

PRESS RELEASE

The capacity building for cities and regions for innovative financing, PROSPECT, is back for the 2nd edition

Building on the success of the Horizon 2020 project PROSPECT, the new PROSPECT+ will continue to enable regional & local authorities across Europe to finance and implement their sustainable energy action plans with innovative financing schemes.

Cities are the main contributors to pollution and climate change, but they also have the power and opportunity to deliver the highest savings, provide a good example and drive the energy transition. Financing local authorities' **sustainable energy and climate projects** is hindered primarily by a lack of internal capacity to identify the most appropriate and cost-effective financing instruments and implementation models.

The ambition of PROSPECT+ is to ensure that **over 200 EU cities & regions** in at least 20 European Member States will improve their capacities when it comes to financing and implementing their sustainable energy and climate plans (SECAPs) and similar sustainable plans, effectively accelerating reaching the climate and energy targets.

By participating in a PROSPECT+ programme where experienced **local and regional authorities** will share their experience through mentoring, participants will identify new financing schemes to interactively overcome or surpass their challenges in financing the implementation of their energy and climate plans. The participants will also have an opportunity to join a Community of Practice set up to facilitate further exchange of best practices and to contribute to the debate on the barriers local authorities face when it comes to implementing timely and optimal investments in sustainable energy and low-emission transport.

The learning in PROSPECT+ will continue through the **5 learning topics** focused on **innovative financing schemes** for public buildings, private buildings, public lighting, transport, and cross-sectoral category, with more attention given to improving the decision making of cities on how to choose projects for financing, as well as how to assess and ensure that the projects are finance ready.

Application for the 1st Capacity-building programme will open on the 29th of November

Local and regional authorities from 44 eligible countries¹ can apply to participate in one of the capacity-building cycles, either as a mentor or a mentee. The first call for applications will be open from **November 2021 to January 2022**, and will run in two steps:

- The call for mentors will be open from the 29th of November to the 17th of December 2021.
- The call for mentees will be open from the 3rd of January to the 25th of January 2022.

¹ Eligible countries are EU-27 and the United Kingdom + H2020 associated countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The learning process lasts approximately 6 months, including around 5 online meetings and one in-person meeting, if circumstances permit to travel.

Other questions regarding the application process such as eligibility, selection & matching criteria, the modalities of participation for mentors and mentees, as well as the expected commitment will be described in *the Guidelines for applicants*. This will also be explained in an informative webinar for applicants which will take place in January 2022.

Stay in touch

The dates of the informative webinar will be announced on [the PROSPECT+ website](#) and LinkedIn page [Capacity building for cities and regions](#). To extend the PROSPECT+ network, we invite you to follow, like and interact with us! Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Consortium

PROSPECT+ consortium is brought to you by 6 core partners from PROSPECT (The Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy - [IEECP](#), University of Piraeus Research Center - [UPRC](#), European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and Environment - [FEDARENE](#), [Energy Cities](#), [Eurocities](#), Upper Austria Regional Energy Agency - [ESV](#)), with 4 new agencies which will act as mentors (Association of Energy Managers of Towns and Regions of the Czech Republic - [SEMMO](#), [TIPPERARY Energy Agency](#), Podravje Energy Agency - [ENERGAP](#), The City Council of Valladolid - [INNOLID](#)). The new partners were all successful mentors in PROSPECT and thus give an outside perspective to how the programme was run previously. Additionally, [adelphi](#) was invited to strengthen capacities for attracting financing and providing a fresh viewpoint.



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