

Horizon Europe Cities Mission

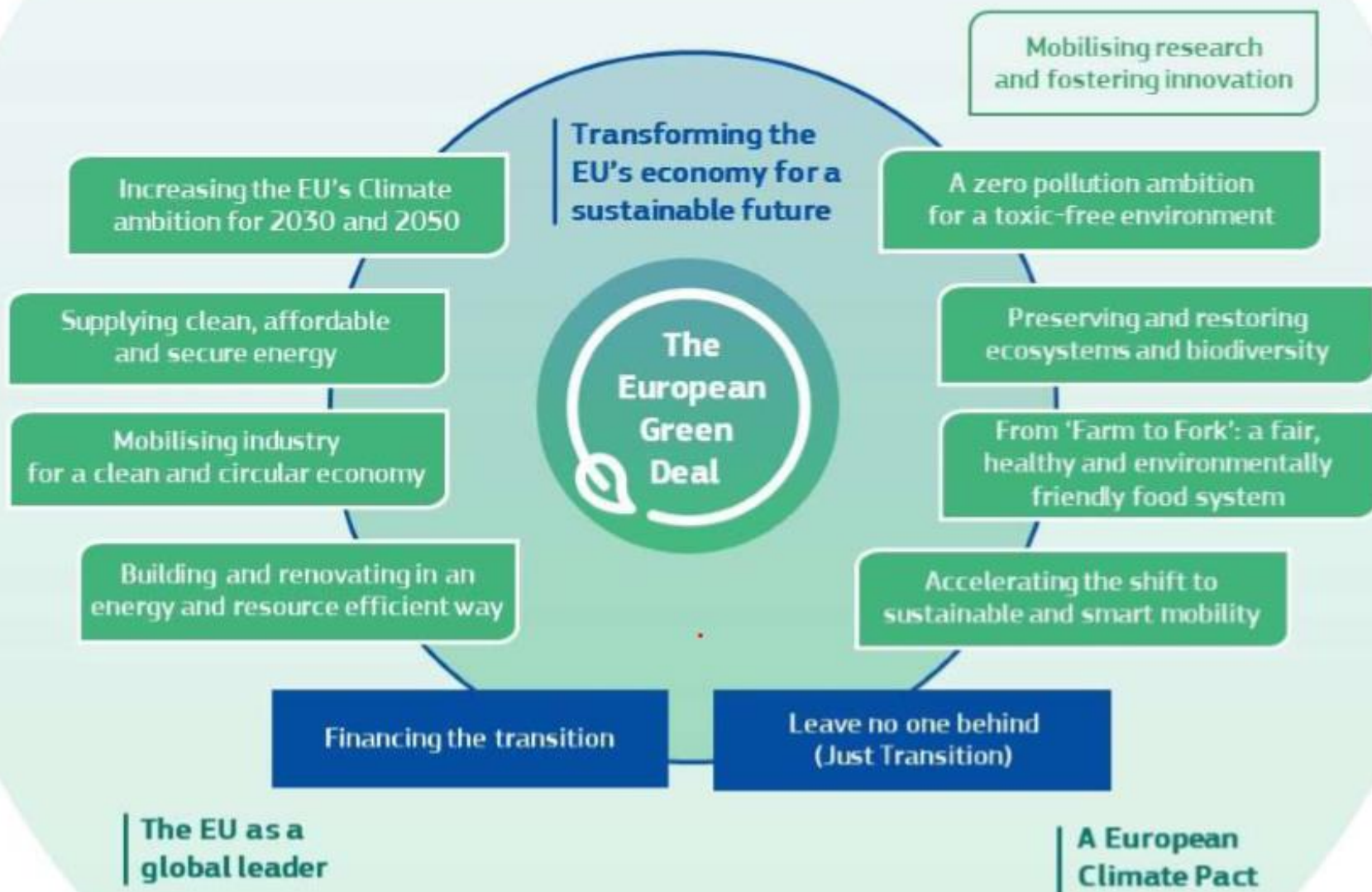
The role of citizens in the decision-making process

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European Green Deal



European Green Deal : Citizens and Climate Neutrality



Context and legal base

The Horizon Europe legal base specifies that missions are:

*"intended to ... have **impact on society** and policy-making through science and technology; and be relevant for a significant part of the European population and a wide range of European citizens" (Art. 2) and that they shall "**encourage broad engagement and active participation of ... citizens** and end-users ... and ... be open to multiple, **bottom-up approaches and solutions taking into account human and societal needs** and benefits and recognizing the importance of diverse contributions to achieve these missions" (Art. 7.3).*

Horizon Europe Cities Mission and Citizens Engagement

Rationale

In the spirit of the Sibiu informal EU leaders' meeting, and in light of the upcoming **Conference on the Future of Europe**, missions are an excellent example of how the Commission delivers on its commitment towards greater openness and deliberative democracy, with an inclusive policy-making agenda.

Missions, constituted under Horizon Europe but with broad implications for other policy areas (e.g., investment, regional development, industrial policy, etc.), **provide a unique opportunity to test and refine mechanisms for consulting and engaging with citizens.**

This approach is in line with the reports on missions implementation prepared for the European Commission by **Professor Mazzucato** and the recommendations on Horizon Europe by the High Level Group on Innovation Policy Management

Citizens engagement – what?

- The terminology in use in this area, including terms such as '**citizen engagement**' and '**communication**', are quite often overlapping, ambiguous or not clearly explained.
- The term '**citizen**' is understood as an individual, who may also be part of one or more groups due to their rights, interests and affiliations, as a result for example of their employment, education, cultural or ethnic backgrounds.
- '**Engagement**' is understood as being active in nature, involving a two-way process between those being engaged and those seeking the engagement. In this case, between the citizens and those involved in the planning and implementation of the missions and their actions. This is in contrast to communication, which involves a one-way flow of information between the sender and the recipient.
- '**Citizen engagement**' for missions is defined here at three levels, broadly corresponding to a growing intensity, with different tools to achieve this: communication and awareness raising; co-design and co-creation; and co-implementation and co-assessment.

Citizens engagement – why?

- The improvement that citizens can bring to specific actions. There is ample evidence in R&I policy that show the importance of involving citizens in the innovation process, from **identifying relatable needs, benefits and challenges** ('user-led innovation') to hands-on involvement in the research work itself including 'citizen science & RRI'. The involvement in the prioritisation of specific missions will also create an open channel for public feedback in the assessment of these missions. By being actively involved in a specific mission, citizens can support its implementation. And to achieve all this, developing the appropriate level of awareness and ownership is a pre-requisite.
- The **transparency and accountability** deriving from upstream engagement of citizens in publicly funded R&I. For Horizon Europe and for publicly funded research and innovation programmes generally, there is a need for a major improvement in the level of public understanding, particularly when compared with other areas of public policy.

Horizon Europe Cities Mission and Citizens

Citizens engagement – how & where & when?

- NOT the formal public consultations with different stakeholders
- NOT the 'usual suspects'
- A methodology proposal and reporting template
- In the local language
- Relying on the local partners who know the local reality
- Given the current COVID-19 situation → online engagement recommended

- Across all 27 MS → geographically balanced coverage (not only the front-runners)
- Different sizes of cities

- By end of May 2020 to cover at least 2 Member States

**Thank you for your
attention!**



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