



11 MARCH 2025, 14:30-17:00 CET,
COMIC ART MUSEUM BRUSSELS, RUE DES SABLES 20, 1000 BRUSSELS

Final PROSPECT+ event and policy dialogue:

Rethinking Funding at the Local Level: Moving Beyond Subsidies to Fast-Track the Energy Transition

This event draws on the results of the PROSPECT+ consultations, which explored **public authorities' attitudes toward innovative financing instruments**. Building on the project's extensive experience as it concludes, the event will highlight the barriers, needs, and priorities expressed by cities. These insights are particularly relevant for **policymakers, investors, and stakeholders shaping support for cities' energy transition**.

The event will also explore **actionable recommendations** to enable cities to access the **resources required for energy transition** and climate neutrality, such as aligning regulations, improving communication about existing support, and fostering coordinated capacity-building efforts tailored to cities' needs. Finally, the event will provide an overview of the entire project journey, emphasizing the value of peer learning in **strengthening cities' and regions' capacity** to achieve their goals.

Why Attend?

- **Learn What Cities Need:** Hear the findings of PROSPECT+ consultations, where cities shared their experiences with innovative financing instruments such as Energy Performance Contracts, Green Bonds, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and crowdfunding. Understand the barriers they face, from restrictive regulations to limited capacity, and the kinds of support they require.
- **Gain Practical Insights:** Hear how policies, support initiatives, and funding mechanisms can be better aligned with cities' needs to accelerate their progress toward climate neutrality.

AGENDA:

- 14:00 **Registration**
- 14:30 **Welcome & introduction**
 André Sobczak, Secretary General of Eurocities
- 14:40 **The PROSPECT+ journey**



Why it is important to keep investing in strengthening local and regional authorities' capacity through impactful peer-learning.

Giulia Pizzini, Senior Energy Expert, The Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP)

14:55 **Public authorities' attitudes toward innovative financing instruments: barriers and postulates.**

Presentation of the results of the PROSPECT+ consultations highlighting priorities, needs and barriers on the local level raised by local authorities and their universality across Europe.

Sylwia Słomiak, Senior Climate Finance Advisor, Eurocities

15:10 **Panel Discussion: Addressing Local Needs**

Exploring current and future support opportunities that address the needs on the local level

Panellists:

- Pierluca Merola, Policy Officer, European Commission: Energy Efficiency: Policy and financing Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)
- Andrzej Urbanik, Policy Officer, European Commission: European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
- Bianca Faragau, Institutional Policy Officer, European Investment Bank
- Anna-Maria Spyriouni, Head of EU Affairs, Climate Bonds Initiative
- Andries Gryffroy, European Committee of the Regions

moderated by Sylwia Słomiak, EUROCITIES

16:00 **Panel Discussion: Reality at the Local Level**

What cities need to accelerate the energy transition while public funding is not enough for the scale and urgency of the transformation and what strategies have been most effective so far.

Panellists:

- Alicia Villazan Cabero, Project Manager, Valladolid City Council, Spain
- Marco Costa, Renewable Energy Community Team Lead at Agenzia per l'Energia e lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (AESS)- Energy and Sustainable Development Agency Modena (Italy) TBC
- Marcin Gradzki, Director of Climate and Air Quality Department, City of Warsaw, Poland
- Vlasta Krmelj, Mayor of Selnica ob Dravi and CEO of ENERGA, Slovenia
- TBC Jolein Schorel, Municipality of Amersfoort, the Netherlands

moderated by Giulia Pizzini, IEECP

16:50 **Closing**

Cristina Mestre Martínez, Project Advisor, European Commission: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

17:00 **Cocktail reception and Networking**

18:30

REGISTRATION:

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Who Should Attend?

- **EU Institutions & Policymakers:** Those responsible for designing policies and funding mechanisms that can better support cities.
- **Financial Institutions & Investors:** Stakeholders looking to understand the needs of cities and explore opportunities for public-private collaboration.
- **City Networks & Advocacy Groups:** Organizations amplifying the voices of local authorities to ensure their needs are heard.
- **Municipal Leaders & Energy Agencies:** Representatives seeking practical tools and strategies to access financing and overcome challenges.

Organisers:

[PROSPECT+](#) consortium: Adelphi, ENERGAP, Energy Cities, ESV, Eurocities, Fedarene, IEECP, SEMMO, Tipperary Energy Agency, UPRC and Valladolid City Council.

Background:

What have the consultations revealed?

Cities point out systemic challenges slowing the shift away from traditional subsidies. Key issues include restrictive national regulations, limited local capacity, and uncertainty about engaging with private investors.

Many public authorities remain hesitant due to perceived risks, bureaucratic complexity, and a lack of transparency when selecting financing partners. Despite growing interest in alternatives like Energy Performance Contracting (EPCs), Green Bonds, and Citizen Finance, these barriers prevent broader adoption.

For instance, cities report frustration with municipal debt caps and regulations that restrict their ability to issue bonds or access loans. Others cite the need for more targeted capacity-building and technical assistance, particularly in navigating complex legal and financial frameworks. Political support and success stories have been shown to help, yet inconsistencies in national and EU policies continue to limit progress.

Shape the event:

Fill in a short survey to contribute to the issues the speakers will highlight during the final event:

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