

Solution package 6: Urban Orchestrator

Financial approaches for the upscaling strategies

Session Summary

The fourth session focused on a challenging topic: understanding how much it truly costs to develop a PCED—and how to replicate such efforts at scale. Led by Philippe Fournard (BlueSight), Carola Bosio (R2M), and Etienne Vignali (SPL), the session provided a platform to discuss a first draft of cost estimations based on Lyon’s template. The discussion acknowledged the complexity of this task, given the significant variation in local context and cost structures. Nonetheless, cities took steps to examine the financial components that define their PCEDs and identified key financial gaps that must be addressed ahead of the upcoming deliverable update (D5.3) due in late-2025.

Common Challenges

- **Data Limitations & Context Sensitivity:** Local circumstances—such as building typologies, climate conditions, and governance models—create major disparities across cities. While Lyon’s template provides a valuable starting point, it does not necessarily align with all PCED strategies or energy mixes. For example, Charleroi is focusing on developing a district heating network, a solution not considered in Lyon’s model. This highlights the need for adaptable frameworks rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **Incomplete or Estimated Figures:** Not all cost categories are fully known. While some cities, like Lyon, were able to estimate annual costs for energy infrastructure and staffing, others—such as Porto—are still exploring how to account for costs related to digital platforms or community energy models.

Main Takeaways

- **Lyon’s Draft Model as a Reference:** The Lyon estimation file includes total investment costs, public and private financing breakdowns, and contextual justifications for refurbishment actions. This model helped frame the conversation on financial gaps and replication assumptions.
- **Cost Estimation Anchors:** Cities are encouraged to estimate investment needs using standardized units—such as €/m² for refurbishment or €/Wp for PV installations—to enable cross-city comparisons and adaptations.
- **Replicability is a Goal, Not a Given:** The group agreed that replication costs can’t be directly copied from one pilot to another. Instead, each city must extract relevant parameters and re-contextualize them. The exercise is more about identifying what can be transferred and what must be locally tailored.

