



Conclusions of the Assessment of EU missions

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Introduction

Purpose of EU Missions

EU Missions aim to address key societal challenges through collaborative efforts across different sectors and levels of governance

Assessment Significance

The assessment process evaluates the progress, governance, budget, and alignment with objectives of EU Missions to ensure their effectiveness and impact

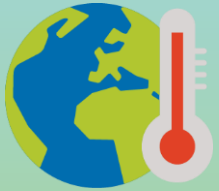
Assessment Outcome

The assessment findings provide insights on the strengths and challenges of EU Missions, guiding future strategies and decision-making for mission implementation and funding

Assessment background

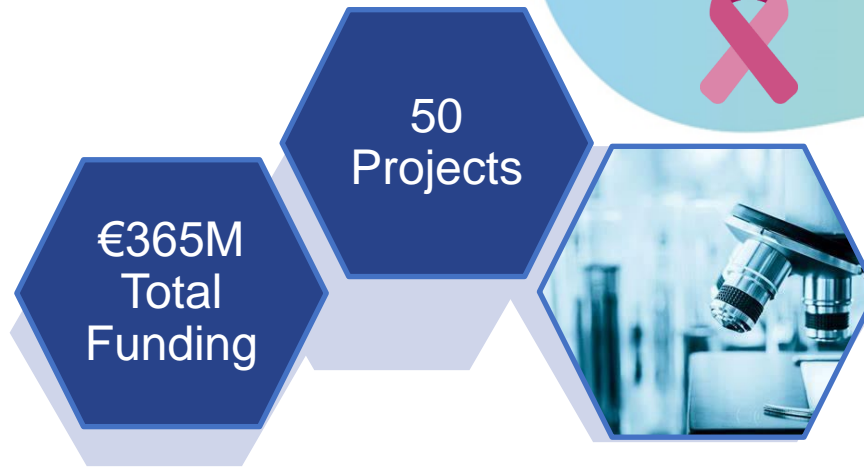
- The Horizon Europe Regulation requires the Commission to carry out an assessment of the first Missions and review mission areas by the end of 2023
- The legal base sets out that any activity of missions beyond 2023 is conditional on the outcome of the assessment process
- Two key documents prepared for this strategic review:
 1. [Commission Communication](#) – presents political messages and future recommendations for Missions;
 2. [Staff Working Document](#) – provides detailed information on EU Mission assessments and mission area review.

Detailed Overview





Mission Cancer



Infrastructures

The Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021 included two topics, resulting in two funded projects: **EOSC4Cancer** and **canSERV**, with a budget of €23 million

Innovative Health Initiative

Calls for cancer funding were included in 2021 and 2023 under the Horizon Europe Partnership Innovative Health Initiative

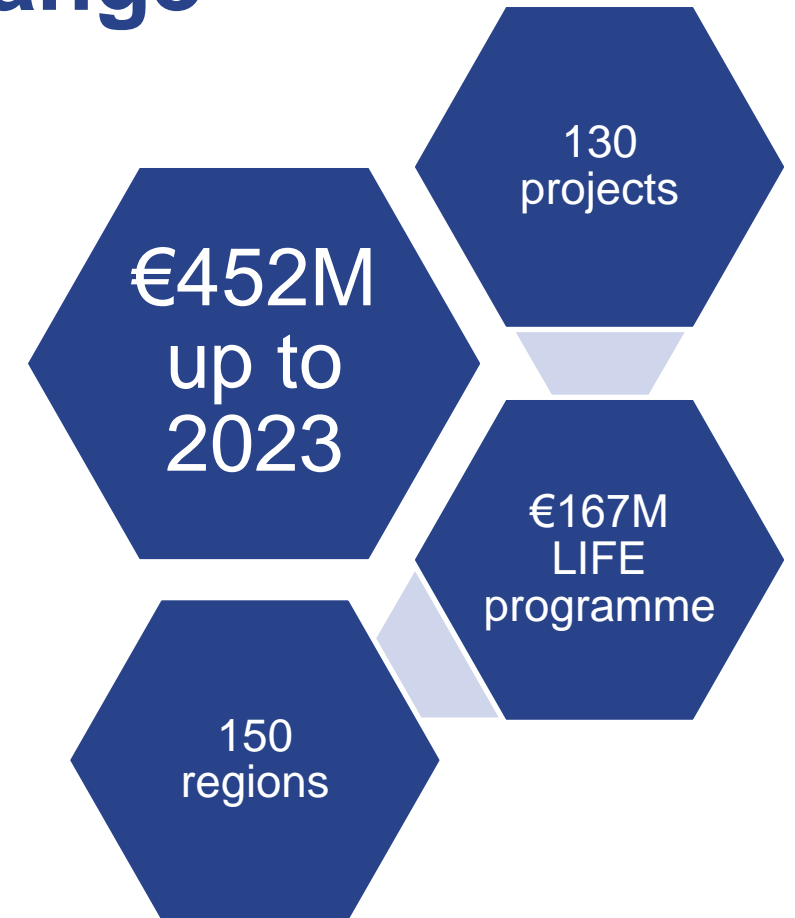
Additional Funding

Beyond Horizon Europe, at least €400 million was invested by other programmes, including the Digital Europe Programme and the **EU4Health** Work Programme 2021-2023, supporting the Cancer Mission



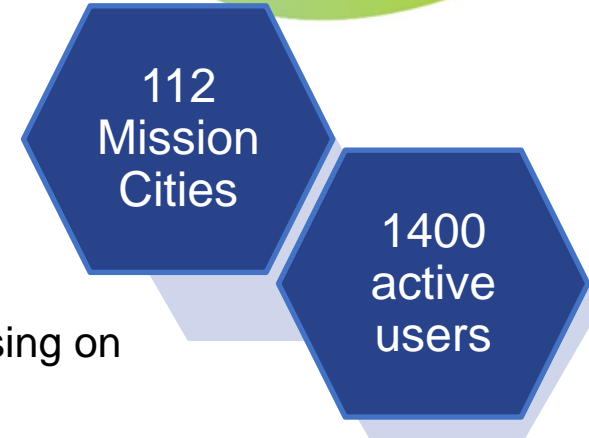
Mission Adaptation To Climate Change

- From 2023 to 2025, the **Mission Implementation Platform** will offer technical assistance to at least 200 regions.
- Connections are made with the **European Urban initiative** and **Digital Europe programme**.
- The Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change is collaborating with the European Cohesion policy on joint activities.
- The recent EIB Climate Adaptation Plan is grounded in the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, utilising the Mission to accomplish **Smarter Adaptation** – the Strategy's first objective.





Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities



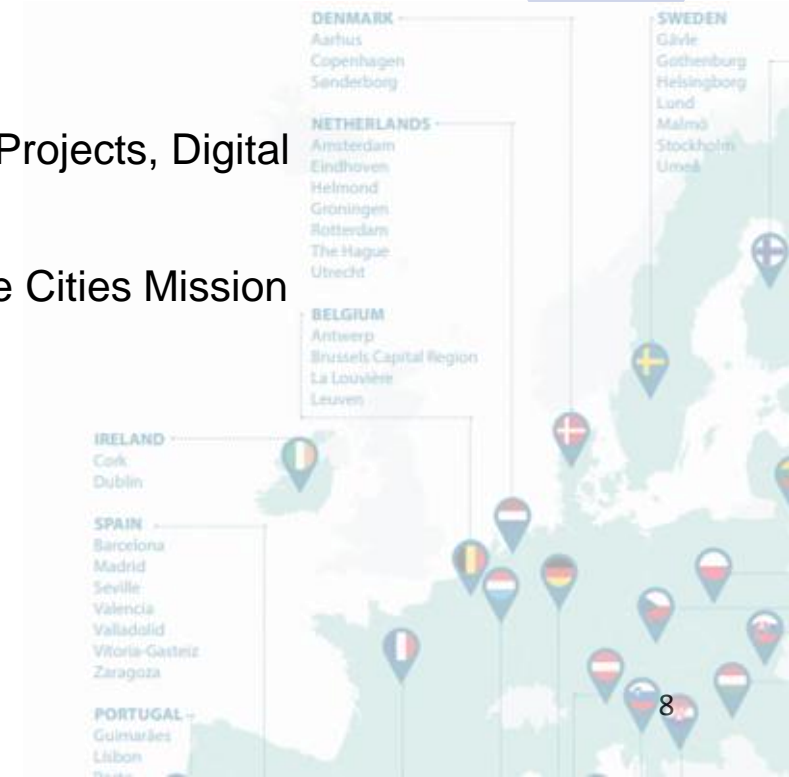
Mission Implementation Platform

NetZeroCities Assists in Climate City Contracts development, focusing on Climate Action and Investment. Facilitates access to funding

Synergies

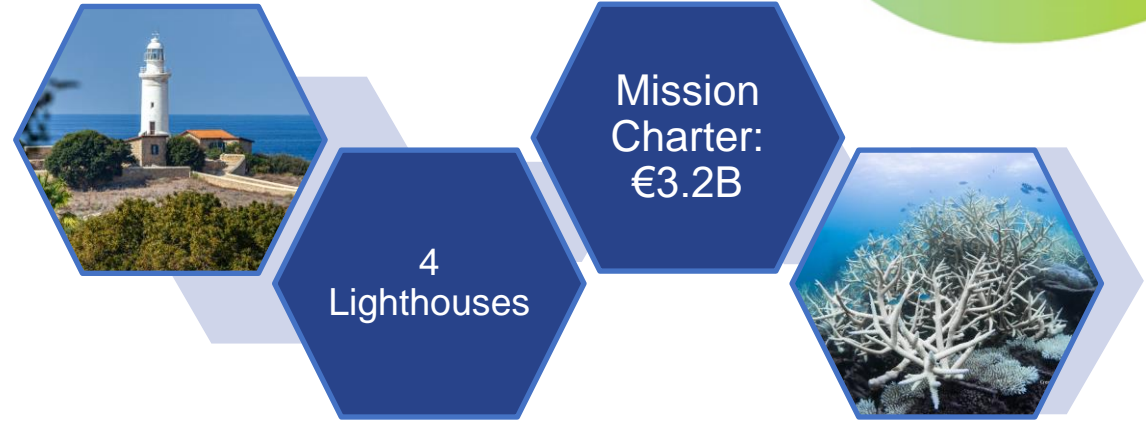
With Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE Strategic Integrated Projects, Digital Europe Programme and Urban Innovative Actions

Numerous Member States and regions, have referenced the Cities Mission in their regional operational programmes





Mission Ocean



Main achievements:

- alignment with **EMFAF** national plans in 26 Member States;
- prototype of European Digital Twin Ocean by 2024;
- €1.5B in risk finance (**BlueInvest**);
- Mission Oceans and Waters implementation platform;
- synergies with HE Partnerships developed in Biodiversa+ SRIA;
- zero emission waterborne transport Partnership: complementary topics included in the 2021-2024 calls addressing Mission objectives.



Mission Soil



€291M of
R&I
projects

25-30
living labs

400
participants



>200
initiatives

Synergies

With the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as Horizon Europe sectors - PRIMA, CBE JU and the EIC

Mission's Manifesto

It was officially launched at the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) in Brussels in 2023. Within a week attracting 600 signatories

Overall Findings





Overall findings (1)

Main message 1: 'so far, so good':

- missions' plans and governance structure are influencing and helping to align other EU level instruments;
- missions fostered widespread engagement and active stakeholder participation;
- Member States play a critical role in coordinating the implementation of all projects and activities.

Cancer

- Progressing in line with the implementation plan and with strong synergies to other EU and national level plans.
- Seed funding through HE but need to focus on how the portfolio of mission projects is structured into a cohesive outcome.

CCA

- Good progress has been made on implementing actions in support of the objectives and first steps in the roadmap.
- Likely to meet target of 150 regions & communities supported for adaptation but need for increased leverage of other instruments.

Cities

- Broadly progressing to target, the first climate city contracts were due to be signed by summer 2023.
- Tangible outcomes emerging with and strong response from multiple stakeholder groups at regional and local levels.

Ocean & Waters

- The mission implementation is on track and is helping to reduce fragmentation across diverse initiatives
- Strong engagement through the mission charter, but lower regional engagement to date.

Soil

- Progress made is positive with first phase of mission implementation on schedule and high interest in calls.
- Policy impact already visible, notably contributing to the Green Deal, the CAP and the proposed Soil Monitoring Directive. More awareness raising required.



Overall findings (2)

Main message 2: 'more needs to be done' to:

- mobilise an even deeper engagement of Member States, regions, the private sector, etc.;
- mainstream mission objectives in all EU programmes to scale and deploy 'system transitions' supported by a range of instruments at each stage of mission implementation;
- communicate widely and more effectively on the value added of the missions.

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Five cross-cutting conclusions (1)

1. Missions pioneer in fostering collaboration across diverse DGs for joint implementation, but is there a need for a higher-level steering, promoting a 'whole of government' approach?
2. Missions are expanding R&I policy beyond funding individual projects, but reliance on Horizon Europe funding limits potential for scaling and solution deployment due to an unclear funding pipeline, contradicting the goal of a broader systemic transformation



Five cross-cutting conclusions (2)

3. To boost synergies, collaboration, and maximum impact, aligning national, regional, and EU strategies is crucial for effective implementation at all levels
4. EU Missions need better public awareness, as their objectives necessitate broad understanding and adoption of new solutions. This requires more resources for user and societal actor involvement in bottom-up experimentation
5. Monitoring and evaluation methods should take a systemic approach, allowing the EC and partners to assess if their efforts meet mission objectives

Follow up

- Challenges identified in the Commission Communication will be reflected in the Work Programmes 2025, 2026 and 2027
- First actions are being incorporated into the WP 2025

Thank you



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