NET ZERO CITIES

EU MISSION PLATFORM | CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

Join the EU Policy Lab: Natural Gas Phase-out and Integrated Energy Network Planning



This **EU Policy Lab** will bring together Mission and Mission-Minded Cities, national authorities, regulators and EU institutions to share the **national transpositions** of the "EU hydrogen and gas decarbonisation Package", with focus on gas **distribution network decommissioning** and its alignment with local heating and cooling plans.

With national transpositions due by summer 2026, the Lab offers a timely space to **co-develop policy solutions,** avoid stranded gas assets, and support city-led decarbonisation. It's a valuable opportunity to **shape practical outcomes** that will inform future energy transition policies.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- **Ownership**: Directly contribute to defining practical solutions for your city or region through a clear process that ensures local challenges are addressed.
- **Collaboration**: Work alongside other cities, national ministries, and EU experts to **prioritise key issues** and build actionable solutions.
- **Real-World Impact**: Focus on solutions that can be applied in **concrete local and national contexts** to make the gas transition smoother and more equitable.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- Refined **national transposition proposals** for gas grid decommissioning and cost allocation.
- Identification of **practical actions cities can take** to complement EU-level policies.
- Clear mapping of **roles and responsibilities** across governance levels.
- **Actionable feedback** for policy refinements to ensure they work for both cities and national governments.

LAB STRUCTURE

The lab is structured to include **two working sessions** where participants will focus on specific **challenge spaces**. Each session will allow participants to engage in-depth with one of the following:

1. **Where and when to decommission**
2. **Fair treatment of consumers in shrinking networks**
3. **Mandates and governance for closing the gas grid**
4. **Costs, stranded assets, and who pays**

@European union, 2025.

PART OF THE EU MISSIONS

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Funded by the European Union

LAB STRUCTURE: A 4-WEEK SPRINT

PRE-LAB SESSION – TUESDAY, 31 MARCH | 14:00–15:00 CEST

Kick-off session to introduce the key issues around gas grid decommissioning and the challenges of national transposition.

WEEK 1 – SESSION 1 – TUESDAY, 14 APRIL | 14:00–15:30 CEST

Introduction & Expert Insights – Overview of the Gas Package, followed by a **15-minute presentation** from experts, and a working session where participants will choose one of the four **challenge spaces** to focus on.

WEEK 2 – SESSION 2 – TUESDAY, 28 APRIL | 14:00–15:30 CEST

Actionable Proposals – Refine feedback and develop **policy solutions** based on the insights from Session 1, while continuing to work in the four **challenge spaces.**

POST-LAB SESSION – TBC

Short Policy Briefing to summarise insights and provide actionable recommendations to EU institutions, national authorities, and cities.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Cities: Energy and climate officers, municipal leaders involved in heating & cooling plans and gas grid management.

National Ministries: Authorities responsible for the transposition of the Gas Package and gas network regulation.

Regional Authorities: Regional energy experts and coordinators supporting local energy transitions.

EU Stakeholders: Experts in gas regulations, energy policy, and decarbonisation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

You can choose:

- **Informed participation** - attend the pre-lab and post-lab briefings, and be included in updates.
- **Active participation** - attend the pre-lab briefing and both Session 1 and 2 (working sessions focusing on one of the four concrete challenge spaces noted above).

You can choose your type of participation in the registration form.

For more details or to express interest, contact: Georgia Cameron (georgia@darkmatterlabs.org) or Melina Aliayi (melina.aliayi@upm.es)

WANT TO SIGN UP? REGISTER HERE

@European union, 2025.

PART OF THE EU MISSIONS
CLIMATE-NEUTRAL & SMART CITIES

Funded by the European Union