

The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream initiative launched by the European Union uniting local and regional authorities in a common voluntary commitment to green economic growth and higher quality of life.

Covenant signatories voluntarily commit to implement actions in energy efficiency and renewable energy leading to at least 20% CO₂ emissions reductions by 2020.

COVENANT OF MAYORS EAST
“Supporting participation of
Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Cities in the Covenant of Mayors”

Main facts

Overall objectives:	The project’s objective is to support the local authorities in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, to improve security of their energy supply, and to allow them to contribute more actively to climate change mitigation.
Specific objectives:	The purpose of the project is to encourage these local authorities to sign the Covenant of Mayors and support them in the preparation and implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). The key objective focuses on an improvement in quality of life thanks to the significant reduction in CO ₂ emissions by the municipalities due to an increase in their renewable energy use and energy efficiency measures.
Beneficiary countries:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan
Main target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities (as existing and potential signatories) • National / Sub-national authorities (as potential Covenant Coordinators) • Networks of local authorities (as existing or potential Covenant Supporters) • Donors and financial actors • Other interested actors (NGOs, energy agencies, private sector, academics, etc.) • Citizens
Contracting Authority:	The European Commission, Directorate General Development and Co-operation - EuropeAid
Contractor & Consortium Leader:	Energy Cities - the European Association of local authorities inventing their energy future www.energy-cities.eu
Consortium Members:	European Association of local authorities "Climate Alliance" www.climatealliance.org Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine" www.enefcities.org.ua/en The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) www.carecnet.org
Duration:	September 2011– June 2015



Short description of the Covenant of Mayors East

Project activities aim at accomplishing four major missions:

1. **Promotion** - making the Covenant of Mayors a well-known initiative in all beneficiary countries with a significant number of Signatories and Covenant Supporters and Coordinators joining;
2. **Training and Capacity Building** – hands-on sessions to enable local authorities to fulfil their formal commitments and to empower Covenant Supporters and Coordinators to provide high-quality services to their target groups;
3. **Helpdesk** - providing information to all parties interested in joining or supporting the Covenant (cities, regional governments, associations, etc.), day-to-day assistance to Signatories in the preparation and implementation of their SEAPs and supporting the development of effective collaboration schemes with Territorial Coordinators;
4. **Liaison with donors** - building a sector-wide coalition of contributors to support the implementation of Signatories' commitments, in particular in terms of financing SEAP investments. Matchmaking activities involving beneficiaries, local and regional institutions, donor representatives and the relevant EU delegations and other stakeholders. Providing guidance for defining bankable projects.

The Covenant of Mayors East Office and its four key experts based in Kyiv (Ukraine), Tbilisi (Georgia), Yerevan (Armenia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan) closely cooperate with the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels and the JRC, under the supervision of the European Commission's DG DEVCO.

Expected results

By the end of the contract we expect that:

- The Covenant of Mayors is a well-known high-profile initiative throughout the region; with a significant number of Signatories, together with an enhanced public awareness on climate-change related issues and sustainable energy solutions
- The Signatories are aware and capable of realising their commitments, building the necessary capacity– and implementing sustainable energy strategies as expressed in their Sustainable Energy Action Plans and emissions inventories
- Enhanced capacities in municipalities and Sustainable Energy Action Plans facilitate the access to financing sources, such as local financial instruments, IFIs and other international instruments such as the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) and the Central Asia Investment Facility (IFCA)
- By mobilising donors and fostering investments the actions included in their SEAPs are bankable and find sufficient financial support
- Statistical data is collected and published on activities implemented by the Covenant Signatories (number of citizens covered by the signatory cities, amount of CO₂ emissions reduction, energy consumption/production, key data from the SEAP, etc.)
- Actors and institutions supporting the Covenant of Mayors are important partners in the implementation of measures
- The social and economic well-being of citizens tends to increase (linked to quality of life due to job creations, business development and innovation, improvement of public services and infrastructures, a healthier environment, social housing, access to clean energy, etc.)
- The affordability of energy services and the access to it tends to increase (reduction of fuel poverty)