



## Twinning Programme – 2017/2018 Call for provinces and regions

**The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is offering provinces and regions across Europe the opportunity to take part in peer to peer learning exchanges that aim to increase provincial and regional authorities' capacity and knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Applications are open until 15 September 2017.**

### **1. What is the peer-to-peer exchange about?**

This programme offers provinces and regions the possibility to exchange knowledge and experience on the design and implementation of a strategy aiming at making the provincial or regional territory more decarbonized and resilient. It also offers the possibility to discuss and exchange good practices on how provinces and regions acting as Covenant coordinators should devise support schemes for signatories or direct them to existing EU/national support available to them.

Selected applicants are matched one-to-one, allowing them to exchange on common needs and find possible solutions. The aim is to create exchanges that work both ways so that each provincial or regional authority gets new insights and inspiration for their climate and energy actions.

To foster the creation of long-term partnerships between European regional authorities, participants will be required to organise a two-day visit. Participants will be paired according to their climate and geographical features, socio-economic and institutional context, similar interests (full list of criteria available).

### **2. Who can apply?**

The 2017/18 twinning programme for provinces and regions is open to:

- All Covenant Territorial Coordinators (i.e. regions, provinces, counties, ...) in the European Economic Area (EEA), with a priority for:
  - ✓ Applicants that have a large share of signatories in need of support and facing challenges in their SE(C)AP development/implementation
- Non-Covenant of Mayors coordinators in the EEA, under the condition that they will sign up to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 before their twinning visit.



### 3. What do you commit to?

As a participant, you will commit to either **host** a visit or **travel** to your twinned partner.

If you are <b>hosting</b> your partner city, you commit to:	If you are <b>visiting</b> your partner city, you commit to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a 2-day visit (<u>English language is mandatory</u>) between January and June 2018</li> <li>• Invite relevant departments of your local administration, besides the Environment and/or Energy ones;</li> <li>• Invite neighbouring cities and other relevant authorities to take part in an open session during the second day of the visit, to increase replicability of the lessons learned</li> <li>• Define and implement follow-up actions;</li> <li>• Ensure collaboration after the end of exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit the host for a minimum of 2 days (<u>English language is mandatory</u>) between January and June 2018</li> <li>• Prepare a “showcase session” during the visit, presenting the status or future objectives of the climate and energy works;</li> <li>• Define and implement follow-up actions to ensure collaboration after the end of exchange.</li> </ul>

Both participants will commit to:

- ✓ Preparing jointly the visit by co-designing the agenda, identifying topics and arranging the modalities of the visit
- ✓ Preparing a final report at the end of the exchange:  
2 months at the latest after the exchange, a final report will highlight the main results of the exchange, carry out a transferability assessment as well as identify future collaboration options. A template will be provided by the Covenant of Mayors facilitator.

### 4. Why join the twinning programme?

#### ***Knowledge transfer and support; Visibility & Networking***

- By sharing experience in terms of challenges, specific needs and proven solutions with their peer, provincial and regional authorities will identify ways to efficiently design and implement their energy and climate strategies.
- Promotion of their energy and climate actions, locally and on the Covenant of Mayors website as a regional authority committed to delivering on its energy and climate plans and to peer-to-peer exchanges. This may translate into speaking opportunities at Covenant of Mayors and other EU events on energy and climate action.

### 5. What will the Covenant of Mayors provide in terms of funding and support?

Applicants selected for the programme will receive:

- When hosting the visit - **500€** to cover costs related to meeting rooms, catering and local transport.
- When visiting your twinned partner - **710€** to cover travel and accommodation costs
- When hosting a visit - support from the Covenant of Mayors Office to the organisation of the visit (facilitating contacts with visiting delegation, assistance with the preparation of the agenda of the



twinning visit).

- Presence of a twinning facilitator from the Covenant of Mayors Office during the visit

#### **6. How to apply?**

Interested regional/provincial authorities simply need to fill in an application form available at the following link <http://bit.ly/2trYCgk> . After submission, you will receive a confirmation email to the email-address provided in the application. In case you do not receive such confirmation, please contact [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu).

Applications are open until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, with visits taking place between January and June 2018.

Applicants will be selected and matched according to criteria available on the Covenant of Mayors website. Selection results will be announced in November 2017.

Please note that a second and similar call of the twinning programme will be launched in June 2018

#### **7. More information**

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#### **About the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brings together local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing the EU's climate and energy objectives on their territory. This unique bottom-up movement, which started in 2008 with the support of the European Commission, now counts over 6,500 signatories. In 2015, the initiative took on new objectives: the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy steps up the initial CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction commitment and includes adaptation to climate change. Signatory local authorities share a vision for making cities decarbonised and resilient, where citizens have access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

They commit to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP) for 2030 and to implementing local climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. The Covenant of Mayors is managed by a consortium in charge for the overall coordination of the initiative. The consortium is composed of networks of local and regional authorities including Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, CEMR, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE and ICLEI.