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HfP ICOS Cites project team: Stakeholder Workshop on "Urban Climate Governance and Emissions Data", ICOS Cities annual meeting 2024, Paris

On March 5, 2024, the first stakeholder workshop of Work Package 1 (WP1)[1] of the ICOS Cities – PAUL project took place in Paris. The event focused on urban climate governance and the integration of emissions data into climate policy. It was organized by the ICOS Cities team at the Chair of Environmental and Climate Policy at the Munich School of Public Policy (HfP) (Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs, Ana María Isidoro Losada, Barbara Dias Carneiro and Kaayin Kee) in collaboration with colleagues from Aalto University in Espoo, Finland, and ICOS ERIC.

Around 30 participants from 18 cities worldwide, mainly representing the science community, had a productive exchange and lively discussions on the opportunities and challenges in urban climate governance with a special focus on data and policy needs of the cities.

Two keynote speeches, one by Prof. Dr. Kristine Kern from the Leibniz Institute for Space and Society Research (IRS)/ Germany and the other by university lecturer Nuria Solsona from Aalto University/ Finland, stimulated the subsequent group activities and debates. The keynote theme revolved around innovation in climate governance, with Kern exploring the dynamics of European cities in multilevel climate governance, and Solsona diving into service ideations for climate policy challenges.

In her talk, Prof. Dr. Kristine Kern outlined the important role cities play in climate governance in Europe, tracing their development over time. She identifies three stages of European city relations: the initial phase marked by transnational city networks, followed by the second phase on the establishment of the Covenant of Mayors, and lastly, the final phase shaped by the EU agenda and European Green Deal. Kern also delved into the dynamics between 'forerunner' and 'laggard' cities. On the city level, the classification of cities from 'forerunner' to 'laggard' status was applied to German cities in a German case study, where example cities for each stage of classification were presented. Drawing connections to the ICOS Cities project, Prof. Kern wrapped up her talk by introducing the potential for scaling successful local initiatives across horizontal and vertical interactions. With that, she encouraged important reflections on the exchange of knowledge between project members and the pilot cities.

Nuria Solsona's talk on service ideation for climate policy challenges presented a novel design approach to policymaking and policy implementation. She pointed out the pitfalls of linear thinking and limited data and presented a dynamic approach that integrates these two worlds as a mechanism to envision future policies. Noting a delay in policy implementation, Solsona also outlined how persisting issues such as post-oil heating in Finland could be approached by incorporating trigger points for action in policymaking. She affirmed that policy implementation can evolve dynamically by considering citizens' expectations and reactions to policies and real-time interventions. She highlighted that by considering citizens'

[1] Task 1.2: Science-Technology Policy Governance and Emissions Data: Information and policy needs of the pilot cities

expectations and reactions to policies and real-time interventions, policy implementation can evolve dynamically.

The keynotes were followed by two parallel thematic interactive sessions and a world café. The first activity explored the dynamics of European cities and fostering climate action partnerships, intending to follow on from the keynote speeches by Prof. Dr. Kristine Kern and Nuria Solsona. Participants were asked to consider what European cities needed to reach their climate targets, and how cities can collaborate more effectively for climate action. As the ICOS Cities project is centred on greenhouse gas emissions inventories and how it can be used to improve climate policymaking, these discussions went in the direction of data transparency for the benefit of all, with the contentious nature of the topic meaning naturally that no conclusion could be reached in this concise session.

Nevertheless, this first interactive activity offered an appropriate transition into the following interactive activity, which was a world café centred around how to communicate data and use it for impact in climate governance. In this session, participants shared diverse experiences around existing and potential new tools used to communicate data. They also spoke of their own data projects where they found they had an impact, and brainstormed what innovative approaches to developing services to effectively implement climate policy could be.

The workshop concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Claudio d'Onofrio from the University of Lund with Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs, Prof. Dr. Kristine Kern and René Estermann Director of the "Environmental and Health Protection Zurich" division of the Environment and Health Department of the City of Zurich as participants. The panel discussion revolved around the topics that were discussed throughout the day, namely how to further optimize European climate governance in cities and how the integration of data can lead to more targeted climate action plans.

*"It's all about the data we need as a decision-base for the measurements. It's our duty to give **relevance** and give options to the decision makers. **Where** they have to act and **how** they have to act to become net zero in the end."*
(René Estermann, panel discussion at the ICOS Cities Stakeholder Workshop)

The on-site workshop participants attended from across Europe, with city administration, business, civil society, and science backgrounds. This led to rich discussion as stakeholders with different professional experience met and exchanged ideas throughout the day. Positive feedback was received for the workshop from participants and the Scientific Advisory Board to the ICOS Cities project.

The results of the workshop will be incorporated into the further analysis as part of work package 1. The key findings will be made available to the public during 2024 in a series of policy briefs for each of the three pilot cities of the ICOS Cities project - Paris, Munich and Zurich - as well as for the EU. In the near future, the team will participate in this year's General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union in Vienna in April 2024 to present its findings on the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to climate governance.