



European Committee
of the Regions

Commission for
Citizenship, Governance,
Institutional and External Affairs

CIVEX

Boosting international subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28



© European Union, 2022

Partial reproduction is permitted, provided that the source is explicitly mentioned.

More information on the European Union and the Committee of the Regions is available online at <http://www.europa.eu> and <http://www.cor.europa.eu> respectively.

QG-09-22-287-EN-N; ISBN: 978-92-895-1237-4; doi: 10.2863/020756

**This report was written by Anna Maria Augustyn
Giulia Sofia Sarno, Marie-Eve Ciparisse (A.R.S. Progetti S.P.A.)**

**It does not represent the official views of the
European Committee of the Regions.**

Contents

1. General analysis of subnational climate diplomacy: from definition to boosting the concept	1
1.1 Climate diplomacy and city diplomacy	2
1.2 Mapping of the main players	4
1.3 Uptake in the key regions of interest	8
1.4 The added value of subnational climate diplomacy	11
2. Examples of successful non-EU subnational climate diplomacy and specific cases on local governments' experience with mobilising climate action.....	17
2.1 Projects and initiatives in the area of SCD	17
2.2 List of selected projects and initiatives	21
3. Conclusions	31
4. Recommendations	35
5. References	41

Abbreviations

COR	Committee of the Regions
EU	European Union
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NAZCA	Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action
COP	Conference of the Parties
G20	Group of Twenty
UN	United Nations
UCLG	World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments
LGMA	Local Governments and Municipal Authorities
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
GTFLRG	Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
COM	Covenant of Mayors
GCOM	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
AIMF	Association Internationale des Maires Francophones
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
ORU	United Regions Organisation
CNCA	Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EECU	Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine
COMsSA	Covenant of Mayors in sub-Saharan Africa
COM Med	Covenant of Mayors of the Mediterranean
WWII	World War II
SCD	Subnational Climate Diplomacy
EaP	Eastern Partnership (countries)
WBC	Western Balkan (countries)
B40	Balkan cities network
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
GCF	Green Climate Fund
AER	Assembly of the European Regions
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Germany)
MTE	Ministère de la Transition Ecologique (France)
FFEM	French Facility for Global Environment
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
EC's JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Centre

SEACAPs Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans
GLCN Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement
DG INTPA DG for International Partnerships
GCAPs Green City Action Plans
GCF Green Cities Facility
ENI European Neighbourhood Instrument
TAIEX Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the
European Commission
EaP Eastern Partnership Countries

1. General analysis of subnational climate diplomacy: from definition to boosting the concept

1.1 Climate diplomacy and city diplomacy

Climate diplomacy does not have a universal definition. Nevertheless, it generally refers to the use of diplomatic tools to support the achievement of international climate goals and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on peace, stability and prosperity. Climate diplomacy entails prioritizing climate action in relations with partners worldwide, shaping foreign policy agendas and building partnerships that tackle simultaneously climate and other foreign policy objectives such as peace building or strengthening multilateralism.

At the EU level, the EU Council defines climate diplomacy as “EU’s work in both multilateral fora and at a bilateral level on promoting ambitious global climate goals and actions in pursuit of a planetary transition towards climate neutrality”. The 2018 EU Parliament resolution on climate diplomacy¹ defines it as “a form of targeted foreign policy to promote climate action through reaching out to other actors, cooperating on specific climate-related issues, building strategic partnerships and strengthening relations between state and non-state actors, including major contributors to global pollution, thereby contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change, as well as to enhancing climate action and strengthening Union’s diplomatic relationships”.

Bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations on climate issues are largely characterized by traditional state-to-state diplomacy. Nevertheless, several studies and experts highlight those contemporary global challenges are transforming traditional diplomacy and climate change is playing a major role in this process. Over the years, while national governments repeatedly failed to make substantial commitments to address climate change, new diplomatic players started to emerge bringing forward ambitious commitments. In particular, cities and – to a lesser extent - other subnational actors are gaining increasingly significant importance in climate diplomacy.

According to Manfredi and Seoane “cities are staging a comeback in international relations” through what is defined as city diplomacy.² As argued in another recent

• ¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0280_EN.html

• ² To read more about city diplomacy and its role in climate action:
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54552-9_3

study, “city leaders in the past three decades have increasingly identified with the global community, claiming political authority in foreign affairs with growing frequency”. This was possible largely thanks to the participation of cities to formalized networks through which local authorities share knowledge and best practices and advocate for their common interests. The number of city networks grew exponentially in the last twenty years, with a significant share dedicated to climate change.

Climate change is one of the policy areas where city diplomacy is expanding more rapidly and achieving the most significant results. According to Manfredi and Seoane, “non-state dynamics drive the transition to zero emissions and best practices in public action, given the inability of traditional states to deliver an international plan to mitigate climate change”. There are several reasons why city diplomacy is particularly effective in the context of climate action, we will look into this topic later in the chapter.

The emergence of local authorities’ networks played a key role in the integration of cities and other subnational actors in the international system. Since the 2010s, with an acceleration after the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, subnational actors gained a growing role in the global climate diplomacy arena and in particular in the UNFCCC regime. The key milestones of this process are:

- During the 2014 Climate Summit in New York, alongside heads of state, city mayors, CEOs and civil society groups were invited and encouraged to make ambitious pledges.
- In 2014, at COP20 in Lima, the UNFCCC and the Peruvian host government launched the Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal (now named Climate Action Portal), a tool to collect data and track progress on climate action made by sub-state and non-state actors.
- In 2015, at COP21 the text of the Paris Agreement institutionalized the role of sub-state and non-state actors in the new architecture of the UNFCCC regime (the text “*recognizes the importance of engagements of all levels of governments*”) and established several mechanisms to support their action, including a High-Level Event to be held at every COP for sub-state/non-state actors to report on progress and announce new commitments.
- In 2016, at COP22 in Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action was established to support implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and the cities, regions, businesses and investors that must act on climate change. The Marrakech Partnership also enhanced tracking and transparency by creating an annual

Yearbook of Climate Action to assess the scale and scope of sub- and non-state action, and to feed this information into countries' decision-making processes as they define and implement their own policies.

- In 2018, a step forward was taken also in integrating the voice of cities in the G20 processes, by creating the Urban20 group (U20) that brings together mayors from the main G20 cities to inform the G20 negotiations. The C40 is a convener of the group, which highlights the importance of climate action-based city networks in the development of climate diplomacy led by subnational actors.
- In 2021, at COP26, the Glasgow Climate Pact has recognized “the important role of indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change, and highlighting the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action”
- Towards COP27, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) group continues its work to secure a seat at the COPs' negotiating tables to cities and regions, even though for now this objective seems rather distant.
- The current UN Secretary-General António Guterres has been vocal about the need to revamp multilateralism through a more inclusive system, expressing his support to a greater engagement of local authorities.

1.2 Mapping of the main players

The landscape of networks and initiatives gathering local governments in the area of climate action is vast. There are three bodies that have a particularly important role in bringing the voice of subnational actors at the multilateral tables in order to shape the global climate and sustainable development agendas: the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency.

The World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)³ is the oldest and largest network of local authorities, including over 240.000 cities and regions in all continents. Its structure entails 7 regional sections, 1 section dedicated to metropolis⁴ and 1 forum of regions.⁵ The regional sections include: UCLG-Africa⁶ with headquarters in Rabat and two regional offices for West and East Africa; UCLG-Eurasia⁷ based in Kazan (Russia); a Europe Section going under the name of Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)⁸ based in Brussels; UCLG-MEWA⁹ based in Istanbul covering the Middle East and West Asia; a Latin America Section composed by two organizations: the Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA)¹⁰ and Mercociudades¹¹; a North America Section UCLG-Noram¹² (Ottawa) and an Asia-Pacific Section UCLG-ASPAC¹³ (Jakarta). The UCLG carries out collaboration and knowledge-sharing activities among local governments, representing their voice globally and aiming at strengthening their cooperation. Its core goal is to implement the concept of “localization” that is the achievement of the global agendas with a bottom-up trend, focusing in particular on the SDGs. In 2013, upon initiative of the UCLG President and Mayor of Istanbul, the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments¹⁴ was set up.

The GTFLRG is a coordination and consultation mechanism that brings together the major local governments networks to undertake joint advocacy on global

-
- ³ <https://www.uclg.org/en>
 - ⁴ <https://www.metropolis.org/our-work>
 - ⁵ <https://www.uclg.org/en/forum-regions>
 - ⁶ <https://www.uclga.org/>
 - ⁷ <http://euroasia-uclg.ru/en/>
 - ⁸ <https://www.ccre.org/>
 - ⁹ <http://uclg-mewa.org/en/>
 - ¹⁰ <http://cc-flacma.org/>
 - ¹¹ <https://mercociudades.org>
 - ¹² <https://www.fcm.ca/en>
 - ¹³ <https://uclg-aspac.org/en/>
 - ¹⁴ <https://www.global-taskforce.org/>

policy processes, namely the SDGs, the climate change agenda and New Urban Agenda. The networks' membership includes all the UCLG Sections and other key groups that will be discussed below. Furthermore, the GTFLRG gathers elected local and regional leaders in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.¹⁵ The creation of these bodies represented a watershed moment as local governments became the only UN non-state stakeholders to have a mechanism to develop coordinated inputs into policy processes. The GTFLRG is a privileged UN interlocutor and enjoys a mandate to deliver recommendations in key policy areas and to facilitate follow-up on the implementation of the major global agendas at the local level.

The GTFLRG plays a key role in the processes dedicated to boosting the role of local governments in achieving global climate and environmental goals. Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), networks of local and regional governments are represented by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency¹⁶ which works on behalf on the GTFLRG in the area of climate.

The memberships of UCLG, GTFLRG and LGMA often overlap and include the most relevant and active networks of local governments working on climate action. In the following section we will look into some of these networks and into key sources to map existing initiatives globally.

A comprehensive source to map networks of cities and regions in the area of climate is the Global Climate Action portal¹⁷ – previously known as NAZCA (the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action). On this portal there is a section dedicated¹⁸ to international cooperation initiatives and options are available to filter for those that have cities and regions as main members. The two UNFCCC lists¹⁹ of local and regional governments “Accredited Organizations” and “Participating Networks” are also a key tool to identify relevant actors.

Among the most significant and influential networks we can identify:

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability²⁰ that includes more than 2500 local and regional governments in more than 125 countries globally. Its thematic focus is on sustainable urban development but over the years it has gained a very significant role in initiatives related to subnational climate diplomacy and its

• ¹⁵ <https://www.global-taskforce.org/world-assembly-local-and-regional-governments>

• ¹⁶ <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/about-the-lgma/>

• ¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/news/re-energised-global-climate-action-portal-features-country-pages>

• ¹⁸ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives>

• ¹⁹ <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/about-the-lgma/>

• ²⁰ [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](https://www.iclei.org/)

representation at the multilateral level. For instance, ICLEI acts as the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) was launched in January 2017. This coalition, resulting from the merge of the Compact of Mayors and European Covenant of Mayors, is the largest initiative for the reduction of local greenhouse gas emissions, which aims to enhance resilience to climate change and track its progress. It includes more than 11500 local governments in 10 regional branches covering from North America and Europe to Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Covenant of Mayors is a major actor in the reinforcement of subnational climate diplomacy, in particular it has an important role in representing subnational actors at the multilateral level. C40²¹ is the other major city climate action network that overtime has gained a major role in boosting city diplomacy on climate action and in representing cities at the multilateral level. Gathering almost 100 cities, it focuses mainly on large cities that have established a global leadership in climate action.

The following section of the chapter is a mapping of the most relevant and interesting networks and initiatives of local governments active in the area of climate action and subnational climate diplomacy across world regions.

Focus on subnational climate action:

Under2 Coalition²²

Resilient Cities Network²³

Global Parliament of Mayors²⁴

Focus on decentralized cooperation:

Platforma²⁵ (focus on decentralized cooperation by European cities, has gained a prominent role in engaging Global South local governments in the context of subnational climate diplomacy)

Focus on specific areas of the world:

Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network²⁶

Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)²⁷

Cités Unies France²⁸ (active in decentralised cooperation of French cities in the area of climate)

-
- ²¹ <https://www.c40.org/about-c40/>
 - ²² <https://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-coalition>
 - ²³ <https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/>
 - ²⁴ <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/>
 - ²⁵ <https://platforma-dev.eu/who-we-are/>
 - ²⁶ <https://www.clgf.org.uk/what-we-do/cities-network/>
 - ²⁷ <https://aimf.asso.fr/>
 - ²⁸ <https://cites-unies-france.org/-Les-groupes-thematiques->

African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum²⁹

MedCities³⁰

B40 - Balkan cities network³¹

Focus on regions:

R20 – Regions of Climate Action³²

Regions4³³

ORU Fogar - United Regions Organisation³⁴

A non-exhaustive list of some of the most relevant subnational initiatives on climate action cooperation includes:

Race to Resilience³⁵

Race to Zero³⁶

RegionsAdapt³⁷

Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA)³⁸

Clean Air Initiative³⁹

Climate Ambition Alliance⁴⁰

EcoMobility Alliance⁴¹

Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate⁴²

Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment⁴³

-
- ²⁹ http://www.africancapitalcities.org/about.php?&time=1651151997#about_network
 - ³⁰ <https://medcities.org/projects/enviromental-and-biodiversity/>
 - ³¹ <https://b40network.org/participating-cities/>
 - ³² <https://regions20.org/>
 - ³³ <https://www.regions4.org/about-us/regions4/>
 - ³⁴ <https://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/about-oru/objectives-and-mission>
 - ³⁵ <https://www.theclimategroup.org/join-race-to-resilience>
 - ³⁶ <https://www.c40.org/news/campaign-announced-to-mobilise-1-000-cities-for-a-green-and-just-recovery-to-address-global-climate-emergency/>
 - ³⁷ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=89>
 - ³⁸ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=12>
 - ³⁹ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=131>
 - ⁴⁰ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=94>
 - ⁴¹ <https://sustainablemobility.iclei.org/ecomobility-alliance/>
 - ⁴² <https://en.unesco.org/mawac/about>
 - ⁴³ <https://www.worldgbc.org/thecommitment>

1.3 Uptake in the key regions of interest

Looking at the existing networks and initiatives, it is possible to gather some initial information to assess the level of awareness and engagement in subnational climate diplomacy in different regions. In the Mediterranean area, one of the leading city climate action networks is MedCities which is active in the area since 1991 and has gained a prominent role in the landscape similar networks at the international level. Currently it counts 67 member cities, which are for the most part coastal cities, from countries in all the 3 shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The majority of members are from the African and Middle East shores, but the network includes also coastal Balkan cities, along with a few Italian, French and Spanish cities. The network plays a major role in the climate action cooperation among Mediterranean cities and should be regarded as a focal point to engage with cities in this area. Nevertheless, as it focuses on coastal cities and their needs, this might be a limit. It is worth noting that, in terms of membership, the most active countries are Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan. While Algeria, Egypt and Libya only participate through one or two cities. This information can be an interesting initial element to infer that Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan might be considered as leaders in city diplomacy on climate action in the Mediterranean area.

Alongside MedCities since 2012, the Mediterranean branch of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM Med) is also a key reference for subnational climate diplomacy in the region and currently has 122 active signatories. The CoM Med membership confirms to a certain extent that Egypt, Libya and Algeria have a lower engagement compared to other countries (e.g. Morocco, Lebanon). In addition, CoM Med includes also several other countries in the Middle East Region (e.g. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman etc) even though most of them are not active members. This broader structure of CoM Med could be identified as a promising starting point to increase the engagement of cities in the larger Mediterranean - Middle Eastern area.

With regards to the Balkan area, the B40 Balkan Cities Network is an interesting starting point to assess the evolution of city climate diplomacy in the region. The network was created in November 2021 and has a broad focus in terms of content, yet sustainable development and climate action are highlighted as among the top priority areas. It now includes 24 cities but it is explicitly mentioned that it aims at expanding further in the region. The creation of this first region-wide city network in 2021 can be understood as a sign of initial, yet growing, interest and awareness on city diplomacy, with a particular attention to climate action. The B40 network represents an important milestone, as it can be the basis to expand subnational climate diplomacy in the region.

It is interesting to note that the B40 Balkan Cities Network was founded during the “Istanbul Summit” that took place in Istanbul and was chaired by the Mayor of the Turkish city (Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu). Istanbul is also among the funding members of the network. Recently, Turkey was also involved in the new initiative “EU4 Energy Transition: Covenant of Mayors in the Western Balkans and Turkey”⁴⁴ which – combined with the B40 network - suggests the establishment of a consolidated relationship between cities in the Balkans and Turkey with regards to climate action. Turkey is also present in the above-mentioned MedCities network thanks to its engagement in the Mediterranean, even though with only 5 member cities, suggesting again a rather stronger relationship with Balkan cities. Finally, Turkey was recently involved in initiatives specifically focused on increasing the engagement of cities in climate action, namely the “[City Networks Meetings](#)” jointly organized in 2021 by UNDP, Covenant of Mayors and other cities network, which suggest a rather high and increasing level of uptake and awareness.

With respect to the Eastern partnership countries, the main relevant network in the region is the Covenant of Mayors East which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Considering the number of cities that are member of the Covenant of Mayors East for each of these countries, the level of awareness and uptake in the region seems rather high. In particular, Armenia has 27 signatories, Belarus 56 has signatories, Georgia has 24 signatories, Moldova has 52 signatories, Ukraine has 268 signatories. The only exception is Azerbaijan that currently only has 8 signatories.

Furthermore, there are other relevant associations in the region – yet usually not specifically specialized on climate action. In Ukraine, the association 'Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine' (EECU)⁴⁵ founded in 2007 includes more than 85 Ukrainian cities and has the purpose of meeting the needs of its members and relevant territorial communities in modern information, new technologies, investments, development of cooperation and exchange of experience with Ukrainian and foreign partners in areas of efficient and economical use of energy resources, providing high-quality energy services, enhancing energy security, protecting the environment and ensuring sustainable development of settlements. In Belarus, the Interakcia Foundation⁴⁶ is a non-governmental organization that creates and improves conditions for the sustainable development of Belarusian regions and towns. In Armenia, the Union of Communities of Armenia⁴⁷ established in 1997 unites all rural and urban self-governance bodies of Armenia.

-
- ⁴⁴ <https://www.eumayors.eu/news-and-events/events/previous-events/2637-eu4energy-transition-covenant-of-mayors-in-the-western-balkans-and-turkey.html>
 - ⁴⁵ <https://enefcities.org.ua/en/>
 - ⁴⁶ <https://interakcia.by/en/>
 - ⁴⁷ <https://www.caa.am/en/home.html>

The main statutory goals of this Armenian organisation are to promote the development of local self-governance, protect the interests of member communities, strengthen the capacity of local self-governance bodies, and promote co-operation among member communities. The presence of these associations in these three countries, combined with the high level of CoM signatories, suggests a higher level of awareness.

Concerning the African continent, the number and heterogeneity of countries and regions is the first aspect to be considered, as it limits the accuracy of an assessment that looks generally at the whole continent. Nevertheless, it can be noted that subnational climate diplomacy in Africa has some solid basis. In particular, the presence of UCLG Africa, with two regional offices for West and East Africa, and the recent creation and expansion of Covenant of Mayors Sub-Saharan Africa are the indicators of a significant city diplomacy movement on the topics of sustainable development and climate action. UCLG Africa currently includes 40 national association and 2000 cities, while the Covenant of Mayors Sub-Saharan Africa currently has 292 member cities. Overall, the awareness on the role of subnational climate diplomacy seems rapidly growing and local authorities are quite responsive in joining the main networks. The presence of UCLG and ComSSA represents a solid basis for a future expansion of subnational climate diplomacy in the continent. As mentioned in a subsequent section of this chapter, it should be noted that information on local climate action in Africa can be scattered, thus it is likely that a substantial part of subnational climate action, including cooperation activities, could go undetected. Finally, the longstanding relations between some African and European countries inherited from the colonial times are often the source of city twinnings and bilateral relations among subnational actors in the two continents. This further increases the potential of subnational climate diplomacy in the continent, even though these kinds of relations might also be more difficult to detect as they happen outside of the main networks. The network “Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)” is an example of this kind of relations and their potential to be used as a basis to further reinforce subnational climate diplomacy in the continent.

1.4 The added value of subnational climate diplomacy

Subnational climate diplomacy and local level climate action contribute substantially to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, the Glasgow COP26 targets and the success of the upcoming UNFCCC COP27 and COP28. This is because climate action and climate diplomacy carried out by cities and regions have specific added values making them a critical component to the achievement of global climate goals and an essential factor in the positive outcome of the upcoming COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

The added value of subnational climate diplomacy and local level climate action can be outlined on several points:

- **Cities and regions are the actors concretely implementing pledges and commitments**
National governments negotiate the terms of global climate goals and define NDCs but they rely mainly on cities and local governments to concretely deliver on their international pledges and commitments.
- **The “demonstration effect” and leverage for more ambitious climate policies at the local and national level**
Local level action can be more ambitious than national targets, which has a strong “demonstration effect”. This means that it shows to the national government that it is possible to achieve more ambitious targets without impairing growth. In addition, successful climate actions carried out by ambitious cities and regions provide leverage to national or local political groups that aim at adopting more progressive climate policies.
- **Creation of new influential political and economic groups**
Ambitious climate actions at the local level leads to the creations of new political and economic groups, such as electric car users or renewable energy producers and consumers, that can create new political pressure and significantly influence the uptake of more ambitious policies at the national level.⁴⁸
- **Creating resilience against national backsliding**
The previous points highlight that cities and regions can influence and positively impact the political climate at the national level. This is

• ⁴⁸ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2018-11-28-non-state-sectors-climate-synthesis-hale-final.pdf>

particularly important as strong and ambitious local actors with regard to climate action can build critical political resilience in case of national backsliding. A relevant example are the climate actions and commitments taken up by US states and cities during the Trump administration. Their action was pivotal, as it limited the damage caused by Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement both in political and climate terms.⁴⁹ Therefore, it is essential to make sure that cities and regions are active and ambitious climate actors especially in countries where national governments are less progressive in terms of climate commitments. This is a key step to safeguard the achievement of global climate goals, in spite of a potential national backsliding or slow progress at the national level. In order to ensure that cities and regions actively engage in ambitious climate action, it is essential to support cities and regions' climate networks and strengthen their subnational climate diplomacy activities.

- **Through networks, cities and regions can influence national governments to take more ambitious commitments at UNFCCC negotiations**

The role of cities and regions' climate networks is pivotal as they are the main tool to bring the voice of local actors to the multilateral level, particularly in the context of the UNFCCC process. As cities and regions often have more ambitious climate goals compared to their national governments, bringing their voice to the UNFCCC negotiations can create political pressure and influence the uptake of more ambitious commitments by national governments. Furthermore, the concrete and successful examples of cities and regions implementing ambitious climate commitments create a narrative of an ongoing and inevitable ecological transition which strengthens the overall UNFCCC process.

- **Horizontal and vertical subnational climate diplomacy**

Cities and regions engaging in ambitious climate action have a critical role towards the implementation of global climate goals and in ensuring the success of the upcoming UNFCCC COPs. In particular, through cities and regions' climate networks they can perform a two-way subnational climate diplomacy: 1) a horizontal subnational climate diplomacy aimed at engaging more and more subnational actors to commit to ambitious climate goals, thus creating broader and stronger communities of climate ambitious territories; 2) a vertical subnational climate diplomacy to bring the voice of subnational actors to the multilateral UNFCCC negotiations tables and push national governments to raise their climate commitments and goals.

• ⁴⁹ https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/de_gapfault/files/publications/research/2018-11-28-non-state-sectors-climate-synthesis-hale-final.pdf

Subnational actors and subnational diplomacy, particularly city diplomacy, also present some specific characteristics that further explain their added value in the achievement of global climate goals and sustainable development goals:

- **Effective governance, community empowerment and enhanced democracy**

According to Marchetti, the added value of cities is based mainly on two aspects. The first one, is that due to its direct contact with citizens, good city governance is considered the most qualified instrument to develop efficient and effective policies. The second one, is that given the proximity with citizens, cities become instruments for achieving community empowerment and self-determination and thus enhanced democracy.⁵⁰ In other words, cities and regions implement the concept of localization that is “the achievement of the global agendas from the bottom up”, which reflects the essential factors of more direct contact with citizens, community empowerment and enhanced democracy.

- **Cities as hubs for innovative policies that can be scaled up**

Cities have a great potential as “innovation hubs”: through the concentration of talents and the proximity to the citizen’s needs, they can develop innovative policies that can be scaled up to the national level and even replicated internationally creating a multiplier effect.

- **City diplomacy can overcome the democratic deficit of traditional multilateralism**

City diplomacy creates a direct connection between citizens and global affairs, overcoming the democratic deficits of traditional multilateral policy making where citizens lack participation in the decisions taken.⁵¹ According to several academic authors and experts in the field, city diplomacy can play an important role in the redefinition and revamp of multilateralism, as the post-WWII intergovernmental system we inherited has proved to be limited and outdated.⁵² In the words of a 2020 joint statement of UCLG and GTLRG “the universal challenges we face can only be achieved with a more inclusive and resourceful multilateralism in which communities have a say”, taking into account the voices of multiple actors in decision making processes.

• ⁵⁰ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54552-9_3

• ⁵¹ <https://open.luiss.it/en/2021/04/16/city-diplomacy-a-new-chance-for-the-italian-g20-presidency/>

• ⁵² https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54552-9_3

- **City diplomacy can overcome several shortcomings associated with traditional state-to-state diplomacy**

In particular, city diplomacy can contribute to overcoming specific problematic aspects of state-to-state diplomacy, such as the frequent deadlock situations, that significantly hamper the uptake of more ambitious action. To mention a notable relevant example, during COP15 in Copenhagen the main issue on the table was how national sovereignty was preventing states to undertake more effective climate action. Moreover, city diplomacy allows to partly overcome the sharp North/South divide that usually characterizes traditional diplomacy. According to the Director of City Diplomacy at C40, C40 and most global city networks focus their cooperation action on inclusiveness and on bringing forward voices that would not be heard otherwise. Finally, it has also been noted that city diplomacy offers ways to overcome gender inequality within traditional diplomacy, as globally there are far more female leaders at the local level than at the national level.⁵³ The major city networks carry out significant work to combine climate action with gender equality, as well as social justice, therefore city diplomacy under their guidance can better include these important aspects in the multilateral system.⁵⁴

Despite the significant added value of subnational climate diplomacy and climate action at the local level, there are some key challenges and limitations to be considered. A main limitation concerns the dependence on the level of decentralization and political autonomy. When cities and regions have limited competencies over climate-relevant policies the leeway to undertake more progressive and ambitious action is scarce. A 2016 assessment carried out by the Forum of Regions of UCLG provides an interesting map of the level of decentralization by country across the world, taken as a starting point for the Forum's work to strengthen the active participation of regions in the international agenda.⁵⁵

Furthermore, when local authorities lack the political autonomy to pursue their own agenda, it is very difficult for them to engage in subnational diplomacy and have a voice in shaping the global agenda. According to the Director of City Diplomacy at C40 "in some countries, the idea of a city engaging into intergovernmental processes is still controversial, if not impossible". Therefore, city diplomacy heavily depends on the level of local democracy. Finally, another important aspect limiting the scope of city diplomacy is its dependence on the political ability and willingness of mayors to engage in international cooperation on global issues.

- ⁵³ <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/node/8574#recherche>

- ⁵⁴ <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/node/8574#recherche>

- ⁵⁵ https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/plantilla_regiones_en.pdf

Besides the limitations posed by the relationship with the level of decentralization and political autonomy, the expansion of subnational climate diplomacy and climate action at the local level also face other challenges. Despite their central role and added value, the contribution of subnational actors is hampered by an uneven and insufficient collaboration with national governments, by a still limited access to global governance processes (namely UNFCCC but Habitat III and SDGs are also relevant) and by inadequate funding and deficiencies in data collection and sharing. In particular, cities are reporting a need for more collaboration across all tiers of government in order to scale up and implement their climate plans, which is essential also to strengthen their participation in relevant networks allowing them to have a voice at the international level.⁵⁶ The lack of access to adequate financing has been identified as one of the main issues limiting their action. On this subject, the Director of City Diplomacy at C40, highlighted that despite the importance of enhanced collaboration with the national government, the key necessary step is for cities to be financially capable of leveraging the funds they need in order to reduce dependence on transfers from the national government.

Another significant issue to be addressed is the direct correlation between the size of cities and their ability to participate to international activities. Several scholars have highlighted how small and intermediary cities suffer from more limited participation to networks, to city diplomacy and have lower international recognition. This is a structural inequality that has to be considered. In particular, the risk is that of focusing on mega-cities given their economic power and their significant role in both causing the climate crisis and potentially be key solutions to it. However, the nature of climate change requires a response that is thoroughly integrated across the whole territory, for which medium and smaller cities are pivotal.

Furthermore, recent studies have highlighted that climate cooperative action at the subnational level is skewed towards the Global North. For instance, a 2018 study found that only a quarter of subnational actors participating in UN-registered climate cooperative actions were from the Global South.⁵⁷ Nevertheless, it is unclear if a “visibility gap” might be contributing to a lower recorded participation. In fact, global platforms tracking climate action tend to only capture what is officially labeled as “climate action” and that is linked to some

• ⁵⁶ On the importance of enhanced collaboration see the report “Working together to beat the climate crisis” <https://www.cdp.net/en/research/global-reports/working-together-to-beat-the-climate-crisis>
Collaborative city, state and regional climate action: six country snapshots” https://cdn.cdp.net/cdp-production/cms/reports/documents/000/005/885/original/CDP_Collaborative_City_State_Regions_Report.pdf?1633362006

• ⁵⁷ <https://www.geg.ox.ac.uk/publication/cooperative-climate-action-global-performance-delivery-global-south>

transnational network. Therefore, it is likely that current estimates are missing a “substantial portion of sub- and non-state climate action around the world and likely systematically underrepresent actors from developing countries”⁵⁸.

Finally, one of the overarching issues that should be addresses is that, despite their important and expanding role, cities seem to remain invisible to some observers of the international political arena. In the words of Amiri and Sevin “despite nearly two decades of research on the subject, we still lack a systematic appreciation of the implications of transnational city networking for global politics and diplomacy.”⁵⁹ Therefore, increased research is key to better understand the scope of subnational climate diplomacy, as well as its impact on the future of multilateralism and the achievement of global climate goals.

-
- ⁵⁸ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2018-11-28-non-state-sectors-climate-synthesis-hale-final.pdf>
 - ⁵⁹ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54552-9_3

2.Examples of successful non-EU subnational climate diplomacy and specific cases on local governments' experience with mobilising climate action

2.1 Projects and initiatives in the area of SCD

The SCD is fostered in various ways, usually taking the form of projects, initiatives, collaborative platforms and bilateral exchanges between the public administrations at the city / municipality or regional levels. These collaborations are regular or occasional and differ with respect to the degree of formality and timeline.

The analysis of the secondary sources (websites, documents) revealed that most of the available content is limited in demonstrating visible impacts of SCD at this stage. Although numerous SCD initiatives are taking place globally, the information remains largely scattered, and little is known about its outcomes or long-term impacts. Most of the internet resources only present general overviews of the projects and initiatives, mentioning partners involved and locations. It is also evident that many of those undertakings started (or gained an internet presence) in the recent years. Hence, it could be expected that the body of knowledge and actual experiences will grow with the time.

The SCD has a truly global character, which is manifested with the collaborative projects and initiatives. The geographic reach of such collaborations between the EU and third countries is very broad. The subnational administrations of the EU countries are involved in collaborations on the climate topics in practically each region of the world, with countries at all stages of development. The EU has various frameworks and instruments in place that help facilitate these collaborations, especially within its neighborhood and development policies. Moreover, territorial collaboration is fostered with entities involved into multi-actor projects such as those under INTERREG and Horizon Europe. Subnational administrations often participate in the consortia implementing those projects. An important feature of SCD is that, by allowing the local institutional level to reach out to the global one, it is often the case that local best practices can be exchanged and replicated, without needing for these to be validated or examined by the national level. This means then, that the exchange and replication processes become much faster, thus making SCD potentially the most effective institutional level in the achievement of SDGs.

Of particular interest are SCD initiatives and projects in the regions directly neighbouring the EU, such as the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Western Balkan Countries (WBC). While to date no major targeted SCD project or initiative has been launched that would be only dedicated to either of those regions, the cities and municipalities in those geo-political clusters are increasingly involved into broader SCD projects. For instance, the selected cities of each EaP country and similarly the WBC cities, collaborate with their counterparts in the EU and other regions of the world under the [EBRD Green Cities](#) umbrella. In addition, the platform brings together Central Asian and Middle Eastern cities (including Turkey), situated in the direct proximity of the EU. The cities of EU countries involved in the network are situated in Bulgaria, Croatia and Poland, which have external EU borders.

A dedicated EU instrument for learning and sharing experiences with third countries is TAIEX. It enables participation of interested public entities in the short and long-term missions, and other learning experiences (e.g., webinars, conferences). In this framework, both national and subnational entities can participate in the know-how exchange and learning process and climate relevant topics are regularly covered. Until now, it has been occasionally used for boosting SCD between the authorities in the EU and third countries, but certainly has a bigger potential.

Bilateral funding is also available for assisting subnational entities in dealing with climate. This kind of support is implemented both at the EU-third country level (e.g., special facility for the EU-Turkey collaboration) or between the individual countries (e.g., under the framework of [“Polish Climate Support”](#) call, local entities were invited to share their experiences with third countries). In addition, national governments of the EU countries collaborate with the multilateral organisations (e.g., EBRD, GCF) by providing funds for the projects in developing and transition countries.

In this context, it is particularly worth noticing that several multinational projects emerged that took a shape of multi-actor platforms (involving subnational administration entities and other actors). Those platforms typically target cities or regions (with the prevalence of first type) in several countries. They may take different shape and scale, but usually are visible with a dedicated website. Often, it is difficult to attribute particularly funding streams to the platform as they built upon various projects and networks simultaneously.

For instance, the global Green Cities platform facilitated by the EBRD lists several donors, including multilateral (e.g., GCF, Climate Investment Fund) and national (e.g., Poland, Japan, Federal Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Austria) or other frameworks (EBRD-Taiwan Business, Western Balkans

Investment Framework). The clusters of cities involved in the platform participate together in several projects, such as for instance the GCF's Green Cities. Moreover, the multi-actor approach is visible at the local level, where local governments collaborate with a variety of partners to deliver on climate agenda. This networked model and joint strategy development are often a good source of experiences to be shared with other regions in the world.

Other important projects and initiatives are facilitated under the umbrella of the Covenant of Mayors. This network brings together thousands of local governments, promoting transition towards reaching ambitious climate and energy targets. Under the Covenant several geographic chapters emerged and so the transnational exchange and projects implemented in various contexts. The networking is facilitated with the account of regional dimensions and includes regions of interest in the direct EU neighborhood, i.e., Eastern Europe and South Caucasus and Mashreq-Maghreb. Moreover, separate network clusters are set up with the Sub-Saharan Africa, and with Japan. The platform has connections with the [EU4Energy](#), which is a regionally focused programme concentrating on eleven countries in the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Several non-governmental bodies with international dimension are also involved into the implementation of projects and initiatives oriented on facilitating the networking between cities or regions. Among most visible are ICLEI, AER, SDSN and Resilient Cities. Similarly, the Covenant of Mayors and various UN agencies, which are international and public network-type bodies, are playing an important role in the networking process. These networks utilize funding from various donors to run focused projects in certain geographic areas and bring together representatives of the subnational administrations. They are clearly oriented on knowledge development and dissemination as well as providing support to the cities and regions in more strategic tasks, such as long-term planning, development of strategies and roadmaps to tackle the climate challenges.

Some others, such as the Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement (part of ICLEI), decided to adopt the strategy of reducing emissions through implementing sustainable procurement and in particular focus on the construction, transport, food and catering and energy sectors. Choosing specific fields of intervention and targets is essential to be focused and effective, but a few networks do it, which may result in a loss of resources and networking, resulting likely in the repetition of similar experiences.

Another factor that determines the success in SCD realized through networking activities, projects and initiatives is the adequate recognition of the city needs and targeting the knowledge flow and investments. This is especially vital for the cities in developing and transition countries, where funding and well-functioning “green” markets are still less present. By engaging in projects and networks with their peers and more experienced cities, they benefit from the opportunities to learn from approaches practiced elsewhere. It should be noted that this is not a linear know-how transfer and replication of the methods of operation. Rather, these should be viewed as impulses to create their own agendas at the city / local level. For instance, in the EU-Turkey collaboration project, processes were launched at the city level to develop their own strategy, that involved local stakeholders in the formulation.

Moreover, the availability of funding opportunities greatly accelerates participation of the cities in SCD. While some cities and municipalities are involved into international projects, others may benefit from scaling up the funding at their national level (e.g., through the EU funding, Green Climate Fund or Global Environment Facility, among others). Apart from the cities, rural and peri-urban areas in developing and transition countries are able to benefit from the climate funding and occasionally engage their local government peers from other countries. Moreover, the cities and regions are often able to use the funding for construction of new infrastructure or upgrading their existing one with greener and circular solutions.

Although the role of SCD in the support to reaching climate targets is progressing, its immediate role is still too little evident in the context of conflict prevention. Yet, as the projects and initiatives are implemented in the areas of post-conflict recovery or which are at risk of such, it can be assumed that the undertakings may positively contribute to dealing with related risks.

Hereafter, a brief description is provided on the selected projects and initiatives to illustrate the main points of this chapter.

2.2 List of selected projects and initiatives

Ref No.	1
Title of Action	Mobilise Your City
Amount	922 M EUR
Link to project page	https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=45
Dates	2016 - 2023
Country/Region	Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America with 65 cities part of the project
Funding	EC, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), French Ministry of Ecological Transition (MTE), French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)
Level of intervention	Member cities and countries
Scope/Activities	<p>The Mobilise Your City Partnership works globally to generate knowledge, scale solutions and mobilise financial resources for sustainable mobility. The partnership supports member cities and countries through four main service areas: 1) Sustainable mobility planning and project preparation</p> <p>2) Implementation support (added in November 2020) 3) Capacity building 4) Advocacy. The vision is that of shaping low-carbon mobility systems that contribute to economically vibrant, safe, and just cities for all urban residents of today and the future. The approach is that of incubating scalable solutions, accelerating the adoption of proven approaches, and facilitating complex change processes to transform urban mobility.</p>
Relevance and success	High, because the project supports cities and countries through technical assistance to prepare ready mobility plans and finance ready projects. The needs arise from the beneficiaries and sustainability is checked before funding. The involvement of 65 cities around the globe can indicate that the project can apply to various situations with success.

Ref No.	2
Title of Action	Global Covenant of Mayors East, “Demonstration projects”. This programme aims to show all EaP municipalities that investing in energy efficiency makes sense.
Amount	8.653 Bn EUR
Link to project page	https://com-east.eu/en/ and https://com-east.eu/en/about-us/covenant-of-mayors-east/ukraine/
Dates	2009 - present
Country/Region	Ukraine. 6 signatory countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine
Funding	The Programme is funded by the European Union under the EU4Energy initiative
Level of intervention	Mayors. Before the start of the war, Ukraine was by far the greatest contributor to the climate goals and counted the greatest number of signatories of the COM East: 277 cities out of 435
Scope/Activities	Emissions reduction and Energy consumption reduction towards the goals of the Paris Climate Agreements. Projects include the following fields of intervention: Energy efficiency in public buildings, local power generation, district heating, Solar energy development, transport, LED street lighting, waste management, industry, raising public awareness
Relevance and success	High, since needs are defined by the beneficiary institutions and then assessed by the EC’s Joint Research Centre. Action plans are updated every 4 years and monitored every 2 years. The EaP Covenant of Mayors is the most successful in partnership countries in terms of number of cities involved, of interest of mayors to become signatories and in exchange of experience. It is by far also the one where information is made available for exchange and potentially replicate the projects, thus confirming also the highest level of awareness in Partnership countries in the COM.

As a piece of information, throughout of our focus (SCD), the web site of the EU4Climate Programme sums up quite well the NDCs, results achieved in each field, presents the gradual uptake of climate goals by EaP countries’ governments throughout the latest years, the ratification of protocols, National adaptation plans to meet the declared climate goals (etc.) for each country. Hereafter is the page for Ukraine as an example: <https://eu4climate.eu/ukraine/>

Ref No.	3
Title of Action	Global Covenant of Mayors for the Mediterranean
Amount	n.a.
Link to project page	https://www.climamed.eu/the-covenant-of-mayors/mediterranean/ https://www.com-med.org/en/ and https://www.climamed.eu/project/our-countries/israel/
Dates	2012 Establishments of the COM South by the EC. 2018: the clima-med project sets more specific goals
Country/Region	Israel. Signatories are: Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Israel, Jordan, Algeria, Egypt and Palestine
Funding	Blended finance - Financial institutions from south Mediterranean countries and the European Union
Level of intervention	Mayors
Scope/Activities	The clima-med project establishes the COM for the Mediterranean while promoting the SEACAPs (Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans) aiming at 40% CO2 reduction by 2040. As an example of activities implemented, the city of Ramat-Gan (170.000 inhabitants, in the metropolitan area of Tel Aviv) , the municipality plans to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce air pollution from vehicles especially in the town center. • Avoid floods from the Yarkon river, green roofs, culture farm in the city, keeping the small natural reserves. • Reduce fossil energy by construction of solar panels. Ramat-Gan has also already made a progress in recycling garbage and intends to improve it.
Relevance and success	High, since needs are defined by the beneficiary institutions and then assessed by the EC's Joint Research Centre. Unfortunately, it is not possible to exactly assess the number and success of projects given the little information published by the signatories. This suggests a low level of awareness, or a low level of knowledge of the importance of sharing information for more cities to be involved in the COM.

Ref No.	4
Title of Action	Project “ <i>Power The Revolution for Climate Action</i> ” under <u>Capacity Building in the Field of Climate Change in Turkey Grant Scheme (CCGS) program</u> that is co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.
Amount	167.649,56 Euro
Link to project page	https://aer.eu/study-visit-on-climate-change-connecting-nijmegen-municipality-and-denizli-metropolitan-municipality/ https://www.iklimin.org/en/hibe%20projeleri/iklim-hareketi-icin-degisime-guc-ver-projesi/
Dates	24 months (closing meeting June 2019)
Country/Region	Turkey, Netherlands, Spain
Funding	EU and Turkey funds
Level of intervention	Municipalities
Scope/Activities	Climate Change Commission Studies are conducted with the implementation of surveys. 48 local authorities and stakeholders have benefited from infrastructure development initiatives. Municipal staffs were trained and study visits to EU member countries were conducted under Capacity Building Studies. Awareness Raising Campaign was launched. An Action Plan in English and Turkish was prepared. Project visibility materials were prepared. One educational film was published. The project contributed to strengthening capacities of the municipalities in dealing with climate change. Strategic approaches and long-term solutions were promoted. For instance, Denizli Municipality visited Nijmegen Municipality, which was then <u>2018 European Green Capital</u> . The objectives of the study visit were to increase the capacity of municipal staff, learn more about green energy from a European city and exchange experiences to contribute to the project.
Relevance and success	High: the project is contributing to strengthening capacities of the municipalities in dealing with climate change. Strategic approaches and long-term solutions are promoted thus we can consider the project is successful.

Ref No.	5
Title of Action	Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement
Amount	n.a.
Link to project page	https://glcn-on-sp.org/home/ and https://glcn-on-sp.org/about/ourmissionandvalues
Dates	2015 to date
Country/Region	Worldwide including both developed and developing countries' cities
Funding	n.a.
Level of intervention	Mayors who decide to engage in the GLCN (worldwide)
Scope/Activities	<p>The GLCN enables leading cities in the field of sustainable public procurement (SPP) to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showcase ambitious, quantified targets and achievements in four priority sectors, • meet, share and develop capabilities to implement sustainable purchasing practices, • help develop a supportive political framework for implementation, • act as global and regional champions of SPP, • foster the role of public procurement for global sustainable development. <p>The network has 4 priority sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Energy • Food and Catering • Transport
Relevance and success	Very high. Once again, this is a voluntary commitment from cities to engage in sustainable procurement. Each city publishes their targets and results achieved. Sharing openly these pieces of information encourages mayors to increase their action and their sharing on the platform, and shows a high level of awareness of the importance of SCD. This is, as well, an example of how networking of cities allows to go from the local level to the global one without needing for the national level to be involved, thus confirming the relevance of climate diplomacy at the local level first and foremost to reach the SDGs.

Ref No.	6
Title of Action	Under the call “Local authorities Partnerships for sustainable cities”, the project in object is called: “FRIENDSHIP-Strengthening EU-Mongolia Friendship through Equitable, Resilient, and Innovative Growth in Darkhan City”
Amount	3 M EUR
Link to project page	Platforma (platforma-dev.eu)
Dates	Not yet started - expected duration 36 months
Country/Region	Darkhan City (Mongolia)
Funding	European Commission DG INTPA
Level of intervention	Municipality of Darkhan
Scope/Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved institutional, financial and administrative capacities of Darkhan city/province through better governance and technical exchanges • Better engagement, coordination, and cooperation between city officials and marginalised citizens help resolve and implement infrastructure services in an equitable manner • Increase in the number of entrepreneurship, employment opportunities and digital transition <p>Expected results are: Improved inclusive public policies, engagement, better governance, green and smart pilots with improvement of the quality, delivery and equitable access to basic services and infrastructure.</p>
Relevance and success	High relevance since the municipality itself has responded a call launched by the EU, which may be difficult to be aware of in principle. This also means a high level of awareness that climate action is necessary to relaunch old industrial areas and make them attractive again.

Ref No.	7
Title of Action	EBRD Green Cities Programme
Amount	3 billion EUR
Link to project page	https://www.ebrdgreencities.com/about
Dates	n.a.
Country/Region	Central Europe to Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the southern and eastern Mediterranean region
Funding	Public
Level of intervention	EBRD and Municipalities
Scope/Activities	<p>EBRD Green Cities has three central components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green City Action Plans (GCAPs): Assessing and prioritising environmental challenges, and developing an action plan to tackle these challenges through policy interventions and sustainable infrastructure investments. 2. Sustainable infrastructure investment: Facilitating and stimulating public or private green investments in: water and wastewater, urban transport, district energy, energy efficiency in buildings, solid waste and other interventions that improve the city’s adaptation and resilience to climate shocks. 3. Capacity-building: Providing technical support to city administrators and local stakeholders to ensure that infrastructure investments and policy measures identified in GCAPs can be developed, implemented and monitored effectively. <p>EBRD Green Cities aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve the quality of environmental assets (air, water, land and biodiversity) and use these resources sustainably. 2. Mitigate and adapt to the risks of climate change. 3. Ensure that environmental policies and developments contribute to the social and economic well-being of residents. <p>The policy areas of intervention are: 1) Transport, 2) Land use, 3) Energy and buildings, 4) Water, 5) Waste, 6) Governance, 7) Finance, 8) Digitalisation</p>
Relevance and success	High, since the cities commit on a voluntary basis and each city then defines the goals by drafting a Green City Action Plan with EBRD, that drives future actions. The EBRD Green Cities programme is considered successful because it builds on the EBRD’s proven track record in helping cities invest in sustainable municipal infrastructure. It helps identifying, prioritising and

	connecting cities’ environmental challenges with sustainable infrastructure investments and policy measures.
--	--

Within the Green cities Programme, the following projects are an example:

Ref No.	7 bis
Title of Action	EBRD Green Cities Programme
Amount	n.a.
Link to project page	Mariupol (ebrdgreencities.com)
Dates	2019-undefined
Country/Region	Mariupol, Ukraine
Funding	EBRD, but not clear whether it is the only funding
Level of intervention	Municipal level
Scope/Activities	Adopting a Green City Action Plan will provide assistance in the development of green city planning and infrastructure investments necessary to respond to obstacles in the field of urban environmental infrastructure, enabling Mariupol to tackle the challenges of air quality and solid waste management.
Relevance	High since the cities commit on a voluntary basis and each city then defines the goals by drafting a Green City Action Plan with EBRD, that drives future actions.

Ref No.	7 tris
Title of Action	Green Cities Facility
Amount	281 M EUR
Link to project page	https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp086
Dates	2019 - 2034
Country/Region	The Caucasus and Moldova: Armenia, Georgia and Moldova · The Middle East and North Africa: Jordan and Tunisia · Central Asia: Mongolia · South-eastern Europe: Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia
Funding	GCF (60-130 m EUR) and EBRD (350 m Eur)
Level of intervention	National governments municipalities, state or municipal utility companies owned by municipalities or the national government, special purpose vehicle (in the case of PPPs), or energy service companies (ESCO).
Scope/Activities	Enabling the transition of cities to low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development.
Relevance and success	High, since the potential impact, the need of the recipient, country ownership and efficiency and effectiveness are checked before funding. Once again, the global network allows for exchange of experience and knowledge, thus allowing for replicability of best practices and increased efficiency, as well as effectiveness of funding.

Ref No.	8
Title of Action	TAIEX PI Study Visit on Smart Cities Initiatives to the Barcelona City Council Barcelona - Spain
Amount	n.a.
Link to project page	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/pl/policy/how/improving-investment/taiox-regio-peer-2-peer/
Dates	23 - 26 May 2022
Country/Region	Dominica and Spain
Funding	Public - EC
Level of intervention	Oficina Gubernamental de Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación
Scope/Activities	The relevant EU legislation backing the mission can be identified in: Regional policy on 'Cities of Tomorrow - Challenges, visions, ways forward' (2011); Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on 'Smart cities as drivers for development of a new European industrial policy' (2015 / C 383/05). The mission includes a workshop for the Dominican Republic and a study visit to the Barcelona city council based in Spain. The city council is responsible for the implementation and design of the digital actions that have made Barcelona a model city within all the smart cities in the world. The objective of the two events is to gain experience and transfer good practice in smart governance, smart economy and smart mobility to be included within the national framework of smart cities in the Dominican Republic.
Relevance	High. The project is interesting because it is an example of exchange of good practices in smart governance, smart economy and smart mobility between cities from the EC and an ACP country.

3. Conclusions

- In the last twenty years, there has been a proliferation of local governments networks that have become the main tool to carry out subnational climate diplomacy. Some of the most prominent global networks of cities and regions over time gained the role of representing subnational actors at the multilateral level and achieved results in bringing their interests forward (in particular in the context of UNFCCC process). Through these developments cities and regions are significantly increasing their influence at the international level and in shaping the global agenda, in particular in the area of climate action.
- As highlighted by several academic studies, state-to-state diplomacy and the traditional multilateral processes are revealing their weaknesses, in particular to deal with contemporary global challenges. Cities are emerging as new diplomatic actors and have the potential to contribute to reshaping and revamping multilateralism.
- Local governments, and cities in particular, can positively impact the achievement of global climate goals on three levels: adopting ambitious policies within their jurisdiction, influencing the national level to raise their ambition and limit damages in case of national backsliding, which in turn can have a positive impact on UNFCCC negotiations.
- Boosting subnational climate diplomacy is essential to achieve the Paris Agreement, COPs' goals and SDGs because local governance brings specific added values. By creating a direct connection between citizens and global affairs, it overcomes the democratic deficits of traditional multilateral policy making where citizens lack participation. Thus, it promotes community empowerment and enhanced democracy.
- Despite having a clear added value, subnational climate diplomacy and climate action at the local level still face significant limitations. These include the dependence on decentralization and political autonomy, the lack of coordination with national governments and inadequate access to financing that hamper the implementation of their ambitious climate action plans.
- The study of individual projects and initiatives in the areas of SCD revealed that currently, many of them are taking place at a global scale, while reaching out to subnational levels. The collaboration has an increasingly global dimension, especially for the cities. The EU-based partners, including subnational governments, are frequently involved in those projects and initiatives, willing to share their knowledge and experiences as well as learn

from the others. The joint undertakings take different forms, ranging from virtual platforms to showcase the experiences, to collaboration on the development of climate-responsive strategies, to study visits and exchange on the practical solutions (e.g., green procurement). Yet, the information remains scattered and limited, especially in terms of demonstrating the actual outcomes and impacts of collaborations on progress in solving the climate issues.

- The overview of the main projects and initiatives highlights the importance of the green investments as these are key instruments accompanying the SCD. Financial incentives and project-based solutions of climate issues in various countries play a motivating role for the subnational governments to get involved. Several joint undertakings are implemented in the form of projects, which are supported financially by the international (e.g., EU, EBRD, GCF) and / or national (individual countries) players. The evidence on whether the subnational authorities contribute financially from their own resources is rather scarce. In contrast, the role of private sector seems to be increasing, especially through blended finance mechanisms. As the funding streams may act synergically or overlap in certain areas, it may be challenging to trace and show that contribution of the interventions is financed from different sources.
- It is also visible that several important international networks emerged as powerful players in the SCD process, both public and non-governmental. These are involved in the facilitation of networking between the relevant stakeholders and representing their interests in the international arena. Among these, it is especially worth mentioning the Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI, AER, SDNS. Networks also play an important role in collecting information and disseminating it.
- In the context of SCD, the relations of the EU with the immediate neighborhood is crucial. A number of instruments are available for this purpose and central level administrations eagerly use them. However, they are still underutilized at the subnational governance level. A visible potential for boosting SCD is offered by the Flagship Initiatives in the EaP countries, which are still under development. Other opportunities exist especially with the ENI and Interreg Programme, as well as with the TAIEX capacity building.
- While the climate challenges security issues, limited information is available on the role of SCD in conflict prevention or post-conflict recovery. Although many projects are taking place in this area, which are implemented by the governments or non-state actors, the exchange between the subnational governments is too little exemplified. As the climate increasingly concerns security issues and conflicts related to the availability of scarce resources such

as water, food etc. the strategic efforts at the local level may grow more concentrated on these with time. In this context, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction offers a suitable reference.

4. Recommendations

- In order to boost subnational climate diplomacy, it is essential to identify the main cities' and regions' climate networks in each geographic area of interest and support the growth of their membership (targeting especially small and medium cities) and the strengthening of their subnational climate diplomacy activities (both vertical and horizontal, see Chapter 1). It can be more impactful to support the growth of national/regional networks (e.g. focused on a single country or the Balkans area or Mediterranean area) – as opposed to larger global networks (e.g. C40) – as the latter can already have a broad membership and significant influence at the multilateral level. In addition, strengthening national/regional networks and their subnational climate diplomacy can support greater engagement of more peripheral or smaller cities and regions in the multilateral discussion on the global climate agenda, in particular in the UNFCCC process.
- The EU could become more engaged in promoting the SCD, using its established bodies and networks that deal with the regional development and exchange between the relevant authorities. For instance, CoR could be helpful as a facilitator of the process of networking and know-how exchange between the SCD counterparts in the EU and other regions. With the evolution of the SCD, more reflection is needed on the actual success of the initiatives and progress towards achieving the climate goals, including support for the self-reflection of the SCD counterparts, monitoring and evaluation.
- Better inclusion of small and medium cities should be a priority when designing activities to boost subnational climate networks, as their role is essential for an effective response to the effects of climate change and their mitigation. It is also visible that examples of SCD in rural areas are underrepresented and the existing international and local rural networks could also be used to facilitate the sharing of know-how.
- To promote the potential of subnational climate diplomacy for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, SDGs, Glasgow COP26 targets and the success of the upcoming COP27 and COP28 it is essential to focus on its specific added value. Subnational climate diplomacy is the main tool to enhance climate action at the local level, broaden the number of involved subnational actors and bring the voice of these actors to the UNFCCC negotiation tables in order to influence national governments to raise their climate ambition. Therefore, subnational climate diplomacy brings an added value both by strengthening the climate ambition of cities and regions and by

pushing national governments to follow the lead of subnational actors, including in the context of UNFCCC negotiation.

- In particular, the role of subnational climate diplomacy is pivotal as it works towards creating a broader base of actors taking ambitious climate commitments which create critical political resilience in face of national backsliding or slow climate progress at the national level. Therefore, it is particularly important to support the development or enlargement of cities and regions' climate networks in countries that are particularly weak in terms of climate ambition or at risk of national backsliding.
- To this purpose, it is essential to identify the main cities and regions' climate networks in each geographic area of interest and support their enlargement, focusing in particular on the inclusion of small and medium cities, as well as to support their subnational climate diplomacy activities.
- As partly already mentioned in the previous point, an essential aspect to focus on when arguing the potential of subnational climate diplomacy in achieving global climate goals and to determine the success of upcoming UNFCCC COPs is its role in influencing the political environment at the national level towards the uptake of more ambitious climate policies.
- To promote the potential of subnational climate diplomacy for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, SDGs, Glasgow COP26 targets and the success of the upcoming COP27 and COP28 it is also essential to focus on the specific added value of city-to-city diplomacy and climate action carried out at the local level. As argued in Chapter 1, they have specific characteristics that explain their key role in implementing global climate goals and sustainable development goals.
- More targeted research on subnational climate diplomacy is needed to achieve a systematic appreciation of the implications of transnational city networking and city diplomacy on global politics and in particular on the achievement of climate goal including Paris Agreement and COPs goal and SDGs.
- In order to boost subnational climate diplomacy, collaboration with national governments, better access to multilateral processes and improved access to funding are key elements to be improved. Furthermore, data collection on local climate action and subnational climate diplomacy should be reinforced as it is still scattered, failing to fully understand its scope in particular in the Global South.

- The EU could become more engaged in promoting the SCD, using its established bodies and networks that deal with regional development and exchange between the relevant authorities. For instance, CoR could be helpful as a facilitator of the process of networking and know-how exchange between the SCD counterparts in the EU and other regions. With the evolution of the SCD, more reflection is needed on the actual success of the initiatives and progress towards achieving the climate goals, including support for the self-reflection of the SCD counterparts, monitoring and evaluation.
- Better inclusion of small and medium cities should be a priority when designing activities to boost subnational climate networks, as their role is essential for an effective response to tackle and mitigate climate change. It is also visible that examples of the SCD in rural areas are underrepresented and the existing international and local rural networks could be used to facilitate the sharing of know-how.
- Recent studies highlight that climate cooperative action at the subnational level is significantly lower in the Global South. This might also be the result of a "visibility gap" as global platforms tracking climate action tend to only capture what is officially labelled as "climate action" and that is linked to some transnational network. Therefore, better data collection and enhanced inclusion of Global South local governments in transnational networks are two important aspects to be addressed in order to seize the full existing experience and potential of subnational climate diplomacy.
- The identification and provision of support to the major regional networks in the key areas of interest (Mediterranean, Balkans, Africa) can be identified as a key strategy to increase the engagement of cities (including smaller cities that might not be interested in joining bigger global networks). In addition to this, as already mentioned, reinforcing these regional networks can create a stronger and more organized political leverage to influence the position of national governments towards greater climate ambition, thus resulting in increased impacting on the results of COPs and the UNFCCC process.
- Particular attention should be paid to the EaP and WBC countries neighbouring with the EU. As a number of the EU projects and initiatives are already targeting cities and regions in those countries, it is crucial to promote a greater engagement and exchange with their counterparts in EU countries. Moreover, as some of the cities in Ukraine have been already severely affected by the war outbreak, their situation needs careful consideration in the future.

- Collect more data and insights into the SCD, especially on the outcomes and impacts of these. This would help improve the identification of relevant and good practices and determine what conditions (enabling environment) are favorable to implement successful projects or initiatives.
- Support exchange of experiences dialogue and synergies between the different networks and stakeholders involved: this could help participants to learn from each other, create conditions for sharing information about similar undertakings and help to scale out the most promising ones.
- Map the landscape of financial contributions to the projects and initiatives by the type of donor and volume: As the funding is a motivating factor to participate in projects and initiatives, more information could be sought on the financial mechanisms supporting SCD. It could be useful to gather information especially about the funds available at the national or regional level, as more evidence is already visible for the international ones.
- Promote good examples of projects and initiatives, to inspire the potential SCD with various dissemination channels, including those of the CoR and EU. For instance, the European Week of Regions, thematic conferences and face-to-face or virtual events. Notably, presenting the highlights at the COP events could help to gain more visibility for SCD. Moreover, the EU could act as a promoter of the SCD at the forthcoming COP meetings.
- Most projects and programmes, as well as the platforms presenting and hosting them, are blended finance projects. However, the portion of public and private financing in most cases is not clear. What is the interest of private companies in financing climate diplomacy? Is there a way to ensure that blended finance acts in the best possible way to address the needs of the local communities? In addition, the role of public financing institutions in defining the actions to take, and how the public investment is spent, remains often unclear. These aspects should be addressed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the public financing and thus a better focus on what actions to address as a priority and how to finance them in the best way.
- Most websites presenting projects are developed in the context of big networks. However, it is not clear if these websites are effectively sharing good practices to be replicated elsewhere. The rationalization of these multiple websites is key in order to save time and resources that might be better spent for other purposes. The CoR could also highlight during future COPs' meetings the need to develop guidelines for the sharing of effective and successful implementation of climate diplomacy at the local and regional levels.

- Increase projects' and best practices' visibility, particularly by exploiting the potential of online resources (e.g. online platforms) for replication and engagement of local institutions to exchange advice on how to access funds, overcome bottlenecks, successful implementation, involvement of the population etc. Also, in light of the previous point, a rationalization and improvement of online resources presenting projects and best practices would be very beneficial.
- Through the research undertaken for the present paper, key topics for which further research have been identified. These should be explored through interviews and single broader studies should be developed, in order to better understand the challenges local governments, financial institutions and policy-makers are facing in the field of climate actions.
- Given the variety and number of platforms/networks that host and present projects, tools to monitor and evaluate projects' efficacy, relevance and results should be developed for subnational level projects. These may be developed with the help and experience of local actors and institutions and reviewed and approved by the UNFCCC to become internationally valid tools to monitor SCD projects.
- Similarly to this, internationally validated practices, could feed into an "SCD good practices manual" to refer to. This tool could be particularly helpful for cities in developing countries, with a lower level of connection to other cities and a lower access to funds.

5. References

Climate diplomacy legal references:

- The 25 February 2022 Council Conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/21/climate-diplomacy-council-calls-for-accelerating-the-implementation-of-the-glasgow-cop26-outcomes/>
- The CoR Resolution on the COP26 and Global and Local alliances for climate action <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XR3726>
- European Parliament https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0280_EN.html
- The 2018 EU Parliament resolution on climate diplomacy https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0280_EN.html

Relevant initiatives and networks:

- Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) www.climate-chance.org
- Climate Initiatives Platform www.climateinitiativesplatform.org
- GCAP UNFCCC www.climateaction.unfccc.int
- Connect www.connect-it-climate.eu
- Climate South | GEG <https://www.geg.ox.ac.uk/research/climate-south>
- Under2 Coalition | Climate Group <https://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-coalition>
- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability www.ICLEI.org
https://iclei.org/en/Home.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwma6TBhDIARIsAOKuANzem-yH_O0Lzte_um3UGOeq9fOs58_eJ27ZRgpZ5c7kwHmFzT3Vp5saApOXEALw_wcB
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance Member <https://carbonneutralcities.org/cities/>
- Race to zero campaign (C40, Global Covenant of Mayors, CDP)

<https://www.c40.org/news/campaign-announced-to-mobilise-1-000-cities-for-a-green-and-just-recovery-to-address-global-climate-emergency/>

- C40 <https://www.c40.org> and
- Race to Zero <https://www.c40.org/news/campaign-announced-to-mobilise-1-000-cities-for-a-green-and-just-recovery-to-address-global-climate-emergency/>
- Race to zero campaign (C40, Global Covenant of Mayors, CDP) <https://www.c40.org/news/campaign-announced-to-mobilise-1-000-cities-for-a-green-and-just-recovery-to-address-global-climate-emergency>
- Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) (The Voice of Cities and Regions in the UNFCCC Climate Process) <https://www.cities-and-regions.org>
- URBANET <https://www.urbanet.info/about/>
- Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance Members <https://carbonneutralcities.org/cities/>
- The Council of European Municipalities and Regions [CEMR: home \(cce.org\)](https://www.cemr.eu/)
- Eurocities <https://eurocities.eu/>
- Cities Race to resilience <https://citiesracetoresilience.org/>
- Making Cities Resilient <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/>
- Resilient cities network [Home - Resilient Cities Network](https://www.resilientcitiesnetwork.org/)
- United Cities and Local Government <https://www.uclg.org/>
- Climate Adapt <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/knowledge/interreg-projects>
- Mobilise your city Project <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=45>
- Global Covenant of Mayors Resources Library <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/resources-library/>
- Global Covenant of Mayors East <https://com-east.eu/en/>
- Global Covenant of Mayors South <https://www.climamed.eu/the-covenant-of-mayors/mediterranean/> and <https://www.com-med.org/en/>
- Global Covenant of Mayors sub-saharan Africa <https://comssa.org/en/>
- EBRD Green Cities Programme <https://www.ebrdgreencities.com/about>
- Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement <https://gln-on-sp.org/home/> and <https://gln-on-sp.org/about/ourmissionandvalues>
- Assembly of the European regions <https://aer.eu/study-visit-on-climate-change-connecting-nijmegen-municipality-and-denizli-metropolitan-municipality/>
- IKLIM IN <https://www.iklimin.org/en/hibe%20projeleri/iklim-hareketi-icin-degisime-guc-ver-projesi/>
- UCLG <http://uclg-mewa.org/power-the-revolution-for-climate-action-project-closing-meeting/>

- African Development Bank <https://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/selected-projects>
 - C40 https://www.c40.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/C40-Advancing-Towards-Zero-Waste-Declaration_Public-progress-report_Feb-2022.pdf and <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Actors/Countries/NGA>
 - CEMR Climate and Energy transition [CEMR: Climate and energy transition \(ccre.org\)](https://www.ccre.org)
 - Global Covenant of Mayors <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/resources-library/>
 - Green Climate Fund [Green Climate Fund](https://www.greenclimatefund.org/)
 - Platforma [platforma-dev.eu](https://www.platforma-dev.eu)
 - UNFCCC <https://unfccc.int/>
 - Global Climate Action <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Actors/Countries/NGA>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change www.unfccc.int
- BEI www.eib.org
 - UNEP www.unep.org
 - UNDP www.undp.org
 - African Development Bank <https://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/selected-projects>
 - TAIEX [European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations \(europa.eu\)](https://www.taieurope.eu/)
 - SDSN www.unsdsn.org
 - SDSN networks in action 2021 Report https://irp.cdn-website.com/be6d1d56/files/uploaded/SDSN%202021%20Networks%20in%20Action%20Report_02.pdf
 - World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA) [http://cc-flacma.org/](https://www.flacma.org/)
 - Mercociudades [https://mercociudades.org](https://www.mercociudades.org)
 - World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments UCLG – North America <https://www.fcm.ca/en>
 - World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments UCLG – Asia and the Pacific [https://uclg-aspac.org/en/](https://www.uclg-aspac.org/en/)
 - World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments UCLG – Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments <https://www.global-taskforce.org/>
 - World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments <https://www.global-taskforce.org/world-assembly-local-and-regional-governments>
 - UNFCCC - Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/about-the-lgma/>

- Global Climate Action portal <https://unfccc.int/news/re-energised-global-climate-action-portal-features-country-pages>
- UNFCCC - international cooperation initiatives <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives>
- The two UNFCCC lists of local and regional governments “Accredited Organizations” and “Participating Networks” <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/about-the-igma/>
- Global Parliament of Mayors <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/>
- Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network <https://www.clgf.org.uk/what-we-do/cities-network/>
- Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) <https://aimf.asso.fr/>
- Cités Unies France (active in decentralised cooperation of French cities in the area of climate) <https://cites-unies-france.org/-Les-groupes-thematiques->
- African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum http://www.africancapitalcities.org/about.php?&time=1651151997#about_network
- MedCities <https://medcities.org/projects/enviromental-and-biodiversity/>
- B40 - Balkan cities network <https://b40network.org/participating-cities/>
- R20 – Regions of Climate Action <https://regions20.org/>
- Regions4 <https://www.regions4.org/about-us/regions4/>
- ORU Fogar - United Regions Organisation <https://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/about-oru/objectives-and-mission>
- RegionsAdapt <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=89>
Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=12>
- Clean Air Initiative <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=131>
- Climate Ambition Alliance <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/Initiatives?id=94>
- EcoMobility Alliance <https://sustainablemobility.iclei.org/ecomobility-alliance/>
- Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate <https://en.unesco.org/mawac/about>
- Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment <https://www.worldgbc.org/thecommitment>
- EU4 Energy Transition: Covenant of Mayors in the Western Balkans and Turkey <https://www.eumayors.eu/news-and-events/events/previous-events/2637-eu4energy-transition-covenant-of-mayors-in-the-western-balkans-and-turkey.html>
- City Networks Meetings, jointly organized by UNDP, Covenant of Mayors and other cities’ networks

<https://www.undp.org/turkey/news/cities-turkey-cooperate-climate-change-adaptation>

- Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine (EECU) <https://enefcities.org.ua/en/>
- Interakcia Foundation <https://interakcia.by/en/>
- Union of the communities of Armenia <https://www.caa.am/en/home.html>

Examples of relevant studies/literature:

- Negacz, Katarzyna ; Fast, Cornelia ; Obergassel, Wolfgang ; Widerberg, Oscar ; Beuermann, Christiane, The European Commission, (2021) *Mapping international climate initiatives and coalitions*
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3f5d01e6-271c-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-234580471>
- Setzer, Joana, Cambridge University Press, (2015), *Testing the Boundaries of Subnational Diplomacy: The International Climate Action of Local and Regional Governments*
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/transnational-environmental-law/article/abs/testing-the-boundaries-of-subnational-diplomacy-the-international-climate-action-of-local-and-regional-governments/318C08F23D7929A29745586AB089A183>
- Hsu, Angel; Moffat, Andrew S.; Weinfurter, Amy J.; Schwartz, Jason D.; Nature Climate Change, (2015), *Towards a new climate diplomacy*
<https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate2594>
- Adriázola, Paola; Dellas, Eleni and Tänzler, Dennis ,GIZ, (2018), *Multi-Level Climate Governance Supporting Local Action: Instruments enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level*
<https://www.adelphi.de/en/publication/multi-level-climate-governance-supporting-local-action>
- Leffel, Benjamin, Columbia Journal of International Affairs, (2022), *Principles of Modern City Diplomacy and the Expanding Role of Cities in Foreign Policy*
<https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/principles-modern-city-diplomacy-and-expanding-role-cities-foreign-policy>
- Duggan, Jill, Chatham House, (2019), *The Role of Sub-state and Non-state Actors in International Climate Processes: Subnational Governments*
<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019-01-23-Duggan.pdf>
- Marchetti, Raffaele, Luiss Open, (2021), *City Diplomacy. A New Chance for the Italian G20 Presidency*
<https://open.luiss.it/en/2021/04/16/city-diplomacy-a-new-chance-for-the-italian-g20-presidency/>

- Manfredi Sánchez, Juan Luis; Seoane Pérez, Francisco, Springer Link, (2020), *Climate Change Begins at Home: City Diplomacy in the Age of the Anthropocene*
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54552-9_3
- Institut Montaigne (2021), *The Cities That Never Sleep: Reinventing Diplomacy - Three questions to Emmanuelle Pinault*
<https://www.institutmontaigne.org/node/8574#recherche>
- UCLG, (2016), *Level of Decentralization by country*,
https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/plantilla_regiones_en.pdf
- CDP and ICLEI, (2021), *Working together to beat the climate crisis – Collaborative city, state and regional climate action: six country snapshots*
https://cdn.cdp.net/cdp-production/cms/reports/documents/000/005/885/original/CDP_Collaborative_City_State_Regions_Report.pdf?1633362006
- Hale, Tom; Chan, Sander; Mbeva, Kennedy; Shrivastava, Manish; Bencini, Jacopo; Chengo, Victoria; Gorti, Ganesh; Edbauer, Lukas; Jacques, Imogen; Salazar, Arturo; Cholibois, Tim; Leao, Debora; Gouveia, Andrade; Valenzuela, Jose Maria, Global Economic Governance Programme, (2018), *Cooperative climate action: global performance & delivery in the Global South*
<https://www.geg.ox.ac.uk/publication/cooperative-climate-action-global-performance-delivery-global-south>



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Created in 1994, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives such as regional presidents or city-mayors from all 27 Member States, representing over 446 million Europeans.

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË | Tel. +32 22822211
www.cor.europa.eu | [@EU_CoR](https://twitter.com/EU_CoR) | [/european.committee.of.the.regions](https://facebook.com/european.committee.of.the.regions)
[/european-committee-of-the-regions](https://linkedin.com/company/european-committee-of-the-regions) | [@EU_regions_cities](https://instagram.com/EU_regions_cities)

EN

ISBN 978-92-895-1237-4
doi: 10.2863/020756

QG-09-22-287-EN-N



Publications Office
of the European Union