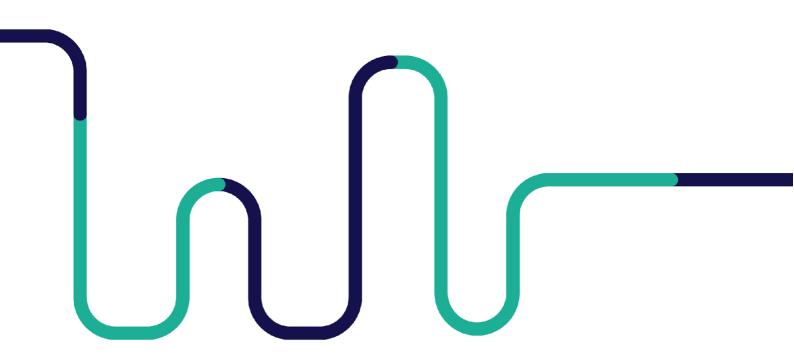


EUI FOCUSED POLICY LAB

Access to funding: Practical tools for urban change

30th September – 2nd October 2025, Rotterdam, Netherlands







AGENDA

Day 1 – 30 th September		
9:00 - 09:30	Welcome coffee and registration	
09:30 - 10:00	Opening remarks With: • European Commission - DG REGIO Video: Message Mr. Hugo Sobral • Rotterdam Deputy Mayor – tbc • Review of what's to come	
10:00 – 10:25	Keynote: Rethinking urban finance With: Bart Meijs – Managing Director, Social Impact Fonds Rotterdam	
10:25 – 11:25	Contextual panel: Who funds what? - Insights from the investment ecosystem With: Ilaria d'Auria - Head of Programmes at PHILEA DG Regio representative EIB representative	
11:25 – 12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00 – 12:30	 Case study pitches 1: Bringing blended finance to the table Case 1: Iva Petkova, Director, Bulgarian Sustainable Cities Fund Case 2: Public Private Partnership for NetZero Cities, Sønderborg, DK - tbc 	
12:30 – 13:00	Case Study Pitches 2: Engaging the private sector for investment Case 3: Rikx Social Credit Scheme & Innovative Procurement (Employment, Training, Social Integration), Rotterdam, NL Case 4: Financial instruments for urban development in Portugal – IFRRU 2020	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 - 14:45	Introduction to the site visits and agenda	
14:45 – 17:15	Site visits	
17:15 – 18:30	Funding marketplace & city cases expo	
18:30 - 18:45	Wrap-up	
19:00 – 21:30	Networking cocktail	
Day 2 – 1 st October		
08:45 - 09:15	Welcome coffee and registration	

09:15 - 09:30	Recap and Framing
09:30 - 10:30	Plenary: Smart funding strategies for cities With: • Khadija Mernissi, City Finance Specialist, Climate City Capital Hub, NetZero Cities • Ruud Van Raak, Managing Authority financial instruments, Rotterdam • John Moran, Mayor of Limerick • Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent - tbc
10:30 - 10:45	Introducing the afternoon workshops
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	2 Parallel workshops in 4 breakout rooms Workshop Strand A: Tackles point: Combining funding sources & engaging private sector investment
	Workshop Strand B: Tackles point: How to align local priorities with funding criteria and Cohesion Policy objectives at national and EU level.
12:45-14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:45	Parallel workshops repeated
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:15	Funding market place & city cases expo
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up
19:00	Networking cocktail and dinner SS Rotterdam
Day 3 – 2 nd Octo	ber
09:00 - 09:15	Morning energiser and objectives
09:15 – 10:15	City funding clinics A peer-to-peer session addressing a city funding challenge, where participants share experiences, lessons, and critical questions.

10:15 – 11:30	Building a funding roadmap A reflective workshop whereby participants use the knowledge & capacity gained to draft their own funding roadmap.
11:30 – 12:00	Closing plenary
12:00 – 13:00	Farewell lunch