

Low Carbon City Lab Flagship Call for Proposals (29 September)

Low Carbon City Lab (LoCaL)

LoCaL addresses the current and future gap in access to finance for municipal authorities in both developed and developing economies. As estimated by the New Climate Economy¹, more than USD 90 trillion must be invested in sustainable infrastructure over the next 15 years to avoid dramatic climate change.

LoCaL will support projects that

- **Influence** the global agenda on unlocking climate finance for cities by providing thought leadership & training modules related to sustainable urban infrastructure
- **Mobilize** cities and the financial sector to develop & implement bankable projects in cities, channel more funds into sustainable infrastructure
- **Develop** financial mechanisms dedicated to sustainable infrastructure and other relevant urban projects
- **Provide** tools to better integrate environmental (including co-benefits of climate action) impact in urban infrastructure projects

Proposals are expected to demonstrate strong involvement from the financial sector and/or a city authority.

Eligibility

We are looking for projects of **ALL** types and sizes along Climate-KIC's innovation framework (i.e. accelerator, pathfinder, demonstrator or scaler). Eligibility criteria and full details can be found in the [application form and guidance](#).

Competence Centers

In addition, **LoCaL is building a suite of Competence Centers** to deliver programme level outcomes. CCs can address issues that cannot be solved by individual projects. They are co-led by the Climate-KIC and a set of strategic partners, aim at developing programmatic know-how and assets with considerable visibility, and are tasked to conduct fundraising for their future activities based on the jointly developed assets.

A more detailed description of the Competence Centers ToRs can be found below.

¹ <http://newclimateeconomy.report/2016/>

Timeline & process

The call for proposals projects will follow the following approach:

1. Submission deadline: **29 September 2017**
2. External review: **10 October 2017**
3. Steering committee decision: **mid-October 2017**
Final project approval and start: **31 October 2017**

Current portfolio

LoCaL existing portfolio includes:

- A City Finance Lab to support cities in innovative financial mechanisms implementation
- A suite of online training modules in access to finance, cost benefit analysis...
- Activities aimed at scaling-up municipal green bonds
- The development of equity funds for housing retrofit
- Analytic tools for subnational level
- Innovative monitoring solutions for various sectors : waste, transport...

For more information on LoCaL portfolio, please visit <http://local.climate-kic.org/>

Contact

For any questions related to this intake, please contact your Geography Innovation Lead as well as LoCaL Flagship Manager Victor Gancel (victor.gancel@climate-kic.org).

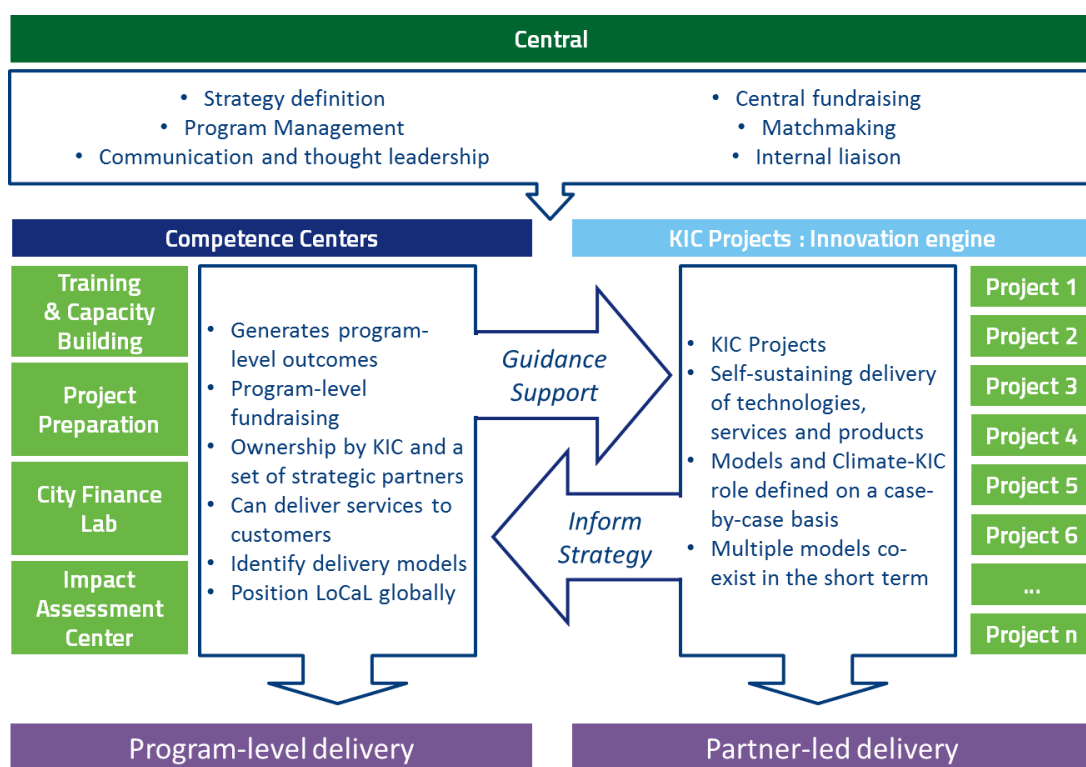
Competence Centers – Terms of Reference

Competence Centers (CCs) are KIC and Partner-led initiatives aiming at delivering Program Level outcomes. CCs can address issues that cannot be solved by individual projects. They are co-led by the Climate-KIC and a set of strategic partners, aim at developing programmatic know-how and assets with considerable visibility, and are tasked to conduct fundraising for their future activities based on the jointly developed assets.

The objectives of CCs are:

- Identify and address overarching climate-finance and metrics barriers in a city context
- Develop sustainable and lasting initiatives
- To demonstrate thought leadership and inform the global agenda
- To position LoCaL and Climate-KIC internationally
- To attract external sources of funding for their own activities and if relevant for LoCaL supported projects
- To support LOCAL projects with their expertise where needed

This document aims to describe the vision and role of competence centers. Some examples of preliminary activities are outlined but they serve as a guidance and partners can provide their own vision and foreseen activities.



Scope of work and project duration

Interested partners should outline their envisioned activities, potential delivery models, external sources of funding and the Competence Center long-term vision. Competence Centers are long-term

endeavors, subject to regular performance review by LoCaL Steering Committee. Funding available is up to 300-400k over a calendar year.

An alliance-based approach from Climate-KIC partners will be preferred. Interested partners are encouraged to engage with LoCaL Programme Manager and their geography and form partnerships with other partners. Project ideas should meet the requirements of demonstrators for establishing centers themselves or pathfinder format for point studies and analysis contributing to CCs vision and mission. Each CC project will be reviewed by the end of the year for potential continued support.

Impact Assessment center

Issues addressed: multiple accounting and reporting standards for cities co-exist currently making it complex for cities to know what to do. Emission levels uncertainties can be significant for certain sectors making it very hard to invest limited climate finance efficiently. Cities and investors are in need of guidance on how to measure the impact of their actions. These measures must be robust, near real time, comparable and if possible independent.

Our contribution: LoCaL will support the creation of an impact assessment center whose goal is to help cities and investors in assessing the impact of their climate actions and investments. The Center will over time be in charge of ensuring that LoCaL project success and impact are measured. The Center will constantly scout for innovative solutions to respond to stakeholders needs and motivate them to use improved impact assessment tools. This Center will be jointly developed and operated by Climate-KIC and a set of key partners.

The Impact Assessment Center activities:

- Centralizes knowledge about cities and investors impact assessment needs, requirements, hurdles...
- Curates the best available knowledge about city climate impact metrics and solutions
- Guides cities and investors in the panorama of standards, organisations, initiatives
- Contributes to standard creation, convergence and simplification
- Leads on integrative impact assessment monitoring tools and solutions
- Inform interested organizations (KIC partners, private sector, international organisations) about market conditions, customer requirements and willingness to pay
- Links short lived climate forcers with climate action
- Mainstream adaptation and resilience into current mitigation standards

Example of potential 2017 activities :

- Propose an Impact Assessment Center concept, outline its partnership and sustainability strategy:
- In addition, 2017 activities should include:
 - Assessment of the current hurdles and needs of cities and investors for assessing the impact of their actions
 - Analysis and mapping of the current tools, methodologies and standards relevant for urban projects impact assessment
 - Suggestions on how to reduce costs of improved monitoring and make them competitive alternatives to existing practices
 - Thought leadership, advocacy and engagement with standard setters (Global Covenant of Mayors, WMO, ISO, BIPM, UNEP, CCAC etc)
 - Online presence to facilitate and guide cities and investors

Meta-project preparation accelerator

Issues addressed: Many PPFs (e.g. [link](#)) exist and are being launched, each with a different set of practices, format, objectives... On the other side of the spectrum, investors still have very little knowledge of available bankable projects or in need of funding.

Our contribution: LoCaL aims to increase and improve dealflow generation, based on a collection of best practices and methodologies that can be used to support PPFs in better integrating the financial perspective, enabling project pooling and accelerate projects globally.

The Meta project preparation facility:

- Aligns PPFs practices globally
- Creates a network of PPFs and accelerates the creation of new ones, based on a set of tried and tested methodologies (that involves investor feedback)
- Is integrated/leverages on the Matchmaker project
- Keeps a projects and investors database

Example of 2017 activities:

- Identification of innovation opportunities to accelerate dealflow generation within EU
- Securing partnerships with major EU public and private investors to accelerate climate-smart investments in EU cities
- Overview of existing PPFs including Europe
- Piloting/support to PPFs in Europe

Training & Capacity Building

Issues addressed: cities lack the internal competences to access climate finance and prepare attractive projects to investors. This knowledge gap hinders meaningful climate action while reducing cities' ownership of large-scale infrastructure projects.

Our contribution: LoCaL is building a training hub in climate finance for cities in collaboration with its partners. Our Training center will empower cities in improving and better integrating their climate planning with finance planning.

The Training Hub:

- Empowers cities in training them in green infrastructure procurement; project design and financial structuring
- Provides innovative ways to train cities and investors in assessing their impact

Example of 2017 activities:

- Suggestions for training modules and delivery mechanisms
- Specifying and mapping competence gaps within cities
- Development of training modules to be delivered to cities