



EUROPEAN
U R B A N
INITIATIVE

EUI CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT

Financing Climate Transition and Resilient Urban Development
– How Swedish Cities Can Accelerate with External Funding

Event scale (National)

December 4th, Stockholm, Sweden



Co-funded by
the European Union



Timing Content (Preliminary – may be adjusted)	
Day 1 – 4 December	
08.30	Welcome coffee and registration Odengatan 65, Floor 2 – same entrance as Coop and SATS, Stockholm, Sweden
09.00	Opening remarks: Financing Climate Transition and Resilient Urban Development – How Swedish Cities Can Accelerate with External Funding (Plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth - Annika Rosing, Head of Unit • Viable cities - Olga Kordas, Program Manager • European Commission, DG REGIO – Alice Arnaldi
09.40	Sensemaking: Understanding the financial ecosystem and EU funding opportunities (Plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission, DG REGIO – Merja Haapakka • European Investment Bank - Grzegorz Gajda, Senior Urban Specialist • European Urban Initiative expert - Albert Edman • the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth - Johan Willdal
10.10	Combining efforts for mitigation and adaptation (Plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tommaso Bassetti, Lead Urban Specialist, ICatalist (MIP4Adapt - EU Adaptation Mission)
10.20	Coffee break
10.40	Interview with researchers from Stockholm Environmental Institution (SEI) (Plenary) Interview with Senior Scientist and Water Program Director Laura Forni from Stockholm Environment Institute about their research on how climate mitigation and adaptation actions impact each other, the financial consequences of siloed approaches and the value of coordinated investments
10.44	If Only Money Grew on Trees (Plenary) Showcasing the establishment of a sustainable investment fund to support retrofitting of private property. With Kieran Reeves, Climate Action Co-ordinator for Limerick City and County Council with responsibility for overseeing the implementation Limerick Climate Action Plan

10.50	<p>Cities funding experiences - panel discussion (Plenary)</p> <p>Swedish and European cities share their experience in building capacity for combining different funding sources for the transition journey.</p> <p>With</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Boije, Business Developer, Tomelilla • Annika Myrén, Climate strategist, Umeå • Evelina Loberg, Climate strategist, Gävle • Eva Bligt-Lindén, Project Manager, Vaasa • Carin Ström, Strategy Coordinator, Göteborg
11.30	<p>Building multi stakeholder alliances - panel discussion (Plenary)</p> <p>Exploring how regions, cities and ecosystems can collaborate across sectors to accelerate systemic change. The session includes practical examples and strategies for creating effective alliances.</p> <p>With</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klimatarena Sthlm - Hanna Kreplin, Process manager • Region Sörmland - Tim Lux, Development Manager International and EU Affairs • Gothenburg Region Local Government Association - Maria Sigroth, Process leader • The southeast triangle - Anders Almqvist, Strategy, EU and International Affairs, Kalmar and Linda Nilsson, Environmental strategist, Karlskrona • Eskilstuna Climate evolution Elin Svanström, Process leader,
12.05	Wrap up and introduction to workshops after lunch
12.15	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.15	<p>Workshops in four parallel tracks (including fika) (Break-out)</p> <p>For detailed information regarding site visits please refer to the Annex 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 1: Combining Different Funding Sources for the transition journey • Workshop 2: Building municipal capacity through organisational models, routines and co-financing strategies • Workshop 3: European and National Funding Landscape • Workshop 4: Combining mitigation and adaptation in governance & funding
15.20	Short break
15.30	<p>Finale and Beehive check-out</p> <p>A collective closing session with group reflections, interactive check-out using Mentimeter, and insights shared.</p>

16.00	<p>Wrap up, what's next (Plenary)</p> <p>Olga Kordas share key takeaways from the day and outline actions at different levels to help Swedish municipalities advance in this area. EUI on further upcoming possibilities within EUI to further strengthen the capacity for combining funding and accelerate climate transition and resilient urban development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable cities - Olga Kordas, Program Manager • European Urban Initiative - Eilish O'Loughlin, Capacity building head of unit
16.15	<p>Mingle with walking dinner</p>

Annex 1.

Description of workshops in parallel tracks

Workshop 1: Combining Different Funding Sources for the transition journey (ENGLISH)

Room: Tor 2

This workshop explores practical approaches to blended finance, strategic co-funding, and collaboration across sectors. Participants will learn from concrete examples of how municipalities have successfully mobilised and layered resources from EU, national, regional, and private funds.

The session will feature insights from Limerick, Lund, Bristol, Oradea, Alba Iulia, Vienna and introduce key instruments such as Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and Local Climate Investment Funds as enablers for blended finance.

Together, we will discuss:

- How to design and manage projects that combine multiple funding streams.
- How to attract private capital and think like a private investor – drawing on learnings from the Climate City Capital Hub.
- How to align funding strategies with local climate investment plans and broader sustainable urban development goals.
- We will also explore synergies with the Viability Fund for Cities.

The workshop aims to provide both strategic inspiration and hands-on guidance on financing mechanisms that enable cities to move from single projects to long-term investment portfolios for climate transition and adaptation.

Facilitators:

- Olle Dierks, Head of Large-Scale Investments, Viable Cities, Chair Sweden smart cities, Focal point Sweden CHAMP
- Mattias Sundström, City adviser, NetZero Cities Finance Specialist, South Pole
- Sally Kneeshaw, Policy consultant and URBACT expert, EUI

Workshop 2 : Building municipal capacity through organisational models, routines and co-financing strategies (Swedish)

Room: Embla

This workshop will depart from the guide "Externfinansiering för hållbar samhällsutveckling - En guide i åtta steg" aimed at municipalities on how to increase the use of external funding to build sustainable cities. The guide was developed by the Swedish Model for Sustainable Urban Development (a collaboration among several Swedish government agencies), covering:

- Arguments for using external funding
- Mapping municipal goals and needs
- Organizational setup (roles, decision-making, routines etc)
- Co-financing strategies

- Identifying funding opportunities

The workshop will be moderated by the Swedish Model for Sustainable Urban Development. An overview of the guide will be provided, as well as good examples from Swedish cities. The cities presenting are Uppsala, Umeå and Helsingborg. Helsingborg will focus on the European perspective and present their experiences of NetZero City. The slovakian city Prievdza will also give a presentation about how they combined EU-funding and private funding. The workshop will be a peer-review, where participants will be able to send in questions and challenges, they want to discuss in this form. Finally, the participants will be given tasks connected to the theme, that they will discuss in groups.

- Case study from Prievdza - Alojz Vlčko, Prievdza, Slovakia

The aim of the workshop is to increase the knowledge and give concrete examples of how to better make use of external funding, European as well as national, and to provide the opportunity to discuss the challenges of individual cities.

Facilitators:

- Ulrika Karlsson, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Anna-Lena Lökvist Andersen, the County Administrative Board
- Gustav Malm, Vinnova - Sweden's innovation agency
- Anette Olovborn, Strategic designer at Viable cities and Dark Matter Labs

Workshop 3 : European and National Funding Landscape (Swedish)

Room: Tor 1

This session provides an overview of current funding instruments and collaborative opportunities, drawing on both Swedish and European experiences, giving cities an opportunity to exchange experiences and reflect together with representatives from agencies.

The workshop will include perspectives from the Swedish Model for Sustainable Urban Development's seminar series, the Climate City Contract 2030 collaboration, portfolio thinking, EUI key activities, national and European programmes such as Driving Urban Transitions, Shift Sweden, Horizon, EU Missions etc.

Short introduction: The presentation of Funding Landscape illustration from plenum session will be commented and reflected on by representatives from Swedish agencies:

- Lovisa Petersson, The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
- Björn Wallsten, Formas the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development
- Emina Pasic, the Swedish Energy Agency
- Ann Maudsley and Marie Vaadre, Vinnova Sweden's innovation agency
- Albert Edman, Viable Cities

Group Discussions:

- How can you - cities and regions - understand, navigate and prepare for the growing landscape of European and national funding to accelerate your climate transition and sustainable urban development?
- Which are the low hanging fruits?
- What kind of support is needed on a national and European level?

Facilitators:

- Marie Ivarsson, Internationalization Strategist , Viable Cities
- Albert Edman, EUI expert/ Internationalization Lead, Viable Cities

Workshop 4 - Combining mitigation and adaptation in governance & funding (Swedish)**Room: Loke** (Plenary)

How can cities and regions strengthen their climate adaptation capacity and link it to broader climate-neutral and resilient urban development?

This learning case session explores practical experiences and tools for integrating adaptation into territorial strategies, investment planning, and multi-level collaboration. Drawing on the emerging Climate Adaptation Hub and ongoing work within the Swedish authorities' network for climate adaptation (MNKA), the session will:

- Explore how adaptation measures can be financed and embedded within local climate investment plans and Climate City Contracts 2030 and also more specifically into the joint commitment nr 9.
- Discuss national support structures and programmes that enable local and regional adaptation, including perspectives from Vinnova - Sweden's innovation agency, SMHI - The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, and The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.
- Insights and learnings from a territorial strategy example from Gävleborg County, illustrating how regional and municipal actors collaborate around adaptation, risk management, and resilience.
- Identify opportunities for cities to connect adaptation and mitigation efforts, strengthening both climate resilience and the local capacity to attract external funding.

The workshop provides a platform for peer learning and policy dialogue between municipalities, regions, and national agencies. Participants will gain insights into how adaptation can become a driver for innovation, investment, and long-term sustainable development. Output will be important for our joint work during 2026 and beyond.

With contributions from:

- Johan Willdal, Program Manager for ERDF, The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
- Jonathan Nylander, National contact point for Horizon Europe, Vinnova, Sweden's innovation agency
- Karin Hjärpe, SMHI The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
- Christoffer Carstens, territorial strategy, Gävleborg County

Facilitators:

- Charlotte Gustafsson Brynielsson, Sustainability Strategist, Viable Cities and KTH
- Karoliina Pilli-Sihvola, Researcher at Viable Cities and KTH
- Carina Aschan, Senior Project Manager City Development, Viable Cities and RISE
- Rebecka Engström, Researcher at Viable Cities and KTH