



Ukraine towards Carbon Neutrality

How U_CAN is impacting Ukraine's climate future with Europe

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Ukraine stands at a historic crossroads

EU has placed Ukraine at the heart of its Climate Mission and U_CAN is the bridge.

As Ukraine rebuilds from conflict, it faces an unprecedented opportunity: to reconstruct not just buildings, but entire city systems: greener, smarter, more resilient than before!

2050

Climate Neutrality Target

Ukraine's commitment aligned with European Green Deal

8

Ukrainian Cities in the Mission

Piloting local solutions replicable across the entire country

7

EU Member States

Standing with Ukraine's green reconstruction and recovery

What does U_CAN's progress look like

*Ukrainian cities becoming
climate-neutral, smart, and
prosperous — integrated fully
into the European community of
cities rebuilding a sustainable
future together.*

REBUILD SMARTER

Green reconstruction becomes the standard — every rebuilt building, road, and district reflects European climate best practices.

LEAD THE MISSION

Ukrainian cities don't just adopt EU standards — they shape and inspire other cities across Europe and beyond.

SECURE THE FUTURE

Climate action equals energy independence, economic resilience, and geopolitical strength for Ukraine's next generation.

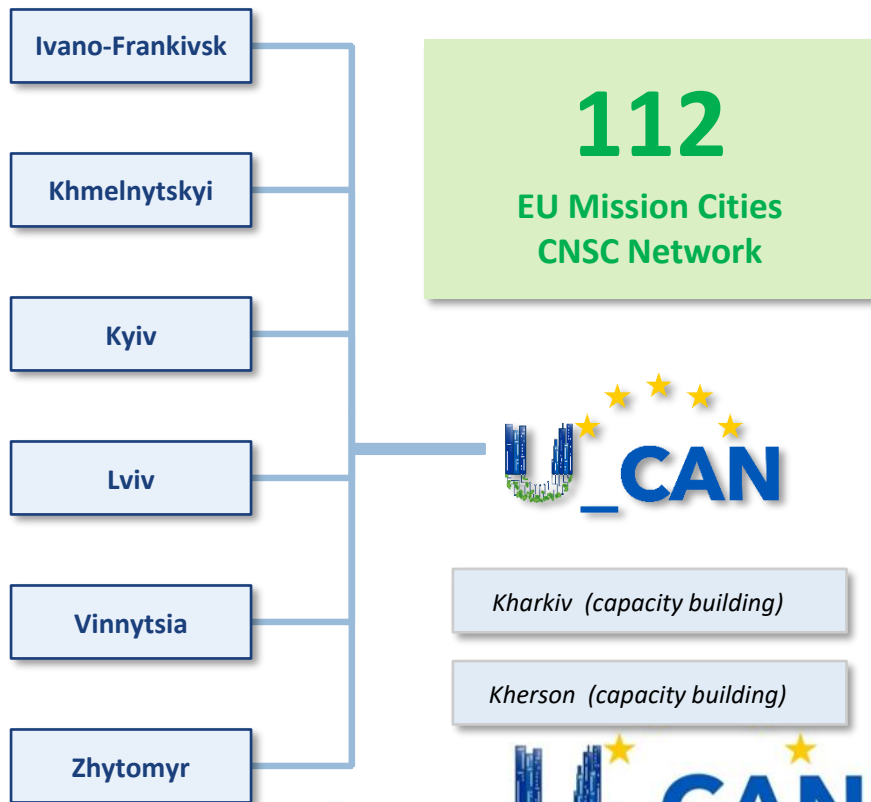
Ukrainian cities on EU 's climate map

The EU's Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission (CNSC) brings 112 cities across Europe into a shared framework of ambition, funding, and innovation. U_CAN is the door that opens this Mission to Ukraine.

***This is not just participation.
This is Ukraine shaping the European climate agenda.***

What the Mission unlocks for Ukraine

- » Access to European knowledge networks and best practices
- » Recognition as frontrunners in EU's flagship climate initiative
- » Pathways to larger EU reconstruction & climate funding



A network built for impact

*U_CAN connects Ukrainian cities with some of Europe's most innovative urban ecosystems
- not just for knowledge transfer, but for long-lasting alliances.*

EU MISSION CITY TWINS

Dresden	Germany	<i>Coordinator & Climate Frontrunner</i>
Leipzig	Germany	<i>Urban Regeneration & Mobility</i>
Bratislava	Slovakia	<i>Energy & Policy Innovation</i>
Wrocław	Poland	<i>Smart City Technologies</i>
Košice	Slovakia	<i>Industrial Decarbonisation</i>
Thessaloniki	Greece	<i>Mediterranean Climate Models</i>
Miskolc	Hungary	<i>Urban Transformation</i>

UKRAINIAN PARTNER CITIES

Lviv	Energy & Innovation
Kyiv	Smart Mobility
Zhytomyr	Renewables & Green Spaces
Vinnitsia	Nature-Based Solutions
Ivano-Frankivsk	Solar Energy
Khmelnyskyi	Smart Mobility & Policy
Kharkiv & Kherson	Capacity Building

What U_CAN is implementing in Ukrainian cities

LVIV

Positive Energy District

A whole neighborhood producing more energy than it consumes — a model for rebuilding Ukraine city by city.

KYIV

Reimagining Underground Space

Converting underground infrastructure into tools for reducing transport emissions — a smart city solution born from necessity.

ZHYTOMYR

Floating Solar + Urban Farming

Floating solar panels on water reservoirs and transforming old nurseries into productive urban gardens — innovation meeting tradition.

VINNYTSIA

Rivers Revitalization

The Tiazhylivka river ecosystem is being revitalized — clean water, biodiversity, and community spaces returned to citizens.

IVANO-FRANKIVSK

Green technologies for Public Buildings

PV systems on public buildings demonstrate that clean energy is affordable, visible, and replicable across Ukraine.

KHMELNYTSKYI

Adaptive traffic system + A Climate Center

A permanent institutional center to embed climate-neutral construction into city policy — lasting beyond the project itself.

Setting New Standards for Ukraine's Future

Across Europe, standards drive transformation.

U_CAN is actively embedding Ukraine into European and international standardisation bodies, ensuring Ukrainian cities aren't just following the rules, but helping write them.

- » Green Building Reconstruction
- » Renewable Energy Deployment
- » Nature-Based Solutions
- » Smart Mobility

WHAT WE'RE PIONEERING

First floating solar feasibility in Ukrainian urban planning

Positive Energy District methodology customized for Ukrainian cities

Framework for nature-based solutions in post-conflict reconstruction

Adaptive traffic management with CO₂ reduction metrics

Permanent climate policy institutions embedded in city governance

MoU with NetZeroCities Mission Platform for long-term recognition

Building capabilities that outlast U_CAN

*U_CAN doesn't just transfer knowledge —
it builds permanent institutional capacity in Ukraine.*

1	—	2	—	3	—	4	—	5	—	6
Identify		Connect		Exchange		Adapt		Implement		Scale
Map each city's climate gaps and opportunities		Match with EU Mission city twin experts		KEES sessions: deep knowledge transfer		Localize EU best practices to Ukrainian context		Ukrainian partners lead their own pilots		Replicate across all Ukrainian cities

Why Ukraine's Climate Leadership Matters for Europe

Energy Security

A climate-neutral Ukraine reduces European energy dependency and creates a resilient, diversified energy landscape across the continent.

EU Enlargement Readiness

Every U_CAN pilot makes Ukrainian cities more aligned with EU accession standards — technical, regulatory, and institutional.

Reconstruction as a Model

How Ukraine rebuilds will inspire reconstruction globally. U_CAN ensures that rebuild means 'built green' — a legacy for the world.

Economic Opportunity

Green cities attract investment. U_CAN is creating the conditions for European and global capital to flow into Ukraine's sustainable future.



The Next Chapter: 2026 – 2028

2026 Pilot Completion & First Results

- » All 6 city pilots delivering measurable climate outcomes
- » Comprehensive performance assessment across all cities
- » Success stories published and disseminated to European audience

2027 Scale & Standardise

- » Replication framework launched for other Ukrainian cities
- » Green reconstruction guidelines available nationally
- » International investment roundtables and donor engagement

2028 Ukraine Leads as model for EU

- » Climate governance tools permanently embedded in city institutions
- » Ukrainian cities recognized as EU Climate Mission front-runners
- » Roadmap for ongoing EU–Ukraine climate cooperation

Ukraine towards Carbon Neutrality

*We are not observers of
Ukraine's green future.
We are building it!*

Together Ukrainian cities, European partners, and the Horizon Europe mission — we are proving that reconstruction and climate ambition are not in tension.

8 Ukrainian cities in Europe's Climate Mission network

9 pilot projects replicable across all of Ukraine

Permanent capacity institutions in every pilot city

Green reconstruction standards for national adoption

Long-term EU–Ukraine climate partnerships

Ukraine's voice on the global climate stage

What Does a Pathway to Climate Neutrality Actually Mean?

For Ukrainian cities, a pathway to climate neutrality is not a straight line from ambition to action. It is a process shaped by conflict, reconstruction pressure, limited finance, and the need to align simultaneously with European standards. Understanding that pathway requires two things: knowing where cities stand today, and understanding what futures they are navigating toward.

01

Assess current readiness

Understand where municipalities stand across governance, finance, infrastructure, and community engagement — before designing any intervention.

02

Map the uncertainties ahead

Identify the critical unknowns — energy prices, funding continuity, public acceptance, wartime disruption — that will shape which pathways are viable.

03

Co-create robust strategies

Work with local stakeholders to develop climate governance strategies that hold up across multiple possible futures — not just the ideal scenario.

Two Tools. One Shared Goal.

U_CAN is developing two complementary instruments — one that looks backwards at institutional readiness, and one that looks forward at future scenarios — together forming a practical pathway framework for Ukrainian cities.

UKRAINIAN READINESS INDEX (URI)

Diagnostic — Where are we now?

- » Assesses 6 Ukrainian cities across 7 readiness clusters and 35 criteria
- » Scores municipal capacity from 0–5: governance, finance, infrastructure, civic engagement, and recovery
- » Identifies structural gaps and strengths before any pathway is designed
- » Serves as evidence base for EU funding alignment and investment prioritization

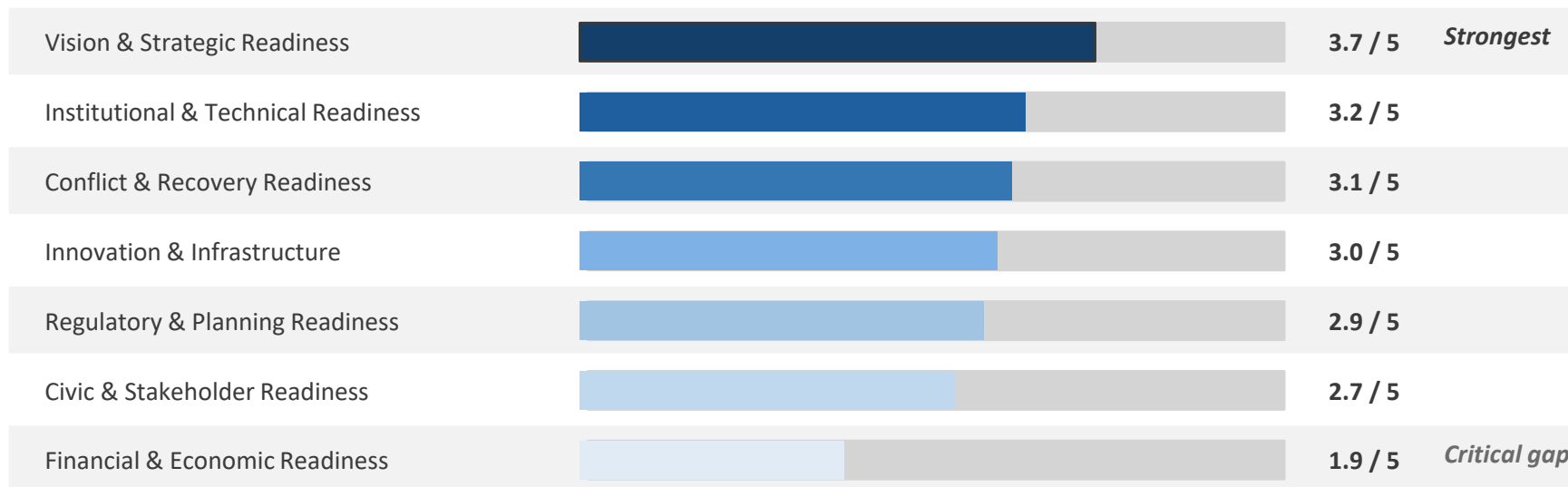
EXPLORATORY SCENARIO PLANNING (XSP)

Prospective — Where are we going?

- » Maps barriers, uncertainties, and stakeholder dynamics around each city's pilot
- » Co-creates four narrative futures per city with local actors, based on critical unknowns
- » Stress-tests proposed interventions against each scenario for robustness
- » Produces climate governance action plans that work across multiple possible futures

Two Tools. One Shared Goal.

URI was piloted across six cities: Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia, and Zhytomyr. Results show a clear pattern: strong strategic ambition at the top with a critical financial gap at base.



Key insight: Ukrainian cities demonstrate clear political will and growing institutional capacity — but financial constraints remain the primary barrier to implementing climate pathways at scale.

Mapping the Road Ahead: Scenario Workshops with Three Cities

Scenario Mapping Workshops were conducted with Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, and Zhytomyr in early 2026 — each focused on the city's specific pilot topic. The workshops surfaced the uncertainties, vulnerable groups, and stakeholder dynamics that any viable climate pathway must address.

IVANO-FRANKIVSK

PV Systems & Energy Efficiency

Key uncertainties:

- Energy price stability and grant continuity
- Public acceptance of solar and new technologies
- Wartime logistics and supply bottlenecks

Regulatory barriers (heritage roofs, complex permits) and low civic climate awareness are as constraining as funding gaps.

KHMELNYTSKYI

Adaptive Traffic Management

Key uncertainties:

- AI infrastructure reliability under conflict
- Financial sustainability of smart systems post-project
- Political continuity and election risks

Upscaling smart mobility requires simultaneous investment in data infrastructure, institutional capacity, and stakeholder trust.

ZHYTOMYR

Urban Gardening & Food Resilience

Key uncertainties:

- Community engagement levels under wartime stress
- Long-term land use security for gardening sites
- Scaling from nursery pilots to city-wide model

Food resilience and green spaces are high-acceptance entry points for climate action — community buy-in is already strong.

The pathway forward

From Readiness to Action: Building Climate Pathways That Last

URI and XSP together create a complete cycle: from diagnosing where cities are, to co-designing where they need to go. The next phases of U_CAN will deepen this work into concrete, scenario-tested climate governance action plans.

Now	COMPLETED	Diagnose & Map URI identifies readiness gaps. XSP Scenario Mapping workshops surface local barriers and uncertainties across pilot cities.
2026	UPCOMING	Co-Create Scenarios Scenario Building workshops (L'Aquila) co-produce four narrative futures per city with local stakeholders, based on the critical uncertainties identified.
2027	PLANNED	Stress-Test & Refine Scenario Testing workshops stress-test proposed climate interventions against all four scenarios — retaining only those that are robust across futures.
2028	PLANNED	Scale & Replicate Scenario-tested action plans and URI replication toolkits available for any Ukrainian city — turning 6 pilot pathways into a national model.

The outcome: Ukrainian cities with evidence-based, stakeholder-owned, scenario-tested pathways to climate neutrality — credible to European partners and actionable at local level.

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Thank you!



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