Covenant Territorial Coordinators (CTCs) are those public administrations which provide strategic guidance, financial and technical support to municipalities signing up to the Covenant of Mayors.

The data presented here are extracted from a survey launched in December 2014 and targeting the 144 Covenant Coordinators which signed the Covenant of Mayors before December 2013 (at least one year of activity).

This report provides an overview of the activities performed by Covenant Coordinators in the framework of the partnership agreement they have signed with the European Commission.

What can be drawn from the survey?

The Covenant of Mayors can be heralded as a groundbreaking movement, because not only has it fostered the emergence of wide-ranging cooperation platforms at local, regional and European levels, but also because of the substantial boost it has given to multi-level governance in Europe and beyond.

Provinces, regions and other Covenant Coordinators are key to the success of the initiative, notably in terms of:

- the promotion they do of the Covenant in their territory
- increasing the Covenant of Mayors Office capacities by providing decentralised support on the ground and ensuring tailored interaction with thousands of signatories.
- the support provided to signatories including technical assistance for example through the organisation of dedicated workshops, or the development of SEAP-related tools and methodologies.
- mobilising other stakeholders - such as energy agencies, private companies and universities - which can bring customized expertise to local authorities.

Signatories’ access to funding sources is also facilitated by Coordinators. Provinces and regions often earmark funds to implement energy efficiency projects in signatory municipalities, or they bundle small projects to help municipalities reach the threshold required by investors. Regions often act as Managing Authorities of EU Structural Funds and can thus decide to allocate EU funding to Covenant-related activities.

Likewise, Coordinators are the relevant interface to relay Covenant Signatories’ funding and legislative priorities to the European Institutions, thus influencing policy development from the bottom-up. Coordinators are often asked to comment on the barriers and needs to the European Commission (through the yearly survey among others) which helps shape the future of the initiative.

More info: www.covenantofmayors.eu/Covenant-Coordinators

Contact: coordinators@eumayors.eu

---

1 As of December 2014, 162 Coordinators are participating in the Covenant.
Covenant of Mayors Office May 2015
Key numbers

144 Covenant Territorial Coordinators, in 1 year + 7%

13 countries

59
5
3
4
7
18
128
169
321
46
70
44
1

External expertise

This internal team is often seconded by external staff whose expertise is sought for technical tasks. In 72% of the cases, external staff is contracted by Covenant Coordinators to develop the BEI and the SEAP. In some cases, for a single Covenant Coordinator, several organisations might have been contracted. Local and Regional Energy Agencies (LAREAs) are the obvious key allies of Covenant Coordinators. 35% of Coordinators rely on an energy agency for technical support. Consultants are also very much mobilized with 32% of Coordinators using their services in the framework of the Covenant. Universities only make up 14% of the total although their potential for support is considerable.

Financial resources

In general, resources are allocated to the implementation of the Covenant: 60% of Covenant Territorial Coordinators allocate budget, and 37% allocate staff even though there is no budget earmarked specifically for the Covenant.

Overall budget

Overall budget (in Euros) allocated per year to the implementation of the Covenant of Mayors per type of Coordinator (e.g. development and implementation of SEAPs, promotional activities...) – Number and type of Coordinators allocating the following range of budgets.

Human resources

Internal team

78% allocate members of their internal team to Covenant of Mayors activities. Here below you can see the percentage of CTCs and the number of full-time equivalent allocated.
When funds are allocated, 84% of public authorities allocate funds from their own budget, and 28% use 2 or more sources of funding to finance their Covenant of Mayors related activities.

Ways of financing the SEAP implementation of the associated municipalities

- Looking for financing sources for local authorities (e.g. helping them to apply for EU funds...) 59%
- Promoting the use of Energy Performance Contracting at municipal/provincial/regional... 36%
- By using the ERDF funds to finance SEAP development or SEAP implementation 32%
- By co-ordinating joint projects (e.g. submitting an ELENA-EIB proposal which is bundling small...) 25%
- Through the creation of a dedicated fund (call for projects/proposals...) 16%
- Providing subsidies/grants to municipalities 16%
- Promoting innovative financing such as crowdfunding, citizen funds, cooperatives 14%
- Other 7%
- No financing provided 23%

Multiple selections were allowed, so percentages add up to more than 100%.

Examples

Since 2012, the Province of Alicante has allocated more than €300,000 for the development of the Baseline Emission Inventories (BEI) and SEAPs for municipalities. This has led in 2015 to further investment of €8.3 million for the SEAP implementation in 82 municipalities, which will help reduce the energy consumption and therefore the bills of the public administrations.

Many Italian regions also allocated money from their European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) 2007-2013 and/or 2014-2020 to CoM related activities. Region Abruzzo started with a €35 million allocation to energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in local councils. Other regions financed the development of SEAPs, the most recent ones being the Sicily and Campania regions. Others like Veneto, Emilia Romagna, and Piedmont chose to introduce rewarding criteria to municipalities having submitted a SEAP when co-financing sustainable energy projects with ERDF funds.

In Sardinia Region the ‘Smart City-Comuni in Classe A’ programme provides technical and financial support to the 66 municipalities of the 21 pioneer communities. The implementation of the SEAP-related actions are financed thanks to an Urban Development Fund, set up through the JESSICA initiative, to which €33.1 million of the ERDF 2007-2013 have been allocated.

The ELENA-EIB facility is a widely used instrument to finance technical assistance for investment plans in sustainable energy. Many CTCs have bundled projects from dozens of municipalities to reach the requested investment threshold. The latest example comes from Slovakia, Region Prešov and its 14 municipalities, which are investing in energy efficiency in buildings and street lighting.

Another Project Development Assistance (H2020-PDA) facility also helped CTCs secure investment plans (provinces of Teramo, Torino, Matera, Huelva, Girona among others). One of the latest projects in Region Marche aims at mobilising €15.5 million investments in energy efficiency measures for healthcare buildings thanks to Energy Performance Contracting. The region uses a combination of EU funds: the PDA to set up the project and the ERDF to constitute a revolving fund.

ESCOLIMBURG2020, in the Province of Limburg (BE) offers, through a public ESCO, a package of free energy services to municipalities (feasibility study, energy audits, etc) in order to accelerate the energy retrofitting of public facilities. The measures are ambitious with an average of 40% energy saved.

The “Condomini intelligenti”, led by the Metropolitan City of Genova addresses the private residential market with EPC in condomini. Local ESCOs are backed up to 80% through a guarantee fund, while residents can benefit from free energy audits for buildings and energy improvements with no upfront investment.
Overall support to signatories

45% of CTCs fill in the information on the Covenant of Mayors platform for their associated signatories.

For those who do so, close to 50% fill in the administrative information and the technical information i.e. Baseline Emission Inventory and/or SEAP for some or all of their associated signatories.

As regards monitoring reports more than 1/3 of CTCs also takes to filling in the monitoring reports of their associated signatories.

Technical support to signatories

Municipalities often highlight the importance of the role of Covenant Territorial Coordinators, especially medium and small towns. Coordinators primarily help compensate the lack of technical skills and make access to financial resources easier for the municipalities if not directly providing financial resources.

The technical support to signatories can intervene along the whole SEAP development and implementation process. The level of involvement depends mostly on the technical skills and the availability of qualified staff and resources to allocate to the support to municipalities.

For example, 54% organize working groups to discuss the Covenant of Mayors development. When these working groups are organized, the graph below shows the type of stakeholders they are organized for:

- For technical staff: 37%
- For local elected representatives: 54%
- For both: 9%

But other activities carried out can be capacity-building, data collection, Baseline Emission Inventory development, identification of SEAP measures and SEAP development, economic analysis for the SEAP implementation, looking for financial sources, bundling small projects and coordinating the application to a EU programme or to make it more attractive for an ESCO for instance, monitoring the SEAP, and this list is far from exhaustive.

Examples

The Metropolitan City of Turin has developed a web-based application to collect and manage energy data of public buildings, public lighting and facilities in the entire province. This application, ENERCloud, is based on the data-mining system. The tool helps them to collect energy bills and outline the energy status of the analysed facility thanks to a benchmarking feature.

The Province of Barcelona has developed a monitoring system, based on an Excel spreadsheet that is both suitable for bigger cities and small municipalities. It is flexible enough to include estimated or real data and results are presented in an easy to read format. The province also provides specific technical and financial support to signatory municipalities to implement “low cost” measures.

The Province of Venice has developed a support document, defining a common methodology for drafting, implementing and monitoring SEAPs, taking into account the specific provincial context. This guidebook includes the energy potentials in the province as well as specific guidance for the BEI elaboration. The province has also adopted a common web tool (R3EcoGIS) to collect and manage energy data at municipal and provincial levels.

Since 2009, the Region of Andalusia coordinates the 7 provinces’ participation in the Covenant, helps municipalities complete their BEI, and co-finances or helps find financing solutions for municipalities to effectively implement their SEAPs. The 7 provinces, also CTCs, promote the initiative and assist the municipalities in their daily SEAP activities. To date, the regional administration has helped deliver 536 SEAPs, representing 80% of the Andalusian population.

The Technical Chamber of Greece signed agreements, among others with the public electricity and the public gas companies in order to facilitate data collection for municipalities, which is needed for their BEI.

The Metropolitan City of Rome provided support to the 23 signatories of the province in preparing their monitoring reports. Altogether, 597 actions were monitored, of which 17% have already been completed, 43% ongoing and the 40% remaining have not started yet. It also gave the opportunity to municipalities to review their SEAPs and include actions that were not initially included.

The Basque Government, through EVE, its energy agency, used the Covenant of Mayors as the strategic framework to encourage Basque municipalities to have an integrated energy plan. They chose a tailor-made approach and developed 2 programmes, one for more advanced municipalities and the second for preparing municipalities to sign the Covenant. The technical support is given on a one-to-one basis and enables the regional government to better know and understand the local needs. This experience helps develop the regional energy strategy.
Multi-level governance and cooperation with other stakeholders

The following picture shows the numerous interactions between Coordinators and other sub-national public authorities or stakeholders regarding the implementation of the Covenant in their territory. To understand the numbers, for example 49% of CTCs cooperate with associations of municipalities, 48% with energy agencies, 31% with citizens, etc.

Examples

The Province of Limburg organises a climate Parliament with all relevant stakeholders to discuss its provincial strategy. The contribution from external actors can help municipalities find new ideas and solutions.

Region Zeeland in cooperation with Roskilde University carried out the 2nd edition of a 8-module course on Strategic Energy Planning for signatory municipalities.

The Greek working group of Coordinators and Supporters at the initiative of CRES, the national energy agency, includes representatives from central and regional unions of municipalities, the Technical Chamber, Central Macedonia, Crete and Attica regions, the DAFNI network of islands. This forum is useful to exchange, share good practices and have a coordinated national strategy.

The Covenant Club of Catalonia gathers the 4 Catalan provinces Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, Tarragona, municipalities, network of municipalities, energy agencies, region etc. The objectives are to mutualise the competences, reinforce the capacity to apply to EU funds and create synergies with all stakeholders.

VITO, Flemish Institute for Technological Research, conducted an in-depth study commissioned by Flanders Region to make tools available for all Flemish municipalities. The 5 provinces are involved in the steering committee and many consultations have been carried out to fine-tune the tool. It provides pre-filled BEI data in an Excel tool and an inventory of possible actions to be inserted in a SEAP.

The province of Treviso launched an in-depth analysis of the energy use in the residential sector in which the citizens have been actively involved through a survey. Real energy consumption and mobility data have been collected from more than 1,600 families in 7 municipalities and many citizens stated their interest in being involved in the next steps of the SEAP process.

Promotion of the Covenant of Mayors

Covenant Territorial Coordinators are very active in promoting the initiative. More than 92% of respondents selected 2 or more answers below.

Examples

Region Bratislava organised Energy Days to raise awareness on energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and the Covenant of Mayors Initiative.

The Energiochi see each year more than 10,000 pupils in Abruzzo Region take part in an energy contest. Students submit drawings, technical school projects, or videos demonstrating their concepts of sustainable energy. Region Abruzzo invests a lot on energy education as part of its regional energy strategy.

Several CTCs have created a dedicated website, such as the Murcia region, or opted for the social media, such as the Facebook page of the Province of Genoa.