



Call 4 Updated Framework



What Cities Must Demonstrate

- Clear urban challenge
 - Specific, relevant & supported by data
- Innovative project proposal
 - Innovative solution that is **new** in the local context (not necessarily EU-wide).
- Advancement over current practice
 - Proposed solution → **significant improvement** over what the city is currently doing
- Transformative potential
 - Project should allow **permanent change** in internal practices or policies if successful
- Readiness to implement
 - Cities must be **ready** to implement the project in only 24-months
- City readiness to lead
 - The MUA must play a **central role** in shaping, implementing, and learning from the solution

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development

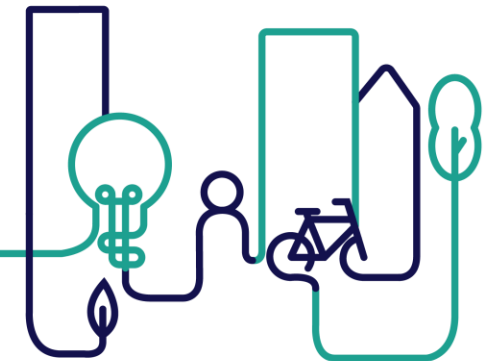
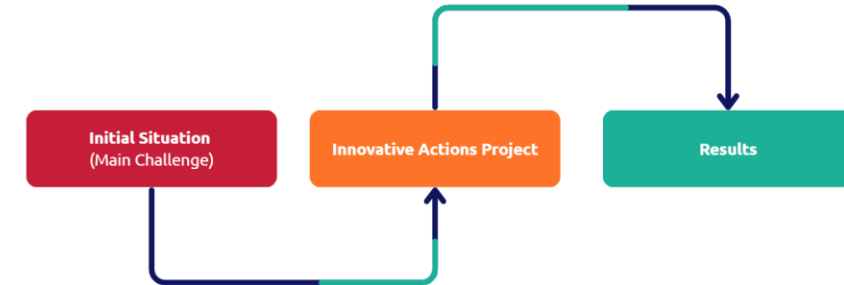


Characteristics of a Good Innovative Solution

- **Locally innovative**
 - New in the local context, not necessarily at EU level.
- **Place-based**
 - Must clearly explain **why this solution fits this place** and how it addresses a locally diagnosed need
- **Participatory**
 - Must integrate **meaningful involvement** from residents, civil society, businesses, and local innovation ecosystems
- **Sustainable & scalable**
 - Demonstrate how the solution could **continue** after the project ends, be **expanded** or **integrated** into mainstream policies
- **Well-Structured & Feasible**
 - Logical link between objectives, activities, outputs, and expected results
 - **Realistic** in scope

AF: Relevance & Innovativeness

- Clear challenge
 - Structured and evidence-based explanation of the problem
- Current Practice and Its Limitations
 - How the city is currently addressing the challenge & identified the shortcomings of the existing approach
- Present the Innovative Solution Clearly and Logically
 - What is **new locally** and how the proposed approach differs from existing methods
- Transformative Ambition
 - How the solution will create **significant and lasting improvements**
- Provide Sources of Inspiration
 - Clearly acknowledge where the idea comes from





AF: Participation & Co-Creation

- Identify target groups clearly and specifically
 - Who will benefit from the project?
- Demonstrate meaningful participation
 - When and how will stakeholders contribute throughout the project lifecycle (design, implementation, evaluation)?
- Co-Creation must support the innovation
 - Activities should clearly **influence** the development and testing of the solution
- Alignment with the New Leipzig Charter
 - Open governance, shared responsibility, and civic engagement.
- Appropriate Stakeholder Mapping
 - Key stakeholders needed for the project's success → Why and how they will contribute?



AF: Sustainability & Scaling Up

- Alignment with local strategies and policies
 - Identify **specific local strategies or policy documents** relevant to the project
 - Show **concrete links** between the innovation and existing priorities
- Ensuring sustainability after the project ends
 - Operational sustainability, financial sustainability & social sustainability
- Long-term changes in internal structures and processes
 - Embed innovation methods into municipal routines
- Scaling-up potential
 - How the solution could be expanded?
 - What conditions must be met?
 - Who would be responsible?

AF: Intervention Logic



1 Overall Objective

Represents the *high-level ambition* - what the city ultimately wants to achieve through the innovation



Max 3 Specific Objectives

Cities must define **maximum three specific objectives**, each representing a key dimension of the innovative solution



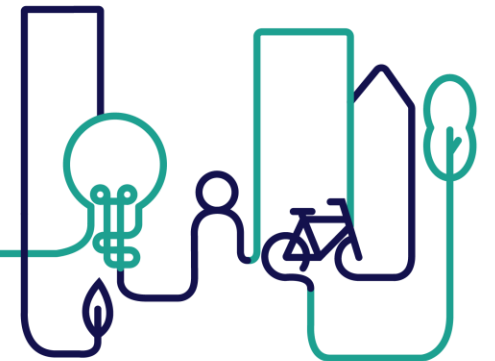
Tangible Outputs

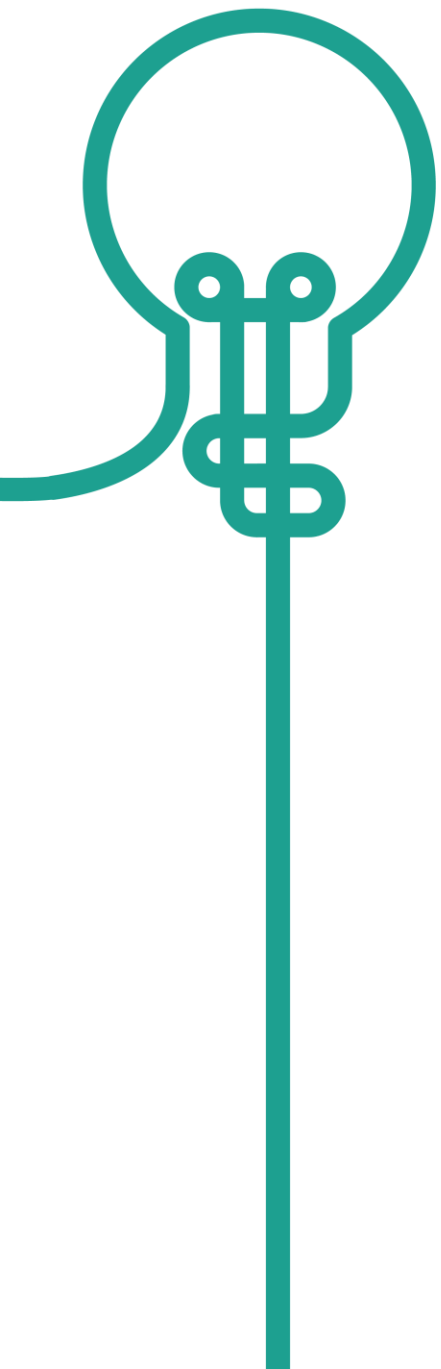
Ultimate tangible products delivered by the project activities



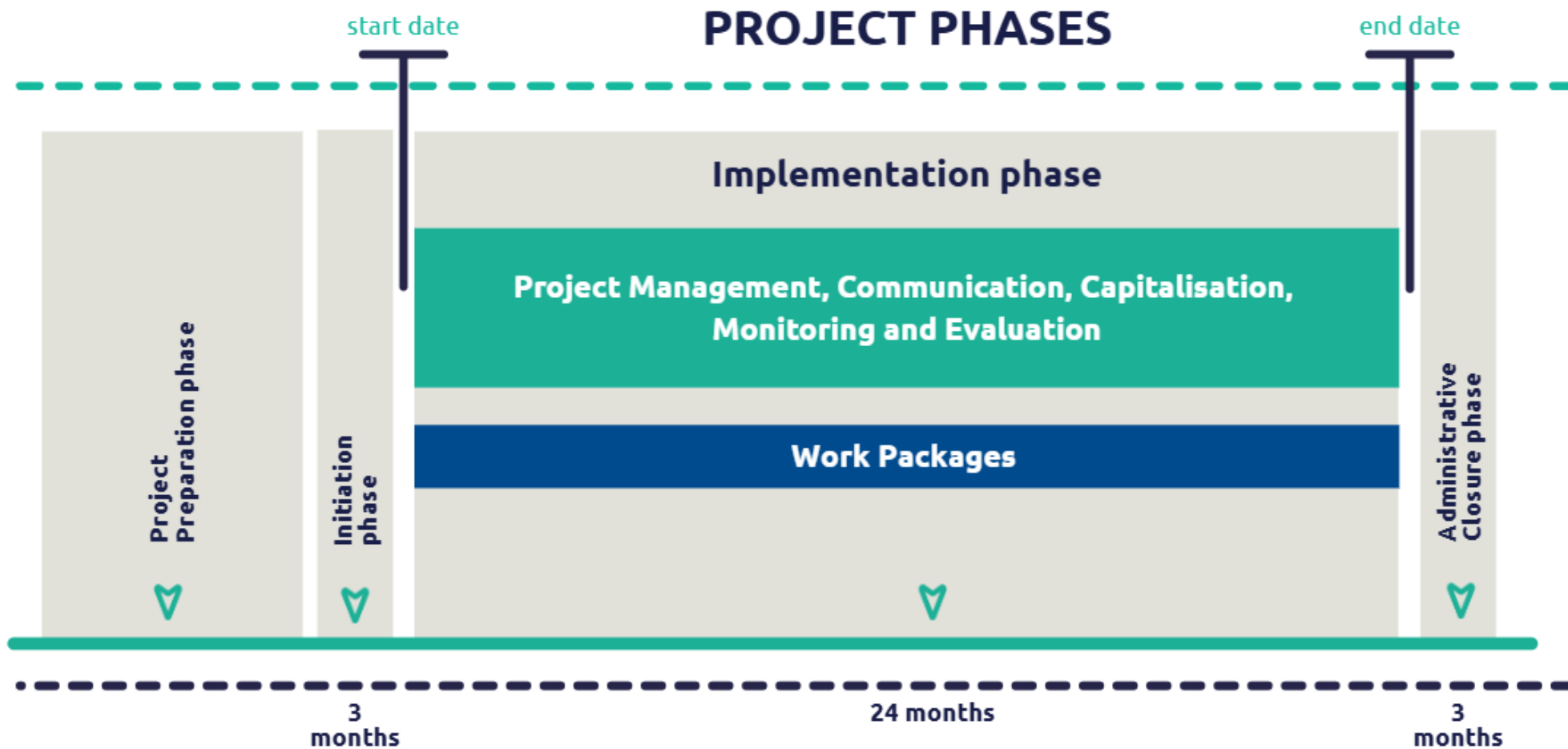
Measurable Expected Results

Expected results are the *actual changes* the city intends to achieve by the end of the project



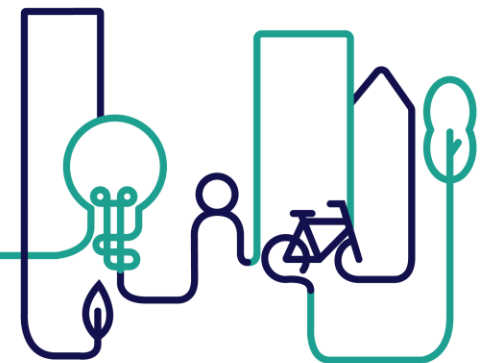


Project Phases (30 Months)



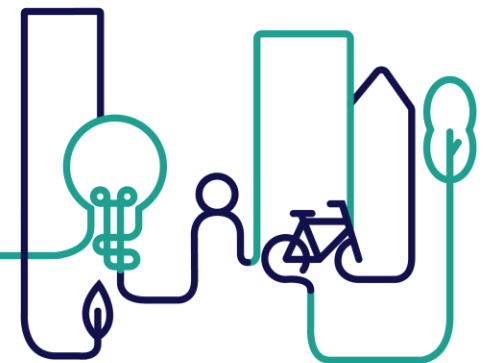
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- Shorter than Calls 1-3
 - 3 months
 - Same contractual framework: **Subsidy Contract & Partnership Agreement**
 - **Recommendations & AF Revision** → improve the initial application
- Readiness & risk mitigation
 - Recommendations will include risk analysis & readiness check
- Ex-ante control
 - Desk-based control
 - Checklist communicated in advance to the PMT



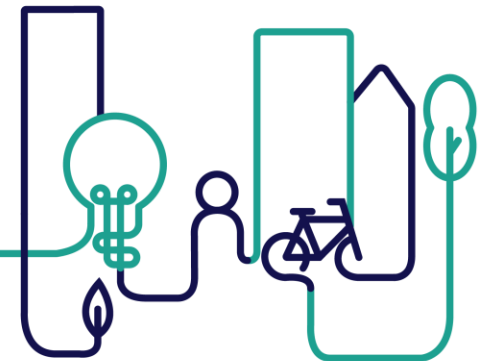
Implementation Phase

- Updated Application Form
 - Integration of horizontal activities in the work packages
 - Project Management Setup
- Max 3 Work Packages (Core of Implementation)
 - Max 6 Activities per WP
 - Max 6 Deliverables per Activity
 - At least 1 Output per WP
 - 1 Activity focused on Communication
- Investment Elements (If Relevant)
 - Justification, thematic relevance, beneficiaries
 - Location, permits, procurement, ownership, sustainability
 - Budget breakdown



Closure Phase

- **Duration 3 months**
 - Dedicated to financial reporting, administrative checks, and consolidating project results
- **Final Progress Report (FPR)**
 - Submitted 1 month after the end of implementation - Includes a dedicated qualitative section
- **Financial Claim 2**
 - Must include all final eligible expenditure
 - Triggers Closure Lump Sum
- **Final administrative checks**
 - Verification of outputs, investments, indicators, communication requirements



Funding Framework

- Max €2.5M total, €2M ERDF
- 80% co-financing rate
- Lump sums
 - The budget includes fixed lump sums covering three phases:

Phase	Lump Sum Total	ERDF Contribution
Preparation	€10,000	€8,000
Initiation	€30,000	€24,000
Closure	€7,500	€6,000

- Simplified costs
 - The funding framework offers **three options** combining real costs, flat rates, and unit costs:
 - **Option 1A:** Hourly rate (unit cost) for staff + flat rates for office/admin (15%) & travel/accommodation (5%) + real costs for the rest
 - **Option 1B:** 20% flat rate for staff + flat rates for office/admin & travel/accommodation + real costs for the rest
 - **Option 2:** Hourly rate for staff + 40% flat rate for all other cost categories
- Advance payment system – similar to Calls 1-3



Monitoring Approach

- 2 Milestone Reviews (1 per year)
- 2 Annual Progress Reports submitted on an annual basis – no changes compared to Calls 1-3
 - Intermediary Progress Report after 1st year of implementation
 - Final Progress Report at project closure – will include a dedicated qualitative section (former FQR concept)
- 2 Financial Claims – financial reporting is done at:
 - Partner level
 - Cost category level
- 1 Site visit during project lifetime by EUI PS (if needed)
- Informal regular contacts