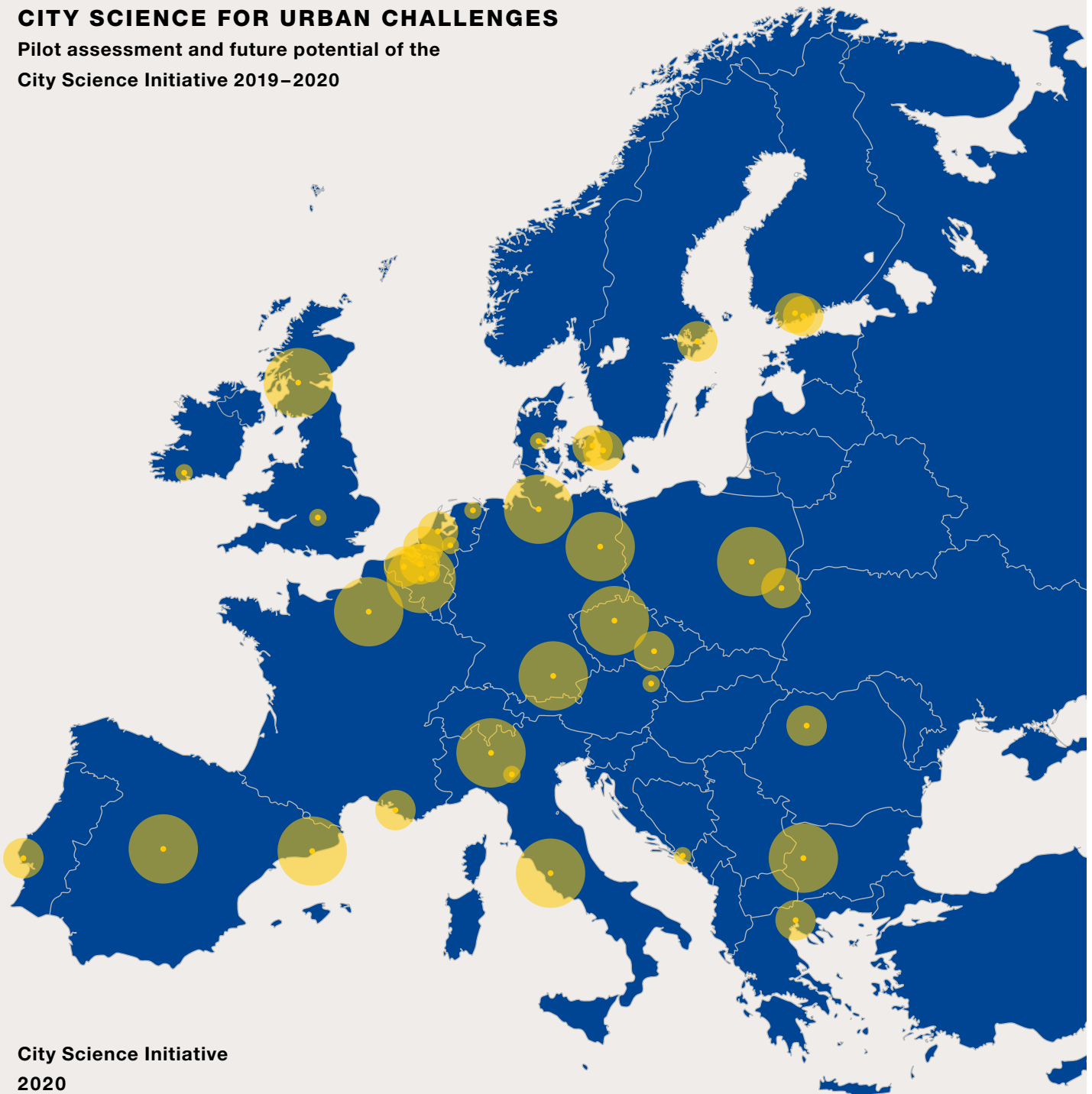




PRESS STATEMENT

CITY SCIENCE FOR URBAN CHALLENGES

Pilot assessment and future potential of the
City Science Initiative 2019–2020



**PRESS
STATEMENT**

September 23rd,
2020

**CITIES CALL FOR MORE EUROPEAN
RESEARCH COOPERATION ON COVID-19
AND CHALLENGES AHEAD**

European cities call for improved connections between science and policy as they are dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on their cities. As global urbanization continues, the role of cities in tackling today's global challenges also grows. Cities call to improve the relevancy of European research for their challenges, ranging from health to climate and socio-economic issues.

An extensive report called 'City Science for Urban Challenges', based on the experiences of 35 cities collaborating within the European City Science Initiative, published on behalf of the City of Amsterdam and 5 leading cities, describes the needs that cities have to make better use of available research. As the complexity of social challenges grows, the importance of access to research also grows. For example, the implementation of the Green Deal – which will have severe consequences on the local level as well – can only be done effectively if it is supported by strong cooperation between research and policy.

One of the findings of the report is that public administrations and science do not always effectively collaborate. Cities ask for more support in translating the findings of European research into applicable solutions.

Cities also have issues with the availability of data. The absence of attention in the EU for local data on COVID-19 is just one example where the lack of data is seriously impacting the possibility to make fact-based policies. This is especially important in times of crisis.

The cities call for stronger supporting instruments to improve cooperation between themselves, universities and the Commission and to improve the uptake of research on the local level.

You can find the report through this weblink:

<https://openresearch.amsterdam/nl/page/63027/city-science-for-urban-challenges>

The CSI network consists of 35 cities. The letter is sent on behalf of the Mayors of the leading cities Amsterdam, Cluj-Napoca, Hamburg, Paris, Reggio Emilia, Thessaloniki.

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