

Joint SEAP Option 2

*The case of a group of signatories who collectively commit to
reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020 (shared commitment)*

Since the official launch of the Covenant of Mayors in 2008, a high number of small local authorities have joined the initiative. These small signatories have to make a significant effort in complying with the Covenant requirements for developing and submitting their own Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) within the year following their adhesion. In some cases, they face the problem of lack of human and financial resources to achieve their goal. Moreover it has been recognised that on several occasions a joint approach to the issue of sustainability will allow achieving better results than an isolated one, as in some circumstances opportunities for high-impact actions can be more easily identified within the administrative boundaries of an aggregation of neighbouring small local authorities.

For these reasons, should a group of adjoining Covenant of Mayors' municipalities sharing their territorial boundaries wish to associate and elaborate a single common SEAP, they are now allowed to do so. This new type of joint SEAP (so-called 'option 2') could be of great interest for:

- a group of small- and medium-sized municipalities within the same territorial area (indicatively with less than 10,000 inhabitants each);
- an urban agglomeration, like a metropolis with its suburbs.

Practical aspects

→ Adhesion:

A group of municipalities wishing to elaborate a Joint SEAP Option 2 will need to identify a name, which will be indicated on the adhesion form¹ that each of the signatories will need to subscribe.

In the signatories' restricted area, the group of municipalities will be bundled under ONE single profile, carrying the name chosen for the group.

All the municipalities will appear on the public website as Covenant signatories; however they will be bundled under the name of their group. Similarly, should a SEAP be accepted once analysed, the online catalogue will be displayed per group of signatories, i.e. under the name given to the group.

¹ The adhesion form can be downloaded from the following webpage:
http://www.eumayors.eu/support/fag_en.html?id_fag=60

→ **Coordination:**

The group of Signatories is strongly encouraged to appoint a body / authority responsible for coordinating the work throughout the SEAP development and implementation process. It could be for example one of the most active / advanced municipality among the group, the agglomeration in case of urban areas, or the province/region acting as official Covenant Coordinator.

→ **SEAP development:**

The group of signatories will jointly elaborate the SEAP and, in particular:

- prepare **one Baseline Emission Inventory** for the whole territory covered by the group of signatories;
- set a **shared emission reduction objective (20% as a minimum)** on the basis of the common BEI, within the territory covered jointly by the group of municipalities. This means that Signatory A can plan to achieve a reduction of emissions lower than 20% by 2020, if neighbouring Signatory B commits to a higher reduction which ensures that the joint objective is at least -20%;²
- plan a **single set of actions** to achieve the chosen emission reduction objective. The SEAP should distinguish among the common actions (undertaken by the signatories altogether), and the ones undertaken by individual signatories (if any).

→ **SEAP submission:**

The group of signatories choosing to submit a Joint SEAP Option 2 will submit:

- **one SEAP document**, approved by the municipal council (or equivalent decision making body) of each of the municipalities. In the SEAP document, the specific contribution to the overall plan of each of the municipalities needs to be defined.
- **one SEAP template**, under the online grouped profile.

Note:

Current signatories having signed individually but wishing to submit a Joint SEAP Option 2 are allowed to do so. However, they need to be restructured under a grouped profile and should contact the Covenant of Mayors Office (info@eumayors.eu) in order to carry out the relative procedure.

² Explanatory example of two allowed situations for signatories A and B wanting to reduce their emissions of 20% compared to the Baseline year.

Signatory	Emissions in the Baseline Year (tCO ₂ /a)	Planned CO ₂ emissions in 2020 (tCO ₂ /a) - Reduction objective for 2020 (%)	
		Joint SEAP Option 1/ Standard SEAP	Joint SEAP Option 2
Signatory A	500 t	400 t - 20%	425 - 15%
Signatory B	1000 t	800 t - 20%	775 t – 22.5%

Overview of the different types of SEAPs

	Standard SEAP	Joint SEAP Option 1	Joint SEAP Option 2
	submitted by one signatory³	submitted by a group of signatories	submitted by a group of signatories
20% CO₂ reduction target:	<p>Individual commitment:</p> <p>The signatory commits to reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020 within its own territory.</p>	<p>Individual commitment:</p> <p>The signatories of the group individually commit to reducing emissions by at least 20% by 2020 within their own territories.</p>	<p>Shared commitment:</p> <p>The signatories of the group collectively commit to reducing emissions by at least 20% by 2020 within the territory.</p>
SEAP development:	<p>One Individual SEAP:</p> <p>The signatory prepares a SEAP document, which includes the results of the BEI and a set of actions to be undertaken to reach its emission reduction target.</p> <p>The signatory may be supported by an existing Covenant Territorial Coordinator (CTC).</p>	<p>One Joint SEAP:</p> <p>The signatories of the group prepare all together one SEAP document. This document will contain the results of their respective BEIs (X BEIs for X signatories) and a set of both individual and common actions. For each of the common actions, each of the signatories will calculate its own contribution in terms of emission reductions.</p> <p>The group may appoint a body (existing CTC or else) for the coordination of the SEAP preparation / implementation processes.</p>	<p>One Joint SEAP:</p> <p>The signatories of the group prepare all together one SEAP document. This document will contain the results of the common BEI and a set of actions to be undertaken by the group (individual actions are welcome and their outcome will contribute to the overall reduction objective).</p> <p>The group may appoint a body (existing CTC or else) for the coordination of the SEAP preparation / implementation processes.</p>
SEAP approval:	The signatory approves the SEAP in the municipal council.	All signatories of the group approve the joint SEAP in their respective municipal council.	All signatories of the group approve the joint SEAP in their respective municipal council.
SEAP submission:	The signatory submits its SEAP document and corresponding SEAP template.	All the signatories of the group submit the same joint SEAP document and their own SEAP template (including the results of their own BEI and their actions).	The group of signatories only submits one SEAP template, together with the joint SEAP document, under their shared profile.

³ See on the Covenant website ('Participation' > 'As a local authority') who is eligible to join as signatory. This type of SEAP can also be submitted by a Province or a Region.