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UCPs Transfer Partners Search Requests

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NEW EPOCH – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-242
Project acronym	NEW EPOCH
Project title	eNErgy Waste solutions through development of POsitive sChool buildings as sustainable, innovative Hubs for community engagement
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Municipality of Kifissia
Country	Greece
Topic	Energy Transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
This project addresses four key urban challenges: environmental degradation, energy inefficiency, renovation constraints and social disengagement. Many local schools built in the 1970s, are characterized by outdated infrastructure and insufficient renovation actions not implementing comprehensive holistic measures. The project aims to transform these schools into Positive Energy Educational Buildings (PEEBs), improving energy efficiency by up to 10 times, while creating the best possible indoor and outdoor environment for students and professors following a holistic approach bridging the gap between design and construction. In addition, it will focus in countering local social disengagement, as currently schools and local communities rarely collaborate on sustainability initiatives, with municipalities often lacking resources to support such efforts. To address the abovementioned urban challenges, the proposed solution focuses on the Positive Energy Educational Buildings (PEEBs) initiative, The PEEBs initiative focuses on affordable energy efficiency and production, targeting specific numerical values for energy demand (below 100kWh/m2yearly) and energy production (up to four (4) times the primary energy demand). Solutions like high-performance insulation materials and windows, airtight building envelopes, controlled ventilation with heat recovery and highly-efficient energy systems (HP with SEER>4) integrated with renewable energy sources and energy storage will be implemented. To ensure measurable progress, energy consumption data will be monitored both before and after the renovation phase to set specific energy targets and track improvements. Additionally, prefabrication and streamlined renovations will implemented, with off-site designed components like prefabricated façades quickly assembled to reduce disruption, errors, and timeline constraints targeting to minimize the construction time by 40% in comparison to a conventional renovation. The project's main objective is to transform school buildings into Positive Energy Educational Buildings (PEEBs) through deep energy retrofitting, innovative construction methods, and comprehensive community engagement.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
Municipality of Kifissia is organized according to the KALLIKRATIS Programme (law 3852/2010), has a population of 72,878 (according to the 2021 Census) currently consists of three Municipal

Units (Kifissia, Nea Erytrhaia and Ekali). The area of the Municipality is 36,804 acres and its seat is Kifissia.
The Municipality of Kifissia is located in northern Athens and is primarily residential but features a full spectrum of land uses including industrial, commercial, and recreational. Key residential areas include Kefalari, Politia, Nea Erithraia and Ekali, while a designated industrial park lies southwest of Kalyftaki Street. It hosts major hospitals, museums, libraries, and cultural venues, and its commercial centers serve both locals and visitors. The area combines quality urban planning, abundant green spaces, and architectural elegance, with ongoing development in infrastructure and community services.
The Municipality is active in numerous EU and Nationally Funded Programmes focusing on Sustainability and Energy Transition, with set priorities on smart applications and strategies on the updating and upgrading of local infrastructure.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
NEW EPOCH is looking for transfer partners in a less developed or in a transition region, of similar size (70.000-100.000 inhabitants) and with similar climate conditions to the Municipality of Kifissia, which can include hot summers with potential heatwaves and extreme temperature differences in winter. Thematically ideal Partners should be interested in implementing innovative resource efficient solutions in their public infrastructure, establishing energy based local scale collaborations including the active involvement of citizens within a project of energy transition. While the project's focus lies in creating Positive Energy Educational Buildings (PEEBs), it includes activities that will ensure transferability and suitability in broader sectors.
Favourable conditions for transfer
Assets but not strict conditions: • Aging / Outdated Educational Infrastructure • Identified Sites that can benefit from time efficient mainstreamed energy efficient upgrades • Having identified a need to expand knowledge on implicating citizens in energy transition projects

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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ADUCAT – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-127
Project acronym	ADUCAT
Project title	Actionable Data space for Urban Climate Adaptation and related socio-ecological, local Transformation
Name of the Main Urban Authority	City of Vienna
Country	Austria
Topic	Technology in Cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
The project aims to address urban challenges related to environmental and climate issues, such as urban greenery management, infrastructure monitoring, and temperature forecasting in cities, to move toward climate neutrality and resilience. The proposed solution is to utilize satellite-based applications, including Earth observation data combined with AI and machine learning, to improve urban planning and development processes. The project will implement innovative, technology-based solutions in real environments to enhance public services. The project aims to create more sustainable, resilient urban environments by integrating satellite data into city processes, improving the management of urban services, and enabling local authorities to better tackle climate challenges.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
The City of Vienna is the capital and also the largest city of Austria, bearing around 25% of the country's population has a special role and impact within the small – yet divers country. Having a long tradition in fostering innovation, Vienna started in 2014 to formalise its efforts regarding digitalisation in its widely respected Smart City Strategy which has been reworked later into the current Smart Climate City Strategy. By dragging climate and sustainability aspects into the focus of its Smart City efforts, Vienna pays tribute to the increasing challenges caused by the climate change. The project ADUCAT follows this logic. By using satellite data, different areas of sustainable city planning shall be improved in order to better and proactively maintain both the urban green as well as the built urban infrastructure. It aims at generating more reliable and accurate data for improving different city services.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
criteria that a candidate should meet regarding the urban authority size, geographical location

(less developed region, region in transition, more developed region), any other specific characteristic desired by the MUA to create a meaningful and balance Partnership.
Favourable conditions for transfer
The Transfer Partner should be a city (or a cooperation of municipalities) of a certain size, because the identified use cases (not all will be addressed within the project) are focusing on cities with certain urban characteristics (eg. building density, planned/ongoing construction programmes, public transport...) and as well a certain administrative capacity. The cities should see a realistic chance of integrating satellite data in their daily administration in terms of maintenance, urban planning and improvement of urban spaces. We are primarily looking for cities from less developed and transition regions.

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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Efficomfort – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-195
Project acronym	EffiComfort
Project title	EffiComfort: An Innovative Business Model for Energy Efficiency and Occupant Comfort through Integrated Smart Energy Solutions in Public and Residential Buildings
Name of the Main Urban Authority	City of Ljubljana
Country	Slovenia
Topic	Energy Transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved

Despite significant efforts by the City of Ljubljana (CoL) to retrofit public buildings through Energy Performance Contracting (EPC), the approach has proven costly and slow, failing to ensure optimal Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ). The existing "23°C 24/7" model results in unnecessary energy consumption and neglects real-time comfort needs of occupants.

EffiComfort introduces a dynamic "Comfort as a Service" (CaaS) business model. It integrates real-time energy and comfort management via IoT sensors and performance-based contracts. The solution includes Thermal Acclimatization Training (TAT) and smart HVAC systems that balance comfort, health, and energy efficiency in public and residential buildings.

The project aims to reduce energy use in buildings by up to 25%, improve occupant satisfaction and well-being, and establish a scalable PPP-based model that can be replicated in other cities. It also contributes to climate neutrality targets under the EU Cities Mission.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description

City of Ljubljana (CoL) is the capital and largest city of Slovenia, with ~297,575 inhabitants. It is a Mission City under the EU Cities Mission and an active member of the Covenant of Mayors. CoL has long-standing experience in energy retrofitting and sustainable urban development, managing ~100 public buildings through EPC and now seeking to upscale its impact through the CaaS model.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

To ensure meaningful cooperation and balance in the Transfer Partnership, candidate cities should preferably meet the following criteria:

- **Urban Authority Size:** Small to medium-sized cities (50,000–500,000 inhabitants)
- **Geographical Location:**
  - a **Less Developed Region** or **Transition Region**
- **Other desired characteristics:**
  - Active in climate action or energy efficiency strategies
  - Facing challenges with retrofitting or indoor environmental quality
  - Willingness to pilot and replicate innovative governance and contractual models

- Existing collaboration with local ESCOs or interest in performance-based contracting

Favourable conditions for transfer

Cities will particularly benefit from the EffiComfort transfer if they:

- Face financial or operational barriers to full retrofitting and seek **cost-effective alternatives**
- Lack technical capacity to monitor and optimize IEQ and energy use dynamically
- Have **housing funds, municipal schools, or other public facilities** ready for energy optimisation
- Wish to adopt **innovative, user-centric business models** based on comfort guarantees
- Are planning to align with **REPowerEU, the EU Green Deal,** or **Mission Cities** objectives

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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ZEROIT – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-080
Project acronym	ZEROit
Project title	Holistic portfolio planning tool and rapid zero-emission renovations to advance the energy transition of buildings and achieve urban climate goal targets
Name of the Main Urban Authority	City of Nuremberg
Country	Germany
Topic	Energy transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved
ZEROit project aims to help the City of Nuremberg to meet climate targets by reducing emissions from buildings, particularly focusing on small and medium-sized buildings, which are often overlooked in traditional retrofitting methods. The project proposes three integrated solutions. The Holistic Portfolio Planning Tool (HPP-Tool) will help to make smart, sustainable investment decisions by analysing the impact of various renovation measures across the city's building stock. The Rapid Zero-Emission Renovation Approach targets small and medium-sized buildings using cost-effective, off-the-shelf technologies, such as heat pumps. These technologies are more efficient than fossil fuel heating systems and help reduce emissions while preparing buildings for future improvements. Moreover, the project plans to engage local stakeholders, construction sectors and citizens to build their capacity and encourage participation in emission-reducing renovations. This includes providing access to the HPP Tool, creating a simplified version of the tool for use in one-stop shops and developing Renovation Passports for building owners.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description
Nuremberg is an independent city in the Middle Franconia administrative region of the Free State of Bavaria. With 530,000 inhabitants, it is by far the largest city in Franconia and the second largest in the state of Bavaria. NUREMBERG is a member of EUROCITIES and a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. It also heads the network of smaller regional cities in the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg. Through project participation, the city is involved in the Public Buyer Platform and the Smart City Marketplace. The city of Nuremberg is committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2040, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per capita by 65% by 2030. A key challenge in the energy transition is the decarbonization of heat supply. To tackle this, Nuremberg has launched a municipal heat planning initiative ahead of national requirements, positioning itself as a leader in this area.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
Geographical location: less developed region, region in transition or more developed region *Preferred Countries:* Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, northern France, northern Spain, and northern Portugal.

Preferred size: More relevant than the population is the size of the building stock (see below). A population of more than about 50,000 may be an indication that the building stock is large enough for the purpose of this project. A maximum population is not applicable because the project's subject is scalable.
Favourable conditions for transfer
• City with relevant heating demand during the cold season, an old building stock in terms of renovation requirements and a relatively low amount of installed heat pumps or other regenerative heat sources. • A reasonable number of buildings that are owned, used and managed by the urban authority (i.e. a relevant building portfolio to apply the Holistic Portfolio Planning tool). • The City Council should have decided on a path to zero emissions of the building stock and a budget to invest in respective renovation measures. • The possibility to assign an English or German speaking practitioner for a valuable exchange.

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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CED for the Future – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-118
Project acronym	CED for the Future
Project title	Collective Energy Districts for the Future of sustainable and integrated urban energy systems
Name of the Main Urban Authority	City of Utrecht
Country	Netherlands
Topic	Energy transition

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved

The CED FOR THE FUTURE project brings together all key local actors essential to deliver, test, and validate the unique Collective Energy District solution. Led by the City of Utrecht, the project addresses the challenge of urban development in one of the Netherlands' most congested urban regions. This challenge has 3 dimensions:

- **Governance challenges:** Effective coordination between municipalities, developers, grid operators, and citizens is lacking, with split incentives and missing or insufficient governance models for integrated urban energy planning.
- **Technical and economic issues:** Grid congestion in Utrecht is driven by peak-time energy demand and renewable energy imbalance; grid upgrades are hindered by high costs, long procedures, and staffing shortages, highlighting the need for smarter demand management.
- **Citizen engagement issues:** Demand-response can alleviate peak loads, but uptake is low; motivating residents to shift their consumption patterns requires tailored incentives, education and communication.

To address this challenge Utrecht will pilot a Collective Energy District approach. In this approach all users in a district cooperate, to collectively decrease energy peak demand, increase renewable energy integration and reduce grid congestion. The Collective Energy Districts approach consists of 3 innovation areas, addressing the 3 dimensions of the challenge, and will be piloted in the Merwede district, an inner-city area development with 4.250 dwellings, of which 55% is affordable housing, and 100.000 sqm of amenities:

- **Collective Energy Governance:** a novel Collective Energy Transport Contract, between district parties and grid operator, assigns shared responsibility to district stakeholders to reduce peak loads by 35%, fostering stronger collaboration within a public-private-civic Collective Energy Community.
- **Smart, integrated local energy system:** Merwede will deploy a flexible, energy system combining a geo- and aqua-thermal based district heating system, V2G EVs, thermal and battery energy storage, and local renewables to manage peaks and reduce grid costs.
- **User engagement through incentives:** a co-created incentive program using community building, gamification, dynamic pricing, and education encourages grid-aware behaviour and boosts participation in collective energy management.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description

City of Utrecht, Main Urban Authority, will coordinate the project and lead WP5, 6 and 8 focused on designing, implementing, and scaling Collective Energy District. Utrecht is active member of Energy Cities, Eurocities and Mission 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, and coordinated large projects such as IRIS Smart Cities (H2020) and Utrecht Refugee Launchpad (UIA.

Utrecht is expected to grow by 20% from 360,000 inhabitants in 2022 to 450,000 by 2040 resulting in an urgent need for housing. However, 90% of the city's housing projects face delays due to electricity grid congestion. In addition, Utrecht's growth in renewable energy (PV: 144 GhW in 2022 to 288 GWh in 2030), EV's (10.000 in 2024 to 120.000 in 2040) and heat pumps (>100.000 dwellings will be disconnected from natural gas grid) will put additional stress the grid. Grid congestion thereby not only threatens urban developments but also Utrecht's decarbonisation ambitions.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile
Utrecht is seeking for potential Transfer Partner cities in less developed regions and/or regions in transition. While the Collective Energy Districts approach stems from acute grid congestion in Utrecht, the solution can be a model for any urban area that plans to integrate more renewable energy, solving time-based energy peak challenges.
Favourable conditions for transfer
To ensure successful transfer of the Collective Energy Districts approach, Utrecht will consider the following conditions and resources in the final selection: (1) extent to which local renewable energy use, production and integration are hampered; (2) extent of collaborative approaches with grid operator; (3) commitment to involve citizens and businesses in local energy communities

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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Co.nTe – REQUEST SUMMARY

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project number	EUI03-081
Project acronym	Co.nTe
Project title	Co-creating Madeira's Climate-Adapted Future with Novel Technology Schemes
Name of the Main Urban Authority	Municipality of Câmara de Lobos
Country	Portugal
Topic	Technology in cities

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Challenge to be addressed, Proposed innovative solution, Change to be achieved

The Co.nTe project aims to address challenges in Madeira, including high real estate pressure, limited urban farming alternatives, and climate change impacts. It has three main pillars:

1) Societal Token that uses generative AI to develop an innovative financing system for sustainable land use and disaster mitigation. This involves creating scenarios, a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), and a pilot phase;
2) Tech for Land Use and Local Food Chains work package explores how AI-driven land use scenarios can foster public-private collaborations. It includes selecting partnerships, providing knowledge and technology support, and capitalizing on lessons learned;
3) Resilience Living Lab that will serve as the project's backbone, integrating outputs and providing governance. It involves co-designing a physical lab, conducting educational activities, and rethinking land use planning.

The project is strategically aligned with EU priorities for digital technology in cities and involves collaboration between various partners, including local authorities, research institutions, and businesses.

3. ABOUT THE MAIN URBAN AUTHORITY

Main Urban Authority description

Câmara de Lobos is a small town located on the southern coast of Madeira Island, Portugal, west of Funchal, the island's capital.

The municipality faces the fast degradation of urban and peri-urban land. Spatially, the city is mostly concentrated on the coast, and integrate the steep slopes of the mountainous area where urban agriculture is the most important economic activity. Apart from its location in a natural constraint area, majority of urban farms in this urban area share the characteristics of other European urban farms: they are small, fragmented, the farmer population is aging and there is a growing trend of abandonment of cultivated land. Additionally, occurrence of urban sprawl in the form of growing demand for housing has, together with land appreciation (tourism), led many landowners to sell their land for construction purposes.

The city only have zoning plans as a (sluggish) policy instrument to guide development, but no innovative way in which to co-create with the community an alternative approach. There are environmental implications, effecting loss of biodiversity and occurrence of natural disasters, largely due to land abandonment.

Socio-economically, gentrification is a growing challenge. While tourism is currently adding to the real estate pressure, it is an activity largely based on the existence of the landscape it actually threatens to destroy. Local food systems are largely disrupted and unable to offer predictability for sustainable community food production policy.

4. TRANSFER PARTNER(S) PROFILE

TP(s) profile

To ensure a balanced partnership aligned with the objectives of the Co.nTe project (EUIO3-081), candidates for Transfer Partners must meet the following criteria, as defined by the Main Urban Authority (Municipality of Câmara de Lobos):

Urban Authority Size: Transfer Partners must be urban authorities of medium-sized cities, with a population between 50.000 and 500.000 inhabitants. This scale ensures that the cities face urban challenges similar to those in the Madeira region, such as pressure on land use, vulnerability to climate change, and the need for innovative sustainability solutions, while maintaining sufficient administrative capacity and resources to implement the transferred solutions.

Geographical Location and Development Level: Candidate cities must be located in European Union regions classified as less developed, in transition, or more developed, with a preference for a mix of these contexts. Cities in regions with comparable geographical or socio-economic characteristics, such as insularity, coastal areas, or regions with high urban pressure and climate risks, will be prioritized. This diversity allows for testing the adaptability of the project's solutions across different regional contexts, promoting effective replication.

Specific Desired Characteristics: Candidates must demonstrate interest and commitment to adopting innovative technologies, particularly generative artificial intelligence and solutions for local food chains, as well as practices for sustainable land use and climate resilience. Preferably, cities should have prior experience in European projects (e.g., Horizon Europe, Interreg, or URBACT) or urban innovation initiatives, ensuring their capacity to integrate and disseminate the project's results. Additionally, cities must have strong engagement with local communities and stakeholders, promoting participatory approaches to ensure the acceptance and impact of implemented solutions. The partnership should be geographically diverse, with a preference for cities from Southern Europe (e.g., Spain, Greece, or Italy) that face similar climatic and urban challenges but have distinct cultural and administrative contexts, enriching knowledge exchange.

Favourable conditions for transfer

To maximize the benefits of the transfer opportunity, Transfer Partners should exhibit the following favorable characteristics:

Capacity to Adopt Innovative Technologies: Candidate cities should have basic infrastructure or openness to implementing solutions based on artificial intelligence, such as the Societal Token, and to exploring technologies that promote sustainable local food chains. Prior experience with digitalization or urban innovation projects will be an advantage.

Similar Urban Challenges: Cities should face challenges comparable to those of Câmara de Lobos, such as real estate pressure, agricultural land abandonment, gentrification, or climate change impacts. These conditions ensure that the solutions developed under Co.nTe, such as sustainable land use planning and disaster mitigation, are relevant and applicable.

Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance: Transfer Partners should have governance structures that support community engagement with citizens.

5. CONTACT DETAILS

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