Climate Governance and Latest Trends from the Eurocities Pulse Survey

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Taking the pulse of European mayors



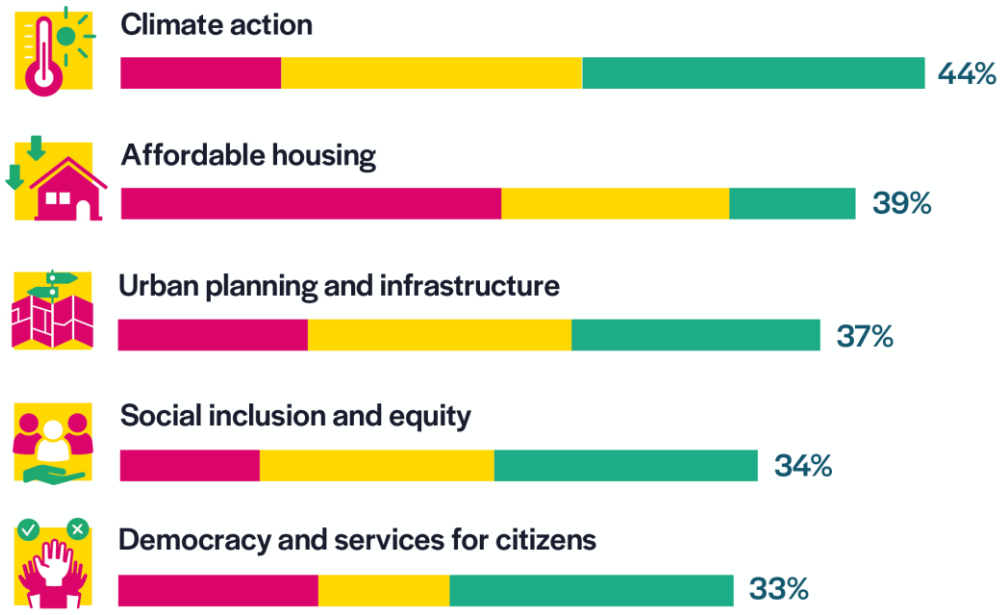
The **Eurocities Pulse Mayors Survey** is the flagship annual survey carried out across the broad membership of Eurocities, which brings together **most of the major European cities**, representing over **150 million people** all over Europe.

Drawing on **88 responses** from leaders **among Eurocities' 221 member cities** across Europe, the fourth edition aims to once again 'take the pulse' of mayors, gauging their perceptions of major topics on the agendas of European and local leaders.

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In 2026, climate action remains the top priority for mayors:

- **44% selected it among their key priorities.**
- However, compared with previous years, the share of mayors selecting climate action as their single top priority has **fallen from 15% to 8%, as other issues gain prominence.**
- Mayors are expanding urban greening to cool neighbourhoods, accelerating energy-efficient building renovation, enhancing biodiversity and improving air quality.
- Many highlight the need to work with private industry, research centres and public utilities to **unlock investment in climate neutrality.**
- As cities step up their own action, **mayors are urging EU policy makers to keep climate ambition high on their agenda.**

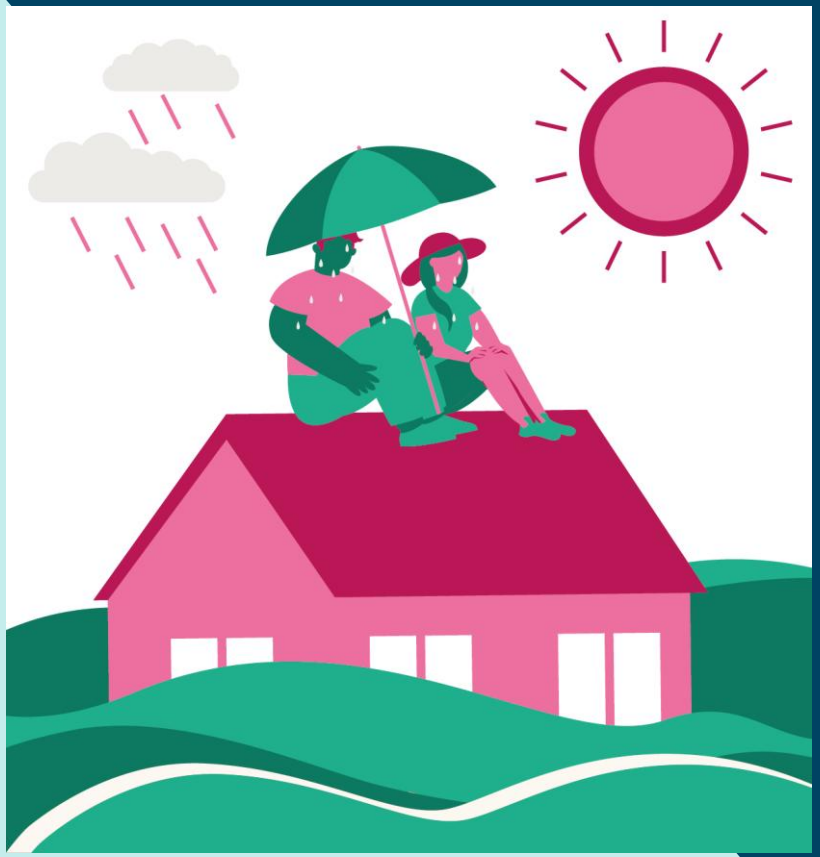


DATA FROM THE EUROCITIES PULSE MAYORS SURVEY 20

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How mayors expect the EU to support them in meeting their priorities:

- When it comes to climate action, **city leaders repeat their call for faster and larger-scale access to climate finance.**
- Compared to 2025, **mayors require funding that brings together different sectors**, from energy and mobility to housing, water and public space.
- They **need more support to deliver climate adaptation** measures such as flood protection, cooling strategies, water resilience and nature-based solutions.
- Mayors also **want the EU regulatory environment to better support local delivery**. They **call for simpler rules, less bureaucracy and more flexibility** to design solutions that reflect local needs.

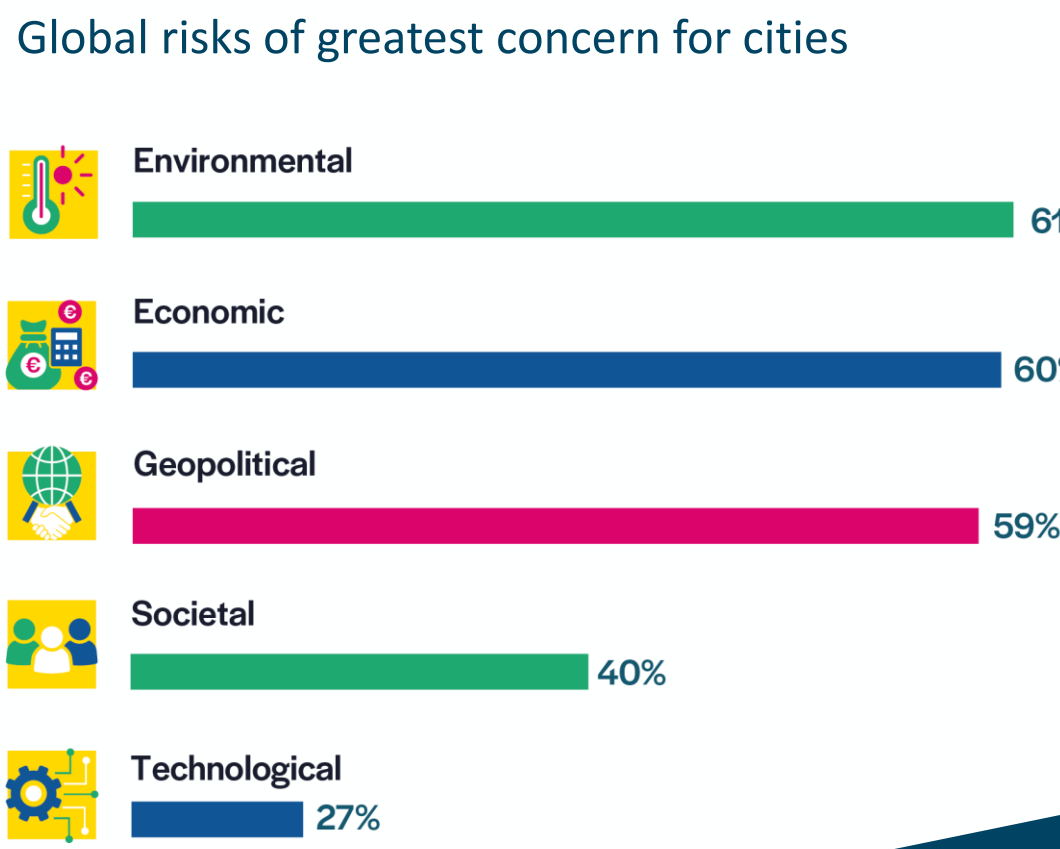


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DATA FROM THE EUROCITIES PULSE MAYORS SURVEY 2026

Mayors are most concerned about environmental risks

- **Environmental risks come first**, cited by 61% of cities, when responses are organised using the World Economic Forum's Global Risks categories.
- Environmental **risks are dominated by floods, heatwaves, droughts and sea-level rise**. Mayors link these directly to **housing, poverty, health, inequality and pressure on public services.**
- In practice, **climate risks quickly become social and economic pressures** for cities – from damaged assets and stretched budgets to unequal impacts on vulnerable groups.



DATA FROM THE EUROCITIES PULSE MAYORS SURVEY 20

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Working with other cities to promote the climate transition is mayors' second priority for diplomacy in 2026.

Cities remain strongly committed to climate action. They continue to work together on solutions, defend its place on the EU agenda and push for the tools needed to turn ambition into local investment and implementation.



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DATA FROM THE EUROCITIES PULSE MAYORS SURVEY 2026

Position paper on the **revision of the EU Governance Regulation**

- **We still struggle with connecting climate targets and plans to implementation and investment.**
- **Cities** are expected to deliver a significant share of the climate transition, but **national climate and energy planning does not always sufficiently reflect their responsibilities and needs**.
- One of our main recommendations: **make National Energy and Climate Plans much more closely connected** to what is happening at local and regional level.
- We are **calling for a stronger territorial dimension in national plans, together with permanent, meaningful dialogue between different levels of government.**

CITIES NEED TO BE INVOLVED WHEN PRIORITIES, IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCING DECISIONS ARE BEING SHAPED.

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The Eurocities Pulse Mayors Survey 2026

FULL REPORT:

The Eurocities Pulse Survey on climate resilience in cities:

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Thank you

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