

CITIES2030 SUMMER COURSE, A MEETING PLACE FOR MISSION CITIES

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From 14 to 16 July, the Naider team participated in the fourth edition of the [citiES 2030 Summer Course](#), which was held in Santander as part of the Menéndez Pelayo International University's (UIMP) summer programme. This key event focused on the exchange of ideas and experiences regarding the European Mission for Cities and the transformative role of cities in addressing climate and social challenges.

Day 1: Climate Agreements and Urban Leadership

On the opening day, there was institutional participation from Gema Igual (Mayor of Santander), Matilde Carlón Ruiz (Vice-Chancellor of the UIMP), Julio Lumbreras (Director of [citiES 2030](#)) and María García Rodríguez ([Climate KIC](#)). During the first session, notable figures such as Marcos Ros Sempere (MEP) and Thomas Osdoba ([NetZeroCities](#)) discussed the role of cities in the European ecological transition.

A particular highlight was the presentation and signing of the **Bilbao Climate Agreement**, through which the city formally joined the European Cities Mission alongside Viladecans. This milestone marks an important step forward in the process led by Bilbao City Council's Sustainability Department, [with technical support from Naider](#). We would like to congratulate Nora Abete, Víctor Trimiño and Mikel González Vara on their commitment and leadership in this initiative.

The day included presentations of projects such as **EU CINCO 2.0**, which aims to integrate circularity, embedded carbon and just transition criteria into the implementation of the Mission. The day ended with the EuroMisión 2025 session, in which our colleague Aitor Mingo presented the work carried out with Bilbao City Council to design its green infrastructure as a climate adaptation and environmental health improvement tool.





Day 2: Funding, polarisation and new narratives

On the second day, Borja Barragué ([CSIC](#)) led a discussion on **depolarisation and climate action**, moderated by Carlos Mataix ([itdUPM](#)) and Leonela Gulizia (citiES 2030). This session emphasised the importance of cities as platforms for dialogue and collaborative action in addressing the climate crisis.

Subsequently, **European financing instruments** were discussed, with representatives from Energy Cities, ICLEI, EY, GFI Spain, the Laudes Foundation, and other key stakeholders in attendance. The effects of the new European political scenario on the future of the Green Deal, Horizon Europe, the Social Climate Fund and other initiatives were explored.

Three **sectoral dialogues** were also held during the conference, focusing on the decarbonisation of buildings, electric mobility and urban circularity. Two parallel sessions were also held: one on the **communication and narratives of the Mission** and another on **financing for climate change adaptation**, in which our colleague, Iván de Torres, participated.







Day 3: Collaborative Innovation and Urban Challenges

On the final day, the focus was on the Innovation **Laboratory of the URBANEW-EMC3 project**, which was promoted in conjunction with citiES 2030. Using the **KiteLab** methodology, experts and institutional representatives collaborated to create concrete, testable and scalable solutions to urban climate-neutrality challenges. Our colleague Aitor Mingo contributed to this event, drawing on Naider's experience of collaborative processes that impact cities.



