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FAASST NEWS #4

Quarterly Newsletter of the FAASST Project



FAciliter, **Acc**élérer, **Sout**enir et **Suiv**re la Transition





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FAASST: Let's Take Stock

The FAASST programme, launched in 2022 as part of NetZeroCities' Pilot Cities Programme, came to a close on 30 May 2025. **After two years of experimentation and territorial cooperation**, this final newsletter looks back at the initiative's key milestones and the tools that will endure, fully in line with the collective commitment highlighted in our previous editions.

In this issue, you will first read that Dijon Métropole has just been awarded the European "Climate-Neutral and Smart City" label, a distinction that crowns many years of far-reaching strategic choices. You will then discover how Dijon Métropole used the project period to develop a methodological guide describing the design and facilitation challenges involved in managing transitions across the territory.

The following article reports on the workshops organised with our twin cities, Gabrovo and Matosinhos, where the exchanges helped strengthen work on territorial governance.

Finally, we will assess the programme's long-term viability by showing how tools such as SEM Énergies, the Energy-Climate Platform and the Metropolitan Contract will keep the momentum alive.

This closure is not an end but the opening of a new cycle, in which the achievements of the FAASST project will form the bedrock for Dijon's future advances in the energy transition. Territorial governance, the structuring of cooperation projects and the organisation of financing actions will guide our environmental efforts.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all institutional and private partners, project officers and technical teams who supported every stage of the project. We are also grateful to the European Commission, whose financial and methodological support was decisive in FAASST's success.

Enjoy this special issue, and **stay tuned, through future channels, as we continue our territory's journey towards climate neutrality!**

A Label and an Inauguration!

On 7 May 2025, at the European Mission Cities conference in Vilnius, Jean-Patrick Masson, Vice-President responsible for the ecological transition, accepted the “Climate-Neutral and Smart City” label on behalf of Dijon Métropole. This decision by the European Commission—under the NetZeroCities programme—crowns more than a decade of work to decarbonise the area and improve residents’ quality of life.

A strategic recognition

The label reinforces and showcases Dijon’s status as one of the first two French metropolitan “pilot cities” in the European Mission. It grants privileged access to EU funding and to a network of 100 cities committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2030, while lending credibility to the local strategy for public and private partners seeking to join the transition.

FAASST: the linchpin of neutrality

The FAASST project is the territory’s decarbonised engine driving this ambition. Central to the Pilot Cities Programme, it has enabled the creation of a Mass Deployment Operator that structures and scales up financing for renewable-energy production and transition projects.

The RESPONSE project—harbinger of FAASST’s momentum

Momentum advanced further in May 2025 with the inauguration of the European RESPONSE project in the Fontaine-d’Ouche district: Europe’s first renovated positive-energy neighbourhood, able to generate 120 % of its needs thanks to 10,000 m² of photovoltaic panels, an optimised heating network, and batteries. As a full-scale demonstrator, RESPONSE foreshadows the Mass Deployment Operator’s role within FAASST: pooling funding and expertise to roll out, across the entire metropolitan area, the technical and economic solutions that will make Dijon a carbon-neutral territory.





The twin-city workshops

As part of the FAASST programme, since November 2024 Dijon Métropole has held a series of three workshops with its twin cities, Gabrovo (Bulgaria) and Matosinhos (Portugal). Integrated into the Pilot Cities twinning scheme, the exchange had a clear purpose: to submit Dijon's transition-management method to the scrutiny of European partners—and enrich it with their opinions and feedback.

A shared method

Each session centred on the Handbook: six modules that describe, step by step, the process of designing and steering the transition. Partners first examined the management matrix, which details the operational tasks (facilitation, data collection, portfolio management, evaluation) and the resources to mobilise (human resources, digital tools and facilitation frameworks).

Mapping local capacities

The second workshop focused on operational organisation. Dijon presented its transition-governance system, structured around human, legal, technical and financial capacities. Gabrovo and Matosinhos then applied this analytical grid to inventory their own resources. The exercise highlighted converging needs: cross-departmental governance, multi-year budget security and real-time monitoring tools.

Toward a joint review

A final meeting, held on 17 June 2025, enabled each city to report on project progress and assess the method's relevance to its specific challenges. The conclusions will challenge Dijon Métropole's vision and, where necessary, refine the Handbook.

Tangible added value

By testing its tools, Dijon ensures that its framework remains robust, transferable and adaptable. Feedback from the twin cities challenges the approach and pinpoints the adjustments needed to guarantee its resilience. These workshops thus form an essential link in the project's longevity: turning a local experience into a European reference ready to inspire other territories on the path to climate neutrality.





The Handbook, a tool for successful territorial cooperation

The result of two years of knowledge-building within the FAASST project, the Handbook gathers—into a single volume—the method for designing and steering the transition at metropolitan scale. Originally created to guide the team tackling this transition, it is now intended for all Dijon Métropole departments—and even for European authorities keen to structure, finance and manage an ambitious climate-and-biodiversity strategy.

A six-module architecture

Structured around six Work Packages (WP1 to WP6), the guide unpacks the process step by step: preparing a shared diagnosis; setting strategic objectives; running the governance bodies; building project portfolios; establishing a monitoring-and-evaluation system; and installing continuous-improvement loops. Each module details the methodological sheets, required human resources, recommended digital tools, and the legal or financial instruments that can be mobilised.

Co-operation as the common thread

The Handbook shows that a Climate Plan can succeed only through open, collaborative governance: technical committees, thematic workshops, a Metropolitan Climate-and-Biodiversity Pact, groups of elected champions and citizen platforms form an ecosystem where every stakeholder has a place. The proposed management matrix clarifies roles, timelines and indicators, guaranteeing consistent action and aligned budgets.

A tool built to last

Beyond the formal close of FAASST, the Handbook will remain the methodological touchstone for territorial action; it is already powering the authority's ramp-up as it organises operational steering.





FAASST, a project designed to last

Since its launch, the FAASST project has stood out for its determination to anchor Dijon Métropole's transition in the long term. Aligned with Europe's climate-neutrality goals, the programme has laid the foundations for an evolving, measurable system capable of delivering results well beyond the current decade—through project portfolios, cooperation initiatives, the Climate & Biodiversity Contract, the Territorial Investment Plan and the SEM Énergies public-private company.

Governance taking root

The Metropolitan Climate & Biodiversity Contract, signed in September 2024 with an initial group of some twenty public and private partners—and set to be strengthened by a new wave this autumn—gives visibility to actions contributing to adaptation and mitigation, while bringing territorial cooperation projects to the fore.

Lasting tools that drive action

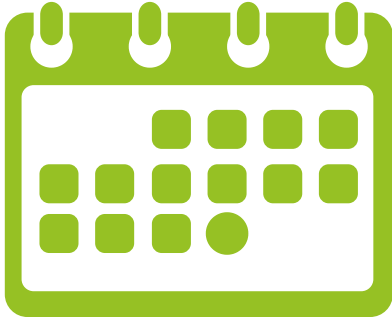
To turn strategy into concrete achievements, Dijon Métropole has equipped itself with instruments designed to endure. The SEM Énergies mixed-ownership company, created in 2025, aims to build a portfolio of roughly 350 GWh per year in renewable-energy projects (photovoltaic and heat). At the same time, the Energy-Climate Platform collects and analyses real-time data on the territory's energy consumption, production and greenhouse-gas emissions, providing a shared compass for guiding investments and measuring the collective impact of actions.

Continuous European learning

Dijon regularly exchanges with European cities—not only its twin cities, Gabrovo and Matosinhos, but also others working on transition-finance structures such as Bristol, Lund and Leuven. By testing its methods against those of its peers, Dijon strengthens the robustness of the solutions developed under FAASST—solutions that will sustain the effort beyond the project's formal timeline.

Heading into the next decade

By building an ecosystem of committed partners, the FAASST approach has greatly enriched the framing of the Climate City Contract and will allow the work to continue over the coming years within a clear, structured framework.



Agenda

17 June 2025

Last exchange with the twin cities : Closing session with exchanges on the method and common recommendations. The conclusions will feed into the structuring of actions.

26 June 2025

Vote on the updated Climate Plan: The Metropolitan Council will vote on the update of the plan, incorporating the improvements and recommendations obtained during the FAASST programme and during the development of the Climate City Contract. Adoption will set the operational course until 2030.

June/July 2025

Co-operation project « Global Mobility » : Dijon Métropole, the CHU and the UBE are working on the development of a co-operation project dedicated to decarbonising travel in the CHU and UBE area. Objective : finalise, by autumn, a common roadmap for 2026-2028.

July 2025

Legal establishment of SEM Energies.

3rd October 2025

Annual meeting of the Metropolitan Climate and Biodiversity Contract with all signatories.

The FAASST project continues on FAASST.eu