



**SUPPORTING STRUCTURES MAKE  
THE COVENANT A REALITY FOR ALL**



**Covenant  
of Mayors**

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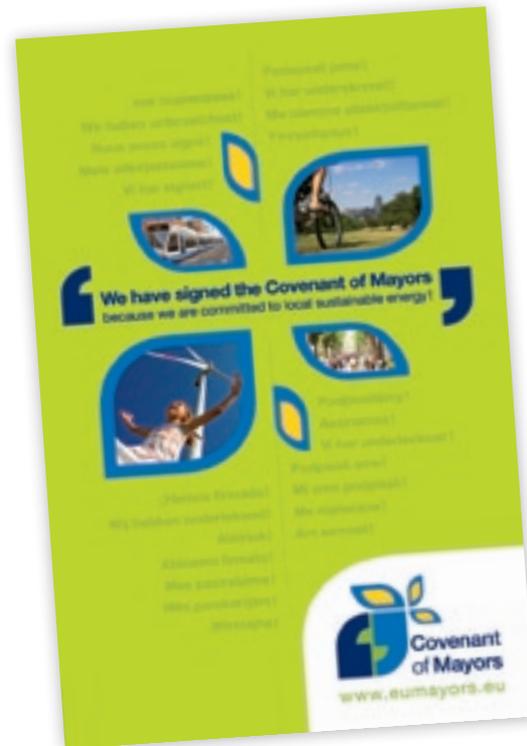
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# AN EXAMPLE OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE & CO-OPERATION

Thanks to the **Covenant of Mayors** initiative, the European Commission together with local and regional authorities is leading in the fight against climate change. Signatories of the Covenant are going beyond the European energy and climate goals by making a unilateral commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in their territories by more than 20 % by 2020. For hundreds of municipalities, committed to these objectives, technical and financial assistance provided by Supporting Structures is critical.



**Supporting Structures provide essential support for Covenant Signatories and are key allies of the Covenant of Mayors Office. Therefore they are recognised by the European Commission as indispensable actors and main contributors to the success of the initiative.**

Regions, provinces, agglomerations as well as national energy agencies, and associations of local authorities have joined forces to support the Covenant of Mayors.

In addition, by joining the initiative, those Structures enlarge the family of actors involved, which is crucial if the European Union is to meet its Energy & Climate objectives: **reducing its overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to at least 20 % below 1990 levels by 2020.**



# MAKING THE COVENANT A REALITY FOR ALL

More than half of the signatories have joined the Covenant of Mayors via Supporting Structures. Regions, provinces, as well as networks and associations of local authorities provide a vital link to all municipalities and ensure that this European initiative is also accessible for smaller municipalities.

## PROVINCE OF HUELVA (SPAIN)

### **Hundreds of Spanish mayors signing the Covenant**

In September 2009, the Province of Huelva organised the “1<sup>st</sup> European Conference for the Promotion of Local Actions to Combat Climate Change”. The event was a huge success culminating in the signature of the Covenant of Mayors by 193 Spanish mayors. In addition, the Province of Huelva, the Region of Andalusia and four other provinces became Supporting Structures.



## PROVINCE OF CHIETI (ITALY)

### **An effective promotional campaign!**

In its role as a Supporting Structure, the Province of Chieti undertook extensive promotional activities of the Covenant of Mayors within the region. As a result of this campaign, all 104 mayors of the province signed the Covenant of Mayors during a prestigious ceremony held in the municipality of Lanciano.

With the technical support of A.L.E.S.A. – Local Agency for Energy of the Province of Chieti, those 104 municipalities are now working hard to surpass the EU’s CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target of 20 % by 2020.



## RHINE-NECKAR METROPOLITAN REGION (GERMANY)

### Business support for local actors

Together with the City of Heidelberg, one of the first Covenant signatories, the Metropolitan Region of Rhine-Neckar organised a Covenant of Mayors conference: at this occasion, a dozen German mayors joined the initiative. In parallel to its awareness raising campaign, the Region also intends to accompany these signatories in their commitment. Recently, the Region set up an Energy Efficiency Business incubator to promote public-private partnerships in the field of sustainable energy. Projects such as district heating from geothermal sources, zero-emission buildings and a Climate Protection Congress are in the pipeline.



Mobilising and involving local stakeholders and citizens is crucial for cities and towns to achieve their objectives. In close relation with Supporting Structures, Covenant signatories commit themselves to organise Local Energy Days to raise awareness and encourage these stakeholders and citizens to be active.

## PROVINCE OF ALMERIA (SPAIN)

### European Sustainable Energy Week: a huge interest

Within the Province of Almeria many of the municipalities are already Covenant of Mayors signatories. In order to promote the initiative, the province has chosen to target citizens. During the European Sustainable Energy Week the Province of Almeria with the technical office for climate change mitigation assisted the municipalities to organise



conferences, workshops and activities to get local stakeholders and citizens acquainted with the subject of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

# ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATION & TERRITORIAL COHESION

By connecting the Covenant of Mayors' objectives to local policies and priorities as well as mobilising key actors at local, regional and, national levels Supporting Structures reinforce the institutional co-operation and regional development.

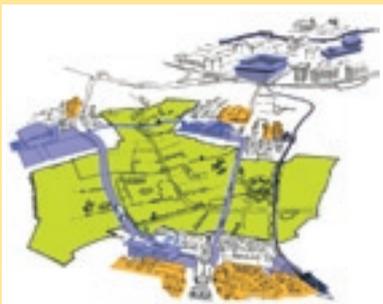
Active involvement of sub-national authorities as Supporting Structures encourages a new, more effective governance model based on bottom-up needs, stakeholder participation and strong co-operation between different administrative levels.

## RENNES-MÉTROPÔLE (FRANCE)

### Working together creates synergies

Rennes-Métropole is a Metropolitan Area comprising 37 municipalities. It became the first French Supporting Structure and offers its municipalities direct assistance in the development and implementation of SEAPs.

In addition, Rennes-Métropole organises working groups on various topics such as housing, public buildings, lighting or transport, to trigger synergies and common initiatives between the municipalities.



## ZEALAND REGION (DENMARK)

### Business support for local actors

In its regional climate strategy, the Region of Zealand and all 17 municipalities of the area have fixed a common target of 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020 – providing a good basis for a co-operation in the Covenant of Mayors.

Hence, the Region of Zealand, together with the Local Governments Regional Council representing the 17 municipalities, became a Supporting Structure. This co-operation is crucial for implementing initiatives that will make this area of more than 800,000 inhabitants meet its climate objectives.



## PROVINCE OF ANDALUSIA (SPAIN)

### All public administrations work together within the Covenant of Mayors

The Region of Andalusia together with all of its eight provinces and the Federation of Andalusian Municipalities and Provinces (FAMP) has set up a joint committee to encourage municipalities to join this exceptional initiative. Each partner has a specific role defined in a protocol signed by all parties.

Andalusia, the first European Region to become a Supporting Structure coordinates the provinces' participation, has already completed the emissions inventory for each municipality and plans to co-finance their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP).

The eight provinces, all Supporting Structures, promote the initiative, provide technical and financial support for the elaboration of the SEAPs and help organise public events. The FAMP ensures the promotion of the Covenant to hundreds of its members.

Such a strong multi-level co-operation is paying off as many Andalusian mayors have signed-up to the Covenant of Mayors, allowing them joint investment planning and application for funding in the future.

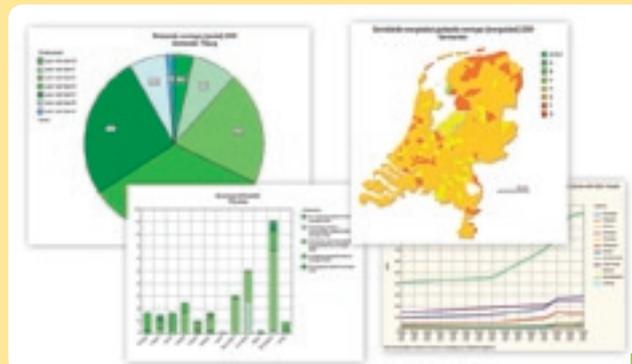


## NL AGENCY (NETHERLANDS)

### Specific monitoring tools for municipalities

NL Agency (formerly known as SENTERNOVEM), is the national energy agency of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. In its capacity to promote innovation and sustainable development for several Dutch Ministries they have supported local governments with their energy and climate policies for over 15 years. In the Netherlands all provinces and over 80 % of all municipalities have set up climate policies and action plans. This is due to a Climate Covenant between the municipalities and provinces with several Ministries.

Through this agreement and among other initiatives, municipalities committed to the Covenant of Mayors can apply for subsidies in order to implement actions to fulfil their objectives.



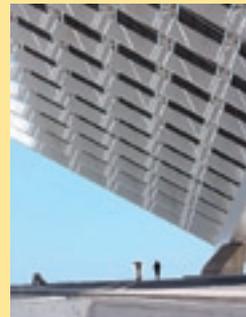
# PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

By investing or mobilising financial resources, Supporting Structures unlock the local potential for sustainable, low-carbon growth and jobs. Supporting Structures are beneficiaries of Structural Funds and other regional or national funding. Therefore, regions and provinces as Supporting Structures can set the right priorities and impetus for sustainable energy investments.

## PROVINCE OF BARCELONA (SPAIN)

### **Institutional co-operation pays off**

The Barcelona Provincial Council has applied a specific methodology and financed the development of SEAPs in the province's municipalities. The agreement signed by the province with each Covenant signatory specifies the co-operation between the parties. The strong collaboration has paid off. This is demonstrated by the first technical assistance offered by the ELENA facility for a project proposed by the Province of Barcelona together with the signatories. The € 500 million investment programme is for a large-scale



public building refurbishment, installing photovoltaic panels and retrofitting public lighting systems. Taking into account that municipalities in the province have limited capacity to invest, the programme will be developed via public private partnerships (PPPs) such as renting public buildings' roofs to private investors.

## PIEDMONT REGION (ITALY)

### Making green use of the European Regional Development Fund



Piedmont was the first Italian region to become an official Supporting Structure. It has identified energy and environment policies as a strategic priority in view of the achievement of the

“3x20” objectives. Such goals are pursued through a wide range of actions including legislative, economical, financial and informative actions.

The 2007-2013 ERDF Regional Operation Programme funds total over one billion Euros, out of which some € 270 million are specifically earmarked to sustainability and energy efficiency. The funding covers a large number of measures with the twofold objective of promoting the production of renewable energy and of boosting energy efficiency. Concrete examples include incentives targeting public authorities, among which Covenant signatories, interested to reduce the energy consumption of their public buildings and improve the energy efficiency in social housing but also rationalisation of energy consumption in production systems and support to SMEs for the use of innovation and energy efficiency innovation measures.

## PROVINCE OF ROME (ITALY)

### Subsidies for energy efficiency



The Province of Rome, became a Supporting Structure in 2009, and has put energy efficiency high on its agenda and provided stimulus via subsidies. Besides promoting the initiative among municipalities of the

province, the provincial administration is also committed to providing financial incentives to those municipalities having delivered their SEAPs.

The programme has entailed a positive financial result. With an amount of approximately € 1.9 million in grants in 2009, more than 39 municipal projects have been financed. At a 20 % to 80 % co-financing rate, the programme has resulted in a € 7.8 million total investment. As to the environmental impact, the estimated savings amount to a total of around 900 tonnes of saved CO<sub>2</sub>.

## MOBILISING AND SHARING RESOURCES



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Covenant signatories, especially smaller municipalities often lack the human and financial resources or technical expertise to reach their ambitions. Development of a baseline emissions inventory or SEAPs requires substantial resources, often through external support. Assisted by their provinces or regions as Supporting Structures, such efforts can be shared, and synergies created.

## PROVINCE OF GENOA (ITALY)

### A common baseline inventory for the Province

Apart from Genoa all municipalities in the province have less than 30,000 inhabitants. Not disposing of the necessary human capacities, these small signatories needed technical support. As Supporting Structure the Provincial administration developed a methodology based on IPCC guidelines and certified according to UNI ISO 14064 to measure greenhouse gas emissions. Today, all 67 signatories of the Province can use this methodology.



## NORTH EAST ENGLAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

### A unique region

The North East of England is the only region in Europe to have all local authorities signed up to the Covenant of Mayors, demonstrating unanimously their commitment to work together



on sustainable energy and mitigating climate change.

The Association of North East Councils (ANEC) co-ordinated this regional approach, encouraging all 12 local authorities and supporting them in preparing the SEAPs as well as convening a Covenant of Mayors Support Group. ANEC, through its role as a Supporting Structure for the initiative, has been working with the Climate North-East Partnership and the Energy Savings Trust to train and assist local authorities' experts.

Assisted by ANEC, North East local authorities are taking a region-wide approach to develop areas of joint and collaborative working to deliver on their commitments.

# THE POWER OF NETWORKING TO SHARE GOOD PRACTICES & METHODOLOGIES

## CLIMATE MUNICIPALITIES (SWEDEN)

### Sharing knowledge is the most efficient way

Since the Association decided to support the initiative, more than half of the Climate Municipalities have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors. The Association has not only been promoting the initiative among Swedish municipalities but also facilitates the exchange of experience between local authorities. Through regularly held working groups, municipalities have shared knowledge and developed tools for a SEAP as well as a baseline emissions inventory, a source of inspiration for others.



## CROSS-STRUCTURE COOPERATION

### Capacity building: “Local Climate Change Policies”

A new project co-funded by the German Ministry for Environment enables two Supporting Structures to twin for the transfer of experience in preparing SEAP. Climate Alliance and the Association of Energy-Efficient Cities of Ukraine have joined forces to adapt and translate several tools, used among members of the Climate Alliance, such as the ECORegion and CLIMATE COMPASS, for the Ukrainian environment. They also offer regional capacity building workshops and trainings for Ukrainian municipalities. An important element is to bring Covenant signatories in Germany and Ukraine together: during workshops, study tours and internships Ukrainian cities exchange knowledge with their German counterparts. These activities also intend to influence national policies on the long term, aiming at improvement of legislative framework for the cities.



## LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

### The whole Island to join the Covenant!

Many Maltese local councils have signed-up to the Covenant of Mayors thanks to their network's support. The Local Councils Association (LCA) of Malta has welcomed the European movement since its launch early in 2009. LCA reinforces its promotional activities, opening a specific page on its website and organising a number of meetings for mayors, vice-mayors or municipal experts. Their efforts are paying off and the whole island could soon be part of the Covenant.



## SUPPORTING STRUCTURES: WHO ARE THEY?

“Supporting Structures” are **public administrations, local and regional bodies (e.g. regions, provinces and agglomerations) in a position to provide coordination, strategic guidance, financial and technical support to Covenant signatories within their territory.**

Associations of local and regional authorities have an important role to raise awareness on sustainable energy issues among their members and therefore are also invited to become a Supporting Structure.

**For any further information** or to become a Supporting Structure, please contact: [support@eumayors.eu](mailto:support@eumayors.eu)



**Covenant  
of Mayors**

Committed to local  
sustainable energy

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