

03

PADOVA LIVING LAB

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Padova

Location

Municipality of Padova (Veneto region)

Total area

92 km²

Population

214.000

Contact person, organisation

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Guilia Canilli, City of Padova



<https://2isecap.eu/living-labs/padova-italy/>

Padova 2030 Living Lab

Hosting organization

**Municipality of Padova
(Comune di Padova)**

Year of establishment

**2019, reactivated in 2023
for the drafting of the Climate
City Contract**

Current status

So far, 36 Climate Agreements have been signed by various entities, including universities, research centers, companies, and banks. Participation in the Climate City Contract (CCC) is voluntary and ongoing. Actions implemented cover mitigation, adaptation, education, communication, research, and financial support. The CCC was submitted to the European Commission in September 2024. The Living Lab remains active and will have eight working groups in 2025.



Starting Point and Goal

- to discuss the decarbonization of Padova together with the territory
- to sign Climate Agreements (CA) and ensure stakeholders' engagement
- to discuss and identify, together with more than 30 local stakeholders, the main barriers and opportunities in achieving climate neutrality and agreeing on a strategy for decarbonization



Achievements

- 36 CA have been signed, with a wide range of stakeholders
- multiple actions have been put in place: mitigation and adaptation, training, communication, R&D, and financial support
- the Climate City Contract of Padova has been submitted to the European Commission in September 2024



Key Factors for Success

- a long history of involving the local stakeholders
- a concrete intention to plan the city's development together with stakeholders
- detailed feedback to the proposals made (perceived as a good opportunity appreciated by many entities)
- political commitment



Main Barriers

- the long action time of a public authority, both in constructing an action plan and in implementing it
- loss of stakeholders' interest and motivation

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Living Lab Mission

The LL serves to address the collective challenges of a city together with the territory, thanks to the pooling of knowledge and skills that can only come from a plurality of actors.

“To properly engage stakeholders, we held endless bilateral meetings with each of them, to discuss and explain how their own organisations could benefit from the Living Lab activities.”

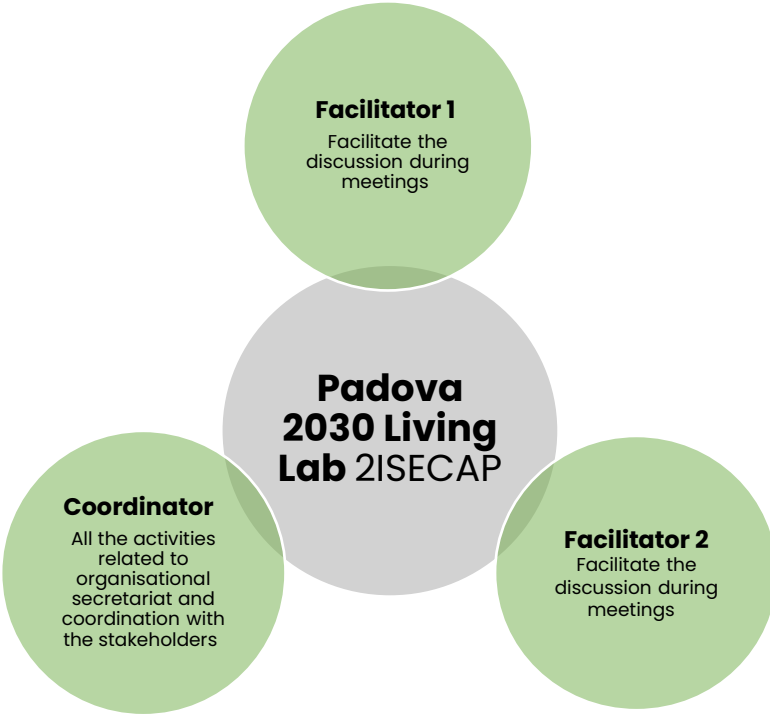
Guilia Canilli, Comune di Padova

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Key roles within the Living Lab

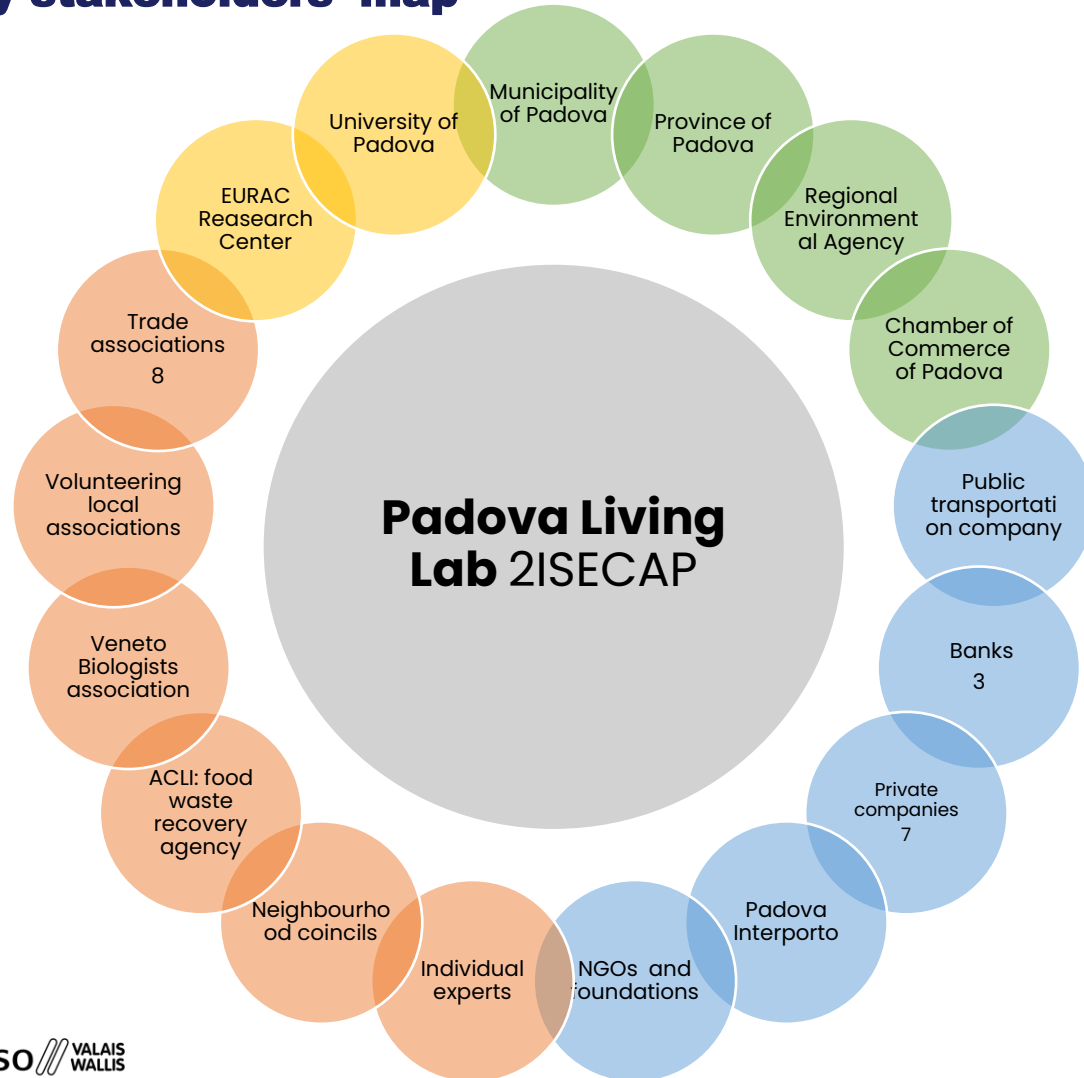
The Municipality indicates the main objectives and strategic actions for achieving climate neutrality.

It then coordinates the discussions, balancing any conflicting opinions or interests, as well as creating synergies to foster projects that are useful for the territory.



Padova Living Lab

Key stakeholders' map



Groups of stakeholders according to the Quadruple-Helix model

- - Public administration
- - Private organisations
- - Research organisations
- - Citizens and local associations

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Tools and Methods Used

- 2ISECAP Learning modules on the Living Lab methodology
- Bilateral discussions
- Brainstorming
- PESTEL, SWOT, TWOS analysis
- Workshops
- Focus-groups



Key Projects and Activities

6 events with stakeholders

Discussions of multiple topics such as buildings redevelopment and renewable energy, sustainable mobility, low emission economy, and improving the quality of life.

Outputs: signing of climate agreements

3 meetings with neighbourhood councils

Explanation of the NZC Mission, the "Padova 2023 towards Climate Neutrality, the Climate City Contract (CCC) and possibilities for contributions

Outputs: Involvement and engagement of neighbourhood councils

Multiple bilateral or small groups meetings

To involve new stakeholders, it was necessary to have bilateral/small groups meetings, often with the participation of politicians

Outputs: some of these stakeholders signed climate agreements that are now part of Padova CCC



Major Challenges and Solutions

- **Many stakeholders were hesitant about making concrete commitments by signing a contract**, so the possibility of withdrawal without penalty was highlighted to reassure them.
- **Finding the necessary funding opportunities** once the actions to be implemented have been identified

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Padova 2030 climate neutral – information campaign

In December 2023, the City of Padova launched an information campaign, which appeared on city billboards and on some streetcar shelters, to raise awareness of the city's path toward decarbonization. The message chosen for the initiative was "Together towards Padova 2030, a zero-emission city," designed to make the participatory dimension of the project and involve all citizens in this ambitious challenge, which, to be won, needs everyone's contribution and commitment.

<https://www.padovanet.it/informazione/padova-2030-e-la-missione-la-neutralit%C3%A0-climatica>



Padova 2030 Living Lab



2050 Citizen forum

In the framework of this Forum, the participatory pathway “Padova 2030” carried out by the Municipality of Padova with local stakeholders and aimed at accompanying the city of Padova toward decarbonization to 2030.

The Forum was the occasion, during the meeting “The challenge of climate neutrality: the experience of the Climate City Contract”, to present to citizens what Padova has done so far as part of the Mission “100 climate neutral and smart cities” and the actions it intends to implement in the coming years to cut emissions in the territory.

The participatory journey actively involved key stakeholders in the Padova area who are members of the Agenda21 Forum and the local Living Lab (activated in 2022), through workshops and focus-groups, in order to identify the main barriers and opportunities for a just energy transition for all.

The “Padova 2030” journey involved 36 entities and associations in 6 meetings (2 for each thematic area):

- refurbishment of the building stock
- energy production from renewable sources
- sustainable mobility
- low emission & circular economy
- waste management

The actions that emerged and the commitments declared by the participants will allow the update of the SECAP and the draft of the “Climate City Contract,” a document in which Padova will define its strategy and lines of action for climate neutrality by 2030.



<https://www.duezerocinquezero.com/>

Padova 2030 Living Lab

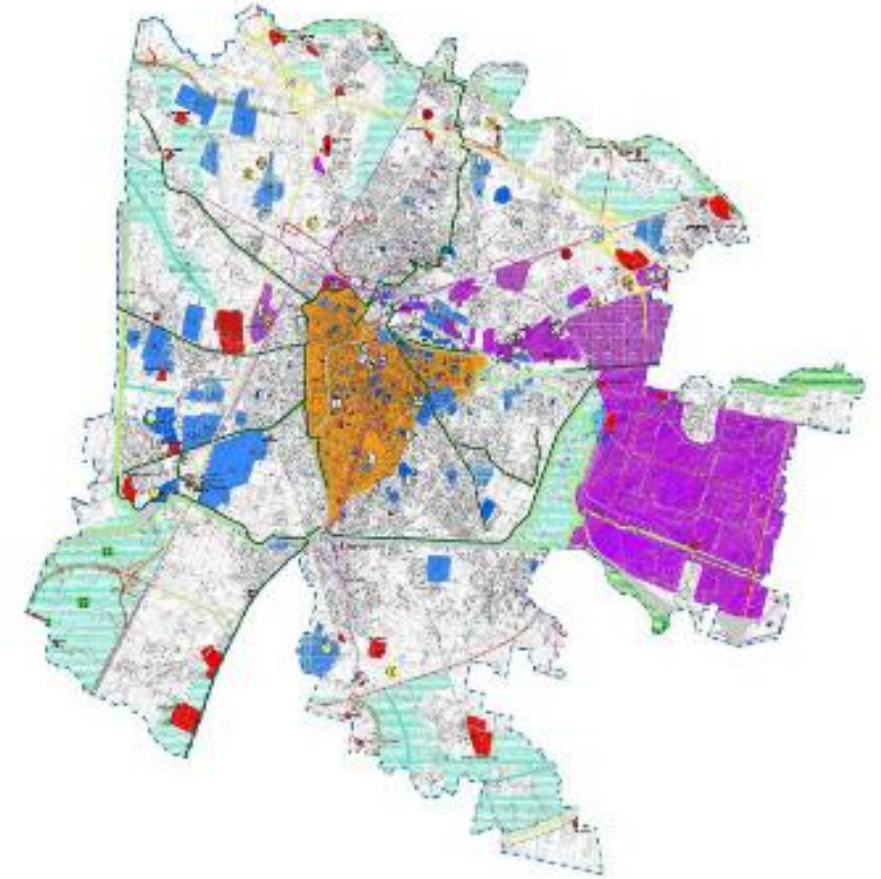


PadovaXChange

The project, developed together with the companies who signed Padova's CCC, focuses on the implementation of a Digital Twin (DT) of energy systems in the Padova industrial area.

The DT will be validated and used to simulate future decarbonization scenarios, involving:

- the creation of a district heating network, using waste heat (e.g., incinerator)
- the increase of energy production from renewable sources
- the development of a Positive Energy District



+PADOVA XCHANGE

Padova 2030 Living Lab

TLL local and regional activities, main directions

Establishment and organization of the Padova LL

- Initiated 6 meetings involving local stakeholders, focusing on climate neutrality. Topics included building redevelopment, renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and circular economy
- Stakeholders' commitments were integrated into the Climate City Contract of Padova

Strategic Documents Review and Development of SECAP

- Public event at the National Forum on Energy and Sustainability with 150 participants. Discussed the Climate City Contract and initial results from stakeholders
- Enhanced public understanding and engagement in Padova's NZC Mission

Stakeholder Engagement and Cross-sectoral Collaboration

- Thematic forums, focusing on innovation and sustainability projects and engaging private companies in the climate neutrality path
- Meetings with neighbourhood councils to discuss climate neutrality and the Climate City Contract
- Bilateral meetings with around 50 stakeholders, resulting in 36 Climate Agreements
- Strengthened stakeholder engagement and cross-sectoral collaboration



Padova 2030 Living Lab



TLL local and regional activities

Regional and Cross-border Expansion

- Public event at the National Forum on Energy and Sustainability highlighting innovative projects and actions towards zero emissions.
- Discussions around innovative projects and actions towards zero emission
- Showcased Padova's pioneering efforts in climate neutrality, fostering regional and cross-border collaboration
- 36 Climate Agreements signed with local stakeholders, now part of Padova's Climate City Contract

Continuous Learning and Adaptation

- Continuous bilateral meetings and stakeholder engagements to adapt and refine strategies with more than 50 stakeholders
- Event with stakeholders who signed the Climate City Contract or are willing to join
- Discussions on strategic actions to achieve climate neutrality
- Upcoming events to discuss strategic actions and plan the implementation of 8 working groups for 2025

“One valuable activity involved gathering a list of desired actions from stakeholders that they couldn't pursue due to limitations such as funding, space, or personnel.

During and after the Living Lab meetings, the municipality worked to foster productive synergies among stakeholders, enabling them to address each other's specific needs — for instance, one stakeholder lacking space was matched with another who had a free warehouse.”

Giulia Canilli, Comune di Padova

Padova 2030 Living Lab



Recommendations for Future Living Labs

- Keep in mind that with big stakeholders you need strong political commitment
- Consider that, to be useful and impactful, a Living Lab setting up and development takes a long time and demands lots of patience
- Think of engaging a professional facilitator for managing a Living Lab activities



Future Prospects for Karditsa LL

8 thematic working groups from 2025

The administration is considering to organise the working tables in 2025 engaging more people and a larger budget to ensure the operability of the Living Lab

Signing of more Climate Agreements

To demonstrate the concrete effort of the participants, the LL aims at the signing of Climate Agreements in which each signatory would take responsibility for implementing specific actions that will contribute to the city's decarbonization

Dissemination and experience sharing with neighboring cities is seen as a potentially interesting path to follow



Lessons Learned

Importance of clear vision and political commitment

Having a clear vision and political support are essential to develop climate and energy strategies

Necessity of time and qualified people

To seriously pursue a Living Lab, in the sense of co-designing with local actors the actions to be put in place – for Padova- to achieve climate neutrality, requires both time and dedicated and qualified personnel

Importance of feedback

It is necessary to give detailed feedback to stakeholders, otherwise, they lose interest and trust