

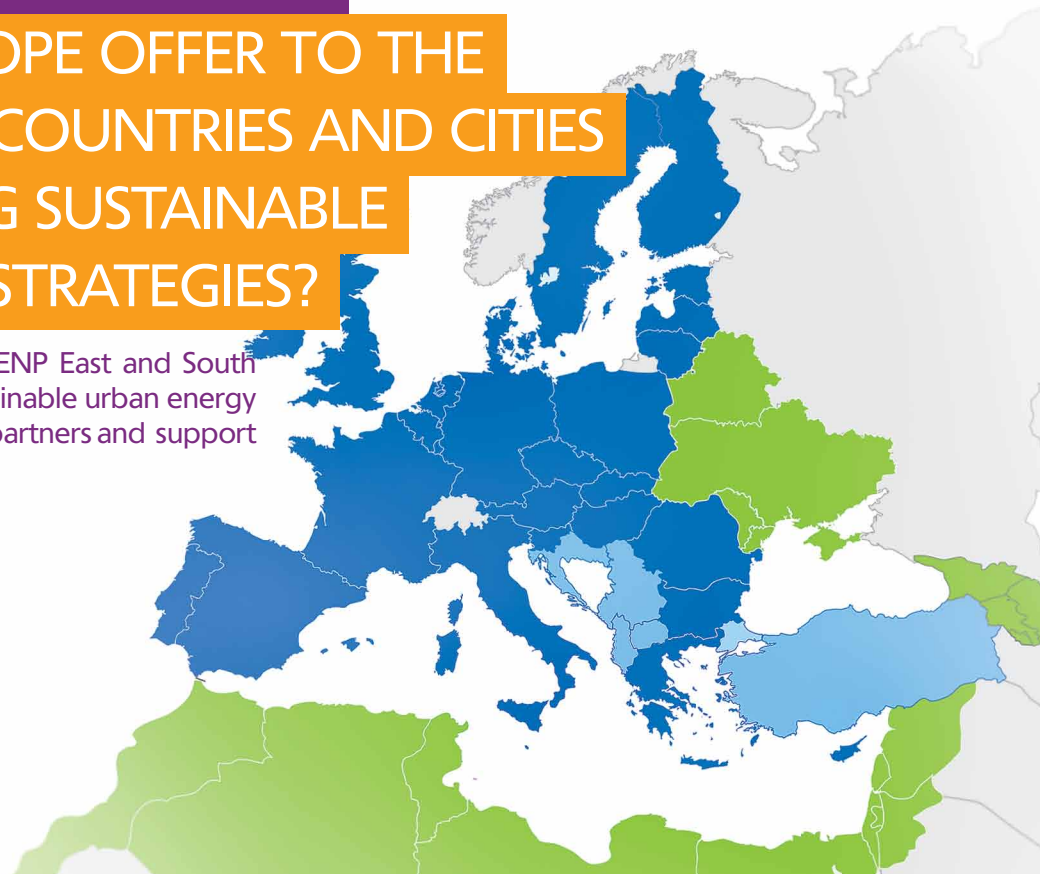


This publication is financed
by the European Union



OUR COMMON FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT CAN EUROPE OFFER TO THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND CITIES FOR DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENERGY STRATEGIES?

Interregional recommendations for ENP East and South countries on how to implement sustainable urban energy strategies with the help of European partners and support of the European Union



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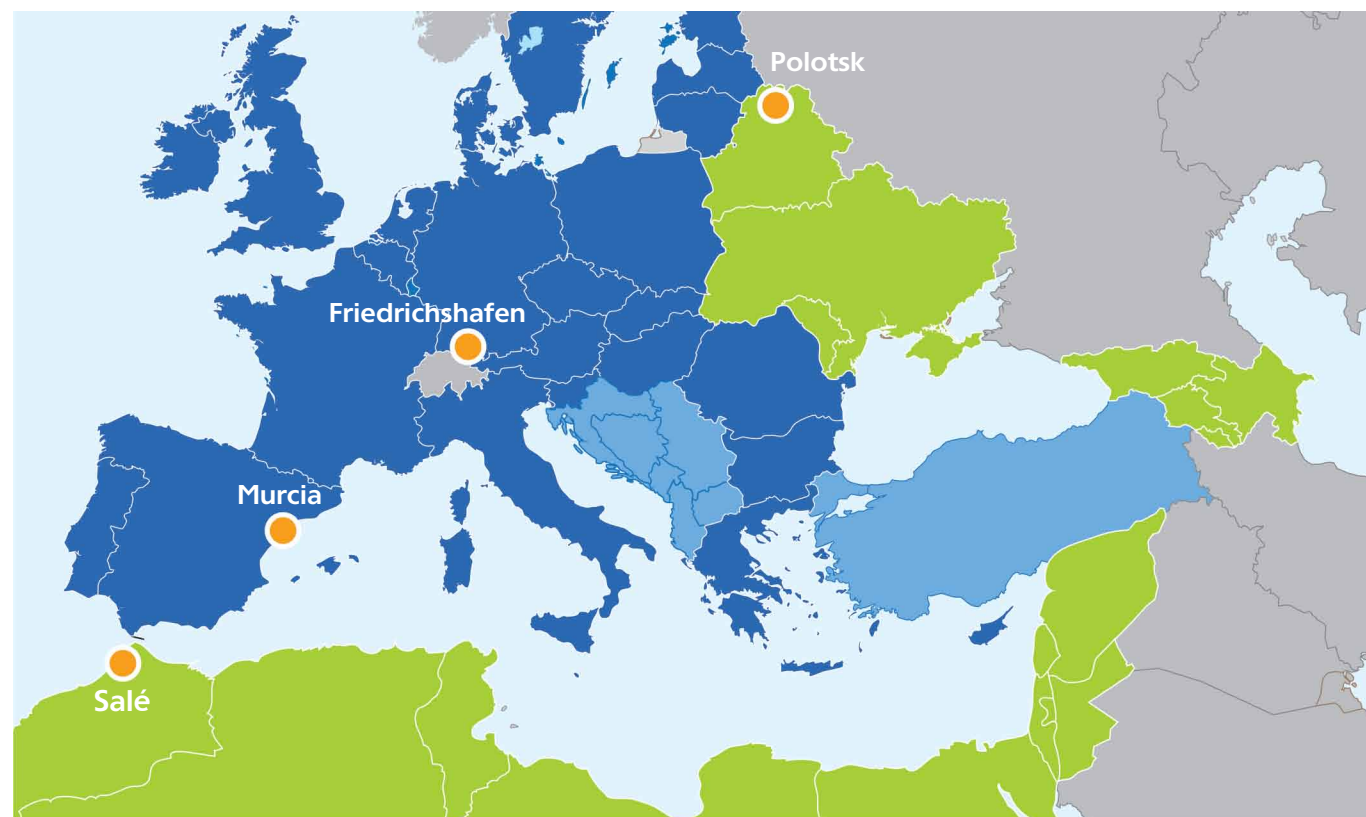
1/ WHY THIS BOOKLET?

Fighting against climate change is without any doubts a central task for humankind. As it is – both in the EU and in the EU Neighbourhood and both at state and city level – in all our interest to work for a green future of our citizens, let us jointly seize the chance to create a sustainable energy landscape in our regions. In the strong believe that our joint efforts on sustainable energy can achieve much more than individual actions, this booklet is dedicated to you as a Mayor or expert of a city, as a representative of a related ministry for municipalities and energy or a related state body responsible for energy and local / municipal development, and as a leader of a NSA (non-state actor) in this area. Europe offers in partnership to you and your country manifold opportunities for sustainable energy and urban planning projects. This booklet shall help you to get easy access to the following information:

- What can Europe offer to its neighbouring countries and cities for developing sustainable (urban) energy strategies?

- What is the Covenant of Mayors initiative and how can your country and city (from the European Neighbourhood) benefit from it for linking urban development with sustainable energy supply?
- Where to find necessary information and valuable funding opportunities for local actions in your country offered by the European Commission?

In order to convey an impression of how a common project financed by the European Commission could look like, we also present to you "SURE", a successful EU grant project between cities from the EU and the European Neighbourhood. It is a good example on how the Covenant of Mayors can contribute to better connect the cities in the neighbourhood countries to European energy policies with the overall objective to strengthen the role of the local level regarding a sustainable and affordable energy supply.



EU project SURE „ Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI region – towards the Covenant of Mayors“ in the European Neighbourhood area

Partner cities: Friedrichshafen (Germany, lead partner of the SURE project), Murcia (Spain), Salé (Morocco) and Polotsk (Belarus)

Further partner: CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

Budget: € 791 725

Implementation period: January 2010 – September 2012

Furthermore this booklet intends to motivate more mayors from the European Neighbourhood to adhere to the Covenant of Mayors. Within the Covenant of Mayors initiative, local authorities voluntarily commit to exceeding the EU energy and climate targets by reducing their CO₂ emissions by at least 20 % until 2020. From a city's perspective like the German city of Friedrichshafen and the Spanish city of Murcia, this booklet also wants to highlight how the Covenant of Mayors could act as catalyser for good governance concepts, local democracy and participation.

We hope that the results of the SURE project, the city of Salé as example for the EU Neighbourhood South and the city of Polotsk as example for the EU Neighbourhood East can inspire you as a city, related authority or NSA to launch similar initiatives and projects. For this purpose, some interregional recommendations on how to best support local action on sustainable energy in your country, both for cities and for cities' superordinate national ministries, are provided.

This booklet is part of a series of publications prepared by the SURE project team. It has been developed in an easy to read Questions & Answers format in order to offer a dense and practical overview

extracted from complex information sources, such as official communications from several European Commission Directorates General and specialist literature on sustainable energy, as well as from information sources provided by the Covenant of Mayors Office and the SURE project.

We hope that this small booklet will be helpful to you!

Patricia Ruppert

SURE project management

Managing director of INCENTO EU consulting

THE EUROPEAN UNION



The **European Union** is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable develop-

ment whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

<http://europa.eu>

CLIMATE ALLIANCE



Climate Alliance

The European city network **Climate Alliance** unites around 1,600 cities and municipalities all over Europe and the indigenous rainforest peoples of the Amazon in their common fight against climate change. Member cities commit to a reduction of their CO₂ emissions by 10 % every 5 years. Climate Alliance's European Secretariat supports all members by developing methodologies and instruments for climate action planning and monitoring, organising exchange of experience and public awareness campaigns and

lobbying for better framework conditions for local action. Climate Alliance is part of the consortia running the Covenant of Mayors Office and the Covenant of Mayors Office EAST. Its task within the SURE project was to compile the "Fact Finding Study for a co-governance concept for the expansion of the Covenant of Mayors to the EU Neighbourhood East and South" and to prepare this booklet together with INCENTO EU consulting.

www.climatealliance.org

THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

The **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) was launched in 2004. The ENP is a broad political strategy which has the ambitious objective of strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of Europe's neighbourhood in order to avoid any dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its direct neighbours. European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the financial instrument which supports the ENP through certain assistance actions. The ENPI is the main source

of funding for the 17 partner states: ten Mediterranean countries – ENPI-South (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia) and six Eastern European countries – ENPI-East (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), as well as Russian Federation.

<http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp>

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS



The **Covenant of Mayors** is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By

their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20 % CO₂ reduction objective by 2020.

www.eumayors.eu



2/ THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

WHAT DOES THE EU OFFER TO ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES?

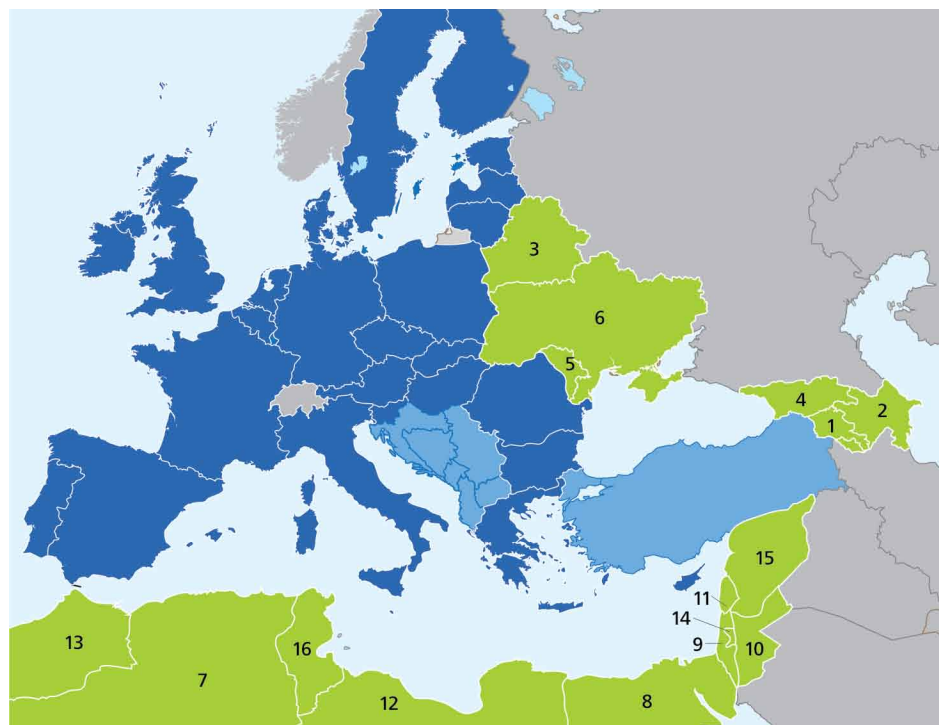
The European Neighbourhood Policy is a bilateral policy between the EU and the 16 countries which form the **European Neighbourhood**. It aims to minimise the disparities that could divide enlarged EU and neighbourhood countries, put aside differences and strengthen a common prosperity, stability and security. The **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) is further enriched with regional and multilateral co-operation initiatives:

- the **Eastern Partnership** (launched in Prague in May 2009);
- the **Union for the Mediterranean** (the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, re-launched in Paris in July 2008);
- the **Black Sea Synergy** (launched in Kiev in February 2008).

With the ENP, the EU offers to its neighbours “a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development)”. The EU neighbours are closer involved in the EU policies and they can benefit by political association and deeper economic integration, increased mobility and more people-to-people contacts. While preparing **Country Reports** and developing **ENP Action Plans** together with your government, the European Commission is following up closely the real needs and capacities of the individual countries.

IN WHICH WAY DOES THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY ADDRESS THE LOCAL LEVEL?

While in earlier editions the EU Neighbourhood Policy mainly addressed the national level and therefore also focussed on national energy strategies and projects,



- European Union
 - Official candidates
 - European Neighbourhood Policy
- EU Neighbourhood East:**
1. Armenia
 2. Azerbaijan
 3. Belarus
 4. Georgia
 5. Moldova
 6. Ukraine
- EU Neighbourhood South:**
7. Algeria
 8. Egypt
 9. Israel
 10. Jordan
 11. Lebanon
 12. Libya
 13. Morocco
 14. Occupied Palestinian Territory
 15. Syria
 16. Tunisia

now the awareness of the importance of local action in the field of energy and climate change mitigation is increasing. Evidence of this process can be found in:

(a) the **ENPI Regional East Programme 2010 - 2013**, which mentions the Covenant of Mayors as appropriate initiative to encourage sustainable energy actions at local level, as well as the preparation and implementation

of “sustainable energy action plans – SEAPs” as result and possible indicator of achievement.

(b) the European Commission’s latest neighbourhood policy evaluation from May 2012, which states that **“local and regional authorities have a key role to play in narrowing the gap between the population and institutions, promoting a culture of political participation at**

local level and ensuring that policy decisions take local needs into account.”

As a perspective we can therefore assume, that both programmes and funding instruments will be developed further in order to address better the needs and courses of action of the local level. National bodies should use the current negotiations of the next ENP Action Plans to get the local level mentioned explicitly and included as potential recipient of project funding.

HOW DOES THE EU REACT ON THE RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?

A major reorientation in the midst of the dramatic changes in the Southern Neighbourhood was the renewed ENP in May 2011: **“New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood”**. According to the new “more for more” policy principle, it aims to tie the neighbours closer to the EU with different degrees of intensified cooperation and with the view to opening its internal market correspondingly. This means that committed reformers in the EU’s Southern and Eastern neighbourhood would be awarded a greater and broader EU support than the less committed countries. The development of sustainable energy policies, in close cooperation with the local and regional level and by opening the debate to stakeholders and citizens, could be a test market for this new policy approach.

HOW CAN MY COUNTRY / MY CITY BENEFIT?

The ENP achieves its objectives and vision through the **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** with a total budget of € 12 billion for the full period 2007 - 2013. Around 90 % of ENPI funds are used for bilateral actions, i.e. country-specific initiatives and for regional actions involving two or more partner countries. The remaining 10 % are reserved for specific new areas of joint activity, namely Cross-Border Co-operation (CBC), and specific initiatives like the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF). The CBC component has been an innovation for the ENPI: 15 such programmes finance projects bringing together regions of the EU Member States and partner countries sharing a common border.

On 1 January 2014 the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** enters into force. For the period 2014 - 2020 € 18 billion are allocated. This corresponds to a rise of more than 40 % – a great chance for your city and region!

Information on funding opportunities are listed in Chapter 5, an exemplary multi-country EU granted project between EU and neighbourhood cities is provided in Chapter 6, and further information sources and contacts are listed in Chapter 8 of this booklet.



3/ THE EU ENERGY POLICY

WHICH ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EU ENERGY POLICY?

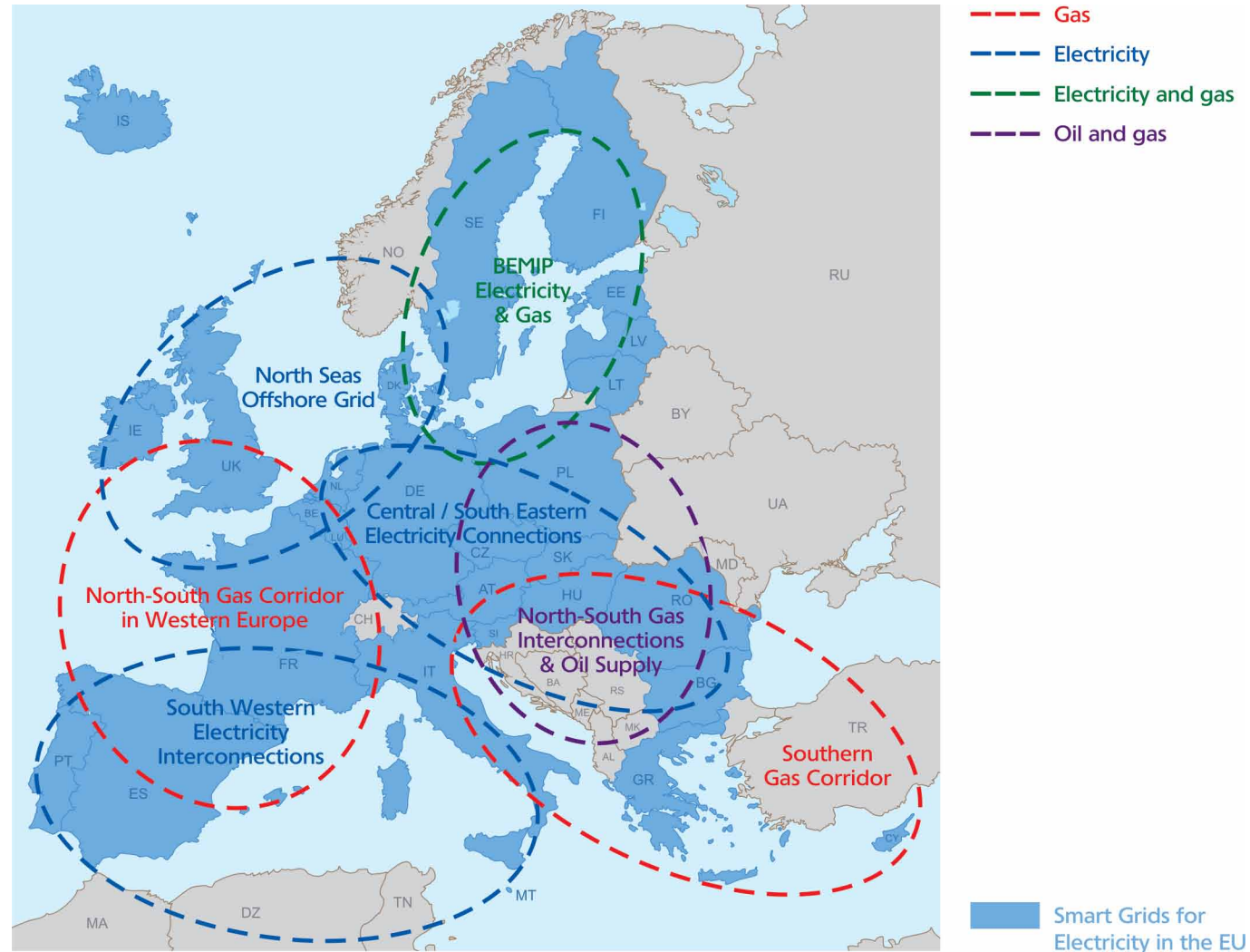
In its policies, the European Union addresses the major energy challenges faced today: climate change, the increasing dependence on energy imports, the pressure on energy resources and access for all users to affordable and secure energy. In 2007 the European Council adopted ambitious energy and climate targets for 2020, the so-called **20-20-20 objectives**: reducing 20 % of CO₂ emissions, increasing energy efficiency by 20 %, and increasing the share of renewable energy by 20 %.

To the more, one of the central aims of the current EU energy policy is to boost a “new industrial revolution that will deliver a low-energy economy”. The Communication “**Energy 2020 – A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy**” launched in 2010 therefore calls for several actions and pays much more at-

tention to the external dimension of the internal energy market. In the **Energy Roadmap 2050** the Commission explores different scenarios for the EU’s energy future and the challenges posed by delivering the EU’s decarbonisation objective while at the same time ensuring **security of energy supply** and **competitiveness**. As the first initiative deriving from the Energy Roadmap 2050, the Renewable Energy Strategy has been launched in June 2012 with an aim to better coordinate support schemes related to renewable energy as well as explore new targets for renewable energy beyond 2020.

All these EU strategies and policies can serve as source of inspiration for own strategy and policy alignment by the EU Neighbourhood countries.

There are also some path-breaking national strategies on sustainable energy. Please consult the links in chapter 8.



WHICH IMPACT DOES THE EU ENERGY POLICY HAVE ON MY COUNTRY?

The EU currently imports 54 % of its energy – to a substantial degree from or via its landside and maritime neighbours. This dependency might even increase in the short- and mid-term. There are plans to develop a southern gas corridor for the supply of gas from the Caspian region and Middle Eastern sources, linking Europe with the Southern Mediterranean through electricity and gas interconnections, or for the development of gas and electricity interconnections crossing Central and South-East Europe along a north-south axis. The direct link between the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy and Europe’s actions to secure energy supply is obvious and inevitable.

In return, also the ENP countries need Europe as energy customer and as professional partner for

- (i) introducing energy saving and alternative energy supply technologies and
- (ii) for joint projects on sustainable energy supply like for example the German initiated DESERTEC solar power project.

Morocco currently builds a solar power plant with a capacity of 125 MW near Marrakesh and will thereby

also create a new source of income for itself as the plan calls for export of solar electricity to markets in Europe. Similar plants are in planning in other Neighbourhood South countries. Joint sustainable energy projects offer a huge potential for “win-win” effects for both Europe and the Neighbourhood countries.

HOW DOES THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY?

Energy plays a key role in the EU Neighbourhood policy. In September 2011, the Communication on Security of Energy Supply and International Cooperation was adopted, setting out a comprehensive strategy for the EU’s external relations in energy: the Communication on **EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond our borders**. The main objectives, for example for the **Eastern Partnership** (see previous chapter), are to enhance framework conditions and solidarity, to support infrastructure development, interconnections and diversification of supply, to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources as well as to align regulatory frameworks and energy policies.

Similar objectives are under consideration for the **Union for the Mediterranean** and the **Black Sea Synergy**.



4/ THE COVENANT OF MAYORS



WHO INITIATED THE COVENANT OF MAYORS AND WHEN?

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) was first mentioned in the EU Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (2006) as one of the priority actions. At that time, it was foreseen to become a “permanent network of mayors from 20-30 of Europe’s largest and most pioneering cities with the aim to exchange and apply best practices”. As result of a consultation process, first with city networks and after with a wider public, this concept was changed significantly: The Covenant of Mayors was newly conceived to be open for all local authorities in Europe and claiming to become a serious and credible initiative recognising the actions at local level for the achievement of the EU’s energy and climate targets. It was launched during an impressive ceremony in the European Parliament with around 400 mayors, the first signatories, in February 2009.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS?

By adhering to the CoM, cities and municipalities com-

mit voluntary and unilaterally to meet and go beyond the EU target of 20 % CO₂ emissions reduction by 2020 through the implementation of a so-called Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This concept seems to convince local authorities all over Europe as by May 2012 (3 years after its launch) **4000 local authorities** have adhered to the Covenant and more than **1300 SEAPs** have been submitted. This number is expected to continue increasing exponentially. Current signatory cities come from a total of **46 countries** and represent **162 million citizens**.

WHICH STEPS DOES MY CITY NEED TO TAKE?

In order to translate their political commitment into concrete measures and projects, Covenant signatories notably undertake to prepare a **Baseline Emission Inventory** and submit, within one year following their signature, a **Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)** outlining the key actions they plan to undertake for achieving their targets and the EU 20-20-20 goals. Every second year after SEAP

submission, signatories will deliver an **implementation report**. For further info see Chapter 8.

HOW DOES THE COVENANT OF MAYORS SUPPORT CITIES' ACTIONS?

To coordinate the Covenant of Mayors initiative and the exchange of experience a so-called **Covenant of Mayors Office** (CoMO) was established in January 2009, funded by the European Commission. It is formed by a consortium of local and regional authorities' networks: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Eurocities and Fedarene. The CoMO is responsible for the daily management of the initiative, providing signatories with administrative support and technical guidance, facilitating networking between Covenant stakeholders and ensuring the promotion of their activities.

The Covenant of Mayors website – www.eumayors.eu – provides daily updated information for the signatories and follows the continuous development of the initiative. The guidance available includes guidebooks, thematic leaflets on several aspects of the SEAP process, and an e-learning platform in several languages. In addition, the CoMO organises a series of conferences (including the annual ceremony for new signatories) and technical workshops all over Europe. Two important pillars in assisting municipalities to live up to their

commitments are the **Covenant Coordinators** – provinces, regions and national authorities, and the **Covenant Supporters** such as networks of local authorities.

HAVE CITIES FROM THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD ADHERED TO THE COVENANT OF MAYORS?

Although initially considered as a “club of European mayors”, the CoM is also open to the EU Neighbourhood cities. By May 2012, the number of signatories from the Eastern and Southern European Neighbourhood and Central Asia was already 44. All Eastern neighbourhood countries have signatory cities, and the number rises steadily and swiftly. In the ten countries comprising the Southern European Neighbourhood, there is only one signatory to the Covenant until today, the city of Salé in Morocco, which signed to the CoM in the frame of the EU project SURE. And, the number will also increase here as the city of Salé intends to promote the CoM to further cities within the Neighbourhood South. For more details please have a look at Chapter 6.

HOW DOES THE COVENANT OF MAYORS SUPPORT CITIES IN THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD?

As a response to the increased interest of cities in the

Eastern Neighbourhood, the CoM Office East (CoMO East) was installed in September 2011. With two focal points in Lviv (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia), it provides administrative, promotional and technical assistance for SEAP development and implementation, offering by these considerable opportunities for cities to (re)develop their economies and societies in a sustainable way. A further step in expanding the Covenant of Mayors is the current call for tender on “Cleaner energy-saving Mediterranean cities”, aiming to prepare cities for local sustainable energy action and to install regional focal points which in the future could act as Covenant of Mayors Office South.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IS A NATIONAL AND ALSO GLOBAL ISSUE, BUT WHY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL?

Cities play a crucial role in sustainable development as they are currently responsible for about 6 tonnes CO₂ eq. per capita and year. The 1,300 Covenant signatories having already submitted their SEAP have altogether committed to reduce around 100 million tons of CO₂ emissions (source: Covenant of Mayors Office, 2012: SEAP aggregated database). This represents an overall reduction of 25 % by 2020 and highlights the ambitious level of cities in going beyond the EU CO₂ reduction

target and their substantial impact on fighting commonly against climate change.

DOES THE COVENANT OF MAYORS OFFER ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR MY CITY?

Beyond the important energy saving potential and the contribution to global climate change mitigation, cities have the benefit of a higher independence from costly energy imports and better energy supply security. Moreover, cities are enabled to introduce the notion of sustainability in their urban development plans in several areas beyond energy: water, public transport, street lightning, etc., whilst introducing a prioritisation of investments according to a set of sustainability criteria and unleashing hidden cost savings. The Covenant of Mayors potential for local and regional creation of value has been proved already and will certainly show the same effects also in other cities, such as creation of skilled and stable jobs, mitigation of industry relocation; healthier environment and quality of life; enhanced economic competitiveness. These actions serve as examples for others to follow, notably through referring to the **“Benchmarks of Excellence”**, a database of best practices submitted by Covenant signatories. The **Catalogue of Sustainable Energy** Action Plans is another such source of inspiration, as it shows at a glance the ambitious objectives set by other signatories and the key sectors tackled.



5/ FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTIONS) AVAILABLE TO CITIES IN THE ENP COUNTRIES

With the overall aim to overcome disparities between the EU and its neighbourhood countries and to strengthen prosperity, stability and security in the two neighbourhood regions South and East, a series of financial instruments were set up.

WHICH INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?

From the approximately € 12 billion of EU funding available under the Financial Framework 2007 - 2013, 73 % were allocated between 2007 and 2010 to the funding of the countries' own political, governance, economic and social reform programmes. The re-

maining budget goes into multi-country and cross-border cooperation programmes, while a small share of € 745 million goes to the **Neighbourhood Investment Facility** (NIF) for projects of common interest focussing primarily on energy, environment and transport, offering therefore opportunities for cities to upgrade their district heating, water or public transport infrastructure. The facility brings together grants from the European Commission and the EU Member States with loans from European public Finance Institutions, as well as own contributions from the partner countries. By pooling different resources,

the NIF plays a key role in donor coordination and increasing aid. In addition, the NIF supports the implementation of regional and multilateral processes, in particular the Union for the Mediterranean, the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy. Despite its limited volume (€ 418 million for infrastructure and private sector projects), the NIF leverages a total project volume of more than € 14 billion.

The new approach to the **European Neighbourhood Instrument** enters into force in 2014 with a € 18 million budget, will provide the bulk of financial support, and will smooth the path to several East and South neighbours to a better endorsement for a mutually beneficial integration and co-operation with the EU.

In view of the strategic importance of our Southern neighbourhood and in line with the Joint Communication 'A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean', also the draft FP7 work programme includes a Specific International Cooperation Action (SICA) on "Research cooperation and knowledge creation in the area of renewable energy in Mediterranean partner countries".

HOW TO FIND THE EU FUNDING PROGRAMMES FOR MY REGION?

The **ENPI Info Centre** (www.enpi-info.eu) displays regularly the current funding programmes and financial instruments.

Funding programmes which could meet cities' needs are listed in the table on the following page.

Please note that for now only programmes for the current financial period (2007-2013) can be indicated, as the distribution of funds for the financial period 2014-2020 is still under decision. It is likely that most of the funding programmes will be continued and partially be reshaped and/or renamed.

Name	Themes	Target Region	Budget	Examples
INOATE	Sustainable energy development: EE, RE, Demand side management (DSM), security of energy supply	Eastern Neighbourhood	Permanent; ENPI-funded	Preparing Tbilisi and Yerevan for Covenant of Mayors membership; Organization of "Covenant of Mayors going East" conference
MED-ENEC II	EE + use of solar energy in the construction sector, awareness raising, involvement of civil society in building techniques, policy makers, communities, real estate developers, tenants	Southern Neighbourhood	2009-2013; € 5 million	2 nd phase addresses Large Building Projects developed by public or private sectors. Assistance will be given to 5 projects, e.g. Access to financing for incremental costs
TAIEX	Short-term technical assistance for approximation, application, enforcement of EU legislation, target group: Civil servants working in public administrations at national and subnational level and in associations of local authorities	East + South	Since 2006 in the region	Workshop on green public procurement in Jerusalem; Workshop Development of public campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness of energy efficiency in Kiev (Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy)
Cross-border programmes	13 programmes in total. Subjects: promoting rule of law and good governance, sustainable development	East + South	2007-2013; € 950,5 million	See for examples: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-cross-border/programmes/index_en.htm
TWINNING	Skill acquisition and experience to adopt, implement and enforce EU legislation. Twinning projects are joint projects, shared by the two partner administrations. The partner country retains ownership.	East + South	Since 2004 in the region	Morocco Civil Society project: The association Arco Latino groups local governments from Spain, France, Italy to define a model on development cooperation. Outcome: Interactive online portal, trainings + updated info on funding for local authorities,

Name	Themes	Target Region	Budget	Examples
SIGMA	To strengthen public management in administrative reform, public procurement, anticorruption, external and internal financial control	East + South	Since 2008 in the region	
Paving the Way to the Mediterranean Solar Plan	Development of Sustainable Energy Policy: Prepares suitable national policies for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources	Southern Neighbourhood	2010-2013; € 4,6 million	Implementation of sustainable energy policies: Roadmaps to best practice, discussion with stakeholders, presentation of roadmap in each country with Ministries of Energy, relevant agencies, entities.
CIUDAD – Sustainable urban development	Promotion of mutual understanding, dialogue and co-operation between local actors in EU and Partner Countries (capacity building for the modernisation of local and regional governments).	East + South	2009-2013	SURE Project
Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility	Aims to strengthen civil society actors and contribute to promoting an enabling environment for their work.	East + South	2011-2013; € 21 million per year for both regions	Identification of civil society actors' needs and capacities and how they can contribute to specific sector policy dialogues, co-operation with local authorities
East-Invest (Support to SME sector)	Technical assistance to SMEs and public sector bodies, 5 specific instruments to achieve its goals: SME Technical Assistance Facility, Trade Fair Technical Assistance Facility, Business-to-Business Facility, Business Facilitator Technical Assistance Facility and Institutional Exchange Facility.	Eastern Neighbourhood	2010-2013; € 7 million	Organises matchmaking meetings between EU and Eastern SMEs to initiate partnerships // Technical assistance to SMEs to enhance their networking and trading competences // Public sector bodies are assisted in their effort to create a more conducive business environment for SMEs.
FEMIP (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership)	Emphasis on fostering private sector activity to underpin growth and employment opportunities. Financial support is directed towards private sector projects and also to public projects that help to create an enabling environment for the private sector to flourish.	Southern Neighbourhood	2007-2013; € 32 million per year forecast	Direct private sector support via credit lines, risk capital operations and foreign direct investment aimed at strengthening: SMEs, especially those involved in industry, tourism and services. // Improvement of infrastructure in RE sector

CAN MY CITY RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FOR COVENANT OF MAYORS ACTIVITIES AND SEAP PRIORITISED ACTIONS?


A first step has already been undertaken by creating a **Covenant Grant Agreement scheme**, which seeks to support capacity building in local authorities, to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels and contribute to climate change mitigation, in implementing climate change-related energy policies. In particular it shall support SEAP development and implementation including the setting-up of investment plans and local financial facilities as well as the creation of lasting partnerships between local authorities in the EU and in the ENPI region. From the first call in summer 2011, five projects were selected for funding.

One of the tasks of the **Covenant of Mayors East Office** is on liaison activities between beneficiary authorities and donors' and International Financial Institutions (IFI)'s initiatives in order to make projects defined in a SEAP suitable for financing from programmes and activities of EU, international financing institutes and other donor organisations. The activities include:

- Stakeholder analysis and establishment of identification fiches (inventory of stakeholders – donors/ IFIs/Governments/private financing organisations)

- Development of SEAP Portfolios (project portfolio per CoM East signatory)
- Provision of technical assistance in implementing the projects, administrative assistance (project management and reporting)
- Matchmaking activities (regional workshops with all donors/IFI's/governments/private financing organisations and participating cities, list of linking sectors and donors, agreement on which donor(s) adopt(s) which sector(s), guidance for defining bankable projects).

The listed funding programmes can be utilised for projects aiming at development of a SEAP or for projects which have a wider scope, like, for example, enhancing urban planning and development with sustainability targets, increasing the citizens' participation and local democracy, introducing energy efficiency, etc.



6/ THE SURE PROJECT – A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR ENP/EU CITY COOPERATION

“Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI region – towards the Covenant of Mayors” (SURE) was a typical project funded by the European Union under the “Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue” (CIUDAD) programme. It brought together cities from Europe (Murcia and Friedrichshafen having extensive experience in sustainable energy planning at urban level) with cities of the EU Neighbourhood – the cities of Polotsk (Belarus) and Salé (Morocco) – to enable them to develop their own Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). In the following we have summarised the SURE experience for you and partly we even provide you original “voices” from the SURE partners and involved authorities.

WHICH MILESTONES WERE ACHIEVED BY THE SURE PROJECT?

Since 2010, the project has been presented to stakeholders in Polotsk, Minsk, Salé, Murcia, Friedrichshafen, Cologne, Tbilisi, Lviv, and Brussels, while Belarusian and Moroccan city officials have been trained on sustainable urban energy issues in Murcia and Friedrichshafen. The main project achievement is that Polotsk, Salé and Friedrichshafen have officially joined the Covenant of Mayors and have adopted their Sustainable Energy Action Plans. Implementation of SEAPs in Polotsk and in Salé started with pilot actions, for which each city

got around € 40 000 out of the SURE project budget. Polotsk used this money to modernise its main avenue with LED street lights, while Salé installed a photovoltaic facility on the roof of the city's indoor sports center.

In Polotsk, the twin city of Friedrichshafen, the citizens are today aware of the importance of energy saving and energy efficiency – an important step to prepare the ground for the introduction of a sustainable energy policy. It is the city's wish to refresh the CO₂ mitigation planning continuously by state-of-the-art inputs. Also Salé considers the SEAP as operational framework for on-going and all future climate change mitigation activities. Furthermore it is highly appreciated as regulating tool in service of the city's efforts to tackle the challenges in the fields of sustainability and development.

HOW DID THE SURE COOPERATION MODEL WORK IN PRACTICE?

The city of Friedrichshafen, lead partner of the SURE project, and the city of Murcia helped Polotsk and Salé to successfully adhere to the Covenant of Mayors and to develop hand in hand through exchange of knowledge and experiences the Baseline Emission Inventory and the SEAP in both cities. SURE further supported – in line with the Covenant – the adaptation of adminis-

trative structures, capacity building of municipal staff, stakeholder and citizen mobilisation.

The project has also established valuable energy partnerships and is sharing the experience of Polotsk and Salé with other ENP cities in order to help them join the Covenant of Mayors and develop their own SEAPs. With support from their European colleagues, Polotsk and Salé developed and distributed information materials, organised Energy Days for local citizens and held ENP-wide conferences where they presented SURE project results and discussed possibilities for further cooperation between ENP cities on sustainable urban energy. Dissemination of the Covenant idea and recommendations to the European Commission were facilitated by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), also a SURE project partner, Climate Alliance and INCENTO.

WHICH REASONS MADE SALÉ ADHERE AS FIRST CITY OF THE ENPI SOUTH AREA TO THE COVENANT OF MAYORS?

The main reason for adhering to the CoM was our commitment to develop an environmentally friendly strategy for Salé. It will strengthen us in pursuing policies geared towards exploiting new sources of energy, increasing energy efficiency and innovating energy con-

sumption. Our participation in the SURE project came exactly at the right time! The project has opened our eyes to the importance of sensitisation campaigns in assisting the city to meet up the challenges of traditional energy sources' high costs and damaging effects. SURE was very stimulating as both the existing city twinning model and new forms of partnership can in a way reinforce tools and skills to adopt more target-oriented, re-vitalised strategies.

Noureddine LAZREK
Mayor of Salé

ARE THE EXPERIENCES OF SALÉ AND POLOTSK TRANSFERABLE TO OTHER CITIES?

Polotsk and Salé are now ready to enter into the SEAP implementation stage, well-connected and equipped with a solid foundation which was built up during SURE. This is also largely due to the guiding material produced, in which valuable lessons are processed for other ENP cities to join the Covenant of Mayors and for stakeholders of the strategic level designing and supporting the Covenant. Within the SURE project a brochure titled **"Tips for ENPI cities on how to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan"** was published, in which the SEAP-relevant experiences are synthesised

as guiding tool for SEAP development. The SEAP brochure aims to attract further ENP East / ENP South cities to the Covenant and to summarise in a handy format the experiences gathered in Polotsk and Salé whilst developing their SEAPs.

WHAT IS THE NOVELTY OF SURE FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD EAST AND SOUTH COUNTRIES?

SURE definitively brought a novelty for the Covenant of Mayors by linking two Covenant signatories from Europe and two cities from the European Neighbourhood. This thematic city cooperation approach allowed, beside the aimed know-how transfer, both exploration of local made experiences with the Covenant in the ENPI area and a comparison of those in an ENP South / East context. As a successful example, the project paved the way for replication and extension to other cities in the EU Neighbourhood.

DOES THE COVENANT OF MAYORS OFFER A TOOL FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITISATION OF INVESTMENTS?

The development of the strategic document 'SEAP' made it possible for the city authorities to analyse the

city's energy sector, to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and, based on the identified results, to develop a unique set of activities that is aimed to achieve the 20-20-20 objectives. The SEAP has an important advantage – it has a list of priority activities for the city as well as potential sources of their funding. In accordance with the SEAP recommendations, additional financial means for implementation of priority activities may be allocated from the local and regional budget; another option would be to finance these activities through foreign investments.

One of the recommendations was to develop and implement a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan as calculations showed that by this Polotsk could significantly reduce energy consumption in the transport sector and contribute to make our city a more comfortable place for our citizens and guests. Currently, the development of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan is one of our priority activities, and it is quite likely that this activity will also be implemented with support of the European Union.

Aliaksandr PAZNIAK
Mayor of Polotsk

WHAT IS THE STATE OF FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIES' ACTIONS IN

THE SPHERE OF ENERGY SAVING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

The Department for Energy Efficiency, as a state authority responsible for the implementation of the national policy and the Republican Energy Saving Programme, encourages and stimulates participation of Belarusian cities in the Covenant of Mayors and similar initiatives, especially when such participation goes hand in hand with the attraction of additional funding from the EU and other international donors, as this enables them to implement larger projects with greater effectiveness.

Aliaksandr KRAUCHENKA
Department for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Belarus / Head of the Vitebsk regional department for the control over the use of fuel and energy resources

WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE COM'S SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLANS AS A DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET?

Morocco is about to vote a very important law on regionalisation, which will give more power to the

city councils. The new Communal Chart of Moroccan Local Authorities stipulates that city councils are required to come up at the beginning of each year with a Communal Development Plan (PCD), which includes all the projects that the city is planning to implement for the year to come. Thanks to SURE, we have our PCD adapted to the SEAP recommendations.

For example, future municipal buildings will have to be supplied by renewable energy sources; architects will have to think of renewable sources of energy while preparing their building constructions. The pilot action selected in the framework of the SURE project consists of installing a photovoltaic facility at the roof of Salé's omnisport centre. It will generate electricity and inject for the first time the power into the grid of REDAL (the local electricity supplier) with corresponding reward. Hence, the SEAP has actually positively impacted the city's work procedures and is pushing for more awareness raising as to the importance of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in our city.

Lhoucine MANAR
Regional Director of the Rabat Salé Region /
Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco

DID SURE ALREADY SHOW ANY IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL?

During the two years of SURE project implementation in Belarus, our achievements became known to many stakeholders in Belarus, from local authorities to environmental activists and local population. But our most important achievement at national level was that our efforts helped the Covenant of Mayors to get rooted in Belarus and to start gaining support from Belarusian municipalities and regional authorities. Our experience showed that adherence to the Covenant of Mayors, SEAP development and implementation are tasks that can be absolved by a city authority, especially with support from the Department for Energy Efficiency and from European colleagues. We have already begun to share our experiences with the cities of Novogrudok and Oshmyany that are planning to join the Covenant of Mayors in the nearest future. I am sure that the number of Covenant signatories from our country will grow rapidly, and we would be happy to provide support to further Belarusian signatories of this European initiative.

Aliaksandr PAZNIAK
Mayor of Polotsk



7/ CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Even with very different starting conditions (from energy abundance to extreme dependency of energy imports) and a large spectrum of different energy demand patterns, energy is one of the key topics in all 16 EU Neighbourhood countries for local development, good governance and welfare. More and more cities are getting aware of the opportunities and benefits of an efficient and sustainable energy supply and the risks of a climate change. Mayors wish to relieve their own budgets from ever rising energy costs whilst offering comfortable living conditions to their citizens. With energy and other limited resources, like water, being subsidised in most of the countries, it is also in the very interest of the national level to introduce more and more energy efficiency and sustainability for satisfying the ever increasing demand. **And where else to tackle these challenges better than at the local level?**

As result of a comprehensive “**Fact Finding Study on the state-of-play and potential to support sustainable urban development and the expansion of the Covenant of Mayors in the EU Neighbourhood East and South**” including a survey among 80 cities we would like to offer the following recommendations.

WHAT CAN THE NATIONAL LEVEL DO?

- Motivate your cities to adhere to the Covenant of Mayors and provide support in form of setting-up structures, incentives, and capacity building for planning and implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).
- Involve your ministry actively into the activities of the CoM Offices.
- Provide information on available EU funding instruments to the local authorities and cities.

- Make use of your country's current negotiations with the EU authorities for developing or adjusting the ENP Action Plans.
- Co-ordinate all international donors and involve the local and regional level needs into the allocation planning of EU and other donors' financial and technical assistance.
- Involve bottom-up needs and strategies for the design of local, regional and national energy and urban development policies whilst fostering new models of good governance and local democracy. In face of the "more-for-more" principle applied since 2011 in the EU Neighbourhood policies, such strategies offer a clear advantage for applying of financial support in the framework of EU funds.
- Create links between the, until today, separated sectors of policy interventions. For example link the ministries responsible for energy supply with the ones responsible for municipalities and for environment in order to facilitate an integrated sustainable energy planning on all levels. Such an integrated approach is also at the heart of the Covenant of Mayors initiative which could be used as best practice example and catalyser.
- Promote the Covenant of Mayors idea to the responsible ministries for city twinning and foreign

affairs, as the pool of European Covenant of Mayors signatory cities and their experience is a highly valuable asset for your cities and also for corresponding bilateral relations.

- Initiate structural reforms on redistributing of public budget to the regional and local level with the aim to enable local authorities to benefit from decentralised energy supply structures (small-scale energy plants, efficient technologies, energy savings and shorter distribution networks, etc.).
- Develop support programmes and incentives for small-scale pilot projects at local level which allow "harvesting the low hanging fruits", also for awareness raising and changing of citizen's behaviour.
- Initiate a decentralisation process and transfer legal competencies to the local level, in particular to the cities, especially in the fields of sustainable urban development with particular responsibility for energy production with regenerative energy resources (e.g. solar power, bio gas, etc.) and local public transport planning, and all areas of sustainability.

WHAT CAN THE CITIES AND LOCAL LEVEL DO?

- Have a look the Covenant of Mayors website – www.eumayors.eu. Maybe you get inspired to join?
- Sign the Covenant of Mayors declaration. The ad-

hesion is a formal step which needs to be backed by your city council. It is a great opportunity to step into the door of a powerful and grant club of mayors who committed themselves to fight commonly against climate change and to take actions by own hands and at own local responsibility.

- Commit by your signature to develop the SEAP within one year. Even if your authority does not yet feel capable to meet the commitments, link up with this initiative. It can offer you valuable partnering and cooperation options with other cities in order to advance your local energy and sustainability policy. It can even help you to redefine your existing twinning relations with other cities and to foster correspondingly city-to-city and citizens-to-citizens' level actions around the topics energy, sustainability and climate change.
- Set-up a new frame for your local energy policies by integrating the SEAP into your urban development planning, and institutionalise it by creating a local energy and sustainability group – an interdisciplinary team stemming from energy planning and supplies, urban planning and development, building efficiency, environmental protection, water supplies, public transport, etc. This unit shall care about SEAPs continuous up-dating.
- The SEAP development and updating calls also for

a stakeholder involvement (related authorities, non-governmental organisations and associations) and a true citizens' participation. With the CoM a city can test and foster in such a way new models of good governance and local democracy. In face of the "more-for-more" principle applied since 2011 in the EU Neighbourhood policies, such approaches offer a clear advantage in applying for financial support in the framework of EU funds.

- Follow-up the funding possibilities of the EU and other donors and apply for funding. Establishing a specific section responsible to acquire external funds will in the end pay-off. Keep in close contact with the ENPI – Info Centre and the regional CoM Offices.
- Network at regional and/or national level. With the specific framework conditions and regulations in one country, the exchange at national level offers the opportunity to learn from each other and to develop new policies together. By uniting local level forces, concrete improvements in terms of legal framework conditions and local empowerment can be achieved faster as some examples in the ENP region show (like the Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine). Such networks could also be used to organise trainings and to develop (joint) projects.



8/ WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The SURE project has delivered a series of documents with more detailed information and recommendations based on the experiences gathered by the different actors involved.

ON WHICH SURE OUTCOMES CAN WE BUILD?

The experiences of the cities of Polotsk and Salé on their way to develop their action plans can be found in full detail in the brochure [“Tips for ENPI cities on how to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan”](#).

One basic document for the development of further recommendations was the [“Fact Finding Study on the state-of-play and potential to support sustainable urban development and the expansion of the Covenant of Mayors in the EU Neighbourhood East and South”](#). It provides a detailed analysis of EU

Energy and Neighbourhood policies and its instruments, of the energy situation in each ENPI country, of several projects’ results, cities’ and city networks’ experiences and results of a survey among cities in the EU Neighbourhood South.

With the aim to provide some recommendations for EU policy adjustments and improvement of financial instruments, again: based on the experiences of the SURE project partners, a technical paper addresses the European Commission and the European Parliament.

All these documents and further project info can be found at www.cuidad-programme.eu, see under projects, SURE project, achievements.

AND WHICH OTHER SUPPORT CAN I FIND IN THE WORLD WIDE WEB?

Contacts of the EU Delegations in the Neighbourhood countries:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/web_en.htm

Information about the EU Neighbourhood Policy:

New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood (2011):

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com_11_303_en.pdf

Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy (2012):

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012_enp_pack/delivering_new_enp_en.pdf

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre:

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/index.php>

Regional co-operation initiatives:

- the Eastern Partnership:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index_en.htm

- the Union for the Mediterranean:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm

- the Black Sea Synergy:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/blacksea/index_en.htm

ENP Action Plans and Country Reports:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI):

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/oj_1310_en.pdf

ENPI Cross-Border Cooperation Strategy:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#5

Cross-border cooperation (CBC) / ENPI Programmes:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-cross-border/programmes/index_en.htm

European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI):

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2011_prop_eu_neighbourhood_instrument_reg_en.pdf

Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF):

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/investment_en.htm

Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP):

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/Pages/corleap.aspx>

Information about the EU Energy Policy:

“Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy”:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52010DC0639:EN:HTML>

EN:HTML

Energy Roadmap 2050:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy2020/roadmap/index_en.htm

“The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders”:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0539:FIN:EN:PDF>

do?uri=COM:2011:0539:FIN:EN:PDF

Renewable Energy Strategy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/targets_en.htm

Energy Security in Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/fpis_en.htm

Regional Cooperation: The Baku Initiative

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/international/regional/caspian/energy_en.htm

National energy and climate strategies:

Denmark:

<http://www.ens.dk/EN-US/POLICY/DANISH-CLIMATE-AND-ENERGY-POLICY/Sider/danish-climate-and-energy-policy.aspx>

Sider/danish-climate-and-energy-policy.aspx

France:

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-plan-climat-de-la-France-2011.html>

plan-climat-de-la-France-2011.html

Germany:

http://www.bmu.de/english/transformation_of_the_energy_system/aktuell/47548.php

energy_system/aktuell/47548.php

Sweden:

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/5745>

http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/5745

United Kingdom:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/tackling.aspx>

tackling.aspx

Evaluation of climate policies of EU Member States:

<http://www.climatepolicytracker.eu/>





This publication is financed
by the European Union

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the City of Friedrichshafen and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.