

Work Package 2: International collaboration and knowledge creation

- *Case studies per project city*

ICLEI

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Abstract	<i>Case studies per project city reflecting on the individual process, the applied support methodology and the monitoring of outcomes. These [...] 5 case studies will be set up in a modular way, starting with content on the selected local climate actions and the social equity assessments as available. The case studies will be expanded with additional sections in parallel to the work in the cities.</i>
Keywords	Analysis; Case Study; Climate Measures; Social equity outcomes



Case study: Dortmund

1. Climate measure

In 2021, the City of Dortmund launched the "Immediate Climate Program" to advance climate protection and sustainable development. This program includes establishing the Dortmund Fund, developing a sustainability network, implementing a municipal heating program and utilising all possibilities available to advance the solar energy supply. These topics are now part of the Action Program Climate-Air 2030, contributing to the city's aim of achieving climate neutrality by 2035.

As part of this action program, the city has offered a funding programme for plug-in solar devices as a way to engage citizens living in apartments in climate protection and clean energy supply. The city provided 200.000 € for this purpose.

Since November 2023, the subsidy programme has offered a range of financial incentives combined with advisory services to make it easier for low-income households to participate in the energy transition. The city supported single (400W) or double installations (800 W) which - in an ideal setting - are enough to supply the necessary amount of energy for appliances in standby throughout the year or the use for a hairdryer or a washing machine at a time. The plug-in solar device runs in addition to the regular energy supply of a household and can contribute to cutting energy costs.

In Dortmund's case, the subsidy rate included 50 % of the costs (max. 500 €) and an increased subsidy rate for social welfare recipients, who could claim up to 95 % of the costs.

2. Support measures

As part of the INCLU:DE project, a set of tentative supportive measures has been identified with the aim of rendering the city's subsidy schemes more equitable. Dortmund is committed to further developing the social components of planned subsidy programmes in order to provide low-income households with better access to funding. A special focus lies on optimising the funding structures and strengthening communication and advisory strategies aimed at attracting low-income households. The identified measures include:



Completed measures:

1. **Accessibility Assessment:** Development of a **questionnaire** attached to the application form. This survey was set up within the current round of subsidies to evaluate how participants experienced the application process in terms of:
 - a. Communication of the program (e.g how applicants got aware of the program);
 - b. Access to relevant information regarding the application process (e.g. how to apply and what documents are needed).
2. **Translation** of the website to increase the accessibility of the subsidy scheme. Using an automated web-plug in, the website can now be displayed in 13 languages, amongst others in English, Turkish, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Chinese.

Further measures to be conducted:

3. Feasibility assessment of the implementation of '**easy language**' as a citizen-oriented administrative language for the website and the (subsequent) submission of application documents in order to make the process more accessible.
4. **Meta analysis** of the general field of equitable funding schemes. Through scientific research, the city wants to identify the needs of vulnerable groups as well as suitable measures to address them. The goal is to present insights and demands for socially just climate protection to policymakers and the council, as well as to develop a set of criteria to be taken into account for future funding schemes to ensure their equity and accessibility.



3. Interim project learnings

The INCLU:DE project is still ongoing at the time of writing. An overview of *interim* learnings for the project as a whole can be [found here](#).

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cities' climate initiatives and ambitions need to be socially just and consider vulnerable populations, to ensure that no-one is left behind.

Through the INCLU:DE project, the Mercator Foundation is supporting ICLEI to undertake a two-year project that seeks to support local inclusive transformations and foster dialogue exchanges to generate positive equity outcomes for all citizens involved.



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