

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Experience data (complete the information below in a clear and concise manner)

Title of the experience: Feasibility plan of a Permanent representative Citizens' Body (PCB)		
Name of the city or region: Milan Municipality		
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 1.400.000		
Country: Italy		
Institution presenting the candidacy (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience): Milan Municipality - Energy and Climate Department and Participation Department		
Website of the experience or institution: https://partecipazione.comune.milano.it/processes/piano-aria-clima/f/20/proposals/183?component_id=20&locale=ca&participatory_process_slug=piano-aria-clima www.comune.milano.it		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: https://www.facebook.com/comunemilano		
Start date of the experience: 1/2/2021		
End date of the experience (if operational, indicate "ongoing"): ongoing		
Budget of the experience (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): ca. 100.000 euros (2021-2023)		
Type of candidacy (Mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	X

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	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.		
	Public Hearing/Forum		
	Poll/referendum		
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces		X
	E-government/Open government/Digital platforms		
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
<p>Objective of the experience</p> <p>(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)</p>	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		x
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		x
	Community empowerment		
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		x
To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public			
Territorial area	All the territory	Local (Municipality)	X

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(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)		Regional	
	District		
	Neighbourhood		
Thematic area (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Governance		
	Education		
	Transport		
	Urban management		X
	Health		X (air quality)
	Security		
	Environment/Climate change and/or urban agriculture		X
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements.		
	Culture		
	Housing		
	Job creation		
	Decentralization		
	Local development		
	Training/learning		
	Economy and/or finances		
Legal regulations			
Social inclusion			

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	All	
	Other (write the topic)	
<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice <i>Mark with an X in the right column (more than one option can be chosen)</i> <i>You can also add the specific target</i></p>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well- being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	X
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	X
	SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	X
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	X
	SDG 13 - Climate action	X
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	X
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links if you consider it appropriate.

Context

*In a **maximum of 300 words**, it presents the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, the territory in which the experience takes place.*

Nowadays, Milan ranks among the cities in Europe with major attractiveness in terms of investments and human capital. Over the past decade the city has shown high economic growth levels: big events such as Expo in 2015 or the award of 2026 Olympic Games have contributed to make Milan able to reshape its image as a hub of innovation. Milan has grown exponentially: the medium-term scenario speaks of a city that, by 2030, will attract almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of new property development investments over the whole national territory, well beyond major European cities such as Amsterdam or Madrid. Massive regenerations such as Arexpo, Cascina Merlata, Scali Ferroviari etc. will redefine entire districts & create new fruitions of the urban space. Yet, such a rapid development also casts shadows. The persistence of Milan on the blacklist of Europe's most polluted cities and the numbers of premature deaths due to air pollutants, the rapid growth in housing rents, the rising cost of life and polarisation of wealth, speak of a city that reflects the contradictions of urban development in the 21st century. Furthermore, the impact of Covid-19 has exacerbated pre-existing dynamics/risks, creating chasms of economic vulnerability and fragility. On the environment, Milan is challenging itself in an unprecedented way; the Air and Climate Plan (PAC) is the most recent step in an overall policy-making effort that encompasses major urban regenerations, sustainable construction, mobility, waste management, energy, food security and beyond. Yet, the opportunity here goes well beyond that of becoming a generative city for eco-innovation. The 'Milan method' - founded on close collaboration among all territorial actors and the systemic integration of their strengths and assets - can find in this transformative transition its next ambition: that of a Milan that is sustainable and fundamentally just, because it is a city supporting thriving for all.

Precedents

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins, if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city/municipality/region. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (**maximum 300 words**)*

Within the final approving phase of the Air and Climate Plan (PAC) a number of citizens' engagement activities were conducted in 2021. A special focus has been dedicated to the co-design of the

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structure and feasibility plan of a Permanent Representative Citizens' Body (PCB), a sort of institutionalised permanent Climate Citizens Assembly, to be activated from the year 2022.

In regard to the PCB, its Feasibility Plan has been structured, as the result of the study and research work developed within the framework of the Deep Demonstration Programme of the EIT-Climate KIC Initiative. It was carried out by the project team composed of Municipality members and AMAT¹ members, with the technical support of Poliedra². It was enriched by a desk research activity on national and international literature and practices, periodic discussions with other Departments in Milano Municipality and cross-learning session with other cities (Paris, Vienna, Leuven, the Brussels Region etc) trying to set up similar bodies and with experts teams on participation democracy and climate related issues..

It's worth highlighting also that this project is meant for Milan, a context where the OpenData and Civic Participation Direction of the Municipality deployed several initiatives, such as the Participatory Budget, several socio-crowdfunding initiatives, and citizen forums. In addition, a new regulation on citizens' participation rights, designed according to the international experience of Citizen Assemblies, was approved in 2021.

The Feasibility Plan describes the general guidelines for the development and implementation of the aforementioned Body, starting from its characteristics as described in the Action 5.1.4 of the PAC, deepening the aspects of PCB: scope and mandate; members composition and selection process; engagement and training of the participants, PCB's operating methods and work schedules; forms of recognition of the commitment of the participants; possible methods of financing the PCB itself.

Objectives of the experience

*What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience (**maximum 100 words**)*

The objectives of the PCB are:

1. producing recommendations on all the PAC actions, via the realisation of a PCB Bill to be analysed and implemented following the PAC monitoring phases;
2. representing the civic monitor of the PAC Actions and allowing for the citizens voice to be heard and listen to.

The Assembly will include 90 citizens representing the whole population selected on specific criteria. Higher inclusiveness, turnover and continuity of the process are granted by each participant being a member of the PCB for max 6 months, with a rotation of half of the participants every 3 months.

¹ AMAT is the in-house company (100% owned by Milan Municipality) dealing with Mobility, Territory and Environment

² POLIEDRA is an organisation belonging to the Politecnico of Milan Consortium

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Methodology

Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels (**maximum 300 words**)

The Feasibility Plan methodology for the PCB is grounded around defining the main pillars of the body, as detailed below :

- **Selection:** 90 citizens selected throughout two complementary instruments:
 - Drawing by lot: extraction done by Milan Statistics Office on the basis of an algorithm
 - Active citizens register: including people who voluntarily decide to apply to participate. They will be selected taking into account the final composition of the desired assembly, including finely detailed variables such as: study level, sexual orientation, disability etc.
- Rotation principle: allowing each participant to be a member of the PCB for a period of 6 months, with a rotation every 3 months for half participants.

Regarding the PCB methodological phases it is worth mentioning:

- **the Pilot Phase:** first PCB semester dedicated at testing the structure of the PCB through a co-design phase
- and the **Learning phase**, giving to all participants an extensive training on the PAC relevant topics

The Way of work: the PCB will be managed by Milano Municipality staff with the support of a neutral third party offering expertise in participation processes. The work of the PCB will be organised as follows:

- **Team groups:** established to work on a specific set of Actions of the PAC. They can proceed independently to formulate recommendations for the implementation phase of the Actions (Bill), report any issues or monitor the progress of Actions already implemented.
- **Plenary:** Every two months all the team groups will meet in order to discuss the PCB progress and outcomes.

Transparency: Milan municipality will periodically share the meeting reports of the PCB. The PCB Bill (output document created by the PCB participants), will be duly processed and implemented following the PAC monitoring schemes. "Milano Partecipa", the web platform focusing on participatory processes for Milan Municipality, will be the interactive tool to ensure transparency.

Innovation

Explain what you consider most innovative in the practice. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)

This PCB has been designed as a **non-temporary body** representing the new methodological challenge with which even the most advanced participatory democracy experiences in Europe are starting to try their hand. In this sense, the PCB represents a further step toward deliberative democracy: the **institutionalisation** within the policy cycle, of the already realised experiences of the Climate Citizens Assembly.

The Milan PCB has drawn inspiration from other European citizen assemblies experiences, but tries to be boldly innovative especially in:

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- 1) proposing a participation of citizens in climate urban policies **on a permanent basis** throughout **the implementation and monitoring phases of PAC, structured to accommodate/include the deliberative Bills made by citizens;**
- 2) **combining the selection of a drawing by lot with the Register** of “Active Citizens for Climate”, so to better define in terms of inclusion, the citizens sample (designed to avoid anyone of the 7 grounds for discrimination)

Inclusion

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The PCB has been designed to grant the widest citizens participation through different measures:

- Participation will be promoted in several ways, using many channels, so to outreach for all kind of citizens
- The sample should be selected considering the “seven principles of non-discrimination” (as per the European legislations): ethnic origin, socio-economic background, religion, sexual behaviour, disability, gender and age. The voluntary register will take these principles into account, given the necessity to abide by the rules defined by the GDPR;
- Participants will be given training and education on the Climate Change issues, regardless of their scholastic background;
- Each participant will be a member of the PCB for max 6 months, with a rotation of half of the participants every 3 months in order to grant a certain continuity;
- Participants will be granted some services to facilitate their participation (i.e. babysitting, free transportation tickets etc.).

Communication

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience so that the population knows about it and gets involved. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The communication strategy of the PCB is grounded around:

- 1) the web platform “Milano Partecipa”, managed by the Municipality of Milan showing the detailed work carried out by the PCB and ensuring full transparency and accountability of the participative processes
- 2) the use of the communication (online/offline) channels of Milan Municipality (webradio, website, newsletters, social media channels, printed bulletins etc) used in order to formally deliver PCB contents, acts and news, accounting for institutional processes and communications with a top down approach
- 3) the AMAT platform, including also an App and several social media channels, fostering community engagement with citizens and stakeholders (organisations, research institutions, associations and SMEs) in order to support with a bottom up approach city decarbonisation efforts, and the reaching of climate neutrality by 2030

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Articulation with other actors

*It explains how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this joint. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The PCB Feasibility Plan has been designed thanks to the continuous interaction of the project team with relevant stakeholders, able to bring additional value.

At local level:

- Periodic discussions with Departments in the Municipality took place to grant alignment and effectiveness of the PCB features. decisions;
- Several meetings and participative tables took place with more than 100 city players to get insights/comments on PAC actions, included the PCB,

At International level:

- Learning sessions with Vienna, Bologna, Paris and Orleans and with representatives from several international organisations as Dark Matter Labs, the Bloomberg Group, Civocracy and the FIDE, were organised.

Every meeting consisted in the presentation of Milan PCB, its planned developments and features, followed by counterparts describing their participatory experience. A final open discussion on PCB's decisional impact, governance, participants, selection method, PCB's way of work, role of stakeholders, financing aspects etc. concluded the meeting. All inputs were integrated..

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether citizenship has participated in the evaluation of the practice (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

The first stage of the Feasibility Plan, i.e. the Citizens' Table, was directly evaluated by the Citizens who participated in its three working sessions, Recordings, digital boards and reports produced during the Table were uploaded to Milano Partecipa and the report was sent also to all the participants. They filled in an evaluation questionnaire on this experience designed to express opinions or highlight any critical issues needing to be resolved before the future development of other participative initiatives in the city.

The experiment of the "Citizens' Table" itself and the feedback received by the participants made it possible to highlight some key elements, of particular importance and potential criticality, which were considered and/or modified in the definition of the characteristics, composition and working methods of the PCB.

The possible weaknesses were tackled by outlining different solutions and ways of engaging and working in order to make the new participation experience increasingly transparent, efficient and inclusive for all citizens.

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In the following phases all the challenging issues were tackled through detailed SWOT analysis which were presented and discussed during cross-learning sessions and the feedback collected drove the PCB to its final design.

Regarding future activities:

In the PCB Feasibility Plan the monitoring and evaluation activities addressing citizens involvement are duly outlined. These will be carried out following the six layers of the PAC monitoring activities. Citizens will participate in all the phases of the PAC implementation within the working activities carried out in the PCB.

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and which are their profiles. What have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of the administration and on citizens. (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

The actual impacts of the project will be deeply evaluated only after the official beginning of the PCB: as the so-far scheduled date is September 2022, properly Impact results and evaluations will be therefore available not earlier than September 2023. These impact analyses will pinpoint the benefit of citizens participation not only in regard to its effectiveness in reaching bold climate support, but also in terms of increased accountability, legality, financial support, citizens' ownership. It will address several audiences: citizens and stakeholders in primis, as well as public officials, practitioners etc.

The PCB will have a full set of indicators which will be thoroughly and jointly defined during the co-design phase, but which will certainly include KPIs about the performance of the PCB, its effectiveness, its results, its impacts (for example: nr of participants, recommendations issued, etc.).

The PCB starting point has been represented by the set of evaluations collected after the Citizens' Table, in 2021, when all participants gave voice to why they accepted to participate, what they gained from the experience and what they suggested to the organisers and the city. This live experience of the citizens' participation has represented an invaluable asset in defining future expectations and driving impacts and results to the structuring of the PCB Feasibility Plan, thanks to the direct experience and interaction with the local citizens. The sample selected (44 people) represented the spectrum of the city in terms of gender, age rate, mixed origins and municipality of residence. The main results of the Citizens' Table, together with a relevant set of quali-qualitative indicators, was represented by the Municipal decision of setting up a similar -albeit more incisive and permanent- tool of citizens representation.

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

A summary of the experience: origin, objectives, operation, results, monitoring and evaluation (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before, this summary is the

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one that will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**)

The work carried out in relation to Citizens engagement and outreach represented the preliminary steps necessary for Milan to set fully on track the start of its decarbonisation pathway over the coming years. Policies about climate change must necessarily include public participation. It's thus fundamental that local communities in all their components, understand and activate the leverages able to produce social innovation and promote behavioural changes. One of the sections of the PAC is actually dedicated to the involvement and empowerment of the city stakeholders who have to be informed and enabled to actively contribute to the decarbonization of the city. A main role in Milan will be played by testing, and afterwards implementing, the innovative form of "draw democracy" represented by the co-design process for the Permanent Civic Body of sorted citizens which has been summarised in a Feasibility Plan.

The objectives of the PCB are:

1. producing recommendations on all the PAC actions, via the realisation of a PCB Bill to be analysed and implemented following the PAC monitoring phases;
2. representing the civic monitor of the PAC Actions and allowing for the citizens voice to be heard and listened to.

This Body is here intended as a non-temporary organism that represents the new methodological challenge with which even the most advanced participatory democracy experiences in Europe are starting to try their hand. In this sense, the Permanent Civic Body does represent a further step toward deliberative democracy: the institutionalisation within the policy cycle of the already realised experiences of Citizens Assembly on Climate. It has also to be accounted for being innovatively bold and being able to overcome participation in climate policy as a stand-up moment of few weeks/months while instead proposing a participation of citizens in climate urban policies on a permanent basis. Even the selection aspects and the Register of "Active Citizens for Climate" related to it, are seen as body innovative compared to the already existing participation mechanisms. These characteristics of our Permanent Civic Body are unique and quite particular among the international bigger cities taking a clear stance against climate change. This innovative aspects clearly emerged also during the cross-cities learning sessions and the discussions with the experts on participation democracy.

PCB main characteristics are represented by:

- the citizens' sample composition (by gender, age group, municipality to which they belong, etc.), as well as the periodic rotation of participants, able to facilitate the active participation of Milanese citizens and the consideration of their voice, opinions and wishes.
- The periodic rotation of the participants in the PCB will guarantee an equitable participation in the planned activities as it is also accompanied by specific moments and training / communication tools aimed at eliminating the need to possess previous knowledge and specific skills on the subject, as well as aimed at removing all the obstacles that they could prevent an active participation of all.

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We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... They can be sent through a heavy document delivery system such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive

Annexes:

- ***“Annex 1_IT_PCB_Feasibility Plan” (in Italian):*** the full feasibility plan of the Permanent Civic Body with all the details
- ***“Annex 2_ENG_PCB_Cross-cities learning sessions” (in English):*** the presentation of our proposal for the PCB as discussed with other stakeholders (cities and experts)
- ***“Annex 3_ENG_PCB_Cross-cities learning sessions_Mural board” (in Italian and English):*** the Mural boards with the outcomes of our discussions with the other cities
- ***“Annex 4_IT_PCB_Pilot Citizens Table_press presentation” (in Italian):*** the full report on the experience of the Citizens' Table