

european
energy award

ACTING LOCALLY FOR THE CLIMATE

Annual Report
2024



Editorial



Gudrun Heute-Bluhm

Chair of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

«Let us continue to work together towards a climate neutral Europe!»

Advancing the European Energy Award towards Climate Neutrality

In a world of growing challenges for the European local policy we are able to highlight the past year a year of continued progress in guiding municipalities towards climate neutrality. The European Energy Award (eea) has continued its efforts to support municipalities, cities and regions to achieve net-zero emissions in the future, in line with European, national and local climate goals.

Notable developments include the enhancement of the eea framework with supports and tools such as for example Switzerland's Net-Zero Dashboard, which helps municipalities track progress, compare with other municipalities and identify priorities for action. Another example is Austria, where a climate neutrality-focused eea catalogue of measures was introduced in 2024 to ensure targeted and impact-oriented measures and actions that effectively guide local authorities towards their climate goals. The topic of heat transition was a key focus in 2024, with several dedicated actions. The eea has become a partner in the Covenant of Mayors Europe's 'Cities Heat Detox' campaign. In cooperation with CoM Europe, a EUSEW 2024 policy session was dedicated to the topic. Heat transition was also extensively presented and discussed in our online webinar for eea and CoM municipalities and at our annual event in Bolzano at the end of November 2024. Decarbonisation of heating systems remains a key challenge in achieving climate neutrality.

We have deepened our partnerships with several pilot countries. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Covenant of Mayors East is being prepared and will be signed in 2025 – mainly supporting our national programme in Ukraine. An EU Life project proposal has been submitted in 2024, aiming to strengthen the eea in Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, North Macedonia and Ukraine. There is a good chance that the implementation of this Life project will start in 2025.

Last but not least, we have been working hard on a new version of our core online tool to further facilitate the work of our 1897 local authorities and the 545 international and national advisors and auditors working with the tool.

Looking ahead, the eea will continue to promote international, national and local cooperation. In a period of increasing climate change on one side and economic challenges on the other side exchange of know-how and experience and excellence in local energy and climate policies stays more important than ever before. Let us continue to work together towards a climate neutral Europe!

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Activities and milestones

eea Gold Event

The international eea Gold Event was held for the first time in Italy, on 28/29 November in the city of Bolzano, South Tyrol, with visits in the surroundings. More than 130 participants from 30 local authorities from Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco and Switzerland were awarded with the eea Gold award and had the opportunity to visit some of the best practices of the South Tyrolean eea Gold communities and participate to thematic workshops. The focus was on the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

General Assembly

At the end of 2024, the Association eea had 21 ordinary and 5 sponsoring members. The General Assembly 2024 was held in Brussels on 13 June 2024.

Cooperation with Covenant of Mayors

The good cooperation and collaboration with the CoM Europe continued in 2024. In addition to regular bilateral exchanges and the jointly organized EUSEW session, the European Energy Award became a partner of the Covenant of Mayors' 'City Heat Detox' campaign. As a result, in December 2024, the eea also organized a public webinar for all interested local authorities on 'Implementing the heat transition in eea cities and municipalities'. A new collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors - Eastern Partnership was launched in 2024. The CoM East includes the countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. As Ukraine has been working with the European Energy Award for many years, CoM East is an important partner there. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the eea and CoM Europe, a MoU between the eea and CoM East was drafted in 2024 and signed in early 2025.

European Sustainable Energy Week EUSEW 2024

Under the title of 'Exploring the heat map: inspiring approaches to sustainable urban heat planning' the Association eea once again co-hosted an on-site policy session at the European Sustainable Energy Week EUSEW 2024. Representatives from e.g. Vienna, Karlsruhe or Denmark presented their successful approaches to sustainable urban heat supply.

The session was co-hosted by Covenant of Mayors and was also part of the City Heat Detox campaign.

Renewal online eea Management Tool: the EMT 2.0

Throughout 2024, the eea has continued to work intensively on the renewal of its main working and reporting tool – the online eea management tool (EMT). More than 7000 users work with the tool, sometimes on a daily basis, and it is available in 13 languages. In addition to technical upgrades, the focus was on the general modernisation of the tool and improving its user-friendliness. The new EMT2.0 was successfully launched on 1 April 2025.

Internal organisational meetings

The twelve-member eea Board held one conference call, one workshop and two meetings in Brussels and Bolzano. The Working Groups "Dissemination" and "Development and Quality" each held two meetings - one online and one in Paris. The International Calibration Day with all international eea auditors took place in Paris on 19/20 September.



Facts and figures 2024

Member countries



Pilot countries



Population involved

in participating local authorities

67 mil.

in awarded local authorities

38 mil.

Number of local authorities

participating

1,897

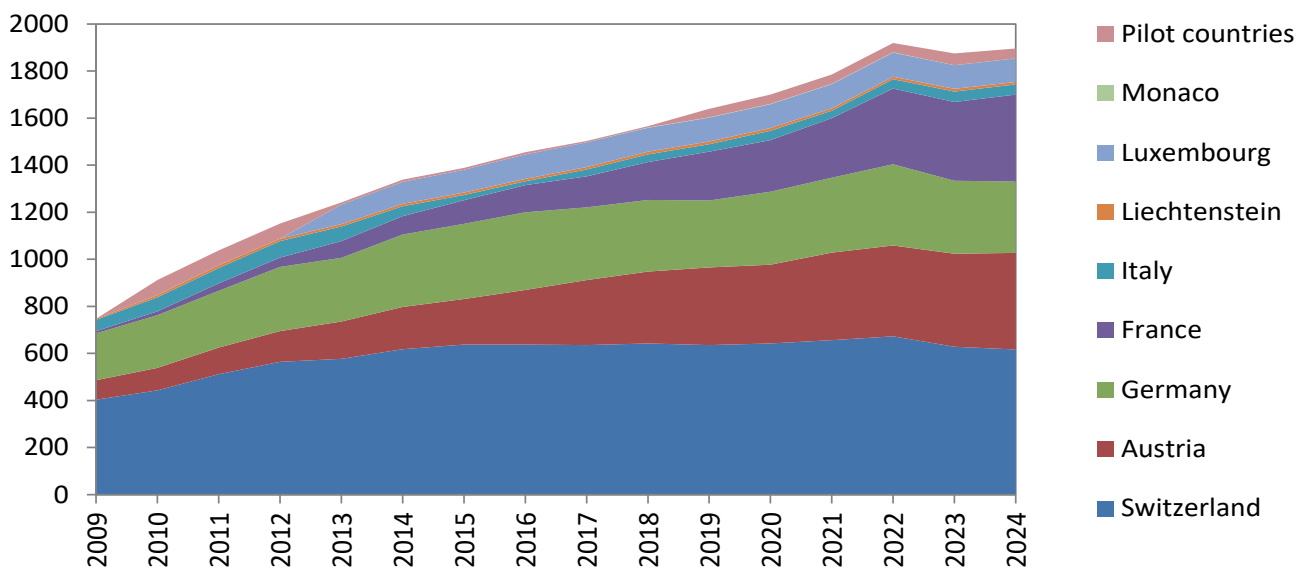
awarded eea

1,163

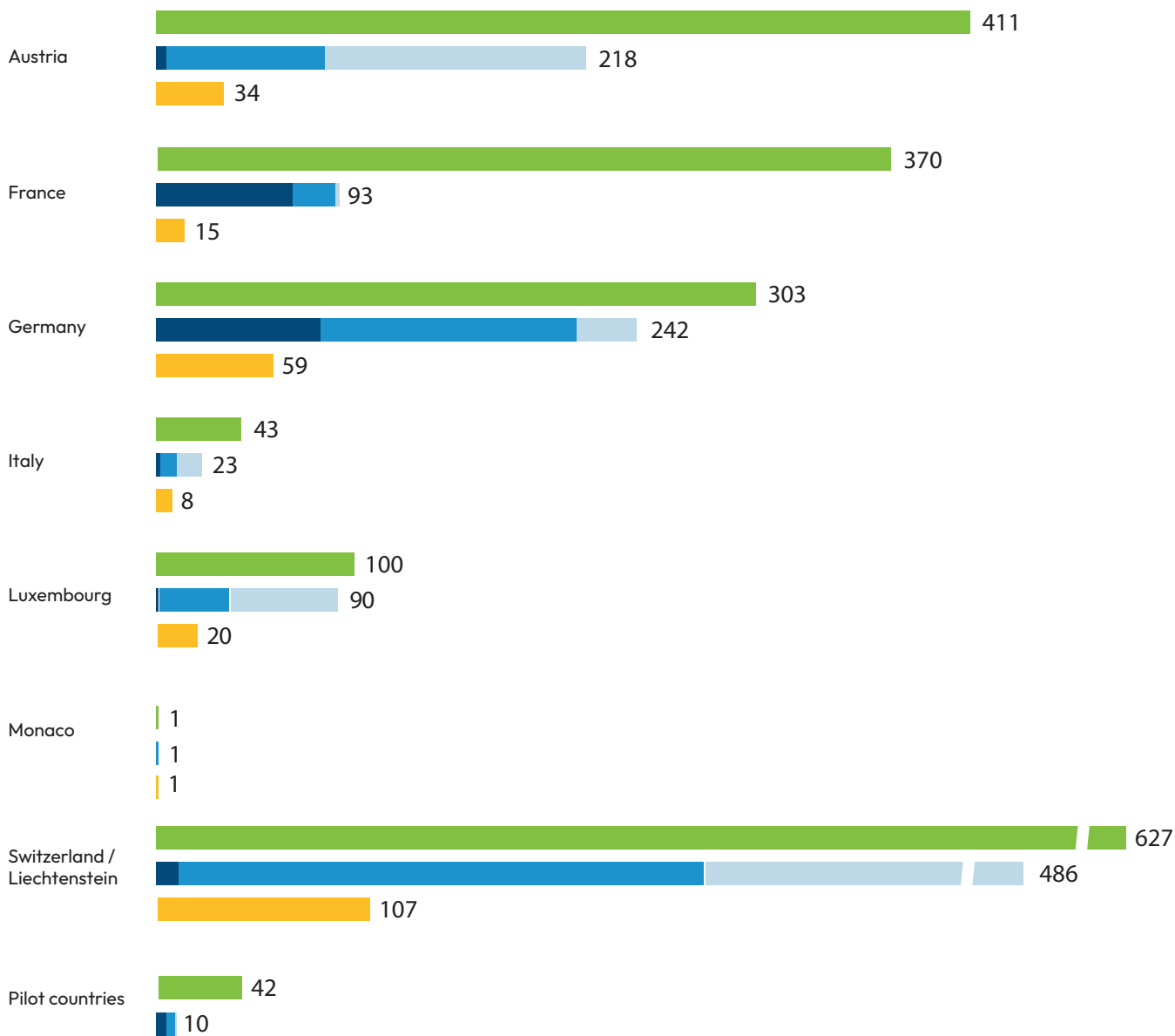
awarded eea Gold

248

Local authorities participating in the eea 2009–2024



Participating and awarded local authorities per country



No. of participating local authorities
Total 1,897

No. of awarded local authorities > 50,000 inhabitants
Total 171

No. of awarded local authorities 5,000 - 50,000 inhabitants
Total 541

No. of awarded local authorities < 5,000 inhabitants
Total 441

No. of awarded local authorities with eea Gold
Total 248

Activities in eea countries

Member countries Pilot countries

Austria

The e5 program supports municipalities and cities in implementing energy and climate policies through close cooperation between the federal government, states, and municipalities. The federal government aids in quality assurance and development via the klimaaktiv initiative. In 2024, the first municipalities were audited and certified based on a revised catalogue, which now emphasizes decarbonization and quantification to align better with national targets.

France

Launched in 2008, the scheme now has 371 local authorities involved and covers 36 million people, or 53% of the French population. In 2024, 20 local authorities were awarded the 5-star CAE label (18 eea Gold), 17 local authorities were awarded the 4-star CAE label, 67 local authorities were awarded the 3-star CAE label, 107 were awarded the 2-star label and 160 were awarded the 1-star label. In December, a local authorities day took place with workshops and testimonials.

Germany

In 2024, the prioritised topic was the adjustment of the assessment basis on the way to greenhouse gas neutrality by 2035. The background to these changes is the current data on accelerated global warming. This change to the assessment basis is in line with the aspiration of the eea to continuously develop as a future-oriented instrument. For this purpose, special information events with expert lectures were held in 2024 for municipalities and consultants, as well as for the regional offices.

Italy

The activity in 2024 consisted of the promotion of the method in support of the European mission 'Smart and Climate Neutral communities by 2030': within the framework of the European pilot project "Let's Gov", the eea was widely presented with the support of the Gold city of Florence as Best Practices in support of the Climate City Contract as an effective management and monitoring system. In November, the Gold Event was held in Bolzano, South Tyrol, hosted by CasaClima. It was the first time in Italy.

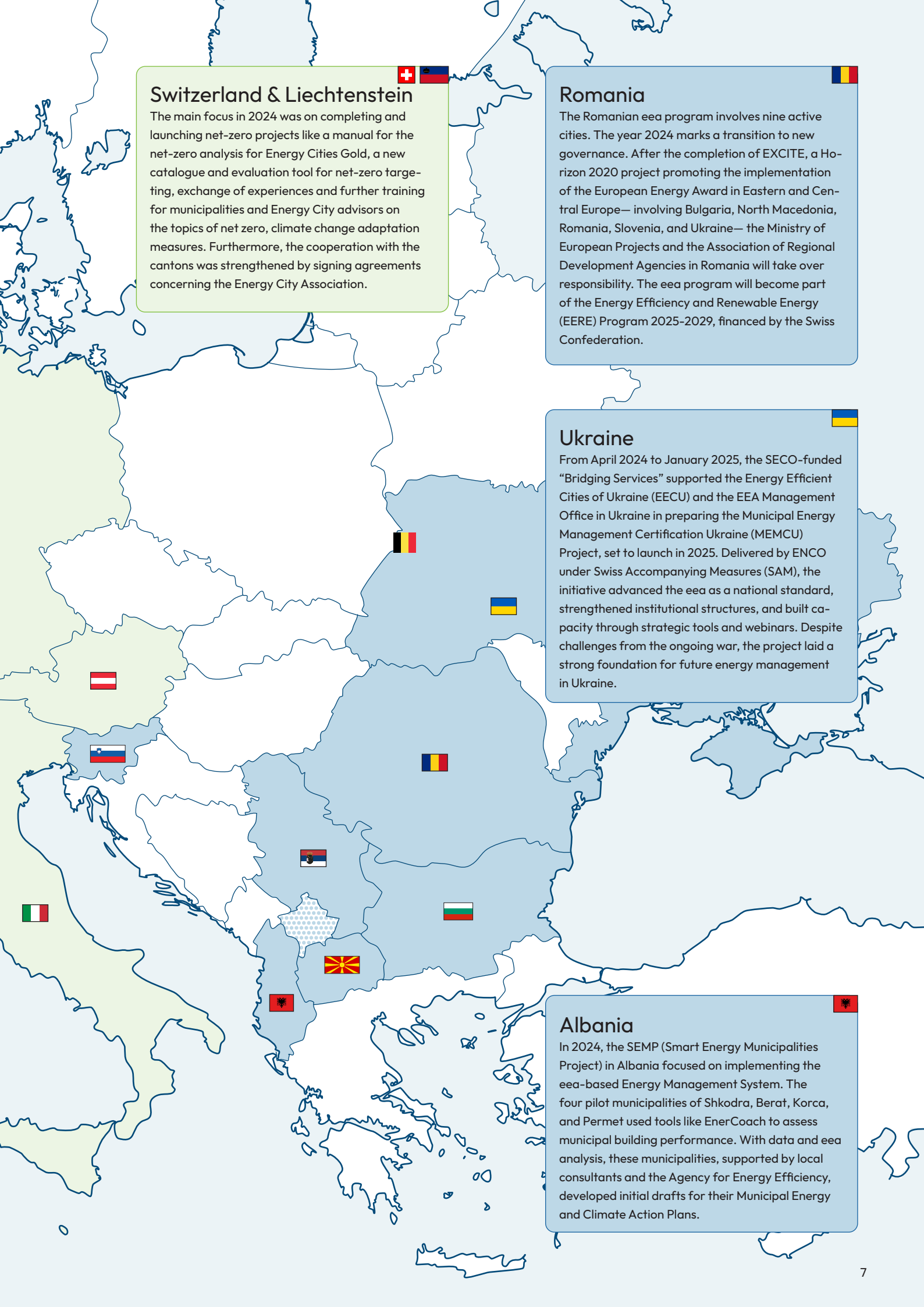
Luxembourg

The Climate Pact 2.0 has long been an indispensable national instrument for supporting Luxembourg's municipalities in their energy policy: all 100 municipalities in the country are participating, of which 92 municipalities are now officially certified – including 18 with 'Gold' status.

A particular focus was on further development towards climate neutrality. In this context, a national methodology for assessing climate-neutral municipalities in Luxembourg is currently being developed and will be integrated into the Climate Pact in 2025.

Monaco

In November 2024, the Principality of Monaco was awarded the European Energy Award Gold (EEA Gold) with a score of 80.2%, the highest European recognition for sustainable energy and climate policy. Led by the Environment Department, this achievement reflects strong collaboration between the Prince's Government and the City of Monaco. It marks a major milestone in the implementation of Monaco's Climate Air Energy Plan, showcasing the Principality's exemplary environmental governance. The award was officially presented by Ms Gudrun Heute-Bluhm, President of the EEA, at the EEA Gold Label Award Ceremony in Bolzano on 28 November 2024.



Switzerland & Liechtenstein

The main focus in 2024 was on completing and launching net-zero projects like a manual for the net-zero analysis for Energy Cities Gold, a new catalogue and evaluation tool for net-zero targeting, exchange of experiences and further training for municipalities and Energy City advisors on the topics of net zero, climate change adaptation measures. Furthermore, the cooperation with the cantons was strengthened by signing agreements concerning the Energy City Association.

Romania

The Romanian eea program involves nine active cities. The year 2024 marks a transition to new governance. After the completion of EXCITE, a Horizon 2020 project promoting the implementation of the European Energy Award in Eastern and Central Europe— involving Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine— the Ministry of European Projects and the Association of Regional Development Agencies in Romania will take over responsibility. The eea program will become part of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Program 2025-2029, financed by the Swiss Confederation.

Ukraine

From April 2024 to January 2025, the SECO-funded “Bridging Services” supported the Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine (EECU) and the EEA Management Office in Ukraine in preparing the Municipal Energy Management Certification Ukraine (MEMCU) Project, set to launch in 2025. Delivered by ENCO under Swiss Accompanying Measures (SAM), the initiative advanced the eea as a national standard, strengthened institutional structures, and built capacity through strategic tools and webinars. Despite challenges from the ongoing war, the project laid a strong foundation for future energy management in Ukraine.

Albania

In 2024, the SEMP (Smart Energy Municipalities Project) in Albania focused on implementing the eea-based Energy Management System. The four pilot municipalities of Shkodra, Berat, Korca, and Permet used tools like EnerCoach to assess municipal building performance. With data and eea analysis, these municipalities, supported by local consultants and the Agency for Energy Efficiency, developed initial drafts for their Municipal Energy and Climate Action Plans.

Gold local authorities 2024

By the end of 2024, 248 local authorities were labelled eea Gold. In 2024, 25 local authorities received the eea Gold for the first time, while 39 other local authorities successfully renewed their eea Gold label.



Saerbeck Germany

Highlights of the climate community of Saerbeck include quadrupling electricity production and an innovative power supply concept for meeting energy needs using wind, sun and biomass. The success of this project is due to the high level of public participation, energy talks, educational work and the heating transition action programme.

Gold since 2010



St. Gallen Switzerland

The district heating network is being expanded consistently and at a rapid pace. With the exception of reserve vehicles, the bus fleet of the St. Gallen transport company is electric. The 2050 energy concept has been expanded to include the area of consumption and resources.

Gold since 2008



Zürich Switzerland

The city of Zurich has been awarded the gold label as an Energy City for the sixth time – with the highest result ever achieved. Its commitment is particularly evident in its advisory and support services, the expansion of district heating and its role model function in its own buildings.

Gold since 2004

All awarded gold local authorities 2024

Austria

Villach 62'243 inhabitants	(eea Gold since 2016)
Wörgl 14'308 inhabitants	(2015)

France

Echirolles 37'181 inhabitants	(2020)
Grenoble Alpes Métropole 454'541 inhabitants	(2024)
Ville de Lille 238'104 inhabitants	(2024)
Métropole de Lille 1'19'973 inhabitants	(2024)
Lorient 58'881 inhabitants	(2020)
Eurométropole de Strasbourg 517'033 inhabitants	(2024)

Germany

Bad Schussenried 9'272 inhabitants	(2012)
District of Enzkreis 202'536 inhabitants	(2012)
District of Ravensburg 290'911 inhabitants	(2012)
District of Rheinisch Bergischer Kreis 286'213 inhabitants	(2019)
District of Warendorf 277'744 inhabitants	(2013)
Emden 50'535 inhabitants	(2012)
Freiburg im Breisgau 230'023 inhabitants	(2024)
Hattenhofen 2'960 inhabitants	(2024)
Karlsruhe 304'619 inhabitants	(2024)
Lörrach 49'451 inhabitants	(2010)
Ostbevern 11'500 inhabitants	(2005)
Saerbeck 7'139 inhabitants	(2010)
Scheidegg 4'400 inhabitants	(2019)
Schwäbisch Hall 42'112 inhabitants	(2019)

Italy

Bolzano 107'436 inhabitants	(2020)
Bruneck/Brunico 17'177 inhabitants	(2024)
Firenze 378'839 inhabitants	(2021)
Innichen/San Candido 3'410 inhabitants	(2024)
Meran/Merano 41'203 inhabitants	(2024)

Luxembourg

Feulen 2'366 inhabitants	(2024)
Schiffange 11'178 inhabitants	(2015)

Monaco

Monaco 38'500 inhabitants	(2024)
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Switzerland

Ardon 3'700 inhabitants	(2024)
Attalens 3'692 inhabitants	(2024)
Avenches 4'875 inhabitants	(2024)
Ayent Anzère 4'325 inhabitants	(2020)
Bernex 10'325 inhabitants	(2012)

Biel/Bienne 56'378 inhabitants	(2020)
Bulle 23'439 inhabitants	(2020)
Carouge 22'694 inhabitants	(2024)
Cham 17'724 inhabitants	(2004)
Chancy 1'643 inhabitants	(2024)
Egnach 4'516 inhabitants	(2020)
Horgen 23'657 inhabitants	(2020)
Köniz 42'220 inhabitants	(2011)
Kriens 28'597 inhabitants	(2024)
Meilen 14'744 inhabitants	(2016)
Muri bei Bern 12'653 inhabitants	(2024)
Nendaz 6'943 inhabitants	(2020)
Neuchâtel 44'416 inhabitants	(2006)
Prilly 12'439 inhabitants	(2020)
Rüti 12'822 inhabitants	(2015)
Saas-Fee 1'542 inhabitants	(2020)
Solothurn 16'777 inhabitants	(2024)
St. Gallen 82'781 inhabitants	(2008)
Stans 8'112 inhabitants	(2016)
Thun 44'487 inhabitants	(2024)
Turbenthal 5'120 inhabitants	(2020)
Uster 35'723 inhabitants	(2016)
Val de Bagnes 10'300 inhabitants	(2024)
Wald (ZH) 10'525 inhabitants	(2016)
Weinfelden 12'142 inhabitants	(2020)
Wittenbach 9'923 inhabitants	(2024)
Wohlen bei Bern 9'354 inhabitants	(2019)
Zermatt 5'733 inhabitants	(2024)
Zürich 428'340 inhabitants	(2004)



Check out the list of all Gold municipalities on our website

Important bodies & contacts (status end of 2024)

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Watch our
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