In 2021, the EU Commission proposed making the EU’s 2030 climate targets more ambitious and to attain a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1991). By 2050, the EU should be climate neutral. But without the active support of everyone, it remains an unattainable goal.

Against this background in 2021, we as the Association European Energy Award also discussed how we can support, motivate and challenge our eea local authorities on this path to climate neutrality. They play a crucial role in many areas: to achieve the local, national or European CO2 reduction paths - be it with their own buildings as role models for private households, be it in a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly design of public spaces or the planning of a grid-connected renewable heat supply necessary for the heat transition. Our national eea programme promoters actively seek to provide concrete support for these topics to eea local authorities through implementation tools, seminars or the eea process.

The EU Commission also relies on the partnership with eea cities, municipalities and regions: On the occasion of the European Energy Award Gold Event in Ravensburg in November 2021, the President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen called on eea (Gold) local authorities to implement the European goals in every region, every city and even in every small village: „For a quarter of a century, the European Energy Award and the European Union have very often gone side by side because we share the same mindset and the same big goal: to stop global warming and make Europe a better and more sustainable place to live.“

The current Ukraine conflict has unfortunately confirmed that by working towards a more sustainable energy future, we are all making an important contribution not only against climate change but also for peace. Thank you, and stay tuned!

Gudrun Heute-Bluhm
Chair of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

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Published by: Association European Energy Award
Zurich, May 2022
2021 was the fifth year of formal operation of the international non-profit Association European Energy Award AISBL (Association-sans-but-lucratif). The main bodies of the eea are the Executive Board, the Executive Office (eea Office, mandated to Brandes Energie AG), the Brussels Office (mandated to BMGI) and the two Working Groups 'Development & Quality' and 'Dissemination'.

Members and General Assembly

- At the end of 2021, the Association eea had 31 ordinary and 4 sponsoring members.
- The General Assembly 2021 was held digitally on 15 June 2021.

Working Groups

- In the framework of the strategy meetings, the following working groups were set up: 'More visibility', 'Lobbying', 'Products and services', 'National growth', 'International growth', 'Cooperation' and 'Governance'. Generally, one meeting per group was held. For the WG 'Product and services', four meetings took place.
- The International Calibration Day, the annual conference of all international eea auditors, was held on 27/28 September in Berne, Switzerland.

Executive Board

- At the end of 2021, the eea Board had 12 members: 2 representatives each from Germany, Austria, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, 1 representative from Italy and the president.
- The eea Board held three conference calls and one Strategy Workshop in Stuttgart, Germany.

Figure Organisation
Participating countries and overall figures

Ordinary member countries ............................ 8
Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland

Pilot countries .................................................. 10
Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Population involved
- in participating local authorities ............... 76 m
- in awarded local authorities ....................... 42 m

Number of local authorities
- participating ................................................. 1,789
- awarded eea .............................................. 1,080
- awarded eea Gold ................................. 185

Awarded and participating local authorities per country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of awarded local authorities</th>
<th>No. of participating local authorities</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 5,000 inhabitants</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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NO. OF EEA AWARDED LOCAL AUTHORITIES 2011 - 2021 PER COUNTRY

- Pilot countries
- Monaco
- Luxembourg
- Liechtenstein
- Italy
- France
- Germany
- Austria
- Switzerland
The eea is more than just energy – it is also climate mitigation and adaptation, water and waste water management, resource management and many more topics.

The eea brings together a wide variety of cities and municipalities, both in terms of climatic conditions and size. There are municipalities from very southern and warm regions, such as in the French overseas territories, to mountain villages in the Alps. Municipalities with a few hundred inhabitants up to large cities including their agglomerations with a population of over one million have been awarded with the eea.

In addition to the individual differences of the municipalities, the eea was also present in 18 different national contexts in 2021, with different legislation, different decision-making competences for the municipalities, different national priorities in energy and climate policy or also different financial framework conditions. The eea catalogue of measures is able to adapt to the individual context and scope of action of each municipality. In 2021, the Association eea has decided to further strengthen this mechanism of national adaptability and to make the eea catalogue of measures even more flexible. This gives the eea countries even more leeway to optimally map their national priorities in the eea catalogue. So-called ‘core measures’, which are central to the achievement of climate goals at the local level, continue to form the core of the eea catalogue of measures and assure the comparability across national borders.

Making profit of these flexibilities on national level, two of the long-standing eea countries have undergone important thematic developments in 2021 (see p. 8 and 10):

In Luxembourg, the Climate Pact 2.0 was launched, which fully integrates the topics of circular economy and climate change adaptation.

In France, two programmes were united under the umbrella of the eea; in addition to the energy and climate aspects, the circular economy is now also a central pillar of the programme ‘Territoire Engagé Transition Écologique’.
Cooperation and partnerships

There is a wide range of networks, initiatives, programmes and standards on European level, such as the Covenant of Mayors, the European Innovation Partnership – Smart Cities and Communities (EIP SCC) or ISO standards, which offer good synergies and complement the eea in an optimal way. The eea therefore has a close collaboration with these different stakeholders.

Cooperation European Energy Award and Covenant of Mayors Europe / CoME EASY Project

Since many years, the Association European Energy Award and the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) are cooperating as their tools and processes are complementary in many ways: While the CoM provides a methodological framework to set ambitious quantitative energy and climate targets aligned with the European targets and to develop an according Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), the eea can offer systematical guidance for municipalities to continuously improve and implement their action plans.

In 2021, the important CoME EASY project - which aimed to strengthen the synergies between the two initiatives eea and CoM- was completed. An important result of the project was the simplification of reporting for municipalities participating in both programmes. Since 2021, eea municipalities are able to export all information from the eea online platform, which is also required for CoM reporting, with just one click.

Despite the end of the project, the exchange between eea and CoM continues on how this reporting on the exchange of data can even be done automatically from platform to platform.

Common events with other partners (FEDARENE, Smart Cities, DG Regio, DG Clima)

In 2021, the eea again organized and participated together with partners in many seminars and events - due to the Covid-19 pandemic again all in digital format:

- European Energy Award Club Event, 16 March 2021, Topic: How to link Circular Economy with energy and climate programmes
- Webinar series on Data & Tools organized by Global CoM and CoM Europe, 12 May 2021
- GET READY FOR 2050’ workshop series, 27 May 21 Topic: How to successfully plan for the future: ‘European initiatives for energy and climate action municipalities: chances and challenges
- EUSEW 2021, 26 October 2021 Topic: ‘Local authorities: How to get fit for the 55% target’

Graphic eea - CoM
Dissemination of the European Energy Award to new countries

**EU-funded H2020 project IMPLEMENT**

The IMPLEMENT project, which was launched in 2018 with the aim of introducing the eea in Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Greece, Croatia and Poland, was successfully continued in 2021.

After the eea pilot municipalities had already worked with the eea instruments for 2-3 years and implemented various eea measures, the first eea audits took place in the pilot municipalities in 2021. For this purpose, national auditors were trained and were accompanied by international auditors during the first audits.

At the national level, the IMPLEMENT countries have continued to develop national eea programmes and have, for example, developed business plans and planned the future of eea at the national level with national decision-makers.

**EU funded H2020 project Excite**

The main goal of the EXCITE project is to introduce the eea in Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Slovenia (at least in 3 pilot municipalities per country) as well as in additional Ukrainian and Romanian municipalities. In total, at least 15 pilot municipalities in these countries shall be supported through the EXCITE project.

In 2021, the focus of the activities was on the adaptation of the eea instruments to the national context in Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Slovenia (eea catalogue of measure, eea assessment handbook, eea online tool). Additionally, first steps of the eea process took place in the selected pilot municipalities: Dobrich, Gabrovo and Sofia (Bulgaria); Karposh, Kichevo and Kochani, (North Macedonia); Celja, Slovenj Gradec and Velenje (Slovenia). Furthermore, citizen engagement strategies were prepared and innovative financial schemes were analysed.

**The European Energy Award beyond Europe**

Since several years, the dissemination of the eea is no longer limited to Europe as several non-European countries have started to investigate how the European Energy Award could meet their local circumstances.

In der Middle East and North African MENA region a project is currently underway in Tunisia. 14 local authorities are involved. More details can be read on page 11.

In Latin America, the eea (known as Ciudad/Comuna energética there) is present in three countries: Chile, Colombia and Uruguay. In 2021, the REPIC-funded project ‘Latin-American Energy Award network’ was launched with the aim of establishing a network and organization equivalent to the Association eea in Europe to further promote Ciudad/Comuna energética all over Latin America.
Activities in member countries

**Austria**

47% of Austrians will already be living in municipalities or regions participating in the e5 programme by the end of 2021. In 2021, the audits in the local authorities were subject to a constant assessment with the new e5 catalogue of measures. Similar to 2020, the 2021 summit of all the Austrian Gold local authorities took place in virtual form. In this context, the eea Gold local authorities held discussions with Federal Minister Leonore Gewessler on the focus topics „Out of Oil and Gas” and „Renewable Electricity”. All the events and meetings for Austria were held online in 2021.

![e5-Event in the Austrian Province Vorarlberg. 10 awarded local authorities](image)

**France**

A major change in 2021 was the transition of the Cit’ergie designation to “Territoires engagés - Climat-Air-Énergie” (TE CAE) (regions committed to climate-air-energy). The Climate-Air-Energy (CAE) standard comprises 61 measures, divided into six sections. Each measure is rated on a scale of 2 to a maximum of 16 points. The maximum number of points for the label is 500. The label levels correspond to percentages of completion (ratio between completed actions and the maximum action potential of the community).

Launched in 2008, the scheme now comprises 264 local authorities, representing 25 million inhabitants (38% of the French population).

In 2022, 9 local authorities were awarded the 5-star Climate-Air-Energy (CAE) label, 14 received the 4-star CAE label, 45 acquired the 3-star CAE label, 65 were awarded the 2-star CAE label, 101 received the 1-star CAE label and a further 30 local authorities are currently in the process of obtaining the CAE label.

![‘Climat-Air-Énergie’ and ‘Économie Circulaire’ Awarding September 2021, in Paris](image)
Activities in member countries

Germany

The focus in 2021 was on the further development of the evaluation tool, which was discussed extensively with the eea advisors/auditors, among others. 2021 was also marked by the optimisation of the online formats of the training courses and experience-sharing meetings to ensure they can continue to be offered to the various target groups in the future. The Covid-19 pandemic once again presented challenges to the Federal Office in 2021. Once again, many events had to be held online, including the training of the advisors and the meetings to exchange experiences of the participating local authorities. However, it was possible to hold larger attendance events again during the ‘more relaxed’ phases of the pandemic. An example of this was the exchange of experience and awards event in North Rhine-Westphalia in October.

Italy

Work resumed during 2021, mainly remotely, that had been suspended due to the pandemic, although the various commitments of local authorities to the national resilience plan, which is a great opportunity to also invest in sustainable projects, often slowed down the various activities. Three new local authorities joined the programme in 2021, and work in the municipalities already participating resumed as normal after the difficulties in 2020 due to the pandemic emergency and the renewal of the energy teams. External verification audits were scheduled online in December 2021: Three local authorities confirmed the ComuneClima Silver eea level already achieved, while a fourth obtained the Silver level certification for the first time. A course for new advisors was also held in December, partly in person in Bolzano and partly online. Several initiatives were implemented to promote the programme both at a regional and national level. At national level, both the Come Easy project (presented by SPES) and the ComuneClima programme received the Forum PA award as one of the top four best practices in the ‘measuring sustainability’ section.
Activities in member countries

**Luxembourg**

2021 was marked by the operational transition of the first Climate Pact (2013-2020) to the new edition, the Climate Pact 2.0. Extensive work was carried out on the Climate Pact 2.0 for the coming years (up to 31/12/2030) in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development (MECTD). Among others, the catalogue of measures was revised and the framework conditions for the participating local authorities were improved. The Climate Pact 2.0 was then launched operationally. Meanwhile, 100 of the 102 local authorities have re-joined the Climate Pact.

**Switzerland and Liechtenstein**

2021 was a year of new directions. Our long-time president Barbara Schwickert stepped down and we celebrated the election of Katrin Bernath as her dedicated successor at the AGM in Schaffhausen and the 30-year ‘Energiestadt’ certification of the city. It was also an exciting year in terms of content: for example, the Board set the strategy for the next several years and set a focus on the net zero climate target by no later than 2050. Our aim is to ensure that 75% of our energy cities have made at least one political decision to this effect over the next three years. However, this essentially relates to the implementation at the level of individual members, either cities or small municipalities. We can assist you in this respect with various offers, services and products in the sense of a competence network so that we can all progress along this path. The flagship projects that benefited from Federal Energy Agency funding in 2021 are also a sign that the energy cities are starting to innovate. Roughly 330 municipalities and cities applied for this project funding from SwissEnergy. All 56 cities, municipalities and regions that received an award are, without exception, energy cities.
Activities in pilot countries

Tunisia

In Tunisia, the eea has been fully embedded in the National Programme « Municipal Alliance for Energy Transition » (ACTE) led by the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME). Based on a call for applications in 2019, 7 partner cities have been selected to benefit from financial support and technical assistance. Over the last two years, four additional cities and the municipalities of Djerba have taken up the challenge and joined the programme. 9 out of the 14 local authorities involved in the programme will be audited by June 2022; with at least 4 reaching the 50%-threshold; a national intermediate certification level has been established at 30%, as a first step towards a more ambitious energy policy. A variety of pilot projects have been supported, ranging from efficient public lighting, a bicycle lane and intermodal mobility platform, to the development of a sustainable urban neighborhood and integration of energy criteria in urban regulation, to energy generation from solar PV and biomass- to mention a few.

Romania

Romanian eea activity continued in 2021 with the support of the Swiss ambassador in Romania and the financial support of the European H2020 projects CoME EASY and EXCITE. The greatest success was the awarding of the city of Iasi (the second largest city in Romania), followed by the city of Alba Iulia (in the centre of Transylvania, which has a major symbolic significance for the unification of Romania). Although the score achieved by both cities was under 50%, we are hoping that interest will be high this year. The Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of incentives are still a problem, but the motivation to implement a net zero city initiative remains strong.
Activities in pilot countries

Serbia

The eea Pilot Cycle in Serbia (EEAS) will come to an end by December 2022. Four cities have taken up the challenge: Kruševac, Paracin, Vrbas and Uzice. Accompanied by local and international eea Advisors for the last four years, and with the joint support of SECO, the Ministry of Energy and Mining and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM), they have implemented a series of priority actions, starting with the retrofitting of public schools, the development of Sustainable Heat Supply Programmes and guidelines for the consideration of renewable energy sources in Spatial Planning, eco-behavioral measures for public administration and municipal communication strategies to foster civil-society engagement. All four partner cities will be audited in October 2022, and at least two of them are expected to reach the critical level of 50%. An intermediate national certification level of 35% has been established to certify Serbian «Energy Management Pioneers». SECO, in a partnership with the SCTM and the Ministry, is considering supporting a potential follow-up phase, which shall be assessed over the upcoming months.

Ukraine

At the beginning of 2021, the Ukrainian independent certification system was established. In particular, the national certification commission for Ukrainian municipalities as well as national accreditation commission for eea Consultants/Auditors were set and operational. Thanks to the independent certification system 5 Ukrainian experts were officially accredited and got the official status of eea Consultant, 2 of them were also accredited as eea Auditors. As the result of the intensive promotional activities, 7 Ukrainian municipalities joined the eea family and started the eea process in 2021, 2 of them (Lviv and Sumy) completed the quick-win demonstration projects and 1st eea cycle (initial review and action plan). To show the benefits of the eea system, the study on energy budgets of Ukrainian municipalities was accomplished. The results of the study were actively promoted among the key stakeholders during the First National eea Forum that was hold in November 2021 in Kyiv. The day after the Forum, the first calibration days, aimed at exchange on the eea assessment guidance, involving all acting consultants, were held.

Activities in Belgium, Croatia, Greece and Poland from the IMPLEMENT-Project and in North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Slovenia, from the Excite-Project, see page 7
By the end of 2021, 185 local authorities were labelled eea Gold. In 2021, 23 local authorities received the eea Gold for the first time, while 38 other local authorities successfully renewed their eea Gold label. Due to Covid-19, there were two audit rounds in 2021. One in February and one in September.

**eea Gold Example**

**Virgen (AT)**

2'196 inhabitants, eea Gold since 2008

The municipality of Virgen has continuously worked its way up from two „e“ to five „e“ since 1999. In this year’s reawarding, the continuous and consistent work has now led to the best rating of all Austrian e5 municipalities. This can be attributed to the strategic approach, which has consistently analysed the potentials and implemented appropriate measures. In this way, the municipality of Virgen makes a significant contribution to the Tyrol2050 goal of becoming energy-autonomous by then, as well as to motivating and setting an example for Tyrolean municipalities. This pioneering role is visible in numerous projects in all fields of action. As examples, the commission would like to highlight the „Virger Mobil“, the SERI project on climate change adaptation, the renovation of the municipal office with ecological building materials and hemp insulation, and the energy future picture, which has taken on a model function both in terms of content and the way it was created.
Awarded eea Gold local authorities 2021

**Austria**
- Judenburg | 9'655 inhabitants (eea Gold since 2017)
- Langenegg | 1'147 inhabitants (2004)
- Mäder | 4'109 inhabitants (2005)
- St. Johann im Pongau | 10'860 inhabitants (2009)
- Virgen | 2'196 inhabitants (2009)
- Wolfurt | 8'579 inhabitants (2009)
- Zwischenwasser | 3'256 inhabitants (2005)

**France**
- Besançon | 116'676 inhabitants (2012)
- Com. Urbaine de Dunkerque | 196'901 inhabitants (2013)
- Ville et Métropole de Nantes | 638'931 inhabitants (2021)

**Germany**
- District of Biberach | 201'598 inhabitants (2017)
- District of Böblingen | 389'548 inhabitants (2014)
- District of Bodenseekreis | 217'470 inhabitants (2017)
- Herzogenaurach | 25'000 inhabitants (2017)
- Leipzig | 579'530 inhabitants (2017)
- Leverkusen | 165'823 inhabitants (2021)
- Mengen | 9'988 inhabitants (2021)
- Oederan | 8'005 inhabitants (2021)
- Pirna | 39'236 inhabitants (2021)
- District of Reutlingen | 283'379 inhabitants (2021)
- Rietschen | 2'519 inhabitants (2017)
- District of Sigmaringen | 130'849 inhabitants (2021)
- Ulm | 126'790 inhabitants (2021)
- Warendorf | 37'157 inhabitants (2021)

**Italy**
- Firenze | 378'839 inhabitants (2021)

**Luxembourg**
- Schifflange | 11'178 inhabitants (2015)

**Switzerland**
- Aarau | 21'793 inhabitants (2017)
- Adliswil | 19'004 inhabitants (2021)
- Buchs (SG) | 12'048 inhabitants (2013)
- Bülach | 21'973 inhabitants (2021)
- Entlebuch | 3'300 inhabitants (2017)
- Fribourg | 38'411 inhabitants (2021)
- Hünenberg | 8'827 inhabitants (2021)
- Illnau-Effretikon | 17'316 inhabitants (2021)
- Le Grand Saconnex | 12'267 inhabitants (2016)
- Ossingen | 1'726 inhabitants (2017)
- Plan-les-Ouates | 10'628 inhabitants (2017)

**Liechtenstein**
- Vaduz | 5’696 inhabitants (2021)

**Riddes** | 3’206 inhabitants (2021)
- Saxon | 6’400 inhabitants (2017)
- Schlieren | 18’414 inhabitants (2021)
- St. Moritz | 5’206 inhabitants (2021)
- Vernier | 35’397 inhabitants (2009)
- Vevey | 20’086 inhabitants (2012)
Board of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

Mariadonata Bancher  Energy Agency South Tyrol – KlimaHaus (IT)
Fenn Faber  Klima-Agence (LU)
Thekla Heinel  Bundesgeschäftsstelle European Energy Award (DE)
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Charlotte Spörndli  Managing Director

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Bernard Gindroz  BMGI Consulting

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Croatia:  REGEA | Tomislav Novosel
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Italy:  European Energy Award | Chiara Tavella
Liechtenstein:  Energiestadt | Maren Kornmann
Luxembourg:  Pacte climat | Bruno Barboni
Monaco:  European Energy Award | Jessica Astier
North Macedonia:  Habitat for Humanity Macedonia | Liljana Alceva
Poland:  KAPE | Anna Mazur
Serbia:  Ministry of Mining and Energy | Tanja Cvjetkovic
Slovenia:  KSSENA | Bostjan Krajnc
Romania:  Romania Green Building Council I
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Switzerland:  Energiestadt | Maren Kornmann
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Technical implementation:
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Gabi Zink-Ehlert  energielenerker Beratungs GmbH (DE)
# Important bodies & contacts (status end of 2021)

## Accredited International eea City Advisors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Helmut Strasser</td>
<td>SIR, Salzburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Catherine Bossis</td>
<td>Greenselpar, Toulouse</td>
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<td>Sébastien Denis</td>
<td>Equineo, Montpellier</td>
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<td>Anne Rialhe</td>
<td>AERE, Aix-les-Bains</td>
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<td>Michaël Toma</td>
<td>MT Partenaires, Bordeaux</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Tobias Gruben</td>
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<td>Leo Meyer</td>
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<td>Stefan Brändle</td>
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<td>Reto Dettli</td>
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<td>Caroline Huwiler</td>
<td>IDE-E, Lausanne</td>
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* accreditation ‘on hold’ as long as the advisor is part of the international eea Office
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