

Preliminary Market Consultation Announcement

in preparation for the procurement of R&D and innovation services
to build a “**Green and Climate neutral Hub**” in the City of Sofia



**Date of the consultation: July 3, 2023 – 08:30-11:30 CEST
(09:30-12:30 EEST)**

Venue: 1000 Sofia, Paris Str. № 1 - [42.696938,23.331185](tel:+3598769693823331185)

URL for remote participation: The link will be sent after registration

URL for (mandatory) registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/climaborough-preliminary-market-consultation-announcement-sofia-tickets-657705995337>

This document including its Annex details both the technical and administrative terms and conditions of this Preliminary Market Consultation held in the city of Sofia. Its contents may change without notice.

This final version is dated 19 June 2023. Its original version is kept in the contracting authority's records.

For further information and a copy of it in the native language of the country where the consultation is hosted, please contact:

@ANCI Toscana: climab@climaborough.eu

@the City Hall of Sofia: metodiyka.tarlyovska@sofia.bg, mavramov@sofiatraffic.bg

In case of discrepancies, the English version will prevail over any available translation.

After the finalisation of this Market Consultation, a Report with the general conclusions and its audio/video proceedings will be published in the project website <https://climaborough.eu/public-procurement/open-calls/>

At the same URL one can retrieve comparable information from the other 7 Preliminary Market Consultations held in parallel to this one.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

1 Introduction

ANCI Toscana is the Association of Tuscan Municipalities, based in Florence.

ANCI Toscana coordinates the CLIMABOROUGH innovation project, “Building Green and Climate Neutral City Hubs”, the purpose of which is to achieve a systemic transformation of Cities, supported by customised climate services, accompanied by a strategic, holistic and long-term focused investment approach, together with a new governance framework for climate.

By climate services we mean socio-technical systems that assist individuals in taking climate friendly decisions and actions, supported by specific data and information on the carbon footprint of human activities in the selected environments.

The project is co-funded by the European Union through its agency CINEA, under the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation.

You can find more information on the project at this URL: <https://climaborough.eu/>

However, neither the European Union nor CINEA can be held responsible for any part of the process described herein.

In the context of CLIMABOROUGH, a public call for tender will be launched in September 2023, using the instrument of Innovation Partnership (as per art. 31 of the procurement directive 2014/24/EU) for the experimentation of a new and innovative concept of “Green and Climate Neutral Hub” in 8 EU cities, built on climate services and/or other socio-technical systems.

Involved cities are: **Athens** (EL), **Cascais** (PT), **Differdange** (LU), **Grenoble Alpes Metropoles** (FR), **Ioannina** (EL), **Maribor** (SI), **Sofia** (BG) and **Torino** (IT).

The Cities are clustered in **two thematic hubs**, one focused on the transition “*from waste to circularity*”, the other addressing the shift “*from isolated energy and mobility systems to integrated services*”.

Each City has formulated a specific Challenge – or problem to be solved – which will be presented in more detail during the respective Preliminary Market Consultation. There, the advice will be sought of economic operators, public authorities, R&D institutions, individual experts and professionals, including start up entrepreneurs and SME owners, on the possible existence in the state of the art of suitable solutions, which may tackle the challenges as they have been identified, or suggest reshaping some of them to ensure they can be fulfilled by the deployment of climate services and/or other socio-technical systems.

At the end of the procurement procedure, **there will be two awarded solutions per city**. Indicatively, the call for innovation partnerships will have a budget (VAT excluded) of €287,500.00 for each urban challenge.

2 Venue of the Preliminary Market Consultation

This document refers to the Preliminary Market Consultation in the City of Sofia.

The event is scheduled for the 3rd July 2023 at 08:30 – 11:30 CEST and will be hybrid.

Until that time, participants can also send inquiries in writing, to: climab@climaborough.eu.

All received inquiries, duly anonymised, and their respective answers will be published at the URL: <https://climaborough.eu/public-procurement/open-calls/faq>.

Participation is free, upon registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.it/e/climaborough-preliminary-market-consultation-announcement-sofia-tickets-657705995337>.

Remote attendance is also welcome. The link to connect will be sent to participants upon registration.

Participants can also provide an idea in writing and/or book a speaking slot in the Q&A session using

the template provided as Annex to this document.

The event will be audio/video recorded and its proceedings, together with the list of participants, will be published online at the URL: <https://climaborough.eu/public-procurement/open-calls/sofia>.

Working language will be English. However, it is possible that this document and its Annex may also be made available in local language. The venue host reserves the right of not providing live translation and interpretation services.

Those who, for any reason, are in the impossibility of attending the event, can send written contributions, using the template provided as Annex, to the following address: metodiyka.tarlyovska@sofia.bg.

Contributions will be accepted until **31 July 2023**. Unless otherwise requested, for reasons of business confidentiality (see Section 7) they will be published together with the event proceedings at the same URL mentioned above.

3 Purpose of the Preliminary Market Consultation

The purpose of the Preliminary Market Consultation is to acquire information regarding potential solutions that already exist in the market or result from ongoing/past research and innovation efforts, for the problem (or Challenge) stated in the next section of this document.

Economic operators, including research institutions in the domain of the Challenge, SMEs and start-up enterprises and/or natural persons are invited to participate and provide inputs. The feedback received in the frame of this consultation will be used to support the design and launch by ANCI Toscana, on behalf and upon mandate of the City, of a call for tender using the instrument of Innovation Partnership (as per *art. 31 of directive 2014/24/EU*). It is expected that the procurement will be launched in September 2023.

The principles of equal treatment, transparency, and non-discrimination will be duly enforced by ANCI Toscana and the City of Sofia for all participants. This to avoid creating unfair advantages or undue penalizations and ultimately distorting competition. For the avoidance of any doubt, responding to this consultation is entirely optional and without prejudice to the right of participation in the future public procurement.

Likewise, the description of the problem (or Challenge) is intended solely for the purpose of providing context information to the participants. The actual definition of the tender requirements will only be made available in the call's Terms of Reference.

Finally, the (oral or written) contributions provided in the context of this consultation are only suggestive and cannot be considered in any way binding on the preparation of the procurement documentation.

4 Problem to be solved (aka Description of the Challenge)

Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria with 1.3 million inhabitants. Some of the main problems facing Sofia are the high levels of harmful emissions and the high levels of noise pollution in the city. One of the reasons for this is car traffic, the large number of old cars, including a large number of diesel cars.

The centre of Sofia is an area full of diverse activities, which naturally attracts a large amount of car traffic. At the same time, getting around and parking in the central part of the city is very difficult. That is why our main goal is to reduce the use of personal cars, which will have a positive impact on air quality and climate change. Reducing the use of personal cars will contribute for achieving of the main goals set in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, which is 80% of all trips in Sofia to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport and only 20% by car by 2035. Currently the car mode share is 40%.

Solving key parking problems in the city centre will have a positive impact on air quality and levels of CO2 emissions.

Currently there are two controlled paid parking zones in the city centre with approximately 33 000 on-street parking places (June 2023). The occupancy rate in some of the subzones in the city centre (“Blue” zone) exceeds 95%, and in some streets is 100%.

The high occupancy rates in short-term paid parking zones generate a “parasite” search traffic for available parking spot which contributes to traffic congestion.

Reducing occupancy rates in paid parking zones has been identified as a potential solution to reducing the problem of “searching for available parking spot”.

5 Expected characteristics of the solution(s) looked for

Solution – Identifying the volume of search traffic for available parking spot in a dedicated area and providing information regarding the parking occupancy rates.

The solution should be able to provide analytical services and data should be able to be filtered by date/time/time periods/weekdays/weekends, etc.

Based on this information Sofia Municipality will be able to take tailor made decisions, such as: changes of parking pricing - overall or for specific time slots; implementation of a flexible tariff policy, aimed at discouraging long-term parking; limit the duration for parking – overall or in specific time slots; extend the working time of the zone; etc.

The area which will be covered for monitoring of the occupancy rate and volume of search traffic should be within 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th subzone of the “Blue” parking zone and it should include at least 8 city blocks. The smallest group of buildings that is surrounded by streets is considered as a city block. This is necessary because in these subzones the majority of streets are one-way streets and will be difficult to identify the search traffic for available parking spot if smaller zone is monitored.

Map of subzones is available here:

https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/media/uploads/SZ_zona_prilozhenie%2010.png

The solution for identifying search traffic for available parking spots should provide GPS-based data. This data can be collected through license plate recognition or other vehicle tracking systems. By tracking vehicles entering and leaving the area, and analysing data collected to determine the number of vehicles entering and leaving and the time they spend in the area, the solution should be able to provide information how much demand there is for parking in the designated area. The data for the parking demand should be collected over a period of time to understand the parking demand and patterns.

Additional feature of the proposed solution – identifying the share of cars having a residents’ permit within the designated area. Requires integration with Sofia Urban Mobility Centre database for residents. Currently there is a limit of 2 cars per household.

6 Agenda of the event (EEST)

09.30 - 10.00: Attendee identification, technical rehearsals, welcome greetings.

10.00 - 10.30: Presentation of the challenge (by Metodi Avramov, from the City of Sofia)

10.30 - 11.00: Q&A and free discussion of the challenge details

11.00 - 11.30: Presentation of the Procurement Call mechanism (by Francesco Molinari, from ANCI Toscana)

11.30 – 12.15: Q&A and discussion (possibly with pre-booked talks by selected members of the audience, including from remote locations, presenting state of the art solutions and/or prototypes)

12.15 – 12.30 Conclusions and final greetings.

7 Confidentiality clause

ANCI Toscana and the City of Sofia shall not disclose information provided by economic operators and/or natural persons in the framework of this Market Consultation which they have designated as confidential, including, but not limited to, technical or trade secrets and the confidential aspects of the feedback received. However, please note that the contents of the Annex will be made public at the following URL: <https://climaborough.eu/public-procurement/open-calls/sofia>

It is therefore advisable to specifically mention the information or data that should be kept confidential and removed from the Annex prior to its publication.

However, please note that business confidentiality protection does not apply if it can be easily verified, using common sense and accessible sources, that the contents designated as confidential do, in fact, already belong to the public domain.

8 Data Protection

Any personal data shared in the context of the present market consultation will be processed in accordance with the *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC*.

Personal Data Controller: ANCI Toscana: Mr Simone Gheri – simone.gheri@ancitoscana.it

Data Protection Officer: ANCI Toscana: Mr Besnik Mehmeti – besnik.mehmeti@ancitoscana.it

Rights/questions/complaints

You are entitled to access, rectify, limit, delete, transfer data or object to the processing of your personal data. If you wish to exercise any of these rights regarding the storage/use of your data, please contact our Personal Data Controller.

If you want to know how your personal data is used, or you feel that we have used your personal data in a way that violates the current legislation, please contact our Data Protection Officer.

9 Annex

Solution proposal form template including Permission to publish and Request for a speaking slot