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FAASST NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of the FAASST Project



FAciliter, **Acc**élérer, **Sout**enir et **Suiv**re la **T**ransition





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The FAASST pilot project was designed as a natural continuation of initiatives implemented by Dijon Métropole in recent years. Projects such as **RESPONSE*** or **EU CityCalc**** have helped identify obstacles and develop solutions in areas such as energy renovation, self-consumption, district heating networks and the deployment of photovoltaics.

Today, our Métropole aims to implement these and other solutions across the entire territory. The climate emergency compels us to act with ambition and determination. The FAASST project is intended as a massifier and accelerator of the **transition across the region**.

Cities with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, like Dijon, represent the majority of metropolitan populations in Europe. We have the skills, ideas, and strong will to act. What we currently lack are adequate **financing solutions** to bring these projects to life.

The EU has set the framework for the transition, established objectives, and dictated standards. It now has a duty **to support local actors** in implementation — including financially. The dynamic in Dijon and many other cities, especially through the “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities” Mission, could then be more easily replicated in other medium-sized cities.

By informing and exchanging, we can replicate solutions and **scale up the transition — not just locally**, but across the continent.

This **quarterly newsletter** aims to keep you informed about the development of the **FAASST pilot project**, launched by a consortium comprising Dijon Métropole, EDF, Eifer, and Europtimum Conseil, as part of Dijon’s selection for the EU Mission “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.”

**The Horizon 2020 project RESPONSE – for which Dijon Métropole is a lighthouse city – aims to develop and test innovative, integrated solutions to support the deployment of Positive Energy Districts.*

***EUCityCalc is also a project under the Horizon 2020 programme. With the support of the European City Calculator’s foresight modelling tool, the project helps Dijon Métropole develop a scientifically sound pathway toward climate neutrality.*



FAASST

Where We Stand

The FAASST pilot project aims to scale up the climate transition across the metropolitan area of Dijon. The goal is to pool the efforts of stakeholders who share a common ambition, in order to act at a more impactful scale. The first step will be to create a team of partners involved in transition projects and to jointly build project portfolios by sharing skills and resources. In the second phase, the project will focus on developing, on the one hand, the financial engineering required to fund these project portfolios, and on the other hand, a shared governance structure.

Identification of partners and initial discussions



After identifying the partners, the initial discussions currently underway aim to compare each partner's projects in order to select an initial portfolio of projects.



Contracting with partners

Initial project portfolio

Financial engineering

Territorial engineering & structuring



A Project to Support Carbon Neutrality in Dijon

On 1 March 2023, Dijon Métropole was selected by the European consortium **NetZeroCities** to test an innovative pilot project aimed at accelerating **carbon neutrality by 2030**. Out of 53 selected cities, only two were French: **Dijon** and Nantes.

Thanks to bold policies over recent years (e.g. pedestrianising the city centre, creating a low-emission zone, expanding district heating), and its inclusion in the “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030” Mission, Dijon stands as a pioneering city in Europe’s **fight against climate change**.

Through a unifying vision of the local authority's role, Dijon Métropole seeks to establish **territorial governance** that enables the large-scale, coordinated deployment of public and private projects to reach carbon neutrality.

Project **objectives** include:

 **Mobilising stakeholders to act collectively:** build connections, identify synergies, reduce project fragmentation and siloed approaches, unite citizens, businesses, and public entities, and foster innovation integration.

 **Generating high-impact,** structuring projects to align the territory with a trajectory toward climate neutrality.

 **Embedding a participatory approach involving all stakeholders** and citizens in shaping and owning the project’s implementation goals.

 **Exploring innovative funding mechanisms** to unlock private investment, reduce reliance on public funding, and find new economic balances.

Fully aware that the 2030 target is **ambitious** yet essential, Dijon Métropole has chosen to speed up the process with the **FAASST-NZ project**.



Step 1: Identifying Partners and First Exchanges

Based on the discussions, needs, and potential contributions expressed by the project partners during the **First Preparatory Committee for Territorial Governance** on December 15, 2023, a series of technical working sessions were held during the first quarter of 2024 with the four project partners.

These sessions made it possible to present the structuring approach of the **Climate and Biodiversity Plan**, ensuring that the working actions of the Pilot City Project align with the efforts of the Climate Plan. They also provided an opportunity to introduce the draft framework for listening to and collecting projects, needs, collaboration opportunities, and contributions. This framework will be used for discussions with the partners of the Metropolitan Climate and Biodiversity Contract (Climate City Contract) during the second quarter of 2024.

Here are some key takeaways from these exchanges:

- The University Hospital (**CHU**) sees an opportunity to use the Climate Plan framework to engage both staff and patients, and also identifies a potential for collaboration on procurement.
- The University of Burgundy (**UB**) and Grand Dijon Habitat (**GDH**) express a need for data on electricity, gas, and district heating (RCU) consumption across their building assets.
- At this stage of the discussions, the **Banque des Territoires** envisions its role in supporting territorial engineering and financing for projects.

In summary, following bilateral working meetings, **three main areas of collaboration** were identified during the Second Preparatory Committee for Territorial Governance on April 22, 2024:

1. **Access to data;**
2. **Joint procurement** (with a potential of €1 billion in annual collective purchasing);
3. **Financing for cooperation projects.**

The idea of organizing a dedicated working session on joint purchasing was proposed—likely in the form of a workshop bringing together CHU, UB, GDH, and Dijon Métropole (with the participation of the Banque des Territoires). This would help establish a territorial network of buyers. This reflection unit around a territorial dynamic should also involve local suppliers, following a circular economy approach.

Next steps will be discussed during the upcoming interviews scheduled for the second quarter and at the next Preparatory Committee for Territorial Governance.



François Rebsamen at the Mayors' Conference in Brussels

On March 15, 2024, three months ahead of the European elections, the Belgian Presidency of the European Union organized a mayors' conference in Brussels entitled “**Translating the EU Green Deal into Local Action.**”

The event brought together mayors and regional leaders from all 27 Member States, with the aim of **accelerating the implementation** of the European Green Deal at regional and local levels—at a time when the Deal is facing increasing criticism, particularly within the European Parliament.

The conference gathered mayors from metropolitan cities committed to the European Green Deal, including **François Rebsamen**, Mayor of Dijon and President of Dijon Métropole—one of twelve mayors selected to speak.

Mr. Rebsamen took part in the panel “**Boosting and Financing the Transition of Cities**”, alongside Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven (Belgium), Diana Pretzell, Deputy Mayor for Climate and Environment of Mannheim (Germany), and Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment. Dijon was the only **French city** represented.

For François Rebsamen, the event confirmed **Europe's recognition of Dijon** as a leading example in the field of ecological transition. He presented tangible local actions aligned with the **Green Deal**, notably in the areas of mobility, air quality, food systems, and hydrogen. He also emphasized the critical importance of popular support for the success of climate initiatives, affirming that **citizen participation** is essential to bringing the Green Deal to life—especially at the local level.

In Dijon, as elsewhere, local governments are ready to meet the challenge and turn the ambitions of the Green Deal into **concrete actions**. However, to make this transition a success, the EU must fully support the efforts of local and regional authorities and foster a genuine partnership across all levels of governance.

In a joint declaration signed by over **200 mayors** and local leaders present at the conference, Europe's local and regional authorities reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives of the European Green Deal. They expressed their determination to actively engage citizens, businesses, and local communities in the process, reiterating their central role in making the Green Deal a reality. They also called for **greater EU support** to enhance local capacities, unlock additional financial backing, and establish a dedicated task force to ensure the implementation of Green Deal measures is co-designed with mayors and local leaders—and properly **adapted to the local scale** within a coordinated framework.





European agenda

10 september 2024

Dunkerque, France

The 25th edition of the European Energy Transition Conference will take place from September 10 to 12, 2024, in Dunkerque. The Conference offers three days to connect, exchange, share, get inspired, and succeed—together—in advancing the energy transition across our territories!. A key annual event since 1999 for all stakeholders involved in local energy transition, the *European Energy Transition Conference* gathers **over 3,500 participants** each year—local authorities, scientists and experts in ecological transition, economic and community stakeholders, and students—for three days of debates and networking. The programme includes over 130 sessions, featuring plenaries, round tables, interviews, testimonials, and hands-on workshops.

12 september 2024

1st october 2024

Aalborg, Denmark

The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference (ESCT) will take place from October 1 to 3, 2024, in Aalborg, Denmark.

Local leaders play a crucial role not only in achieving global and European climate goals, but also in taking sustainability to the next level.

In 2024, they will gather in Aalborg for the 10th edition of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference (ESCT) to discuss, exchange ideas, and strengthen their role in steering Europe toward a safe and sustainable future. The 2024 conference will once again highlight the urgent need for local governments to take responsibility for urban transformation and to lead the way in guiding Europe toward this shared objective.

3rd october 2024

27 november 2024

Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

The 2024 POLIS Annual Conference will take place on November 27 and 28 in Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

This conference is Europe's leading event on sustainable urban mobility. It offers cities and regions the opportunity to showcase their achievements in transportation to a broad audience of mobility experts, practitioners, and public and private sector decision-makers.

28 november 2024