



EU4Energy



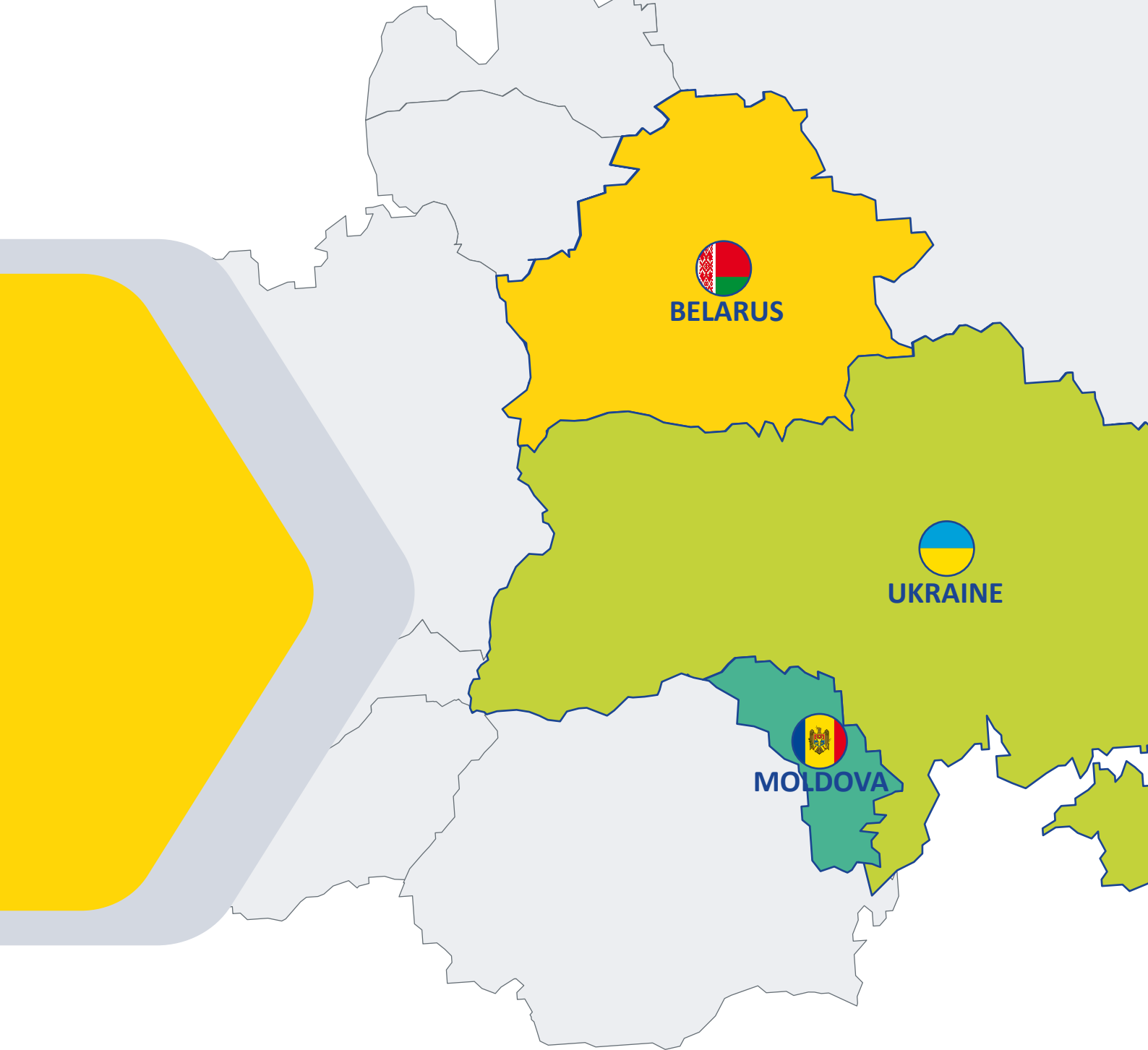
Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy  
Eastern Partnership

**COVENANT OF MAYORS  
IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP:**

**10**

***YEARS OF LOCAL  
CLIMATE AND ENERGY  
ACHIEVEMENTS***





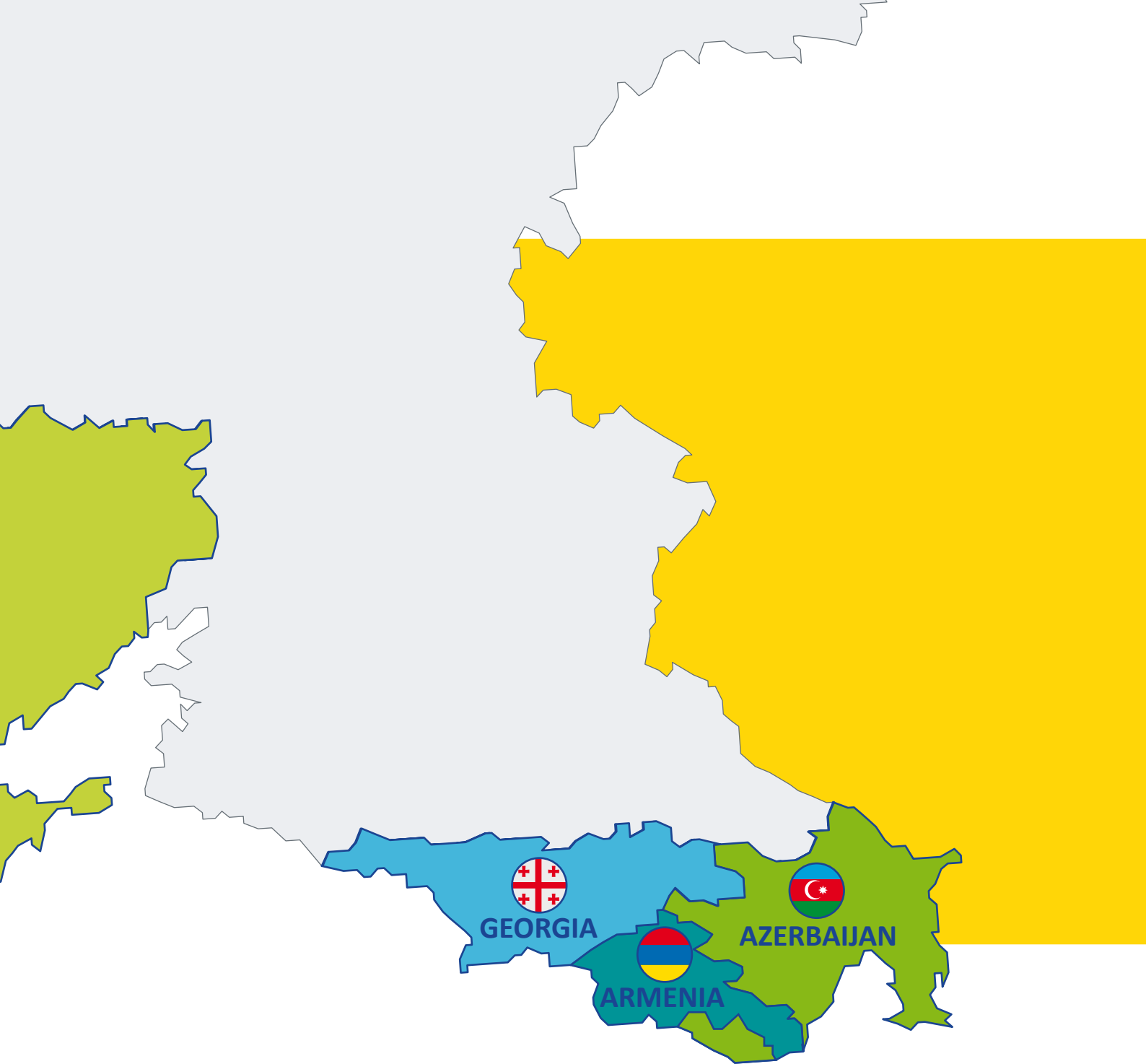
**BELARUS**



**UKRAINE**



**MOLDOVA**



GEORGIA



ARMENIA



AZERBAIJAN



The EU has supported the Covenant of Mayors East since 2011. The success of the initiative in the region is shown by the almost 500 signatory cities that have committed so far! This makes it one of the most active regions in the Global Covenant of Mayors, and is a testament to the commitment of local, regional and national authorities to take effective action to tackle the climate crisis and create more livable urban areas. This is one of many steps needed to make the European Green Deal, with its vision of Europe as the world's first climate neutral continent, a reality.

To succeed in this work, we need to ensure that everyone, from governments to individual citizens, are on board and engaged. The Covenant of Mayors has a unique ability to bring together all levels of governance to achieve change, providing concrete solutions. This is, and will continue to be, a key factor to its success.

Today we celebrate the achievements of the first ten years. This is only the beginning of our cooperation; cities and towns are at the beginning of their transition towards sustainability. The EU will expand its support to the Covenant of Mayors East and wider green transition through funding and technical expertise. We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with current and future signatories to increase the climate resilience of the Eastern Partnership countries, and ensure a sustainable, climate-neutral future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' and 'M'.

**Lawrence Meredith**  
Director for Neighbourhood East, DG Neighbourhood and  
Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

## 10 years of Covenant of Mayors in the Eastern neighbour countries: from a blueprint of EU support towards cities transition

Low-carbon economy and improved quality of people's lives are amongst the top major challenges for Municipalities worldwide. And the sanitary crisis has not changed the priorities, on the contrary, it reinforced the emergency need for immediate action. Cities are eager to commit and the Covenant of Mayors has proven to be the right instrument to support them in delivering actions.

During its ten years of activity, the Covenant of Mayors East Office brought together national stakeholders, regional authorities, local governments, civil society and communities of almost 500 municipalities from the Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. More and more local authorities in the region have joined the initiative to embark on the path of energy and climate transition, share their experience, learn the best practices, take advantage of the technical expertise and funding opportunities, encourage each other and jointly search for effective solutions to common problems.



The Eastern Partnership countries managed to build up a strong and supportive Covenant community, where the Covenant National and Territorial Coordinators as well as Supporters play an important role by assisting the Signatories in meeting their CO2 reduction commitments and implementing climate change adaptation measures. This is a major achievement, for us, it has constituted a blueprint to establish other Regional Covenant Communities in other parts of the world. This goes hand in hand with a strong CoM East team dedicated to providing regular support in the field of capacity building, technical consulting, SECAP development, communication and promotion activities, etc. which opened wide opportunities and marked new prospects for the Covenant Signatories in the region.

Energy Cities and all consortium partners have been truly proud to accompany and support the Covenant of Mayors family in the Eastern Partnership countries over these ten years. Their remarkable results and successful achievements have a positive impact on many other municipalities in the region. They are moving forward and stepping up their efforts on the way towards climate neutrality, being of the forefront of the Global Covenant community.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Claire Roumet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Claire Roumet**  
Director of Energy Cities

# Covenant of Mayors milestones

**Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** is the initiative of the European Union involving local and regional authorities, which have undertaken a voluntary commitment to implement EU climate and energy objectives on their territories. Currently, the Covenant of Mayors has become the most ambitious worldwide urban climate and energy initiative, bringing together more than **10,600 Signatories from 61 countries**, representing over **337 mln citizens**.

## Evolution of the EU Initiative



**Covenant of Mayors East (CoM East)** is the largest Covenant of Mayors initiative beyond Europe aimed at bringing together local and regional authorities of the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in implementing sustainable energy policies, reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, increasing security of energy supply and facilitating the global movement on climate change mitigation.

More than **480 Signatories** representing almost **30 mln citizens** in EaP countries joined the initiative having voluntarily committed to achieve the **reduction of more than 27 mln tCO<sub>2</sub>** as well as to introduce climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

## CoM East Phases



# CoM East Community in facts & figures\*

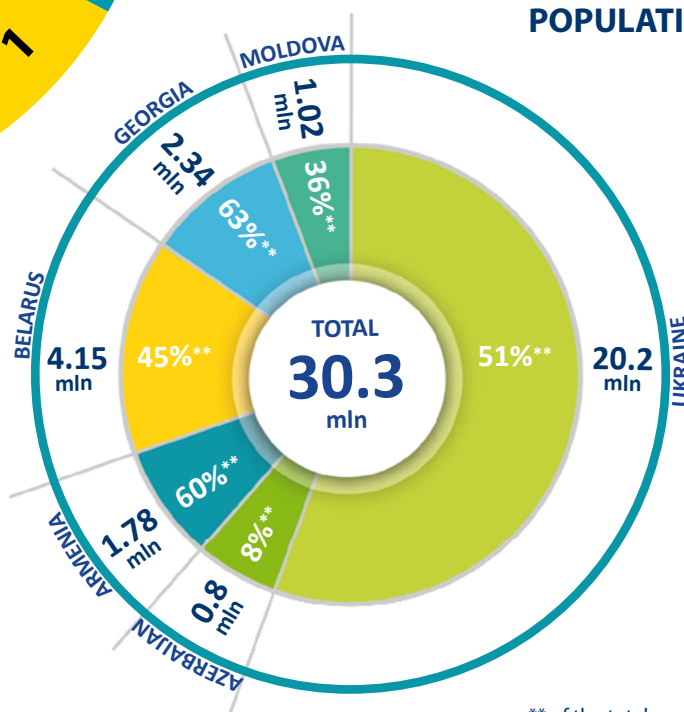
## SIGNATORIES



- Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20% by 2020
- Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 30% and implement climate change adaptation measures by 2030
- Suspended Signatories

Signatories accept the suspension of their membership in the initiative in case they do not submit their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SE(C)APs) and monitoring reports within the established deadlines. As soon as Signatories submit their requested documents, they are reintegrated as members of the Covenant of Mayors.

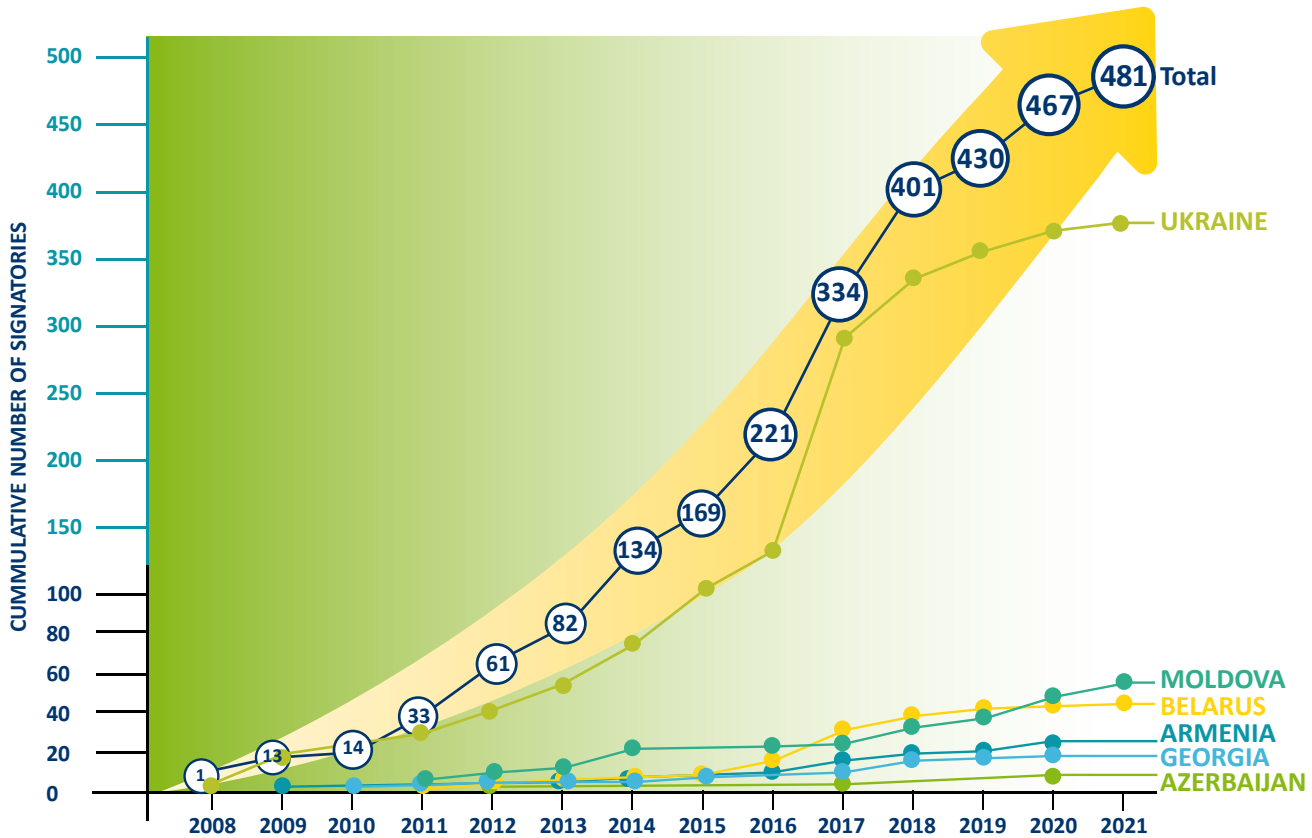
## POPULATION



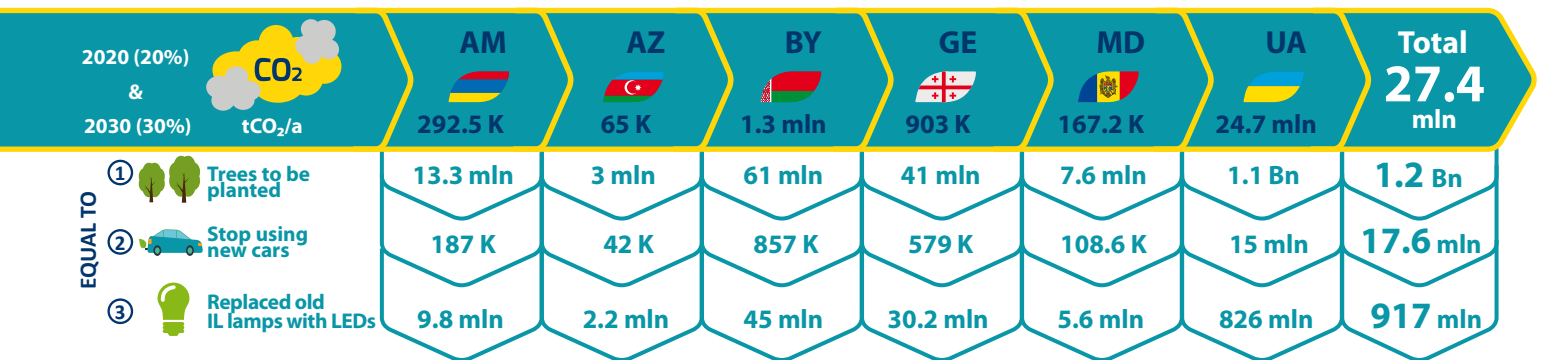
\* Hereinafter, the data is presented as of May 1, 2021

\*\* of the total country population

## Growth dynamics



## Commitments related to CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction\*



1. CO<sub>2</sub> absorption of a tree – 22 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per year
2. CO<sub>2</sub> emission of a new car – 1.56 t CO<sub>2</sub> per year
3. Replacement of 1 IL with LED lamp leads to emission reduction of 0.029 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year

\* As defined in the approved Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SE(C)APs)



## Covenant Community

### Covenant Coordinators

National and sub-national public authorities that provide strategic guidance, technical and financial support to CoM Signatories and municipalities wishing to join the initiative. Covenant Coordinators support them in fulfilling their ambitious goals and promote the Covenant of Mayors in their sphere of influence. In particular, Covenant Coordinators assist the Signatories in developing and implementing their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans.

#### National

10

#### Territorial

15

### Covenant Supporters

National or regional networks and associations of local or regional authorities, agencies and civil society organisations committed to support the CoM Signatories in their areas of expertise and different levels of governance. They leverage their advocacy, communication and networking capacities to promote the initiative and support the commitments of CoM Signatories.

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- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia

- Union of Communities of Armenia
- Energy Saving Foundation
- Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Foundation



- Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan



- Department of Energy Efficiency of the State Committee of Standardisation of the Republic of Belarus
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

- Interakcia Foundation
- International Public Organisation "Ecopartnership"



- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

- State Representative in Guria region
- State Representative in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region
- State Representative in Kakheti region

- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)
- Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia
- The Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions



- Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment

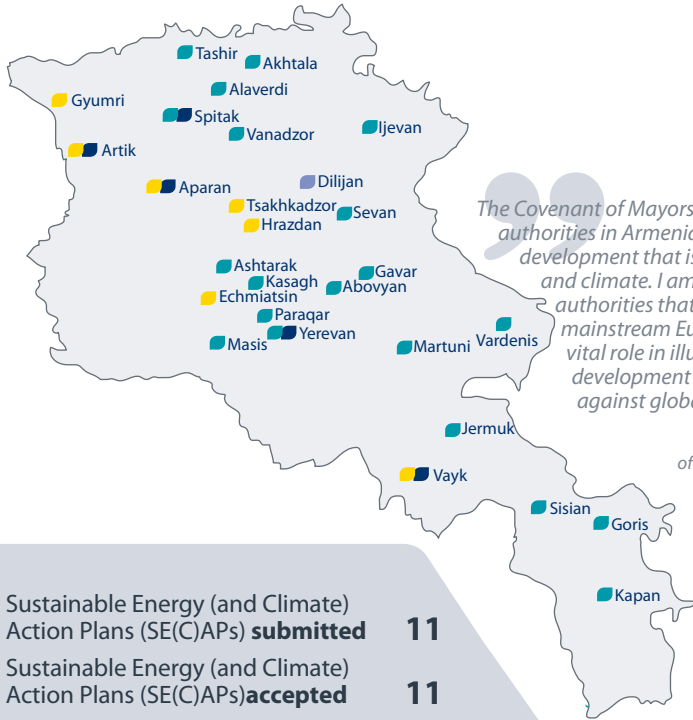
- Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER)
- Congress of Local Authorities (CALM)
- Union of County Councils of the Republic of Moldova



- Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine
- Ministry for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine

- Regional State Administrations: Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Volyn
- Regional Councils: Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv
- Mizhhirya District Council (under reform process)

- Voluntary Association of Local Self-Governments "Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine"
- Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities
- All-Ukrainian Association of Local Governments "Association of Ukrainian Cities"



Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** 11

Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** 11

- 7 Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**
- 20 Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30%** and implement **climate change adaptation measures by 2030**
- 1 **Suspended** Signatories
- 5 Signatories where the **CoM-DeP projects** have been/are being implemented



each **2<sup>nd</sup>** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

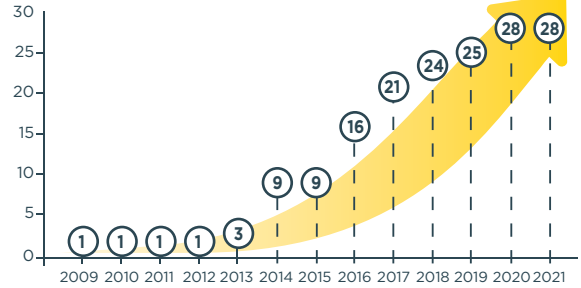
**59.9%** of the total country population

*The Covenant of Mayors is a unique initiative that has already gathered 28 local authorities in Armenia committed to sustainable, green and climate-resilient development that is in line with the national strategy in the field of energy and climate. I am confident that consistent assistance to the local authorities that have demonstrated political will to join this mainstream European voluntary movement, will ultimately play a vital role in illustrating undeniable benefits of a climate-neutral development pathway and achieving success in the fight against global climate change.*

**Ashot Giloyan**  
Head of the Department of Local Self-Government Policy of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, CNC



### Signatory growth



### Best practices

• **Spitak: Full thermal insulation of multi-apartment buildings**  
Five multi-apartment buildings were completely refurbished, which resulted in about 65% of energy saving, better thermal comfort in the apartments, increased market value and estimated annual monetary saving of about 25.000 Euro.

• **Yerevan: Energy efficient modernization of street lighting systems**  
Introduction of new lighting solutions based on light emitting diodes (LED) technologies led to 618 MWh annual energy saving, 274 tCO<sub>2</sub> annual GHG emission reduction and EUR 65,470 annual O&M cost saving.

*Due to joining the Covenant of Mayors initiative in 2014, the psychology and ideology of the Spitak community residents have changed. We have all become more energy efficient. Seeing the benefits of Spitak community joining the Covenant, the Council of Elders of Spitak decided to join the new, more ambitious phase of the initiative - Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. We hope that in near future the success of our community will be greater, which will be beneficial first and foremost for the community and the community residents.*



**Gagik Sahakyan**  
Mayor of Spitak, President of the Covenant of Mayors Club in Armenia

# COVENANT OF MAYORS IN AZERBAIJAN

**8** SIGNATORIES

**1** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**

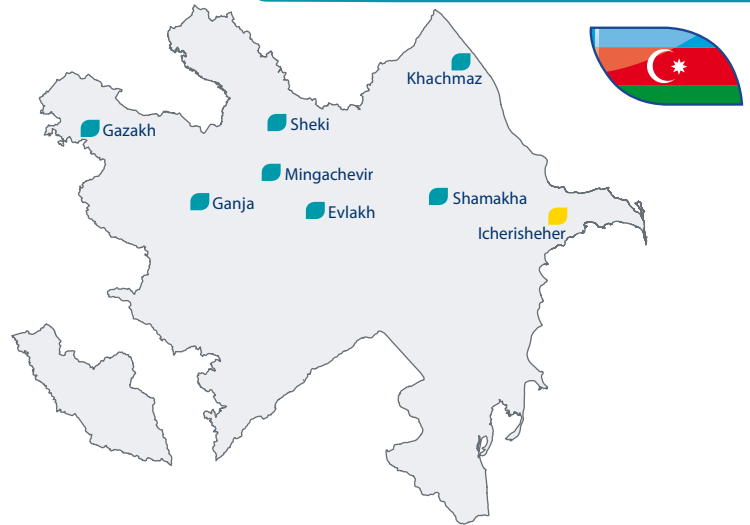
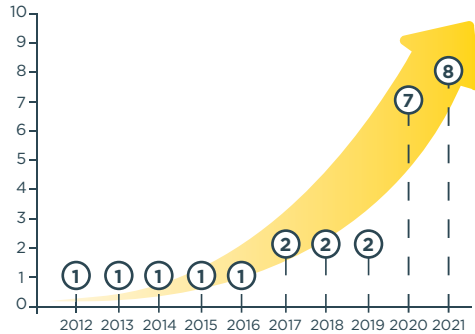
**7** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30%** and implement **climate change adaptation measures by 2030**



each **13<sup>th</sup>** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

**8%** of the total country population

## Signatory growth



Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** **2**  
 Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** **1**  
 Monitoring reports submitted **1**



*The Covenant of Mayors East is a useful platform for meetings, discussions and exchange of experience for our specialists in the field of sustainable energy and climate and representatives of municipalities with colleagues from the Eastern Partnership countries and the European Union. In the coming decade until 2030, our country, in accordance with the concept "Azerbaijan 2030 - National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" approved by Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in February this year, intends to become a country of "green growth" and develop zones of "green energy". In this regard, the work for improving the legislative framework, implementing foreign investment based utility-scale projects on the wind and solar power plants, developing "Smart city" and "Smart village" concepts and other energy efficiency activities have already started. We hope that our continued active participation in the Covenant of Mayors East will contribute to the successful implementation of our National Sustainable Energy and Climate Priorities.*

**Samir Veliyev**  
 Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, CNC

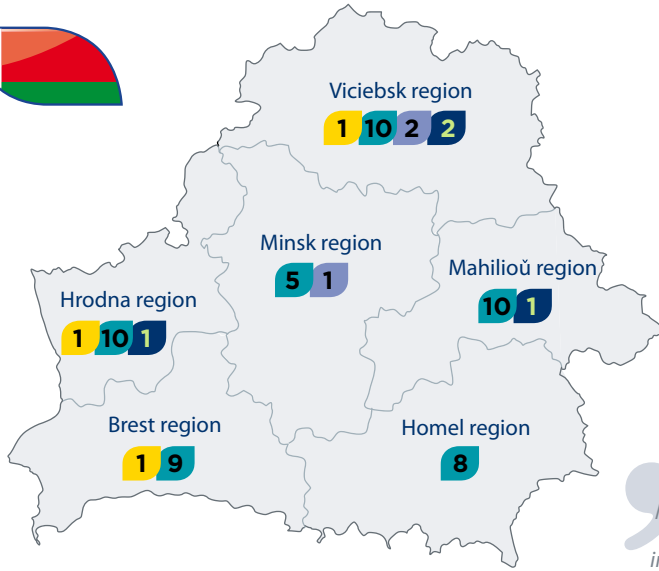




# 58

## SIGNATORIES

# COVENANT OF MAYORS IN BELARUS



- 3** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**
- 52** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30%** and implement **climate change adaptation measures by 2030**
- 3** **Suspended** Signatories
- 4** Signatories where the **CoM-DeP projects** have been/are being implemented



each **2nd** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

**45%** of the total country population

By fulfilling their commitments under the Covenant of Mayors initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2030, local authorities support Belarus in meeting our national commitments under the Paris Agreement. Also, an important part of their work are climate change adaptation measures driven by the nature-based solutions.

**Boleslav Pirshtuk**

First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, CNC

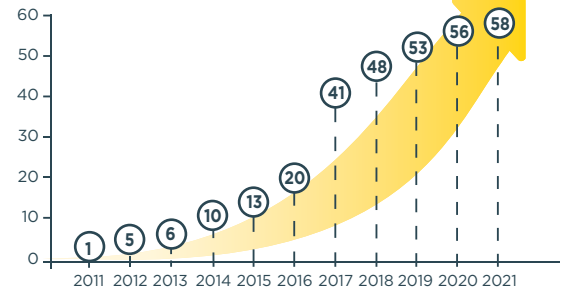


Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** **21**

Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** **13**

**Monitoring reports** submitted **8**

## Signatory growth



We consider the SECAPs developed by CoM Signatories to be an effective long-term planning tool to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewables, as well as to attract funding for the implementation of the planned measures. Such activities are fully consistent with the State Program "Energy Saving" for 2021-2025 and contribute to the achievement of its tasks and indicators.

**Andrey Minenkov**

Department for Energy Efficiency of the State Committee for Standardization, CNC

## Best practices

### • Baranavičy: Biogas facilities on municipal water treatment plant

The city of Baranavičy is the first Belarusian municipality that introduced the biogas facility, which turns sludge into renewable energy.

### • Polack: PubLiCity – modernisation of public lighting

Within the largest public lighting modernisation project in Belarus, almost 2000 LED luminaries with smart control system were installed in Polack, and 26 city buildings, monuments and other sites were equipped with efficient architectural lighting.

As one of the first in Belarus to join the Covenant of Mayors, the Navahrudak district has already achieved significant results in energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. Being known as the "land of wind turbines", it is a country leader in using the energy of wind and sun. In 2020, RES covered 55% of the total amount of electricity consumed by the district.

**Alena Sialevich**

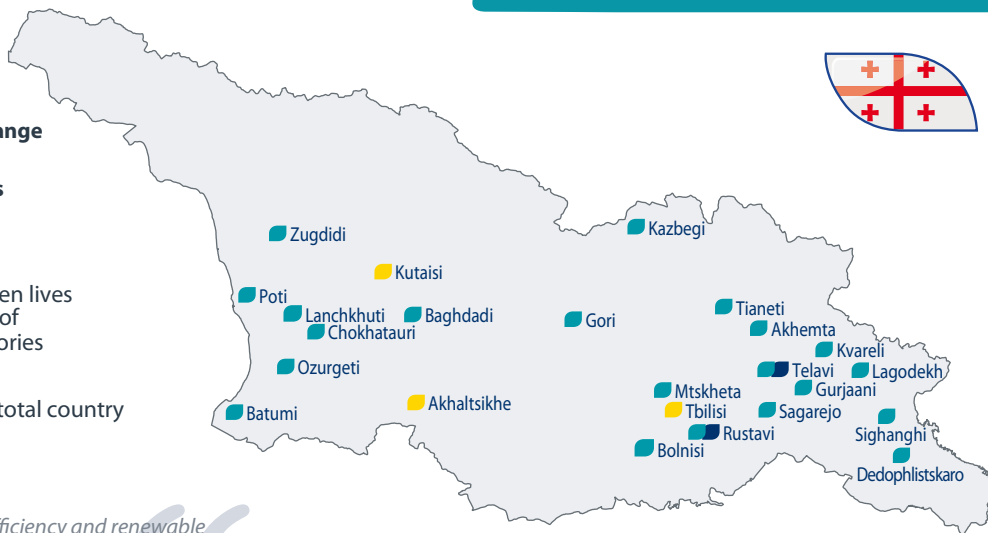
First Deputy Chair of the Navahrudak District Executive Committee



# COVENANT OF MAYORS IN GEORGIA

**24**  
SIGNATORIES

- 3** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**
- 21** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30%** and implement **climate change adaptation measures by 2030**
- 2** Signatories where the **CoM-DeP projects** have been/are being implemented



each **2nd** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

**63%** of the total country population

By placing the energy efficiency and renewable energy in the mainstream of the country's strategic energy policy directions, the government helps the Georgian Signatories meet Covenant commitments, build resilience to climate change and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

**Natela Turnava**  
Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, CNC

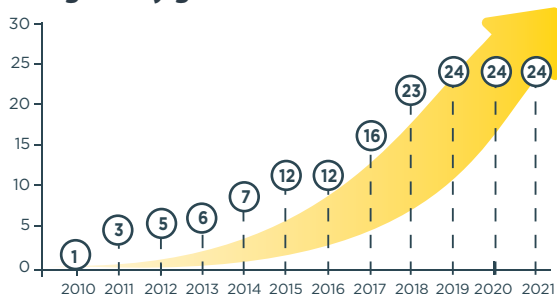


Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** **10**

Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** **10**

**Monitoring reports** submitted **1**

## Signatory growth



Georgia recognizes the substantial role of municipalities in the achievement of the NDC target, especially those municipalities that are Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. For strengthening vertical coordination, the high-level Climate Change Council established in 2020 includes a special seat for the chair of the CoM working group.

**Levan Davitashvili**  
Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, CNC



Rustavi is one of the important industrial centres of the country and ecological situation is a priority for every resident of our city. Being the Covenant of Mayors Signatory for 10 years, Rustavi has every reason to say that we successfully meet the Covenant commitments to change the municipal ecosystem for the better.

**Irakli Tabagua**  
Mayor of Rustavi



## Best practices

- Sighnaghi: Green energy for Erisimedi kids**  
Introduction of EE technologies resulted in annual production of 5 MWh of clean energy leading to the decrease of the kindergarten's energy dependence by 15% and annual reduction of 11 tCO<sub>2</sub>.
- Akhmeta, Kazbegi, Gori, Mtskheta: Electricity for offgrid villages**  
The project installed the PV micro solar power systems for electrification of 87 mountain villages. As a result, 156 MWh of renewable energy was generated, 15,6 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year reduced and average annual monetary savings of 7,200 EUR achieved.



# 68

## SIGNATORIES

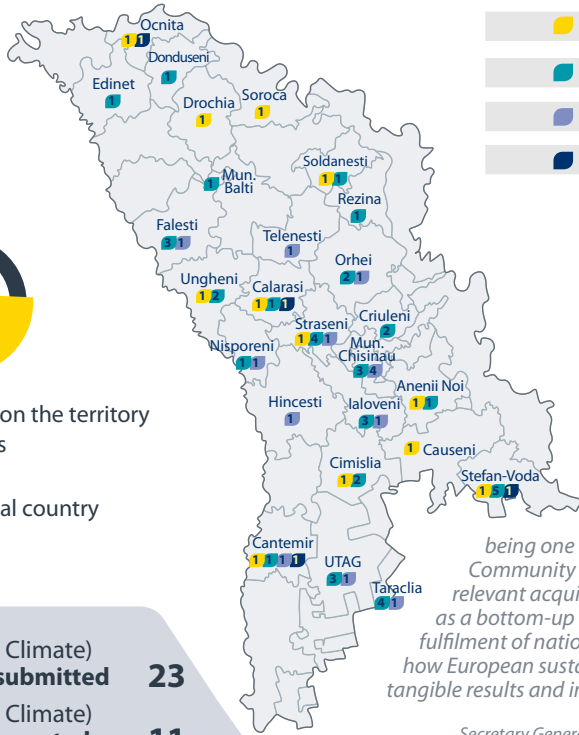
# COVENANT OF MAYORS IN MOLDOVA



each **3 d** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

**36.4 %** of the total country population

- Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** **23**
- Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** **11**
- Monitoring reports submitted** **6**



- 12** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**
- 42** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30%** and implement **climate change adaptation measures by 2030**
- 14** **Suspended Signatories**
- 4** Signatories where the **CoM-DeP projects** have been/are being implemented

The Republic of Moldova, as per its Energy Strategy until 2030, prioritized both energy efficiency and renewable energy as two elements of utmost importance of the sustainable development strategic pillar, being one of the first countries within the Energy Community that transposed and implemented EU relevant acquis in the field. The Covenant of Mayors, as a bottom-up initiative, strongly contributes to fulfilment of national commitments and demonstrates how European sustainable energy policies translate into tangible results and impact for Moldovan citizens.

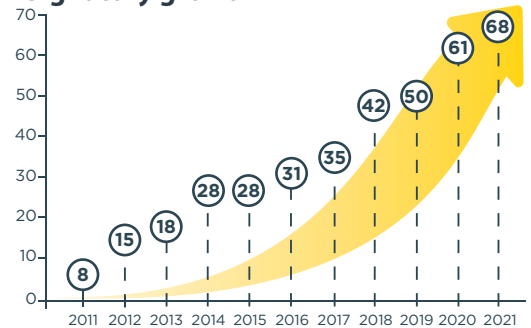
**Mihail Lupașcu**  
Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, CNC



Republic of Moldova ratified the Paris Agreement and was the fourth country to submit its second Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC, committing to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 70% by 2030. The Covenant of Mayors initiative mobilizes communities to contribute to achieving national targets by taking practical steps at local level, and thus make its small contribution to the climate change agenda at European and global level.

**Ion Perju**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, CNC

## Signatory growth



## Best practices

- Calarasi: The most energy-efficient public building in Moldova**  
The DoReMiCi kindergarten was built according to German passive house standards in line with European energy efficiency norms. Its annual maintenance costs are 90% lower than those of a "classical" kindergarten building.
- Cantemir and Ocnița: Modernisation of street lighting**  
Using innovative technologies, two small municipalities with 15,000 citizens in total achieved the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 268 t/y and over EUR 68,000 of monetary savings. The project is the winner of the EU Sustainable Energy Award for the Eastern Partnership.

For Cantemir, the accession to the European CoM family meant the start of a continuous process of changing the city. Since 2013, we have managed to carry out demonstration projects and improve the situation regarding energy efficiency at the local level. For us, the Covenant of Mayors is the impetus for transforming Cantemir into a European green city.

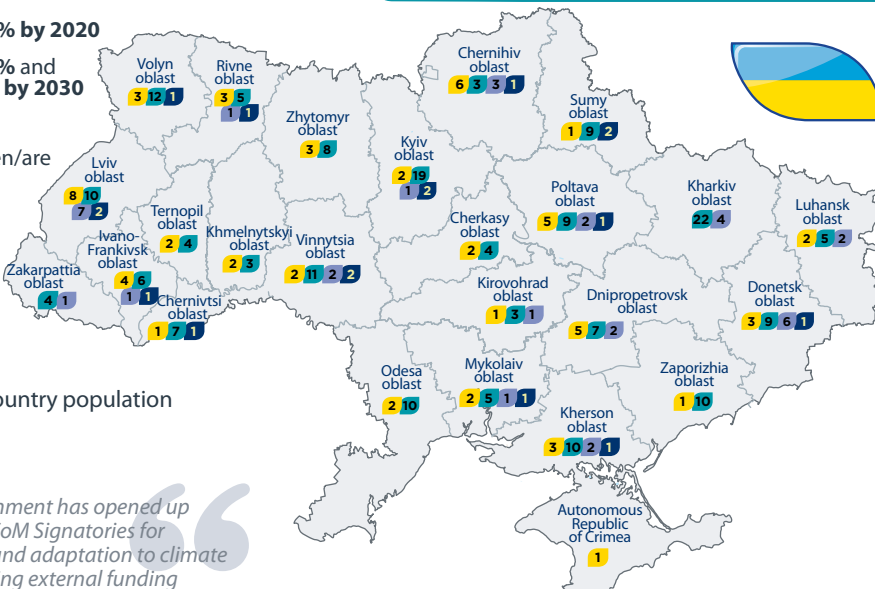
**Roman Ciubaciu**  
Mayor of Cantemir



# COVENANT OF MAYORS IN UKRAINE

**295**  
SIGNATORIES

- 64** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 20% by 2020**
- 195** Committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by **at least 30% and implement climate change adaptation measures by 2030**
- 36** **Suspended** Signatories
- 17** Signatories where the **CoM-DeP projects** have been/are being implemented



each **2nd** citizen lives on the territory of the CoM Signatories

**51.2%** of the total country population



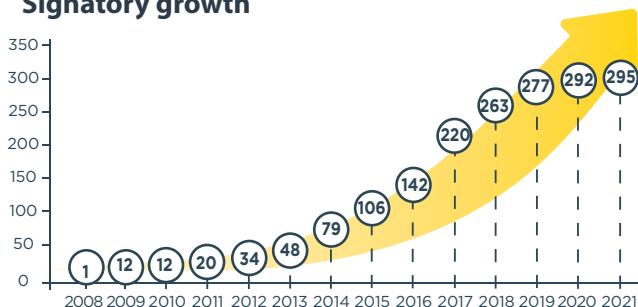
The recent reform of local self-government has opened up great opportunities for Ukrainian CoM Signatories for improving energy management and adaptation to climate change, in particular for attracting external funding sources and investments. In this context, our mission is to assist them in implementing local sustainable energy development policies, which will ultimately help achieve national energy efficiency goals.

**Vasyl Lozysky**

First Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, CNC

Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **submitted** **163**  
 Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) **accepted** **78**  
 Monitoring reports submitted **59**

## Signatory growth



An important task on our agenda is the adaptation of our communities to climate change and its potentially negative impact. Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy enables it Signatories to develop and implement their own climate adaptation strategies. As the CoM National Coordinator, the Ministry contributes to their implementation and ensuring sustainability of this process.

**Iryna Stavchuk**

Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine in charge of European Integration, CNC



In the Covenant of Mayors, we found new prospects for improving energy efficiency and achieving energy independence of the public, residential and household sectors to ensure sustainable development of our city and a significant increase in living standards of our residents.

**Oleksandr Symchyshyn**  
Mayor of Khmelnytsky

## Best practices

- Mariupol: Energy management system ISO 50001**  
Introduction of the effective energy management system allowed to implement dozens of energy efficient projects and reach impressive results in CO<sub>2</sub> and energy consumption reduction.
- Myrhorod: Modernisation of the district heating system**  
The project helped to increase a share of renewable energy (biomass) in the local energy balance, reduce GHG emissions and achieve significant monetary savings.

# EU Support to promote CoM in EaP region

## CAPACITY BUILDING

**Capacity building** is a range of activities aimed at strengthening the expertise of the Covenant Signatories, Supporters, National and Territorial Coordinators in the field of energy and climate policies via delivery of a variety of thematic seminars, webinars and workshops, study tours, staff exchanges, individual consultations etc.



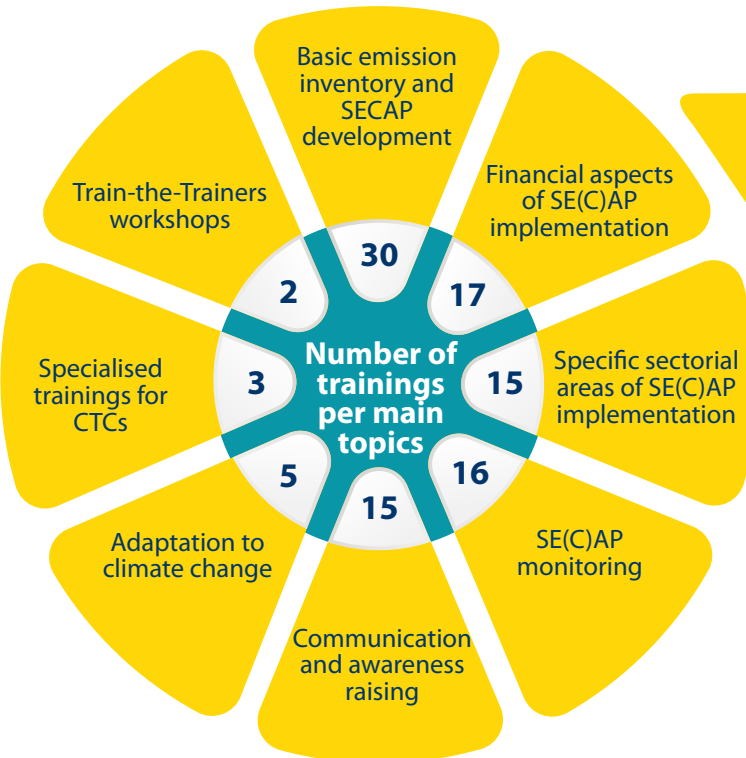
In the **phase I (2011-2015)**, CoM East capacity building events were focused on raising awareness on CoM Initiative as well as engagement of municipalities to join the Covenant. During the 1st stage of the project, CoM East office organised a series of trainings aimed at building capacities of municipal staff in SEAP development and helped CoM Signatories to prepare their first strategies in the EaP region.



In the **phase II (2016-2021)**, the focus of capacity building activities was shifted to the implementation aspects. The CoM East team helped municipalities to increase their knowledge in technical and financial issues, assisted CoM Signatories in developing their SE(C)APs and preparing monitoring reports.

*The training on financial aspects of SECAP implementation was really well-prepared and all sessions demanded our active involvement in discussions and practical exercises. It was really useful, clear and beneficial for us. We learnt main financial indicators to be used for the assessment of energy efficient measures, how to develop bankable projects and what donors expect from us.*

**Olena Riasantseva**  
Sievierodonetsk (Ukraine)



During 10 years of Covenant of Mayors in Eastern Partnership region, **103 trainings** with the participation of over **3,300 trainees** were organised. As a result, CoM East Signatories developed and submitted **240 SE(C)APs** and **75 monitoring reports**.

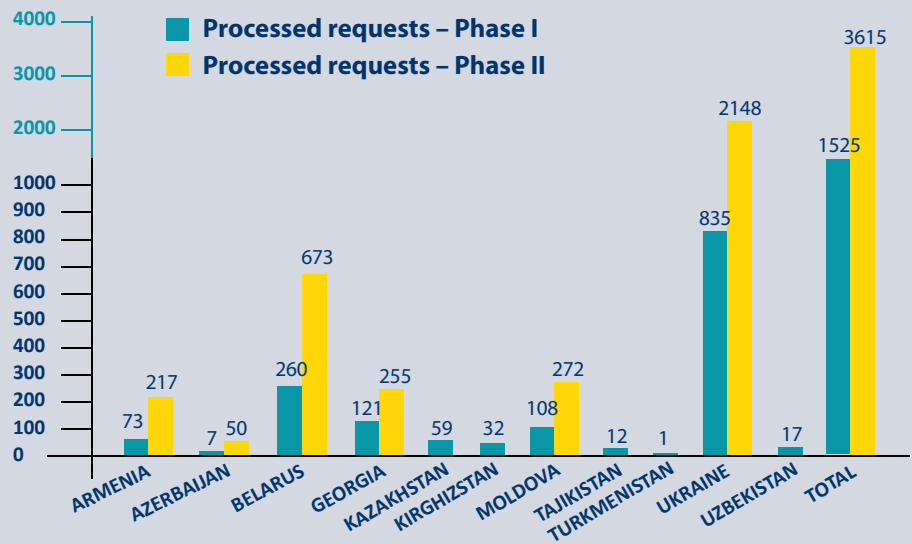
*In Republic of Belarus we have the problem now with the growing precipitation intensity; however, the rain sewage system is not adapted to the newly-created climate changes. As the result of the training on adaptation to climate change held by Covenant-East team, the city of Baranavichy has improved measures in the sector of water to be implemented within the SECAP. This was successfully done due to the proposed solutions at the training that included the complex usage of green, grey and blue infrastructures.*

**Uladzimir Zuyeu**  
Baranavičy municipality (Belarus)



## HELPDESK

In 2011 – 2021, the CoM East Central and Country Helpdesks provided relevant expertise and support to the Covenant Signatories and stakeholders in EaP countries by having processed over **5,000 consultancy requests**.



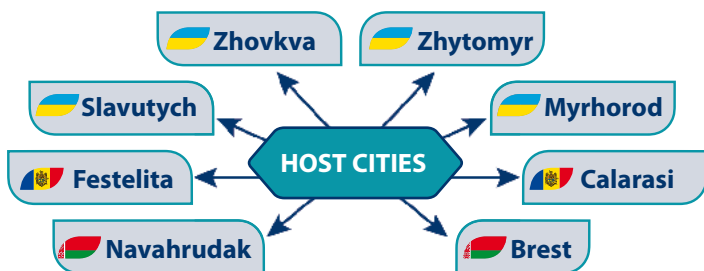
### The requested consultancy assistance focused on:

- Covenant of Mayors adhesion procedure
- New commitments signing process
- SECAP development and implementation
- Development of the BEI and mitigation actions
- Climate risks and vulnerability assessment
- Funding opportunities for municipal projects
- Preparation of monitoring reports and interpretation of JRC feedback
- Improvement of the vulnerabilities description for different sectors and possible adaptation actions

## CITY2CITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

A new exchange programme **City2City** was launched by the CoM East project team in 2018 to establish a platform for sharing ideas, experience and best practices of the CoM Signatories in energy efficiency, sustainable energy development and adaptation to climate change policy through a series of study visits of **two different levels – political** (mayors/deputy mayors) and **technical** (energy managers). The programme helped its participants boost their knowledge, obtain practical skills and find effective solutions in thematic clusters covering the key sectors of municipal SE(C)APs.

**1 Mayors' level study visit** to Riga and Jelgava (Latvia) – **9 sites visited in both cities – 18 participants** from **6 EaP countries**



The programme was organized in an intensive and useful manner. We had an opportunity to get acquainted with technical data and solutions of advanced EE projects and increased our knowledge in SECAP development process. I would like to thank the CoM East project for such activities that motivate and encourage for more productive work in our municipalities.

**Tamar Phurtseladze**  
Gurjaani (Georgia)

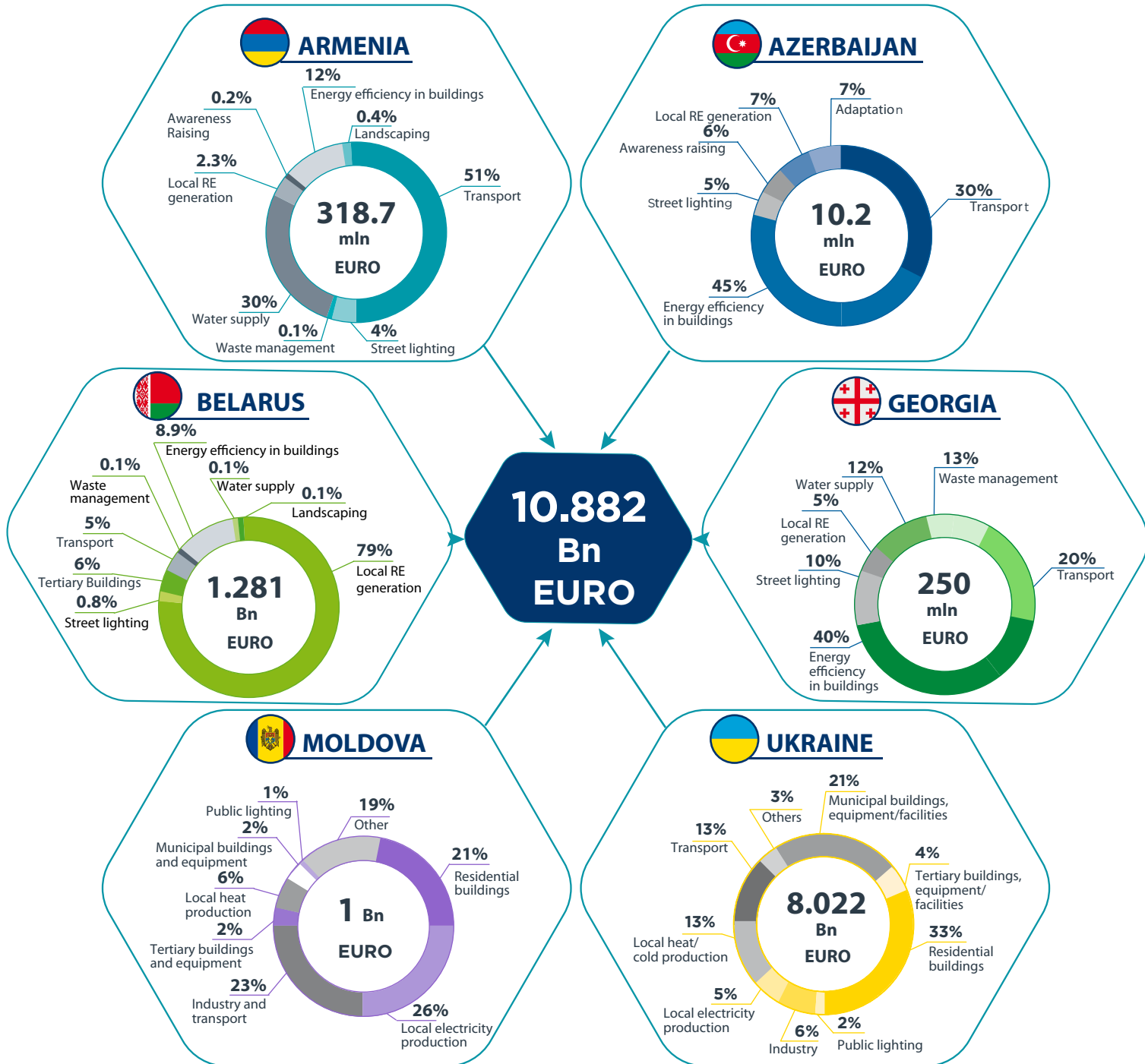
*With the support of the European Union and Covenant of Mayors East office, me and my colleagues from 6 countries have got a wonderful opportunity to visit Riga and Jelgava (Latvia) in 2019. It should be noted that experience of former Soviet countries is very relevant and interesting for EaP countries as, in principle, we had similar challenges and problems in 1991. All site visits were planned in details and I am thankful to the CoM East team for such an intensive study tour. We have obtained guidelines in what directions we should move and how to implement energy efficiency projects in our municipalities. As a city mayor, I plan to apply the lessons learnt from my colleagues from Riga and Jelgava. In particularity, I am going to develop a local program for residential building retrofitting in order to co-finance thermal modernisation of multi-apartment buildings.*

**Yuriy Fomichev**  
Mayor of Slavutyich (Ukraine)

**13 Technical level study visits** to active CoM Signatories – **8 host cities – 84 participants** from **Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine –**

**25 SECAPs** developed and submitted

# INVESTMENTS REQUIRED FOR SECAP IMPLEMENTATION\*



\* As defined in the approved Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SE(C)APs)

# Networking and cooperation with key stakeholders

## CoM embedded in national policies and strategies

Inscribing energy and climate targets in national policies and strategies, guaranteeing sustainability of the CoM development in the EaP countries and adapting the Covenant of Mayors energy and climate objectives to the regional context is one of the CoM East strategic goals. Sustainable energy and climate planning based on CoM methodologies and tools as effective instruments adapted to the specific needs of Signatories in Eastern Partnership region has been already integrated into a range of important strategic documents at the national level of each EaP country.

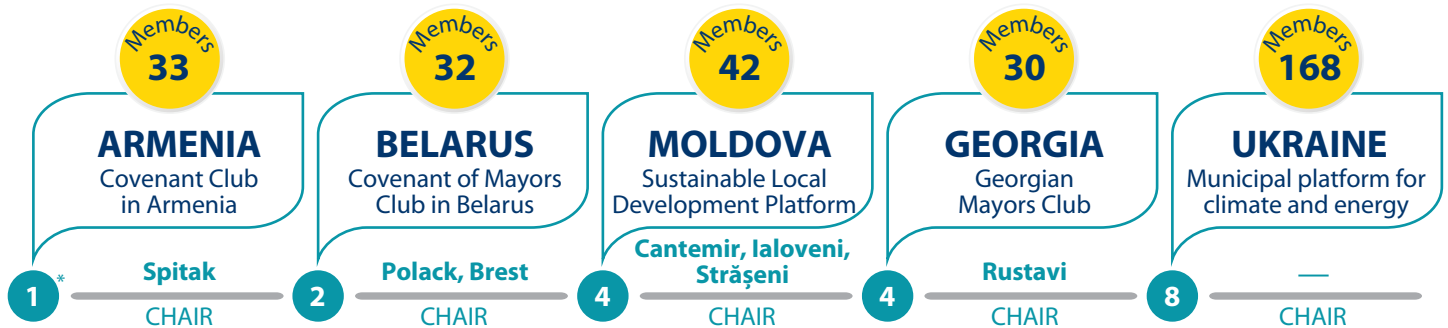
## Municipal Development Coordination Platform

In December 2018, the CoM East project initiated a new cooperation and networking format for the Covenant Signatories in Eastern Partnership countries – **Municipal Development Coordination Platform (MDCP)**. It is aimed at strengthening and promoting the dialogue between local and regional authorities, national and international beneficiaries to create a favourable environment in the communities for sustainable energy development and successful implementation of climate change mitigation measures.

**MDCP membership** allows the participating municipalities to discuss and share best practices on sustainable energy development and climate change adaptation to develop and implement joint projects in their priority areas. MDCP members also benefit from various funding opportunities available to reduce their energy dependence and ensure climate change resilience, thus improving quality of life for their citizens.

### Main objectives:

- to discuss and shape national strategies and priorities in the field of energy and climate
- to assist the CoM Signatories in fulfilling their Covenant commitments
- to improve the communication, exchange of know-how and experience, transfer of technologies amongst the CoM Signatories
- to set the framework for development of National Roadmaps to address barriers and foster drivers enabling municipal energy and climate investments
- to provide technical support for local authorities in implementing and monitoring their SE(C)APs
- to facilitate coordination and ensure synergy amongst the existing energy and climate initiatives at national level



\* Number of meetings

## National Roadmaps

With the support of the CoM East experts, each country developed a strategic guidance for policy makers and other stakeholders – **National Roadmap** – aimed to establish a favorable framework for supporting the Covenant communities in effective implementation of their local energy and climate policies and fulfillment of their voluntary commitments to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, improve climate resilience and reduce energy poverty. National roadmaps review and provide recommendations on regulatory and institutional environment for attracting investments, main barriers and drivers to effective planning and increase of financing to implement energy efficiency projects within the CoM Signatories' SECAPs etc.

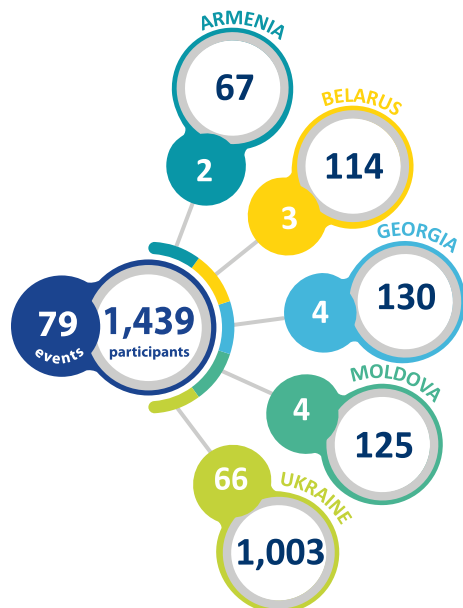
## Key barriers & drivers for implementing municipal projects

	Barriers	Drivers
FINANCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited public/municipal funds and access to funding sources</li><li>• Insufficient capacities of local authorities to develop and implement bankable projects</li><li>• Lack of internal municipal experience to plan and attract investments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring grant co-financing by national/international donors and access to other funding instruments</li><li>• Capacity building of local authorities to develop high quality bankable projects</li><li>• Fostering exchange of experience and best practices on attracting investments and available financial mechanisms</li></ul>
LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Underdeveloped legislation and regulatory framework along with enforcement provisions</li><li>• Discrepancies between the national legislation and the requirements of IFIs related to project documents</li><li>• Underdeveloped market of bank guarantees and low safety level of investors' rights</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of relevant regulatory provisions and continuous support in enforcement of all adopted regulations</li><li>• Harmonisation of national regulatory framework with the requirements of donors and IFIs</li><li>• Ensuring adequate guarantees to help build confidence of the financial institutions in EE investments</li></ul>
ADMINISTRATIVE & TECHNICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insufficient administrative and technical capacities of municipalities to plan and manage the projects based on IFIs', donors' and investors' requirements</li><li>• Lack of technical professional skills and expertise of local staff, as well as contractors and designers</li><li>• Poor technical conditions of municipal infrastructure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capacity building for municipalities in the field of project planning, management, cooperation with donors and investors</li><li>• Creating a baseline for energy performance of municipal assets, quantification of non-monetary benefits</li><li>• Providing high quality project design and cost-optimality of interventions, monitoring and documentation of results to ensure repayments from savings</li></ul>

# Access to financing

## Trainings & matchmaking events

In order to encourage and enable the Covenant Signatories in EaP countries to transfer their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SE(C)APs) into concrete actions and attract necessary financial resources, a series of country-specific trainings and matchmaking events were organised. Obtained knowledge and practical skills **helped the municipalities turn their project ideas into project proposals** in line with the basic requirements of the donor community and, thus, contribute to timely implementation of their municipal action plans and achievement of their CoM targets.



## Project pipelines

National databases of municipal project proposals – **Project pipelines** – in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change adaptation were developed for each EaP country. The project pipelines aimed to increase the visibility of municipal investments and support municipalities to find potential investors, donors and partners, which should help raise the funds needed to implement their SE(C)APs. The databases contain information on the baseline of energy consumption of planned projects, content of the proposed activities, amount of investments required and expected results.

## Participating donors and IFIs:

EBRD, EIB, KfW, GIZ, NEFCO, SIDA, UNDP, USAID, IFC, World Bank, local banks and funds with the involvement of EU Delegations to EaP countries, EU-funded initiatives and projects (EU4Energy, EU4Climate, EU4Environment, etc.)

## In focus:

- financial aspects of SE(C)AP development and implementation
- available financial schemes and mechanisms that may be applied to attract funding
- development of feasible and high-quality bankable projects proposals
- networking between the CoM Signatories and various funding institutions

## Number of projects per sector



# Synergies with other initiatives

In order to sustain the most effective results and strengthen the impacts achieved, the CoM East took advantage of various opportunities available in the Eastern Partnership countries to coordinate cooperation and improve synergies with the EU and other international donors, projects and initiatives in order to better promote the Covenant of Mayors and provide support to the CoM Signatories in meeting their energy and climate commitments.



## Role of JRC in supporting CoM Signatories

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service, which employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent, evidence-based scientific and technical advice and support to EU policy. It plays a central role in creating, managing and making sense of collective scientific knowledge for better EU policies and contributes with its research outcomes to a healthy and safe environment, secure energy supplies, sustainable mobility, consumer health and safety.

The JRC is also responsible for ensuring technical and scientific support to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy initiative. It works in close cooperation with the CoM Offices to provide Signatories with clear technical guidelines and templates in order to assist in successful delivery of their Covenant of Mayors commitments, as well as to monitor the implementation process and achieved results.

Learn more about the JRC: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/>

## In particular, the JRC support to the CoM Signatories consists in:

- Setting the methodological basis of the initiative, including guidebooks for local authorities
- Evaluating and approving the SECAPs of municipalities with a feedback procedure
- Developing assessment reports on the CoM initiative
- Improving the data collection process
- Co-chairing a technical working group on data and developing the new "standard" for city emission reporting, targets, action plans and adaptation for GCoM
- Working on the methodological adaptation to the different regions of the world
- Providing technical training for cities and regions and for regional experts and capacity building activities

# Communicating Covenant in EaP countries



**Communication and promotion activities** envisaged promotion of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, its targets, opportunities and benefits, as well as the CoM East results and achievements by conducting various awareness-raising actions, organising and participating in thematic events and other activities for different stakeholders at the national and international level. The main objective was to **promote the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and encourage municipalities in the Eastern Partnership countries to join the initiative** and benefit from becoming a member of the Covenant community.

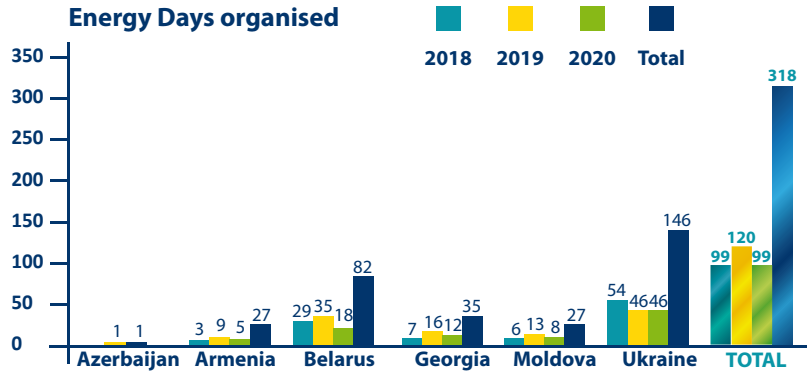
## EUSEWs and SEDs

Eastern Partnership countries actively participated in the **European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)** and organised **Sustainable Energy Days (SED)** in their municipalities to promote and share best practices and innovative ideas in the field of clean and safe energy, energy efficiency, wider use of renewables and sustainable development in their communities.

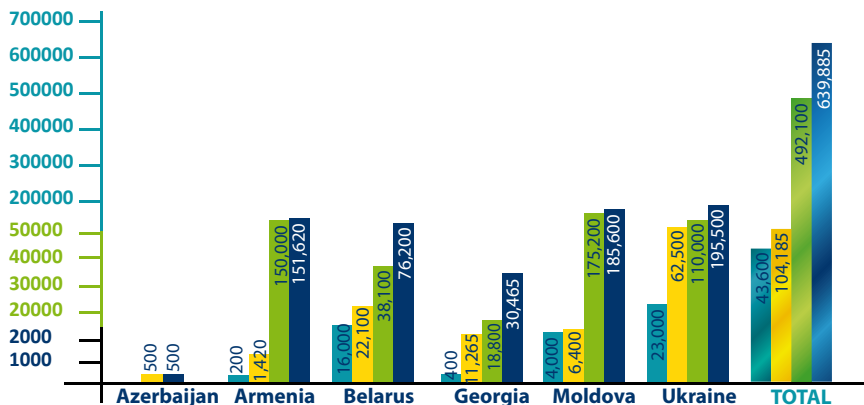
## CoM East promoted at national and international events



## Energy Days organised



## Persons reached/involved



## Impact and behavioral changes

- Increased awareness of the CoM Signatories' population in EaP countries who are aware of the initiative and support their municipalities in the achievement of their climate and energy targets
- Local authorities learned about the available financial instruments and mechanisms to attract funds and investments and how to apply them for implementing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)
- Attitudes of the residents in the CoM Signatories changed in favour of more energy efficient and ecological way of life and economy
- Communities became more responsible and active in promoting and implementing various energy efficiency and climate change adaptation measures
- CoM Signatories share their experience and best practices with other municipalities at national and regional level to achieve the undertaken commitments and ensure sustainable development





# CoM-DeP: from plans to life

**Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects (CoM-DeP)** is the EU funded programme developed in response to the challenges faced by small municipalities of less than 200,000 residents in the Eastern Partnership region that have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors Initiative. Many Signatories do not have the technical or financial capacity to implement their Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plan/SE(C)AP, which is the key document setting out how each municipality will reach its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target. The EU provides support through the demonstration projects, which show how municipalities can effectively turn their SE(C)APs into practical action.

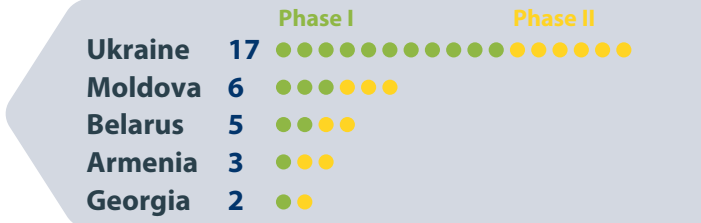
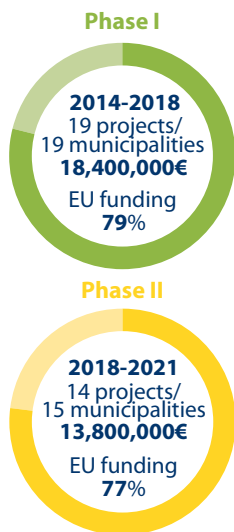
Typical size of a project is ranging **from 0.5 to 1.4 million EUR**. The projects are directly implemented by the municipalities (and their project partners) that makes them more capable and stronger for further projects implementation.

Municipalities involved receive **financial, administrative and technical support** to implement sustainable energy efficiency projects that result in reduced operational costs and energy bills for municipalities and citizens, while also reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

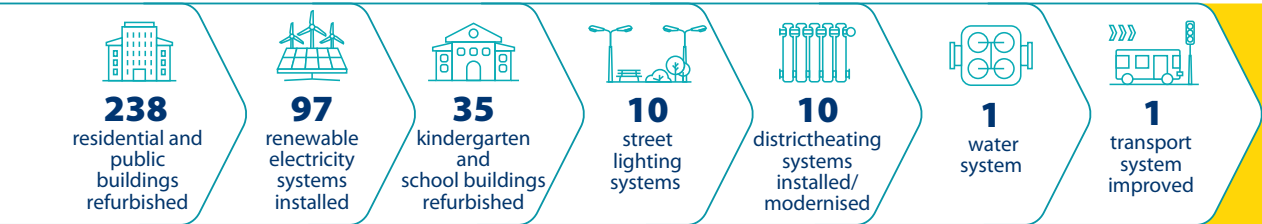
Learn more about the CoM-DeP Programme: [www.com-dep.eu](http://www.com-dep.eu)

## The selected demonstration projects focus on:

- refurbishment of public and residential buildings
- upgrading district heating systems
- introducing energy-efficient street lighting
- upgrading public transport
- improving energy efficiency in waste water systems



## Results achieved\* by the CoM-DeP municipalities:



**1,846**  
jobs  
sustained

\* as of April 1, 2021

# CoM East prospects: what is next?

Over the ten years in the Eastern Partnership countries, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy has reached significant achievements and gained a reputation of a strong European brand, which remains attractive for municipalities. The initiative quickly grew to strongest participation outside the European Union.

Thus, based on the experience of two previous phases of the programme – CoM East I (2011 – 2015) and CoM East II (2016 – 2021) – **CoM East III has been launched to further advance energy and climate action in the region.** While Phase I was aimed at supporting municipalities in the process of joining the initiative and Phase II focused more on the development and implementation of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), Phase III should provide more targeted support to actual and potential Signatories with various degree of experience.

## **In particular, Covenant of Mayors East III will address the following main aspects of sustainable local development and green transition:**

- Encouraging more local authorities to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors and its 2030 targets, and to increase the support of regional and national authorities to CoM Signatories
- Providing support to Signatories in developing and implementing their SECAPs and building up their technical capacities for improved local planning and management
- Delivering targeted support to facilitate the CoM Signatories' access to financing of municipal projects, in particular those that are a part of their SECAPs
- Raising awareness among local population about the relevance of local energy and climate action
- Providing local communities with the effective tools to actively contribute to meeting the local challenges





[www.com-east.eu](http://www.com-east.eu)

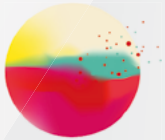


EU4Energy



Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy  
Eastern Partnership

## The Project is implemented by the Consortium led by Energy Cities:



ENERGYCITIES



Climate Alliance



KOMMUNAL  
KREDIT  
PUBLIC CONSULTING



COMMUNITIES  
ASSOCIATION of  
ARMENIA



Interakcia



EEC



AEER



Association  
«Energy Efficient  
Cities of Ukraine»

The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It does this by financing projects and programmes that help to reform energy markets and to reduce national energy dependence and consumption. Over the longer term, this makes energy supply more reliable, transparent and affordable, thus reducing energy poverty and energy bills for both citizens and the private sector.

More information on: [www.EU4Energy.eu](http://www.EU4Energy.eu)



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The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the CoM East project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

[www.com-east.eu](http://www.com-east.eu)

