

# Explanation sheet for the questionnaire to Ukrainian Municipalities

SUN4Ukraine

## Engagement of different actors

### 1. Are municipalities expected to participate in the SUN4Ukraine project by themselves, or is the support of local industry, research centres, and academia foreseen?

The questionnaire is addressed to municipalities and a consortium with other organisations is not required for the purpose of this questionnaire. However, we very much hope and expect municipalities to draw upon support from all sorts of external actors, especially during the preparation of the Climate Neutrality Plans.

### 2. What role, if any, can NGOs active in cities play in the SUN4Ukraine project?

NGOs can contact municipality officials to raise their awareness of the project and of the questionnaire. NGOs can make suggestions for the content of municipalities' possible applications and offer to help mobilise support. NGOs are also well placed to draw municipalities' attention to the plans and ideas of other comparable municipalities. In implementing the project, NGOs can be involved in co-creating Climate Neutrality Plans (CNPs) and citizen engagement activities.

### 3. Should municipalities involve stakeholders and citizens already at the stage of the questionnaire?

At the Expression of Interest stage, municipalities are welcome to collaborate with different stakeholders in the field of climate action, such as CSOs, think tanks or academia. As the deadline for submitting the questionnaire is relatively short, there may not be enough time to properly consult stakeholders and citizens at this stage. However, if a municipality can indicate that they consulted and collaborated with other stakeholders it would be an advantage.

## Application process

### 4. What is the purpose of the questionnaire? Which types of questions it covers and how much added materials are required? Should municipalities already have an investment plan and plan for the co-creation?

The questionnaire is built to allow the assessment of mainly four areas:

1. Barriers and assistance needs in the pursuit of climate neutrality.
2. The municipality's capacity.
3. The municipality's existing commitments towards climate neutrality.
4. The municipality's ambition towards climate neutrality.

If municipalities have already developed climate plans, investment plans and other relevant material, it will be possible and important to signal this through the questionnaire. However, the presence of existing plans is not a pre-condition for participation and the lack of these plans should not discourage municipalities from applying.

### 5. How will municipalities be alerted about the initiative?

The questionnaire is published on SUN4Ukraine’s website, and extensive dissemination efforts are being undertaken by the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and other project partners through their networks.

### 6. Can we complete the questionnaire in different steps and save? Or do we need to complete in one go?

The questionnaire is hosted in Google Forms that automatically saves your response as long as you are connected to the internet. If you can’t complete the form in one session or need to change devices, you don’t need to start over.

### 7. Should the municipality representative be the legal representative of the municipality?

The representative filling in the questionnaire for the municipality is considered as a contact person; it does not necessarily need to be the legal representative. The contact person will have to confirm (on question 18) that they have the consent of the municipality’s administration to respond to the questionnaire and to submit it on its behalf. They will also confirm that the information contained in the answers to the questionnaire is correct and complete.

## Selection of municipalities

### 8. Will SUN4Ukraine focus on municipalities in the stricter sense of the term, or can it apply to smaller municipalities?

The basic threshold for initial participation is set at municipalities that have at least one city of 50 000 people, because of their potential to have a more significant impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, SUN4Ukraine aims to be inclusive and ensure diversity of municipalities; smaller municipalities will also be able to benefit from the project’s activities and find several opportunities in this context at a later stage of the project.

### 9. How will the twinning/partner cities be involved? Do they apply separately?

The twinning/partnering aspect of SUN4Ukraine will, like other aspects, follow cities’ needs. Flagship municipalities will be twinned/partnered with EU Mission Cities. This will be facilitated by the project.

EU Mission Cities:

#### **Austria**

Klagenfurt

#### **Belgium**

Antwerp

Brussels Capital Region

La Louvière

Leuven

#### **Bulgaria**

Gabrovo

Sofia

#### **Croatia**

Zagreb

#### **Cyprus**

Limassol

#### **Czech Republic**

Liberec

#### **Denmark**

Aarhus

Copenhagen

Sønderborg

#### **Estonia**

Tartu

#### **Finland**

Espoo

Helsinki

Lahti

Lappeenranta

Tampere

Turku

#### **France**

Angers Loire Metropole

Bordeaux Metropole

Dijon Metropole

Dunkerque

Grenoble-Alpes

Metropole

Lyon

Marseille

Nantes Metropole

Paris

#### **Germany**

Aachen

Dortmund

Dresden

Heidelberg

Leipzig

Mannheim

Munich

Münster  
**Greece**  
 Athens  
 Ioannina  
 Kalamata  
 Kozani  
 Thessaloniki  
 Trikala  
**Hungary**  
 Budapest  
 Miskolc  
 Pécs  
**Ireland**  
 Cork  
 Dublin  
**Italy**  
 Bergamo  
 Bologna  
 Florence  
 Milan  
 Padova  
 Parma  
 Prato  
 Rome  
 Turin  
**Latvia**  
 Liepāja  
 Riga

**Lithuania**  
 Taurage  
 Vilnius  
**Luxembourg**  
 Differdange  
**Malta**  
 Gozo  
**Netherlands**  
 Amsterdam  
 Eindhoven  
 Helmond  
 Groningen  
 Rotterdam  
 The Hague  
 Utrecht  
**Poland**  
 Krakow  
 Łódź  
 Rzeszow  
 Warsaw  
 Wrocław  
**Portugal**  
 Guimarães  
 Lisbon  
 Porto  
**Romania**  
 Bucharest

Cluj-Napoca  
 Suceava  
**Slovakia**  
 Bratislava  
 Košice  
**Slovenia**  
 Kranj  
 Ljubljana  
 Velenje  
**Spain**  
 Barcelona  
 Madrid  
 Seville  
 Valencia  
 Valladolid  
 Vitoria-Gasteiz  
 Zaragoza  
**Sweden**  
 Gävle  
 Gothenburg  
 Helsingborg  
 Lund  
 Malmö  
 Stockholm  
 Umeå

Cities from associated countries:

**Albania**  
 Elbasan  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
 Sarajevo  
**Iceland**  
 Reykjavík  
**Israel**

Eilat  
**Montenegro**  
 Podgorica  
**Norway**  
 Oslo  
 Stavanger  
 Trondheim

**Turkey**  
 Istanbul  
 Izmir  
**United Kingdom**  
 Bristol  
 Glasgow

## 10. Can agglomerations apply? Joint municipalities to reach 50 000 citizens?

Groupings of municipalities of smaller size in order to pass the population threshold are not encouraged. To be nevertheless considered for participation, they would have to: 1) be geographically contiguous; 2) demonstrate that they can act in a coordinated manner, with a single coordinating entity having authority to make decisions and commitments for the whole grouping.

## Funding

### 11. What will be the incentives for private investors, especially incentives for institutional investors to invest in municipalities?

With the assistance of SUN4Ukraine, municipalities themselves will develop a plan of incentives for institutional investors. Institutional investors are increasingly looking for climate neutral investments as part of their portfolios.

## **12. Can the developing of the Climate Neutral Plans (CNPs) be financed by this project?**

The SUN4Ukraine will provide expert advice and organise capacity building and knowledge sharing activities for co-creation and implementation of the Climate Neutral Plans (CNPs) and the development of related investment plans. However, it's important to note that this support will be provided without direct financial contributions..

## **SUN4Ukraine**

### **13. SUN4Ukraine will support 10 Flagship municipalities. What about all the others?**

10 Flagship municipalities will receive expert support for preparing Climate Neutrality Plans, including establishing targets, defining gaps, identifying mitigation actions and engaging citizens. They will also participate in capacity-building initiatives including twinning/partnering with the Mission Cities. All other municipalities interested in advancing towards climate neutrality will be able to receive support via the Ukrainian Cities Climate Hub (UCCH), that will provide access to information, resources and capacity building opportunities, including experience exchanges with Flagship municipalities.

## **Climate Neutrality Plans**

### **14. Are the Climate Neutrality Plans (CNPs) not similar to EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy?**

Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors commit to submitting, within two years after joining, a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), outlining the key actions they plan to undertake to translate their political commitment into practical measures and projects. Given the significant synergies between the Covenant of Mayors and the SUN4Ukraine, municipalities that are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors that have adopted or are in the process of developing their SECAP are therefore strongly encouraged to use their SECAPs as the starting point or as an integral part of their CNP. By aligning with the goal of associating Ukrainian cities with the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, the CNPs developed within SUN4Ukraine will set a more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target of 100% by 2050 (compared to the 40% target set by the SECAPs), thereby fostering a comprehensive transformation of cities.