Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate, Milan

Themes of the webinar: Deliberative processes
Date: 10 Aprile 2024

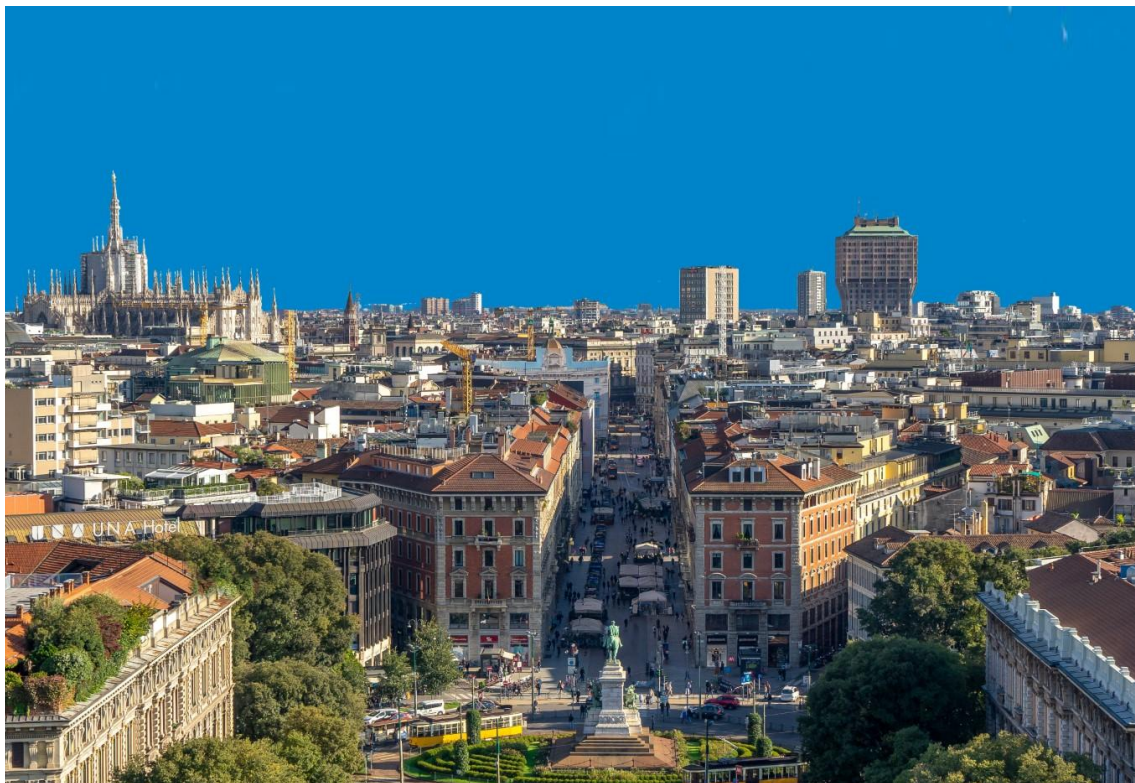## Municipality of Milan in data

- Around **1.4mln** of inhabitants of which **~300.000** foreigners
- **2°** most populated city in Italy after Rome
- The city cover an area of **181.8 km²**
- Divided in 40 neighbourhoods grouped in **9 zones** (Municipi)

data source: https://sisi.comune.milano.it/

THE CONTEXT
Air and Climate Plan (Piano Aria e Clima - PAC)

Approved by the Milan City Council in February 2022

It is structured into **49 plan Actions** divided in **5 Areas**

Area 1 - Healthy and inclusive Milan: a clean, fair, open and inclusive city

Area 2 - Connected and highly accessible Milan: a city that moves sustainably, flexibly, actively and safely
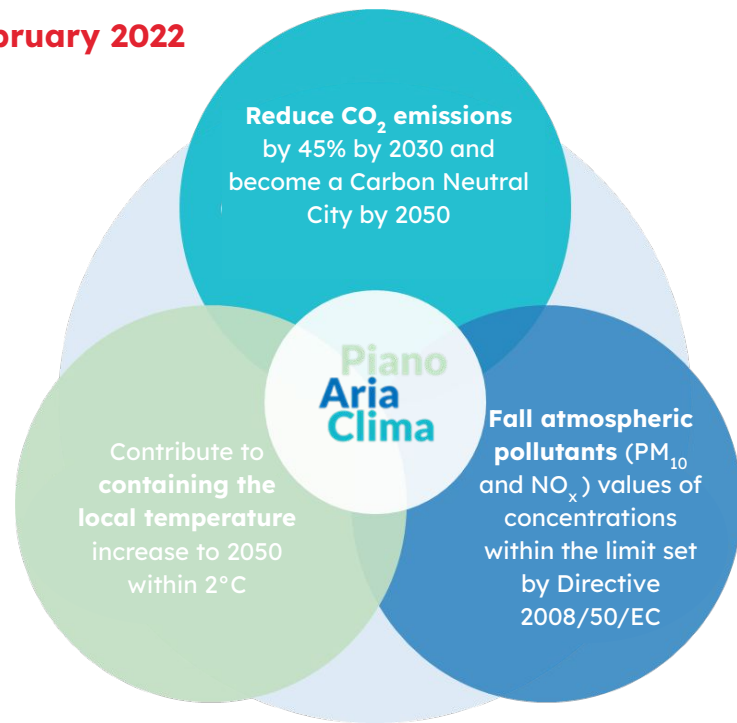
Area 3 - Positive energy Milan: a city that consumes less and better

Area 4 - Cooler Milan: a greener, cooler and more liveable city that adapts to climate change

Area 5 - Conscious Milan: a city that adopts conscious lifestyles

Reduce CO$_2$ emissions by 45% by 2030 and become a Carbon Neutral City by 2050

Contribute to **containing the local temperature** increase to 2050 within 2°C

Piano Aria Clima

Fall atmospheric pollutants (PM$_{10}$ and NO$_x$) values of concentrations within the limit set by Directive 2008/50/EC

PAC - Area 5
"Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate" Action

- **Permanent civic participation body** created to give citizens a voice on activities concerning the fight against climate change, air quality and ecological transition until **2030**
- **It accompanies the implementation and evaluation of the Municipality's actions**, with reference to their detailed definition and implementation described in the **PAC.**
- Each year is composed of **90 new citizens** drawn by lot to represent the city's population
- The recommendations and suggestions emerging from the Assembly are manner to The Municipality which is committed to responding in a timely

FASE 0: CONSTITUTION OF THE CITIZENS' GROUP

FASE 1: PILOT YEAR OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY 2023

FASE 2: FULL-SCALE ACTIVITIES OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY 2024

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh6MiiLOdDU

milano **cambia** aria

Lesson learned

REPRESENTATIVENESS

- **Sensitivity level to the topic should be consider as variable**
- **Youngest bracket (16-20) is hard to involve**
- **The 'drop-out' rate is high**
  - expected commitment underestimated compared to personal burdens
  - specific family and work difficulties/needs to to be addressed that are not always known in advance

ENGAGEMENT OF CITIZEN

- **Feeling of not being indispensable** for the success of public policies
- **Language/relational difficulties** due to different social backgrounds

DESIGN OF ACTIVITIES

- **Bimonthly frequency**
  - **insufficient** to enter into the process logic
  - **requested more opportunities for learning** and deepen the topics
- Structure a dedicated handover time that allows citizens to build on what other fellow citizens have done in the past
- **Plurality of voices** in providing information and education on the Assembly topics is a key requirement to ensure a full understanding of the topics and broaden the vision on the issues

Political recommandations

The recruitment phase is crucial for the success of the course and takes time

- it should begin at least 4 months in advance
- both questionnaire and individual interviews should be consider as part of the process

The dialogue relations between governance and the Assembly's activities

- defining and formalising its role and boundaries.
- Include local priorities in the work of the Assembly by setting a direct relationship with the administrative subdivision

A range of tools and strategies should be considered to ensure **proper engagement and inclusion for the weaker and less interested groups**

- 'register of interested citizens', where citizens can self-nominate as possible complement of the draw
- division of the youth group into two bracket 16-20 and 21-25
- provision of 'reserve' citizens to replace those who drop out
- removing as many obstacles to participation as possible by providing services (babysitting, transport tickets, etc.)

Structure the **mechanism and criteria for monitoring** the Assembly's activities, both involving internally and external bodies

Thank your for your attention!