



# Transition Cities: Bridging the Gap between Individual Projects and High-level political aspiration

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# Introduction



## Current Situation

- Europe municipalities are tackling climate change
- Projects are often stand-alone, uncoordinated and isolated
- Gap between grass roots projects and high level policy as expressed by signatories to the Covenant of Mayors

***“the whole of this low carbon endeavour amounts to far less than the sum of its parts.”***

## Ambition

- Policy approach that addresses shortcomings and helps cities and regions chart a path for low carbon transition
- Transition Cities aims to:
  - \* develop a cluster methodology; use social network analysis to map into a standardised approach. Visualise a city network
  - \*to develop a clear methodology for defining challenge-led demonstrator programmes

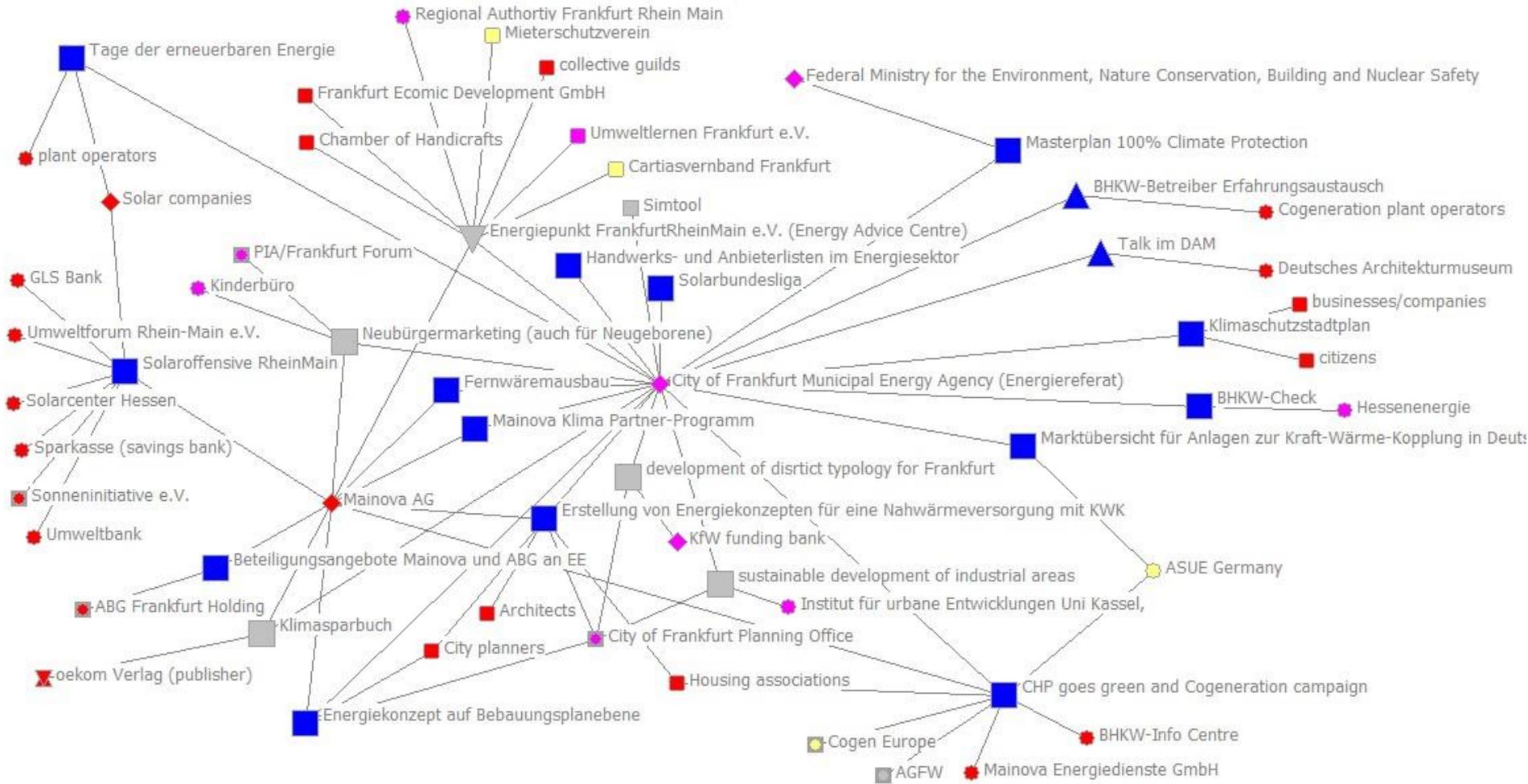
# Developing Challenge-led Programmes



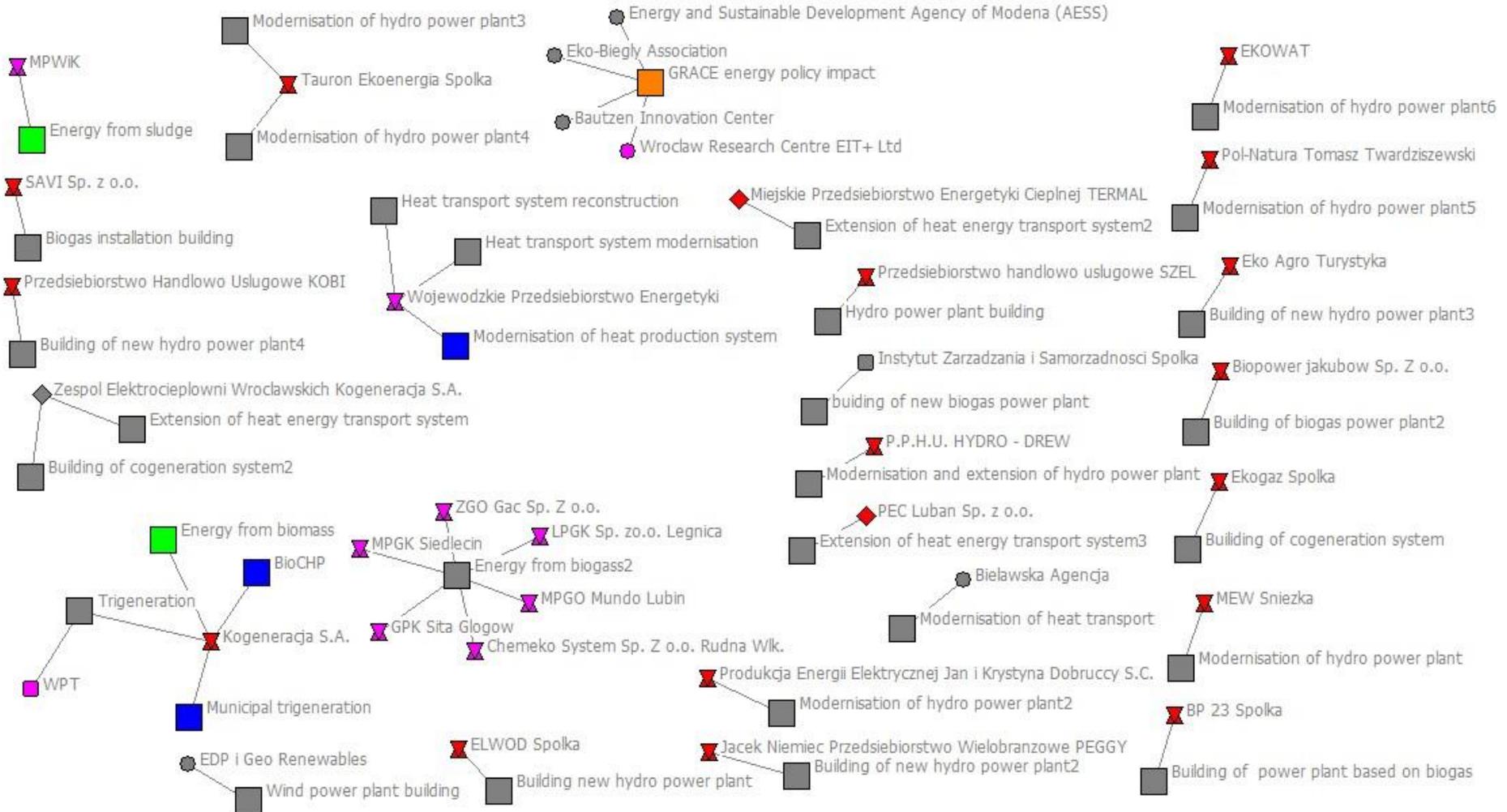
## Background

- Climate-KIC is a programme of European Institute of Innovation and Technology(EIT)
- Transition Cities involves Birmingham Bologna, Budapest, Castellon, Frankfurt, Modena, Valencia and Wroclaw.
- It is an innovation project that:
  1. Focuses on more comprehensive approaches to develop low carbon clusters
  2. Studies the types of wide-ranging initiatives that cities have already taken
- Public authorities begun to recognise the **limitations of a traditional project approach** and moved towards more comprehensive, challenge-led programmes. Some looking to more clustered approaches.

# Frankfurt Energy Networks Transition Cluster



# Wroclaw Energy Networks Transition Cluster



# Challenge-led demonstrators

Cluster approach and mapping tool of potential use to all cities. Combine with challenge led demonstrators.

Real experience on the ground is driving public authorities to recognise the limitations of a traditional project approach and moving towards more comprehensive programmes. 5 case studies all linked to part of a cluster.

Transition to CHP in Frankfurt

The Energy Fund in Emilia Romagna

Challenges of Birmingham's Housing Stock

Shifting Patterns of Mobility in Wroclaw

Bicycle Systems in Valencia and Castellon



# Challenge-led Programmes: Common Features



- Comprehensive programmes tackle major, low carbon issues
- A set of common elements:
  - ✓ Agreement that a broad type of initiative is required
  - ✓ Cross party political leadership
  - ✓ Engagement of a wide range of stakeholders
  - ✓ Willingness to innovate
  - ✓ Preparedness to break from business as usual

# Significance for ESIF 2014-2020



- All ESIF programmes have a large, low carbon element.
- Danger of piecemeal fragmentation and isolated projects that have little wider impact.

## **Transition Cities is suggesting that:**

- Projects should focus on a clear challenge that helps to build a critical mass of activity
- A challenge-led demonstrator approach is the way to get high value and real impact from low carbon ESIF programmes.
- Linking to clusters, this is the road to strategic transitions