

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 Follower City of
Sofia



Date of the consultation: 21st of January 2025
12:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CET

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

URL for (mandatory) registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climaborough-preliminary-market-consultation-announcement-sofia-tickets-1116539643129?aff=oddtcreator>.

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 14 January 2025. 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@sofiatrafic.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/preliminary-market-consultations-of-follower-cities/>

At the same URL one can retrieve comparable information from the other 4 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, after a first round of public call launched in 2023 and awarded 15 pilot projects in 8 different cities, a second public call for tender will be launched in March 2025, 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 other 5 EU cities, built on climate services and/or other socio-technical systems.

Involved cities are **Prijedor** (BA), **Pilsen** (CZ), **Grenoble-Alpes Métropole** (FR), **Sofia** (BG) and **Issy-les-Moulineaux** (FR).

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 €100.000,00 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 online event is scheduled for the 21st of January 2025 at 12:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CET.

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/preliminary-market-consultations-of-follower-cities/faqs-for-the-follower-cities-pmc/>.

Participation is free, upon registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climaborough-preliminary-market-consultation-announcement-sofia-tickets-1116539643129?aff=oddtcreator>. 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/preliminary-market-consultations-of-follower-cities/sofia/>.

The 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 **10 February 2025 at 12:00 a.m. CET**. 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 March 2025.

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 city of Bulgaria with 1.3 million inhabitants and in recent years has been implementing a large-scale integrated strategy for waste management developed upon the principles of sustainable development, circular economy and the accepted within the European Union waste management hierarchy.

Crucial for the success of the strategy is the motivation and active engagement of all stakeholders, especially households, in the process of its implementation.

In this respect a substantial educational effort is needed. In its core is making widely available extensive information on:

- what exactly sustainable waste management is;
- why reducing, reusing and recycling of our waste is so important and what are the benefits of separate waste collection to urban environment, circular economy and climate adaptation;

- how does the system work – how we all can become part of this process, what is the available infrastructure for different waste streams management in our particular neighbourhood and how we can use it;
- how we can contribute to improving the system functioning and report problems.

Thus to align with the strategic goals outlined in the Municipal Waste Management Program for 2021-2028 and effectively address urban environment, circular economy and climate change issues by minimising waste generation, encouraging reuse and recycling, a reliable and effective communication solution for information, motivation and engagement of households as a major stakeholder, has to be developed.

Additionally, two of the main key measures envisaged in the Programme are:

1. Building a network of up to forty recycling centres for separate collection at source of different types of household waste, like packaging (plastic, cardboard and glass), textiles, e-waste, batteries, etc. The first 5 centers is foreseen to be operational in the beginning of 2025;
2. Upgrade of an existing online platform waste.sofia.bg, which gives extensive web-based information to the citizens on all waste management activities of the Municipality.

5 Expected characteristics of the solution(s) looked for

The solution we are looking for has to provide two-way communication and information on all issues related to sustainable waste management and the circular economy within Sofia Municipality. To increase citizens' awareness and involvement in waste management processes within Sofia Municipality—specifically in reducing waste volume, promoting proper waste separation and disposal, and supporting reuse and recycling processes—we have identified the need for a smart, innovative, 24/7 accessible digital solution. This solution will be piloted in at least the first 5 of the 40 recycling centers in the city.

Sofia's objectives are:

1. Better understand waste management behavior of people living in the city;
2. Educate citizens about the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling waste and their relation to urban development and climate adaptation, fostering a culture of sustainability;
3. Inform citizens about all available options for managing the waste streams generated in their households;
4. Promote responsible consumer behaviour and creation of sustainable waste management habits;
5. Receive timely information about problems and malfunctions of the waste management system;
6. Enable a better informed decision-taking process by the municipal administration;
7. Reduce the cost of Sofia Municipality for communication and community engagement;
8. Decrease the volume of mixed household waste;
9. Increase the volume and the quality of the waste that is separately collected and thus recycled;
10. Contribute to the sustainable urban development of the city and improve the quality of life in it.

6 Agenda of the event

The agenda of the meeting will be available shortly.

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/preliminary-market-consultations-of-follower-cities/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.