often seen as hubs of innovation, significant innovation can also occur in rural areas and areas peripheral to cities, driven by local needs and resources. This underscores how rural areas can leverage unique assets and community-driven approaches to foster innovation, also in the fields of sustainability and climate action.

Territorial discrepancies between northern and southern Italian regions are well known, and a reflection of these concerns the presence of philanthropic organisations in general: Overall, northern Italy tends to have a higher concentration of foundations compared to southern Italy, reflecting the economic and social disparities between the regions. Only one grantmaking foundation, the Fondazione CON IL SUD, is dedicated to investing in the development of southern Italy entirely through private sources. Acting as the most prominent foundation in southern Italy, Fondazione CON IL SUD has allocated almost €300 million to over 1,800 initiatives involving more than 7,000 organisations since 2017. Included in this is the creation of the first seven community foundations in southern Italy (Fondazione CON IL SUD).

19

9 Naples is employing the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) to create actionable insights for urban and environmental improvements. Bari is part of the POCITYF project, which focuses on replicating innovative energy solutions and achieving its Smart City Vision by 2050.

equipping and connecting the philanthropic community

ACRI, have a special regulation and definition, and do not

Smart City Vision by 2050.



By analysing how foundations and philanthropic organisations are already engaging with cities' commitments to achieve climateneutrality through different transition pathways, philanthropy's potential has emerged.



ith its 175,203 philanthropic organisations (2025 data from Philea's mapping on European Public-Benefit Foundations), Europe hosts the largest number of public-benefit foundations of any continent.

However, this does not mean that it is the most generous. According to the latest World Giving Index by the Charities Aid Foundation, Indonesia is currently ranked as the most generous country in the world. The index measures generosity based on three main criteria: helping a stranger, donating money, and volunteering time. Indonesia scored highly across all these categories, reflecting a strong culture of giving and community support (CAF online).

When it comes to institutional philanthropy, the United States leads the world in terms of expenditure. American philanthropic outflows constitute approximately 0.23% of the country's gross national income (GNI), amounting to nearly \$49 billion annually. This significant level of giving reflects the strong tradition of philanthropy in the US, supported by numerous foundations, corporations and individual donors (Statista).

In Europe, the field counts €76 billion in overall annual expenditure and €516 billion in assets and endowments (2025 data, Philea). In addition to institutional philanthropy, millions of citizens wish to support public-good initiatives, engaging in donations of their time, expertise and resources. Moreover, solidarity is featured as one of the core European values in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

### Private money for the public good

From a cities' perspective, philanthropy could have a role in providing additional funding. Although the capital needs for cities to implement a successful transition towards climate-neutrality are difficult to estimate, there is an awareness that the gap between the financing capacity in most cities and the investments required for a net-zero transition is significant. This implies that cities will need to rely on the redirection of public and private investment to pay for climate-neutrality transitions, maximising synergies of public spending by increasing the positive climate impact of local projects and working with stakeholders to align private investments with climate-neutrality targets. For cities, mobilising philanthropic resources is an important way to boost or optimise funding for climate action in cities.

From a funders' perspective, two trends appear consistently across the European region:

# INCREASED OPTIONS FOR GIVING AND FUNDING VEHICLES

This includes expansion in online giving as well as funding options such as impact investing and social impact bonds.

2 INCREASED COOPERATION AND NETWORK BUILDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THE BUSINESS SECTOR, AND WITHIN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR (THE PHILANTHROPY ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPE, PHILEA, 2022).

We have seen this already happen without any orchestration, coordination or incentivising mechanisms.

Foundations can adopt diverse strategies and benefit from an extensive toolbox of non-financial and financial resources from their programme activities and the investments of their endowments. There is a growing realisation that involvement in impact investing may offer a chance to build on their organisational, social and environmental impact. On one hand, philanthropic organisations are seeing opportunities to expand their toolbox by incorporating impact investing approaches into their grantmaking capacity. On the other hand, a wider societal shift in expectations for investments of their endowments to create more than financial returns has led to a growing interest in this area among philanthropic organisations when investing their endowments. (Candid).

With philanthropic organisations increasingly mobilising funds across the continuum of capital, there is a need to raise awareness among city representatives on the varieties of funding vehicles that could potentially be co-shaped in partnerships with philanthropy. In its research on catalytic capital, Impact Europe looks into "the gaps left by mainstream capital, in pursuit of impact for people and planet that could otherwise not be achieved", according to their community of practice. "It entails patience. It takes risks. It is additional. It is a great connector" (Catalysing Impact, 2023).



Impact Europe shows that although many impact investors support projects that already achieve market-rate returns, there are still substantial gaps in funding for investment opportunities that offer new and untested impacts, are smaller in scale, or involve more complex risk-return profiles. This is where catalytic capital is needed, pushing for solutions that can build a more equitable and just future. This potential remains to be unlocked, leveraging philanthropy's independence: For this reason, Impact Europe and Philea have recommended policies to boost philanthropic impact investments, providing the example at both national and European levels (Impact Europe, Philea).

Foundations and philanthropic organisations are increasingly finding new ways of partnering, and public-private-philanthropy partnerships (PPPPs) are paving the way to powerful multi-stakeholder collaboration with a potential to bring about systemic change through a coordinated approach. Philanthropy's "activation energy" has been detailed in <a href="The Partnering Initiative's report on Systems Change Activation">The Partnering Initiative's report on Systems Change Activation (2023)</a>10 in which six main ways are highlighted:

- 1 FUNDING SET UP AND ACTIVITIES
- 2 CO-CREATING AND CO-DESIGNING PPPPs
- **3** CONVENING AND COORDINATING
- 4 BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PARTNERS AND ACCELERATING PROGRESS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 5 DE-RISKING A PPPP FOR OTHER PARTNERS
- 6 ENABLING TESTING AND LEARNING THROUGH MULTIPLE ITERATIONS OF A SOLUTION, AND PROTOTYPING INNOVATIVE WAYS OF WORKING

With philanthropic organisations increasingly mobilising funds across the continuum of capital, there is a need to raise awareness among city representatives on the varieties of funding vehicles that could potentially be co-shaped in partnerships with philanthropy.

10 Philea is the European partner to the Partnering Initiative and has supported the collection and promotion of PPPPs.

## **Beyond funding:** Philanthropy's unique approach

There is an increased

awareness that

philanthropic

organisations can

ensure that the

journey towards

climate-neutrality

is rooted in fairness.

inclusivity and justice.

n addition to funding opportunities across the capital spectrum, philanthropic organisations are key because of their societal role in injecting private resources (funds, assets, etc.) to improve society, often adopting a social justice lens. Because of their non-profit nature and their broad range of value-based mission areas, foundations can assess investment opportunities from a different perspective and act as risk or patient capital, adopting a long-term view which complements public funds.

Philanthropy also promotes ideas or projects considered "non-bankable", acting as catalysts for innovation and responding in agile ways to new developments. Foundations support civil society organisations, and the third sector, and foster partnerships at all levels, often investing in topics and thematic areas that are accessories to the transition but deeply connected to its dimension of justice.

For example, we have seen how philanthropic organisa-

tions have been supporting locally led collective imagination exercises for imagining futures (Joseph Rowntree Foundation), and the importance of citizens' collective imagination has been picked up by several Mission Label cities (i.e. Bologna). Foundations have also been

monitoring the skills gap which fosters workforce disruptions and intergenerational unfairness and, in some cases, acting to fill this gap by developing upskilling and reskilling programmes for public authorities to tackle the environmental transition (i.e. Fondazione Cariplo or Bertelsmann Stiftung). Lastly, the transition towards climate-neutrality requires reckoning with our current extractive economic model and related consumer behaviours, addressing the root causes of how

> we tackle our energy, mobility, heating and overall living needs while acknowledging planetary boundaries and limited resources.

> When it comes to environmental funders and climate philanthropy more specifically, there is an increased awareness that philanthropic organisations can ensure that the journey towards climate-neutrality is rooted in fairness, inclusivity and justice. There is an increased awareness that - beyond words - a successful low-carbon transition goes hand in

and fair, hence foundations can engage in a qualitative shift away from mainstream climate philanthropy and

hand with ensuring a transformation that is both just towards climate justice philanthropy.



## The need for a tailored onboarding pathway for philanthropic engagement

ne of the conclusions of the ongoing reflection is the lack of specific onboarding mechanisms for philanthropy at European level. Foundations are key players that would need a specific and tailored onboarding pathway in order to be matched with cities. They are about channelling private resources for the public good; they have value-based missions; and what they can offer goes beyond funding - namely their expertise, independence and networks. As such, philanthropy as a partner and stakeholder requires a different and specific understanding.

An initial scoping of interest across Philea's broad membership<sup>11</sup> has led to identifying a small batch of ten organisations that have initiated an internal reflection on how to best support Mission Cities. In some cases, this reflection has led to articulated initiatives both within

the CCCs and in support of place-based climate actions specifically linked to the European framework. In other cases, foundations are exploring the ways in which existing programmes can be linked to cities' climate action.

Through the exchanges, the need for a European platform to raise awareness on the Cities Mission and provide peer-learning opportunities among foundations was raised several times, both to inspire the development of city-specific strategies as well as reflect on the ways in which philanthropy can accelerate the just and fair dimensions of the transition by working at both national and European levels. Examples of public-private-philanthropy partnerships, case clinics of how to involve low-income households in transition pathways, and approaches to citizen engagement are only some of the shared areas of interest raised by the respondents.



#### THE BODOSSAKI **FOUNDATION** GREECE

The Bodossaki Foundation

has has participated in initial exchanges on the EU Cities Mission facilitated by Philea after which it engaged with its national Cities Mission board members to inform their actions. The foundation has a history of supporting projects on boosting environmental education, combatting energy poverty, and building capacity for environmental organisations. It is currently developing further initiatives to

align with the Cities

Mission's goals.



**GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION PORTUGAL** 

As part of its environmental programme, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is focused on building the interest and capacity of municipalities and civil society in Portugal and the UK to involve communities in climate action. The foundation has held highlevel conferences and launched open calls for collaborative experimental projects to increase public participation, particularly from communities not usually engaged in climate issues.



#### KING BAUDOUIN **FOUNDATION BELGIUM**

The King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) has engaged with Belgian members of the Cities Mission board and presented its relevant activities to the Belgian Mission Cities. KBF is committed to supporting the Belgian members' network and has provided presentations to raise awareness of their work.



#### "LA CAIXA" **FOUNDATION** SPAIN

Of banking origin and one of the largest European foundations, "la Caixa" foundation has established a strategic alliance with the Barcelona City Council. Together, they provide subsidies for research and innovation projects addressing urban challenges such as community health, digitalisation, ageing, quality of life and climate emergency. This initiative aims to inform future policy decisions and promote open access to research results. Moreover, in the frame of the revision of the foundation's organisational strategy, the environmental dimension might be further enhanced.

<sup>11</sup> In March 2025, Philea had 297 members: 226 Foundations and Philanthropic Organisations, 26 Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisations and 45 Associate Members.

## **Recommendations**

## The European philanthropic funding landscape for climate

The untapped

potential of

philanthropy's

support to

cities' transition

to climate-

neutrality

is clear.

he <u>latest data</u> providing a detailed snapshot of the state of European foundation funding for environmental issues tells us that 126 foundations made 8518 environ-

mental grants in

2021, worth a combined €1,6 billion. The thematic issue category receiving the most funding from the 126 foundations was climate & atmosphere, accounting for 24.4% of grants by value, and for 1,203 grants. When thinking of efforts to mitigate climate change, the grants from the three thematic issues of climate & atmosphere, energy and transport need to be combined. In 2021 the grants in these three categories were worth €681 million, nearly three times the €237 million recorded in 2018.

The ClimateWorks Foundation confirms this growing trend in its publication on <u>"Foundation funding for climate change mitigation: Europe spotlight"</u>, the most comprehensive report ever published on philanthropic climate change mitigation funding in and from Europe.

Despite this welcome growth, European foundations are still allocating less than 2% of their total giving to work preventing climate change. ClimateWorks also shows that 62% of funding from European foundations with major climate programmes is directed outside Europe,

while 38% supports work within Europe. Moreover, grants supporting climate change mitigation in Europe are very concentrated, mostly spent in 10 countries, all of which – apart from Poland – are in western Europe.

Given that with the European Green Deal and related actions, the European Union has declared its wish to play an important role as a global laboratory for climate policy and technology innovation, it is difficult not to point out that the European philanthropy sector is missing in action when it comes to the climate emergency. When looking at the data that emerges from the analysis of the 52 CCCs with the data available on European foundations, the untapped potential of philanthro-

py's support to cities' transition to climate-neutrality is clear. However, between the foundations involved in the CCCs, the environmental funders and the European philanthropy sector, there are also those that contribute – either directly or indirectly – to the mission of climate-neutral and smart cities. Their contributions include actions and programmes that align with and complement the objectives and long-term goals of the CCCs. As a dynamic network, they help shape a unified trajectory and vision, aligning diverse stakeholders toward achieving the 2030 goals.



## How more foundations can get involved

hilanthropy is playing an increasingly critical part in cities' just transition to climate-neutrality, covering different roles and functions. Be it through the Climate City Contracts, by supporting the development of national platforms, supporting stakeholder engagement or capacity building, philanthropy's unique approach results from the nature of the funding it deploys. The following lists different ways foundations are involved. These can serve as inspirational pathways for other foundations that want to engage:

#### **ECOSYSTEM ACTIVATORS**

Foundations have established reputations at the community level, with strong relationships across public, private, and third sectors.

#### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

They foster community leadership and ownership by engaging citizens and communities in transformational processes, turning cities into "laboratories" for integrated governance and resolutions around urban challenges.

#### STABILITY AND LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVES

Foundations provide stability beyond changes in governments, crucial for long-range planning, especially for initiatives extending to 2050.

#### **PATIENT OR RISK CAPITAL**

They can invest in purpose-driven innovation, funding work that public or corporate donors may not support.

#### SYSTEM CHANGE ACTIVATION

Foundations can ignite Public-Private-Philanthropy Partnerships (PPPPs), combining resources to enable social, economic, and environmental transformation. They play a catalytic role in unlocking additional finance within these partnerships. Philanthropy is playing an increasingly critical part in cities' just transition to climate-neutrality, covering different roles and functions

More specifically, when looking at the Cities Mission, philanthropy can focus on:

# TRANSITIONING BEYOND DECARBONISATION

Embracing technical solutions that include cultural and social dimensions.

#### **EMPOWERING CIVIL SERVANTS**

Shifting power dynamics, treating partners as experts, and promoting shared theories of change.

#### **VISION-BASED FUNDING MODELS**

Supporting ecosystems of actors rather than isolated projects.

#### PRIORITISING TRUST

Providing long-term, flexible funding that values tailored solutions over rigid KPIs and deadlines.

#### ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES

Ensuring the green transition provides inclusive access to green jobs, clean air and public transportation for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities.

# RECOGNISING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Channelling resources effectively, fostering social capital and addressing urgent local needs.

#### **SHAPING NARRATIVES**

Reflecting lived experiences and tailoring messages to inspire ownership and shared responsibility.

### **Recommendations for the European Commission**

The following set of recommendations have emerged from our analysis. We encourage the European Commission to take these on board to help unlock the potential of philanthropy in supporting the EU Cities Mission:

#### RAISE AWARENESS OF EUROPEAN PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy is diverse, independent and can use both financial and non-financial resources for social change. To engage and partner with philanthropy, it is critical to develop strategies based on evidence, mutual understanding and reciprocity.

# DEVELOP TAILORED ONBOARDING MECHANISMS FOR PHILANTHROPIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE EU CITIES MISSION

Create onboarding processes that cater to the specific interests and capacities of foundations and philanthropy infrastructure organisations, developing online resource hubs with information, tools and best practices for effective philanthropic engagement (i.e. through visualisation of capital needs by cities, in sectors, and through a pipeline of projects).

#### INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF CITIES

Implement public dashboards that display data on funding needs and allocations, and develop conversations with city finance specialists and foundations to explore cofunding and co-investment opportunities along the continuum of capital.

#### SUPPORT ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON HOW FOUNDATIONS ARE ENGAGING WITH CITIES

both within and beyond the EU Cities Mission, to develop case studies on specific approaches (e.g. participatory processes, involvement of low-income households, development of national multi-stakeholder platforms, etc.) and thematic areas (e.g. energy efficiency, mobility, transport, etc.).

#### DEVELOP COUNTRY-SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

leveraging national data on European philanthropy, the role of national philanthropy infrastructure organisations, as well as community foundations. These strategies can find inspiration from ways in which foundations have been connecting Mission Label cities and Twin Cities through national platforms, and/or they can address territorial discrepancies between urban and rural/remote areas.

#### SUPPORT PEER-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

between foundations and philanthropic organisations willing to support cities' just transition to climate-neutrality.

#### DEPLOY SPECIFIC AWARENESS-RAISING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIONS

for national philanthropy infrastructure organisations.

# MONITOR THE EMERGENCE OF PUBLICPRIVATE-PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIPS

to showcase the potential of such initiatives for transformation at city level.

#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURE OF GIVING, SOLIDARITY AND GENEROSITY

that could potentially lead to the generation of new philanthropic initiatives to support placebased climate action.

These recommendations also follow the broad lines of Philea's European Philanthropy Manifesto, which calls on policymakers in Europe to work towards a Single Market for Philanthropy by taking these 4 steps:

# EMPOWER PHILANTHROPY

FACILITATE
CROSS-BORDER
PHILANTHROPY

#### ENGAGE

WITH PHILANTHROPY

#### **PARTNER**

WITH PHILANTHROPY FOR PUBLIC GOOD



## Conclusion

Notwithstanding the funders that focus solely on environmental and climate philanthropy, foundations and philanthropic organisations play a crucial role within civil society and the social economy in terms of societal transformations, supporting their fellow actors in these spheres and complementing government and private sector initiatives.

onsidering green, digital and social transitions; growing radicalisation and conflict; and the serious challenges to democratic ideals and freedoms in some parts of Europe, philanthropy has an important role to play in finding solutions that bridge the ambitions around climate-neutrality with considerations around social equity in a context of increased polarisation of our societies. We hope this briefer can inspire philanthropic organisations – no matter their missions – to find their own pathway towards supporting climate-neutrality.

## **Glossary**

#### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Type of public charity that focuses on improving the quality of life in a specific geographic area. These foundations pool donations from individuals, families, businesses and other organisations to support local non-profits and address community needs. They play a crucial role in identifying and solving community problems by bringing together diverse financial resources and distributing them effectively.

#### **EU CITIES MISSION**

A framework developed by the EU to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. To date, most cities out of the 100 selected by the European Commission have submitted their Climate City Contract (CCC), a roadmap to guide cities' actions and investments which includes three components - Commitments, Action Plan and Investment Plan. More than an administrative tool, this unique governance instrument results from an iterative co-creation process with multiple stakeholders from both the private and civil society sectors.

#### INSTITUTIONAL PHILANTHROPY

Refers to the organised and structured approach to charitable giving by formal entities such as foundations, trusts and corporate giving programmes. They share three characteristics: they have their own financial resources which they deploy strategically, they are independently governed, and they use private resources for public good. Unlike individual philanthropy, which is driven by personal donations, institutional philanthropy involves strategic planning and often aims to address systemic issues through large-scale initiatives.

#### **NETZEROCITIES**

A key partner in the EU Cities Mission, NetZeroCities supports Europe and in particular European cities, to drastically cut down greenhouse gas emissions through climate action to achieve climate-neutrality.

#### PHILANTHROPY

The act of using private resources for public good. This encompasses a wide range of activities, including donations of money, time and expertise to support various causes and organisations. Philanthropy involves strategic and organised efforts by foundations, corporate funders and other entities to address societal challenges and promote positive change. These organisations are purposefully structured and operate over the long term, bound by accountability, public benefit, and legal requirements.

#### **PHILANTHROPY** INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION

An organisation that supports the philanthropic sector at national, European or global level - often by providing a platform for peer-learning, knowledge-sharing and representation of the sector to governments.

#### PUBLIC-BENEFIT FOUNDATION

There is no legal definition in Europe of "foundation", which can mean something very different from one country to another. This is due to the many languages and cultures as well as the different legal and fiscal environments that exist across Europe. Nevertheless, whether they are called a "Trust" or "Fondazione", foundations working for the public good tend to share a common set of characteristics, and a generally accepted definition is as follows: Public-benefit foundations are asset-based and purpose-driven. They have no members or shareholders and are separately constituted non-profit bodies. Foundations focus on areas ranging from the environment, social services, health and education, to science, research, arts and culture. They each have an established and reliable income source, which allows them to plan and carry out work over a longer term than many other institutions such as governments and companies.

For more information on philanthropy, visit Philea's Philanthropy FAQ

# **Annex: Foundations' climate actions** through the CCCs and beyond

#### PART 1 Foundations cited in Climate City Contracts and their actions and activities relevant for EU mission goals

Capital letters in brackets refer to the greenhouse gas emission domains that the action is relevant for, also known as Field of Action within the NetZeroCities Impact

Pathway framework which includes: (A) energy systems, (B) mobility and transport, (C) waste and circular economy,

(D) built infrastructure, and (E) nature-based solutions.



Denmark

#### **ProjectZero Foundation**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC Sønderborg

The foundation is committed to developing an Energy/Masterplan up to 2029 (source, pp. 19, 22). (A)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

ProjectZero is a public-private partnership established in 2007 with the goal of making Sønderborg Municipality's energy system carbon-neutral by 2029.



Finland

## Tampere

#### Tampereen Vuokratalosäätiö (VTS)

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Tampereen Vuokratalosäätiö is part of the Tampere Region Climate Partnership, a partnership that encourages organisations to focus on areas such as energy efficiency, sustainable procurement and staff engagement in environmental initiatives (source).

#### Tammenlehväsäätiö foundation NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

is a signatory.

Involved in these planned actions:

Supporting sustainable travel to work [...]. Enabling the charging of electric cars. Introducing the electric car in work-related travel (source, p. 129). (B) Investigation of the potential to introduce a solar power system to serve as the energy source for Tammenlehväkeskus (source, p. 141). (A)

Minimising the use of disposable tableware and disposable packaging. Replacing the disposable packaging and tableware in use with biodegradable packaging (source, p. 144). (C)

The compilation and introduction of environmental induction material. The launch of the Ekotsemppari activity and training of Ekotsemppari experts. Annual sustainable development campaigns [...] (source, p. 151). (C)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



Finland

#### TYS (Turku Student Village Foundation)

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Involved in Carbon-Neutral Energy System: intervention aimed to produce heat, cooling, steam and electricity in a carbon-neutral manner in Turku region by 2029 (source, p. 32). (A)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

TYS is part of the Climate Changemakers Campaign which aims to highlight the dayto-day climate work done in companies and organisations in the Turku region (source).



**Deutsches Krebsforschungs-zentrum (DKFZ)** Pfälzer Katholische Kirchenschaffnei

Heidelberg Germany

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

DKFZ is a leading research institution dedicated to cancer research.

The Pfälzer Katholische Kirchenschaffnei is a Catholic church managing ecclesiastical affairs and properties.

Neither organisations are involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but both are signatories (source, p. 18).

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES



#### The Stiftung Mercator NON-SIGNATORY

Heidelberg Germany

The Stiftung Mercator is a German foundation committed to fostering climate action and supporting the transition to a climate-neutral society. Its strategy focuses on making Germany greenhouse gas-neutral by 2050 and assisting the European Union in assuming a global leadership role in climate action. In 2023, the foundation helped initiate a cooperation in Heidelberg at the district level to analyse the effects of the Rational Use of Energy funding programme on low-income households. The Framework is the ICLEI-project INCLUDE, which is financed by the Mercator Foundation. For example, the programme identified opportunities for improvement in the promotion of solar balcony modules for low-income households (source p. 84). (D)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### Life Terra Foundation NON-SIGNATORY

Kozani Greece

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC actions or commitments

within the CCC.

Not involved in specific

The Life Terra Foundation is a European environmental initiative dedicated to combating climate change by facilitating large-scale tree planting and fostering environmental education. Its primary goal is to plant 500 million trees across Europe, engaging citizens, businesses and governments in reforestation efforts to sequester carbon and restore ecosystems. The Life Terra Foundation is indirectly involved in Kozani CCC through the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), a member of Life Terra and of the Project Management Office responsible for developing and carrying out the CCC.



#### **MiskolcÉrt Community Foundation**

Miskolc Hungary CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but

is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

In 2023, the Foundation announced the winners of its first "Belvárosi Alap" (City Center Fund) competition (source), which included projects aimed at revitalising urban spaces and promoting sustainable practices. The initiative aligns with the broader effort to support climate-neutral objectives.

**Compass for Sustainability Foundation Miskolc Women Have a Chance Foundation Next Generation Foundation** 

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are signatories.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### **Fondazione Cariplo**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Planned action for CCC: Support for the "Click Bergamo" project through technical assistance to support the drafting of the Climate Transition Strategy (STC) and in designing new renewable energy communities (CER); economic contribution for the implementation of certain actions within the STC, and CER management (source, p. 88). (A)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

#### **Fondazione Casa Amica**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Planned action for CCC: Educational actions regarding energy consumption, aimed at families living in houses with rent control and managed by the foundation (source, p. 57). (A)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

#### Fondazione Civiltà Bergamasca

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Planned action for CCC: "Aver Cura della Casa Comune" project: awareness initiatives and calls for tenders dedicated to protecting the environment (source, p. 58). (E)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Italy

#### **Fondazione Golinelli**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC Bologna

Planned actions:

Vehicle replacement for company transport (source, p. 277) (A)

Young Digital Entrepreneurship Camp project, a free training course oriented towards entrepreneurship in the "digital" innovation sector (source, p. 278) (T)

Purchase of green energy to cover consumption of the entire Golinelli factory (source, p. 278) (T)

Climate Change Teacher Academy project, Partner in Erasmus+ project aimed at educating teachers on climate change (source, p. 278) (T)

Big Data & Climate Change School Program Project, free student workshops on big data and climate change, fostering future skills (source, p. 278) (T)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

#### Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana, Rusconi, Villa Ghigi NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Dedicated to promoting urban innovation, citizen engagement, and environmental sustainability in Bologna. As part of the city's CCC:

Manages the Citizens' Assembly for Climate, facilitating public participation in shaping policies related to energy transition, sustainable mobility, and climate adaptation. Through its expertise in governance and participatory processes, it provides tools and analysis to enhance stakeholder engagement in climate initiatives. (T)

Contributes to urban greening and environmental education, particularly through Villa Ghigi Park, where it promotes biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions to support Bologna's sustainability goals. (E)

Organised "Bologna Innovation Ecosystem" event, a social innovation annual event aimed to activate an innovation ecosystem for climate neutrality. (T)

Develops and manages Bologna Missione Clima (formerly chiara. eco project), aimed at disseminating the city's climate-neutrality mission and empowering citizens to collaborate. (T)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

#### Fondazione Carisbo NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Fondazione Carisbo is a philanthropic organisation that has provided financial support for the Big Data & Climate Change School Program, a CCC initiative in collaboration with Fondazione Golinelli aimed at organising workshops on big data and climate change for students. (T) NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze

Florence Italy

Provides financial support to the Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Fondazione CR Firenze is involved in various projects aimed at urban regeneration and sustainability, including supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities (CER).



Italy

#### **Fondazione Cariplo**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Offers technical and financial support on a variety of projects listed in the CCC, in particular:

Territori Virtuosi, aimed at improving energy efficiency of public buildings (source, p. 109) (A)

ClimaMi, a climate monitoring initiative aimed at informing local policies and actions (source, p. 110) (A)

Metropoli Agricole, an annual conference focused on agriculture and the climate crisis (source, p. 113) (E)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Cariplo's thematic branch "Area Ambiente" is involved in multiple interventions beyond those mentioned in the CCC, including:

ForestaMi: an urban forestry project aimed at planting 3 million trees by 2030 (source)

Sinergie in Azione: initiative aimed at strengthening sustainability and impact of environmental non-profits in local territories (source)

Supporting other cities (e.g. Bergamo), joining Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES



Milan Italy

#### FAI-Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

FAI supports CCC by providing feedback on climate policies, mobilising citizens, collecting data and aiding decision-making. Actions listed in the CCC include:

Feasibility Study for a Renewable Energy Community, aimed at installing solar panels on FAI hq to generate and share energy (A, D)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

FAI is involved in various initiatives of advocacy, public sensibilisation, fundraising and restoration aimed at promoting and protecting the Italian landscape and cultural heritage.

#### Fondazione Social Venture Giordano Dell'Amore NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

The foundation is committed to the development of impact investing and social innovation, and supports initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing expertise and patient capital for entrepreneurial projects, such as: "bella Dentro" (C) / Agrobiotica (E) / REVO (B) / Vesti Solidale (C)

EcoMill, a crowd-investing platform focused on energy

transition and sustainability (source, p. 111) (A)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Fondazione Assolombarda, Milano Smart City Alliance NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

This initiative aims to co-design the city of the future by leveraging the opportunities and challenges of the present through the development and experimentation of shared and innovative initiatives between public and private sectors.

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS

BEYOND CCC



Italy

#### Fondazione Cariparma NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Fondazione Cariparma is an Italian philanthropic organisation established in 1991, dedicated to supporting social, cultural and environmental development in the Parma region. It funds initiatives in areas such as education, healthcare, arts, scientific research and sustainability.

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

As part of its environmental commitment, Fondazione Cariparma opened Bando Ambiente 2023, a €2 million tender to support projects focused on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and public awareness on climate and energy issues, promoting best practices for environmental protection and responsible resource use.



Prato

Italy

#### **Fondazione Ami Prato**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Provides economicfinancial support to the ecological transition in the city-region (source, pp. 13, 88).

Not involved in specific within the CCC, but is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

The foundation is involved in the project Prato Forest City (source), an innovative urban planning strategy developed by the municipality to enhance urban green spaces through a digital platform which facilitates the participation of citizens in the green transition of their city. The Ami Foundation is particularly involved in:

Raising funds for the project "Prato Green Hospital" with the aim of actions or commitments creating green spaces that benefit patients, visitors and medical staff Supporting the Municipality of Prato and the Tuscany Health Authority to support urban forestation efforts as part of the project Prato Forest City Promoting collective well-being by educating families on the

role of a healthy environment for healthy lifestyles

Prato Italy

#### **Fondazione Opera Santa Rita**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Provides economic-financial support to the ecological transition in the city-region (source, pp. 13, 88).

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Since 2017, the foundation has promoted "The Blue Trail" (source), a yearly event and trekking route through Tuscany which engages local communities in breaking down barriers around autism.

**Metastasio Theatre Foundation of Prato Politeama Theatre Foundation Prato Textile Museum Foundation** 

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are signatories.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



Italy

#### Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

The "CLICC" project, a collaboration between the City of Turin, Compagnia di San Paolo, and the Energy Center of the Polytechnic University of Turin, aims to develop an HW and SW infrastructure platform for urban modelling and mirroring, focusing on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, enabling "what if?" scenario analysis for policy impact evaluation. (A)

As part of the "Torino 2030" strategy and recognising the importance of mobility for achieving carbonneutrality targets, Compagnia di San Paolo supported the creation of the "TPL Carbon Free" Innovation Center. This joint initiative involves GTT, the local public transport company, and the LINKS Foundation. The centre focuses on three main themes: energy and ecological transition; service innovation; and operational model innovation. Eleven projects have been launched, including six operational ones and five collaborative research projects. Operational projects involve support for GTT in areas like photovoltaic energy production, digital upgrades for the metro system, and compliance with safety regulations. Collaborative research aims to explore scenarios for achieving climate neutrality, accessibility, equity and service efficiency, including a study to develop alternative paths toward a net-zero emissions energy system. (T)

In addition, in 2025 the foundation started a process of evaluation and reduction of its own ecological footprint. (D)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

To be more effective and better serve the local community, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo was the first Italian foundation of banking origin to promote a strategic and operational alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following the European approach to the global environmental challenges, in 2020 the foundation launched a specific goal addressing the overarching challenges facing the future of the planet and future generations through effective action to cope with environmental protection, sustainable economy (local) and carbon reduction strategies. Planet Goal and its key dimensions (Support to Research, Fostering Innovation, Healthcare & Well-being, Environment) led to a series of actions, including calls for proposals aimed at selecting projects that contribute to achieving carbon-neutrality by 2030. Among these:

Calls to support projects on environmental restoration, such as Restauro Ambientale Sostenibile, Mutamenti, and Simbiosi

Re: Azioni, a call for NGOs to promote more sustainable lifestyles in their communities

Sinergie or the development of Renewable Energy Communities (CER) with a social impact, through a multi-tool approach

Next Generation We aims at offering a dedicated support to cities (located in the northwest of Italy) involved in the PNRR (Italian recovery and resiliency plan), specifically in relation to the mission "Green revolution and ecological transition"

Techstars Torino initiative supporting companies that are shaping the future of mobility and urban living, while creating a lasting change in the world of tomorrow

The foundation is involved in a series of strategic custom projects led by the City of Turin. One worth mentioning is the restoration of a large portion of

a public park for the valorisation of the Po River.

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES



#### **Fondazione CRT**

#### Turin Italy

Fondazione CRT (Cassa di Risparmio di Torino Foundation) is a private non-profit organisation,

established in 1991.

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

> Fondazione CRT is actively engaged in promoting climate-neutrality in the city of Turin and the Piedmont Region through various initiatives: Fondazione CRT collaborates with Techstars to run the "Torino Cities of the Future Accelerator" programme. This initiative supports start-ups developing innovative solutions for smart cities, including in areas like sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and urban infrastructure (source).

The Lagrange Prize recognises outstanding contributions to the study of complex systems and data science. The prize is awarded annually to scientists who have made innovative advancements in applying complexity science and data science principles at the highest levels. In 2024 the prize was won by Marta C. Gonzalez whose research focuses on analysing digital traces to improve urban liveability, particularly in the energy and mobility sectors.

**Fondazione Collegio Einaudi** Fondazione della Comunità di Mirafiori ONLUS Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini Fondazione Links

NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

**Fondazione Piemonte Innova** 

These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are cited.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



Portugal

Fundação António Cupertino de Miranda Fundação Casa da Música Fundação Ilídio Pinho Fundação Manuel António da Mota Fundação de Serralves

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

These foundations are not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but are signatories.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### **Bucharest Community Foundation**



The foundation supports the Platforma de Mediu pentru Bucuresti (Environment Platform for Bucharest), a comprehensive environmental initiative aimed at fostering participatory development for a sustainable vision of Bucharest, identifying the city's environmental challenges, and proposing solutions from civil society.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### **Vincenc Draksler Foundation**

#### Kranj Slovenia

Not involved in specific within the CCC, but is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

The Vincenc Draksler Foundation (source) primarily focuses on the actions or commitments reintegration of former drug addicts into society. One of their notable initiatives, however, is the establishment of a social enterprise that operates reuse centres at two locations. In these centres, participants engage in collecting, cleaning, repairing and refurbishing used items such as furniture, lighting and technical equipment. These activities provide work therapy and skill development for former addicts but also contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing waste and promoting the reuse of materials.



#### **BIT Habitat Foundation** NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

#### Barcelona Spain

BIT Habitat Foundation is the urban innovation agency of the Barcelona City Council. In the CCC, the foundation is responsible for the following actions:

"Boosting urban innovation": The strategy for boosting innovation in the city so that it becomes a lever for transformation and acceleration at the service of improving people's quality of life, combating the climate emergency and fostering urban resilience. The measure organises the instruments available to Barcelona City Council to accelerate this change; innovate services, processes and governance; and accelerate innovation in the city and with the city, (source p. 180) (T)

Barcelona Urban Innovation Platform, a space for dialogue, reflection and consensus that brings together the players in the innovative ecosystem of the city (T)

"The Proactive City", a call for proposals for urban innovation projects (T)

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

In 2023, the foundation awarded grants to seven innovative projects aimed at improving coexistence in public spaces, contributing to the city's sustainability objectives. Additionally, in 2024, the foundation presented six winning projects in the fifth edition of the "La ciutat proactiva" grants, dedicated to tackling drought, further demonstrating its commitment to urban innovation and climate resilience

#### BCN Vocational and Education Training Foundation NON-SIGNATORY

#### CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Promoted by the City Council of Barcelona with the aim of providing vocational training and supporting students' transition to business. Involved as an actor in the following planned actions:

Climate Neutral Economic Opportunities and Adaptation programme to foster a sustainable economy through green jobs, circular economy, and sector transformation (T)

Industrial decarbonisation programme of the metropolitan area through sustainable production cycles and resource optimisation (C)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



Madrid

Spain

## Laudes Foundation NON-SIGNATORY

#### CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

The Laudes Foundation is dedicated to fostering a green, fair and inclusive economy by supporting innovative initiatives that address climate change and inequality. In 2021, the foundation collaborated with EIT Climate-KIC and other partners to advance sustainable urban development in European cities, focusing on reducing embodied carbon in construction. This collaboration highlighted best practices from urban regeneration projects in Madrid, aiming to inspire positive climate action across Europe.

Additionally, Laudes Foundation launched the "Built by Nature" initiative, a multi-million-euro grantmaking fund and network designed to accelerate the transition to sustainable construction in cities. This initiative promotes the use of timber in building projects, aiming to decarbonise the built environment by working with nature. In the CCC, the foundation is mentioned as a funder of the action Healthy, Clean Cities: European Cities for Climate-Neutral Construction which works towards research and prototype solutions that reduce emissions in the construction sector. In particular, the project focuses on promoting circularity and the use of natural and low-carbon materials (source p. 78) (D)

Laudes Foundation also organises "Madrid Zero Emissions" open events every year, aimed at involving citizens (C)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC



#### València **Spain**

#### València Clima i Energia NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

 $\label{thm:municipal} \mbox{Municipal foundation pertaining to Ayuntamiento de València, working on information and education on climate change and boosting the energy transition.}$ 

Actions planned:

Implementation of the Municipal Sustainable Energy Company, a public-private energy company to boost renewables, efficiency, and energy equity (A)

Implementation of the Neighbourhood Energy Community to

produce, share and manage local renewable energy (A)

Energy Offices: one-stop shops to give citizens guidance on efficiency, renewables and energy rights (T)

Energy Culture: Empowering citizens through awareness, action and engagement for a fair, renewable energy transition (T)

València City Council, Las NAVES Foundation (local innovation agency), and València Climate and Energy Foundation (local Climate and Energy agency) have created their own Mission Teams that have been working since 2021 in the Mission Community (source, p 44).

Involved in the action Carbon-neutral district (source, p 244)

CLIMATE ACTIONS
BEYOND CCC

València is involved in citiES 2030, a platform which promotes the decarbonisation of Spanish cities within the framework of the EU Cities Mission.

#### Las Naves Foundation NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

A municipal foundation operating as a Centre for Social and Urban Innovation. Planned actions:

Missions València 2030: to promote innovation-driven policies for health, sustainability and urban well-being (T)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS

#### Oceanogràfic Foundation València NON-SIGNATORY

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Foundation created to support the Oceanogràfic València aquarium in its goal to protect the marine environment. Planned actions:

Sustainable and quality food, aimed at strengthening the local agri-food system through sustainable production, fair value chains, etc. (E)

NO CLIMATE ACTIONS
BEYOND CCC



Valladolid

Spain

#### **Inea Foundation**

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

The Inea Foundation manages urban and ecological gardens as a part of its community engagement and educational environmental programme. The Inea Foundation manages urban and ecological gardens as a part of its community engagement and educational environmental programme.

#### The EXECyL Foundation

CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but

is a signatory.

CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

The EXECyL Foundation is focused on empowering young leaders and professionals by providing educational opportunities, resources and a platform for growth.



#### Ellen MacArthur Foundation NON-SIGNATORY

Umea **Sweden**  CLIMATE ACTIONS IN CCC

Not involved in specific actions or commitments within the CCC, but is cited. CLIMATE ACTIONS BEYOND CCC

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation is a non-profit organisation that conducts evidence-based original research on the benefits of a circular economy and how it can contribute to solving global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss. While located in the UK, the foundation's efforts align with broader EU strategies, such as climate-neutrality and sustainable growth. Through programmes like the Circular Economy 100 (CE100, source), the foundation collaborates with various EU companies and organisations to scale up circular practices, ultimately contributing to the EU's long-term climate-neutrality targets. The foundation is also indirectly involved in Umeå CCC, as the city has been appointed by the OECD as leader in driving the transition to a circular economy.

PART 2 Other foundations active in climate-neutrality and their key initiatives and actions

## + HELSINKI, FINLAND

#### **Kone Foundation**

The KONE Foundation is a Finnish private foundation established in 1995, with the goal of supporting scientific research, culture and education. The foundation funds research and projects that promote environmental sustainability and paradigmatic changes through art and culture; and that address global challenges such as climate change. It supports initiatives related to the development of sustainable technologies, green innovation and climate action, in line with its commitment to improving the world for future generations (source).

# () PARIS, FRANCE Fondation de France

Fondation de France is one of France's largest philanthropic organisations, established in 1969 to support projects that address pressing social, environmental and cultural issues. It serves as an umbrella foundation, managing funds and endowments for various charitable initiatives while also financing its own programmes. Through its Environment sector (source), it supports projects that focus on energy transition, environmental conservation and the development of low-carbon technologies. To this end it joined the European Al Fund in 2020. In the realm of smart cities, Fondation de France has collaborated with organisations like the Palladio Foundation and Agorize to launch challenges encouraging innovative projects in urban development. For example, the "Make the City" challenge invited students to propose ideas in categories such as human and inclusive cities, low-carbon and sustainable cities, and smart and connected cities (source).

# STUTTGART, GERMANY Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung, one of Europe's largest foundations linked to a private company, is dedicated to driving progress in health, education and global challenges (source). In the realm of smart cities, the foundation has put in place a people-first approach, supporting initiatives in 2019 that placed residents at the heart of urban development. By funding research that fosters community-driven planning, it has helped shape smart

city solutions that reflect the daily lives, needs and aspirations of local populations (source). Beyond urban innovation, the foundation is deeply committed to sustainability. With a bold vision to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, it actively works to shrink its own carbon footprint (source). Since 2020, it has made Climate Change a core funding priority and strengthened its impact by joining the European Al Fund, reinforcing its dedication to tackling the world's most pressing challenges (source).

# () BOLOGNA, ITALY Fondazione Unipolis

Fondazione Unipolis is the corporate foundation of the Unipol Group, dedicated to supporting innovative ideas and projects that foster the growth of individuals and communities (source). Through initiatives like the Città 2030 campaign, in partnership with Legambiente, the foundation is driving conversations around zero-emission mobility and urban sustainability in Italy (source). Additionally, the 2023 event Cities Never Sleep celebrated grass-roots projects that enhance the liveability of cities, fostering a more sustainable and inclusive future (source). With its Bando ACT initiative, Fondazione Unipolis is further supporting projects that focus on sustainable mobility, social inclusion and improving welfare (source). The MOB initiative (source) aims to involve the youngest generation in contributing to sustainable mobility in their city through creative solutions.

# () FLORENCE, ITALY Fondazione Capellino

The Fondazione Capellino promotes innovative solutions to address climate change and improve urban biodiversity. Against this backdrop, the foundation launched an experimental project called "Firenze Climate Change" in January 2023. This project aims to design, implement and monitor nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change in the city, promote urban biodiversity and improve citizens' health. Additionally, Fondazione Capellino has invested €4.5 million for the period 2023-2032 in a project that transforms 10 areas of the city into open-air laboratories. The goal is to study the impacts of climate change, such as heat islands, air quality, biodiversity and CO₂ emissions, to develop effective solutions to counter these effects.

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

# () FLORENCE, ITALY Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità

The Fondazione per il Clima e la Sostenibilità (FCS) promotes scientific research programmes in various sectors, including climatology, agronomy, forestry, renewable energy production, environmental monitoring and natural resource protection. In 2023, FCS joined the Firenze per il Clima initiative, a participatory process promoted by the Municipality of Florence to involve the entire city in the goal of achieving climate-neutrality by 2030. In this initiative, FCS chose to participate as a "teller", meaning an entity engaged in promoting awareness and training activities on climate change issues.

# () PADOVA, ITALY Fondazione Cariparo

Fondazione Cariparo is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and promoting sustainable development in the provinces of Padua and Rovigo (source). In its commitment to climate neutrality, and through its Quality-of-life area of intervention, Fondazione Cariparo has launched several initiatives. With the Bando CER (Comunità Energetiche Rinnovabili (source), it aims to assist local entities in the creation of renewable energy communities and other self-consumption configurations, in line with the objectives set by the EU. The Bando GreenUp! aims to promote environmental protection and foster active citizenship by supporting initiatives which safeguard ecosystems, promote soft mobility (such as walking and cycling), and improve urban environmental quality (i.e. creating urban gardens and farms).

# AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS Porticus

Porticus is a philanthropic organisation committed to fostering a just and sustainable future, with a significant focus on climate-neutrality. Through the "Caring for the Earth" sector (source), among other actions, it supports cities in transitioning to regenerative post-carbon economies, with positive impacts on marginalised communities. In this context, the Clean Energy initiative was born, which focuses on providing renewable electricity to communities that are most affected by climate change but are least responsible for it. Porticus is also a European AI Fund member, and has been researching innovative technologies, financial tools and business models to benefit communities in energy poverty.

# THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS European Climate Foundation

The European Climate Foundation (ECF) is a leading philanthropic organisation committed to tackling climate change by driving the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy (source). With a clear focus on fossil-free energy and clean transport, ECF is shaping the future towards a greener world. In the energy sector, it's spearheading initiatives like ReNew2030, a collaborative platform that unites experts, civil society and fellow philanthropies to turbocharge the shift to wind and solar power (source, p. 23). On the transport front, ECF is accelerating the transition to clean mobility through campaigns like Drive Electric and advocating for the widespread implementation of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) across Europe (source, p. 33). These efforts are helping pave the way for a cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable future.

# REEUWIJK, THE NETHERLANDS Adessium Foundation

The Adessium Foundation (source) is a private, independent grantmaking organisation based in the Netherlands, established in 2005. Adessium supports initiatives and organisations in the Netherlands and Europe that are committed to an open and just society, healthy ecosystems and equal opportunities for everyone. The Adessium Foundation joined the European AI & Society Fund as funding partner in June 2023, to support public-interest AI policies in Europe (source). The Adessium Foundation supports climate-neutrality through its People & Nature programme (source), supporting initiatives like Rewilding Europe (source) to restore ecosystems and enhance carbon sequestration.

## GUIMARAES, PORTUGAL

# The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

The FCT is Portugal's primary agency for funding and evaluating scientific and technological research. Its mission is to advance knowledge in science and technology, fostering innovation and contributing to societal well-being. FCT is actively involved in the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP), a European initiative under Horizon Europe aimed at accelerating the transition to clean energy and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Through the CETP, FCT supports transnational research and innovation projects across various energy technologies and system solutions.

# () CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA The M100 Hub

The M100 Hub is a national initiative in Romania, coordinated at the interministerial level, aimed at supporting Romanian cities in their green transition. It serves as a platform to disseminate knowledge relevant to achieving climate-neutrality across various cities in Romania and to identify funding sources to support both the European Mission and the Mirror Mission. In December 2023, the M100 Hub was launched in Cluj-Napoca, bringing together representatives from the European Commission, national and regional authorities, cities, academia, NGOs and urban communities from Romania and Europe. The event focused on discussing the progress of implementing the Horizon Europe Mission for 100 smart and climate-neutral cities by 2030 at the national level. The M100 Hub aims to support the implementation of the "100 Climate-Neutral Smart Cities by 2030" mission by facilitating access to European funding sources for climate change mitigation and accelerating efforts to limit global warming. It also seeks to replicate European policies at the national level and assist other Romanian cities in achieving the carbon reduction targets set by the European Green Deal.

# GENEVA, SWITZERLAND Oak Foundation

The Oak Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 1983, dedicated to addressing pressing social and environmental issues worldwide (source). Its mission is to support innovative solutions that promote social change and environmental sustainability. Through its Environment programme (source) it employs a global-system transformation approach with a focus on energy, food and nature. Actions in support of reaching climate-neutrality in 2030 include: supporting a rights-based clean energy transition, scaling clean energy technologies, promoting universal access to renewable energy, reducing plastic pollution, advancing circular economies, and transforming financial systems to support clean energy over fossil fuels. The Oak Foundation joined the European AI Fund in 2020, to address the discriminatory impacts of AI on vulnerable communities.

# FLINT, MICHIGAN, US Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926, is a private philanthropic organisation based in Flint, Michigan with the mission to support non-profit organisations that strengthen communities worldwide. The

foundation joined the <u>European Artificial Intelligence</u> & <u>Society Fund</u> (European AI Fund) in 2020. Through its Environment programme it has been advancing climate change solutions such as increasing the use of renewable energy in developing countries, particularly in regions like the Amazon and sub-Saharan Africa (source).

# MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA, US William and Flora

**Hewlett Foundation** 

Founded in 1966, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation committed to addressing climate change and to accelerating climate-neutrality (source). Through its Environment programme, the foundation funds initiatives that work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving natural resources, and accelerating the transition to clean, renewable energy sources (source). One of the foundation's core strategies for achieving climate neutrality is its focus on policy advocacy, working with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to implement ambitious climate policies at both national and global levels.

# ENEW YORK, NEW YORK, US Ford Foundation

Founded in 1936 by Edsel Ford and Henry Ford, Ford Foundation is a major philanthropic organisation committed to social justice and human rights worldwide. Through the Natural Resources and Climate Justice Program (source) the foundation works to recognise and dismantle the unjust system deriving from the extraction of natural resources and promote energy transition processes that are fair and inclusive and that prioritise the needs of historically disadvantaged communities and land-connected peoples from the Global South. In 2010, the Ford Foundation co-founded the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA, source) alongside the ClimateWorks Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. This alliance coordinates grantmaking activities to promote sustainable land use as an essential part of the global response to climate change. In 2019 the foundation established the Natural Resources and Climate Change International Strategy (NRCC-I) which supports efforts to ensure that natural resource governance and climate change actions serve the public interest. The foundation has been a partner of the European AI Fund since 2020, integrating AI-powered environmental monitoring tools to track deforestation, biodiversity loss, environmental changes and carbon emissions also in support of its programmes.

### About the partner organisations





long-time member of Philea, the Turin-based Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo traces its roots back to a confraternity set up on 25 January 1563. The foundation focuses primarily on northwestern Italy, with a marked European sensitivity. In line with its long history, Compagnia puts people, their potential, their rights, responsibilities and aspirations at the centre of everything it does. It embraces the values and principles of development, sustainability, interdependence, solidarity, equity and the equal dignity of all human beings, as declared by the United Nations, the European Union and the Republic of Italy. The UN SDGs are an important facet of Compagnia's activity, which has innovation at the heart of its approach.

www.compagniadisanpaolo.it/en

hilea nurtures a diverse and inclusive ecosystem of foundations, philanthropic organisations and networks in over 30 countries that work for the common good. With individual and national-level infrastructure organisations as members, it unites over 7,500 public-benefit foundations that seek to improve life for people and communities in Europe and around the world. Philea galvanises collective action and amplifies the voice of European philanthropy, and in all it does, it is committed to enhancing trust, collaboration, transparency, innovation, inclusion and diversity Our vision is for philanthropy to use its full potential to co-shape and support a pluralistic, just and resilient society that centres people and planet. To achieve this, our mission is to enable, encourage and empower the philanthropic community to build a better today and tomorrow.

#### www.philea.eu

Philea EU Cities Mission network of foundations

**AUTHORS** 

Alberto Francesco Anfossi, Marco Bigica, Sara Leporati, Arianna Porrone,

Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo

Ilaria d'Auria, Philea

**COORDINATION TEAM** 

Ilaria d'Auria, Marianne Johnston, Sevda Kilicalp, Jack O'Neill, Lucia Patuzzi, Angela Pauly, Joshua Redding, Hanna Surmatz, Philea

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Mikaël Kaiser kapsul.be

PHOTOS unsplash.com



#### Philea 2025

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International License. Quotation is subject to full identification of this source. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as official positions of Philea. Philea disclaims all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use of the information given in this publication.

For further information, please contact
Philea, Philanthropy House
Rue Royale 94, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 2 512 89 38 – info@philea.eu – www.philea.eu



# 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

Philanthropy's Role in Ensuring a Just and Fair Transition Through the FU Cities Mission



Philanthropy House

Rue Royale 94 1000 Brussels Belgium

T +32 2 512 89 38 info@philea.eu

www.philea.eu

Facebook philanthropye

philanthrop yeurope association

Instagram philea\_eu

LinkedIn philanthropy-europe-association

YouTube
Philea

Flickr
philanthropy-europe-association