



EUROPEAN  
U R B A N  
INITIATIVE

## EUI FOCUSED POLICY LAB

Access to funding: Practical tools for urban change

30<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, Rotterdam, Netherlands



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## AGENDA

Day 1 – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	
9:00 – 09:30	Welcome coffee and registration
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening remarks</b> <b>With:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Commission - DG REGIO Video: Message Mr. Hugo Sobral</li> <li>Rotterdam Deputy Mayor – tbc</li> <li>Review of what's to come</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:25	<b>Keynote: Rethinking urban finance</b> <b>With:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bart Meijs – Managing Director, Social Impact Fonds Rotterdam</li> </ul>
10:25 – 11:25	<b>Contextual panel: Who funds what? - Insights from the investment ecosystem</b> <b>With:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ilaria d'Auria - Head of Programmes at PHILEA</li> <li>DG Regio representative</li> <li>EIB representative</li> </ul>
11:25 – 12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Case study pitches 1: Bringing blended finance to the table</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case 1: Iva Petkova, Director, Bulgarian Sustainable Cities Fund</li> <li>Case 2: Public Private Partnership for NetZero Cities, Sønderborg, DK - tbc</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Case Study Pitches 2: Engaging the private sector for investment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case 3: Rikx Social Credit Scheme &amp; Innovative Procurement (Employment, Training, Social Integration), Rotterdam, NL</li> <li>Case 4: Financial instruments for urban development in Portugal – IFRRU 2020</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 14:45	<b>Introduction to the site visits and agenda</b>
14:45 – 17:15	<b>Site visits</b>
17:15 – 18:30	<b>Funding marketplace &amp; city cases expo</b>
18:30 – 18:45	<b>Wrap-up</b>
19:00 – 21:30	<i>Networking cocktail</i>
Day 2 – 1 <sup>st</sup> October	
08:45 - 09:15	Welcome coffee and registration

09:15 - 09:30	<b>Recap and Framing</b>
09:30 – 10:30	<b>Plenary: Smart funding strategies for cities</b> With: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khadija Mernissi, City Finance Specialist, Climate City Capital Hub, NetZero Cities</li> <li>• Ruud Van Raak, Managing Authority financial instruments, Rotterdam</li> <li>• John Moran, Mayor of Limerick</li> <li>• Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent - tbc</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Introducing the afternoon workshops</b>
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 – 12:45	<b>2 Parallel workshops in 4 breakout rooms</b>  <b>Workshop Strand A:</b>  <b>Tackles point: Combining funding sources &amp; engaging private sector investment</b>  <b>Workshop Strand B:</b>  <b>Tackles point: How to align local priorities with funding criteria and Cohesion Policy objectives at national and EU level.</b>
12:45-14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 – 15:45	<b>Parallel workshops repeated</b>
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	<b>Funding market place &amp; city cases expo</b>
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>
19:00	<i>Networking cocktail and dinner SS Rotterdam</i>
<b>Day 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Morning energiser and objectives</b>
09:15 – 10:15	<b>City funding clinics</b> A peer-to-peer session addressing a city funding challenge, where participants share experiences, lessons, and critical questions.

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