

european
energy award

ACTING LOCALLY FOR THE CLIMATE

Annual Report
2025



Editorial



Gudrun Heute-Bluhm

Chair of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

«We are proud that the European Energy Award network brings together committed local authorities.»

Strong local partners in challenging times

The year 2025 has made it clear that political and social priorities can change quickly, both globally and within Europe. Commitment to climate protection and the energy transition has noticeably weakened in many areas, while other issues have assumed greater importance. Yet the urgent realities of climate change remain, regardless of political and societal priorities. It is in times like these that the importance of work at local level becomes clear: cities, municipalities and regions play a key role in consistently and continuously implementing strategies and concrete measures.

We are proud that the European Energy Award network brings together such committed local authorities. The municipality of Saas Fee where we held our annual Gold Event in November 2025 is an example of this: Saas Fee has been part of the eea network for 25 years and consistently committed itself to sustainable energy and climate policy even as political representatives, personnel responsibilities, and technical framework conditions have changed.

This consistent perseverance, regardless of the circumstances, is what we wish for all local authorities, and what we specifically support through the European Energy Award. Our quality management system, tools, network of consultants, as well as the exchange of experiences, provide support and inspiration in this regard.

Within our eea network, we also faced an unexpected challenge in 2025 due to the termination of our long-standing partnership with the German national eea office. Again, it was crucial to rely on committed local and regional authorities and further partners who established a new German association and launched a renewed German eea programme.

Let us continue to work together to ensure that the energy transition and progressive climate policy are driven forward continuously, consistently and with commitment at local, national and European levels!

Gudrun Heute-Bluhm

Chair of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

Activities and milestones 2025

eea Gold Event

The international eea Gold Event was held in Saas-Fee, Switzerland on 6/7 November in the Gold municipality of Saas-Fee, canton of Valais. 130 participants from 29 local authorities from Austria, Germany, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland were awarded with the eea Gold award and had the opportunity to visit some of the best practices of different eea Gold communities in the local area.

General Assembly

At the end of 2025, the Association eea had 21 ordinary and 5 sponsoring members. The General Assembly 2025 was held in Brussels on 10 June 2025.

Cooperation with Covenant of Mayors and the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)

Good cooperation and collaboration with the CoM Europe continued in 2025. Regular meetings were held between the two organizations to discuss further steps towards simplified recognition of eea cities as CoM cities, as well as simplifications for double reporting.

As a joint event, eea and CoM, together with the European Committee of the Regions, once again hosted a policy session at EUSEW 2025. The theme for 2025 was 'From national to local: strategies and tools for sustainable energy and climate action'. Various speakers from local and national levels in the Czech Republic, Croatia, Luxembourg, Poland and Portugal shared their experiences on this topic.

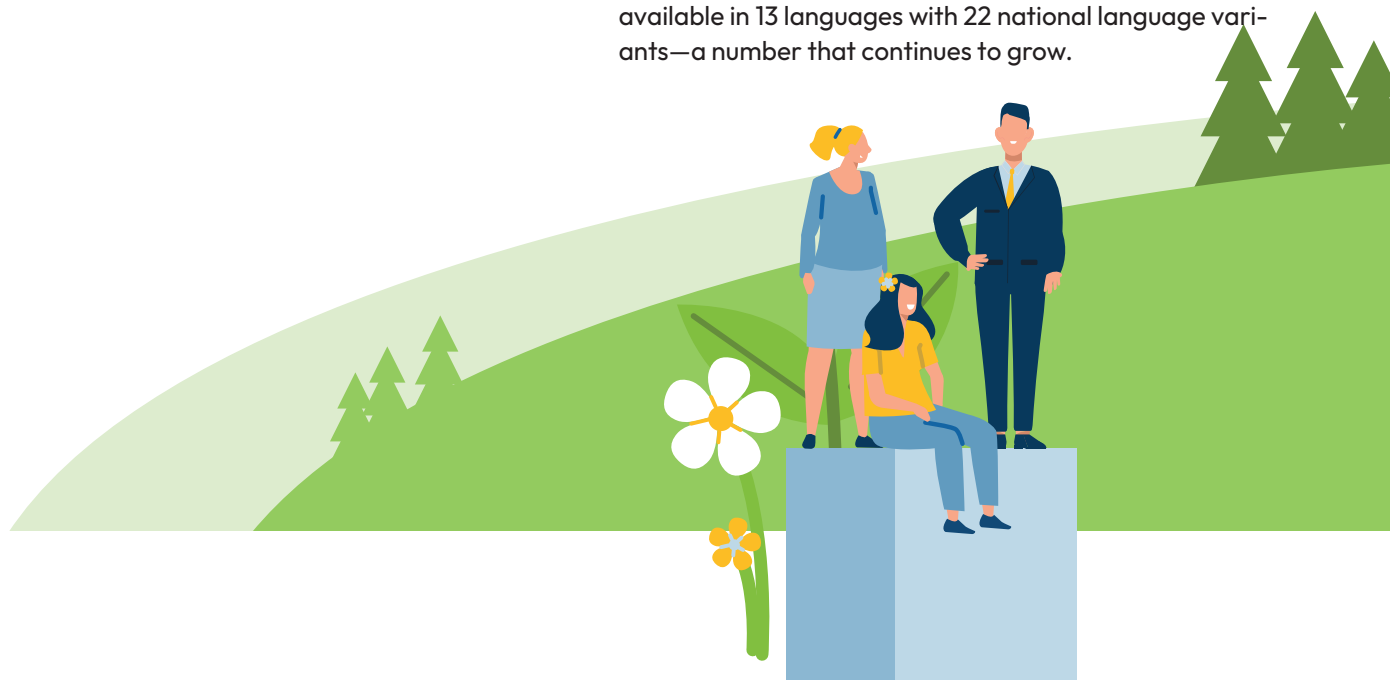
EU-funded projects: The LEEAN-CET project

Despite the EU's clear climate and energy goals, and the numerous financial support mechanisms available, many small and medium-sized municipalities in Central and South-East Europe still struggle to plan and implement sustainable local policies. A lack of capacity, coordination, and systematic energy management approaches often delays the decarbonisation of cities and limits access to transition support opportunities.

The LIFE-funded project 'Local Energy and Environment Action Networks for Clean Energy Transition (LEEAN-CET)', which started in 2025, aims to overcome these barriers by introducing the eea methodology in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Ukraine. Building upon the achievements of the H2020 funded EXCITE project, it transfers best practices to new territories and takes them to the next level.

Renewal online eea Management Tool: the EMT 2.0

The eea's fully redesigned online working and reporting tool, the eea Management Tool (EMT2.0), was successfully launched on 1 April 2025. The new EMT delivers not only a modern and visually appealing interface, but also enhanced usability and significantly improved technical performance. Throughout the past year, the redesigned tool has undergone continuous improvement, with new features added and individual bugs resolved. A few final features are scheduled for release in 2026. As a central eea tool, EMT2.0 is now actively used in 13 countries and is available in 13 languages with 22 national language variants—a number that continues to grow.



Facts and figures 2025

Member countries



Pilot countries



Population involved

in participating local authorities

74 mil.

in awarded local authorities

35 mil.

Number of local authorities

participating

1,937

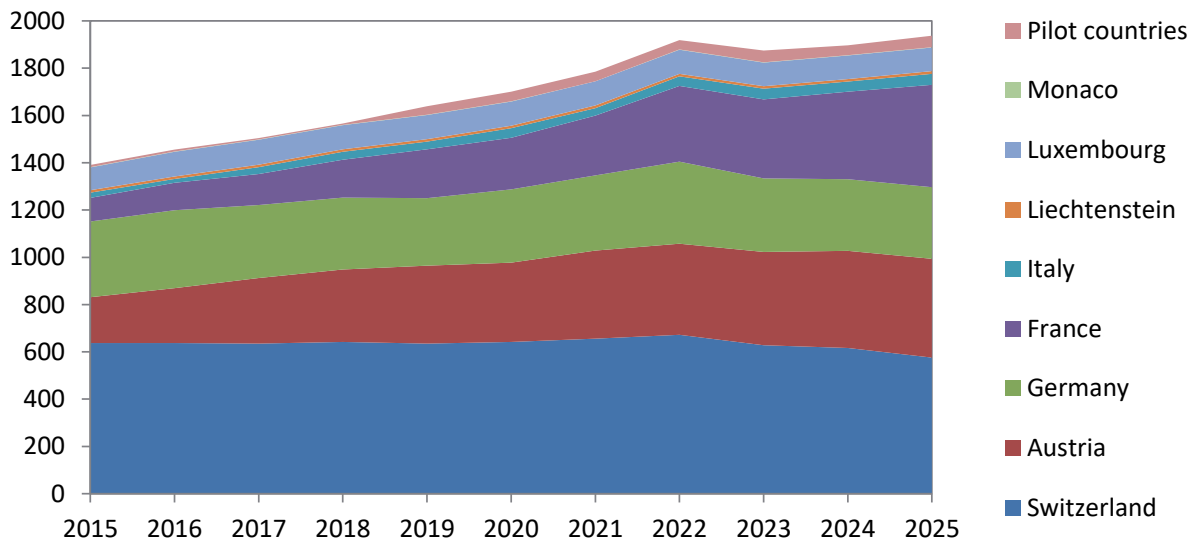
awarded eea

1,175

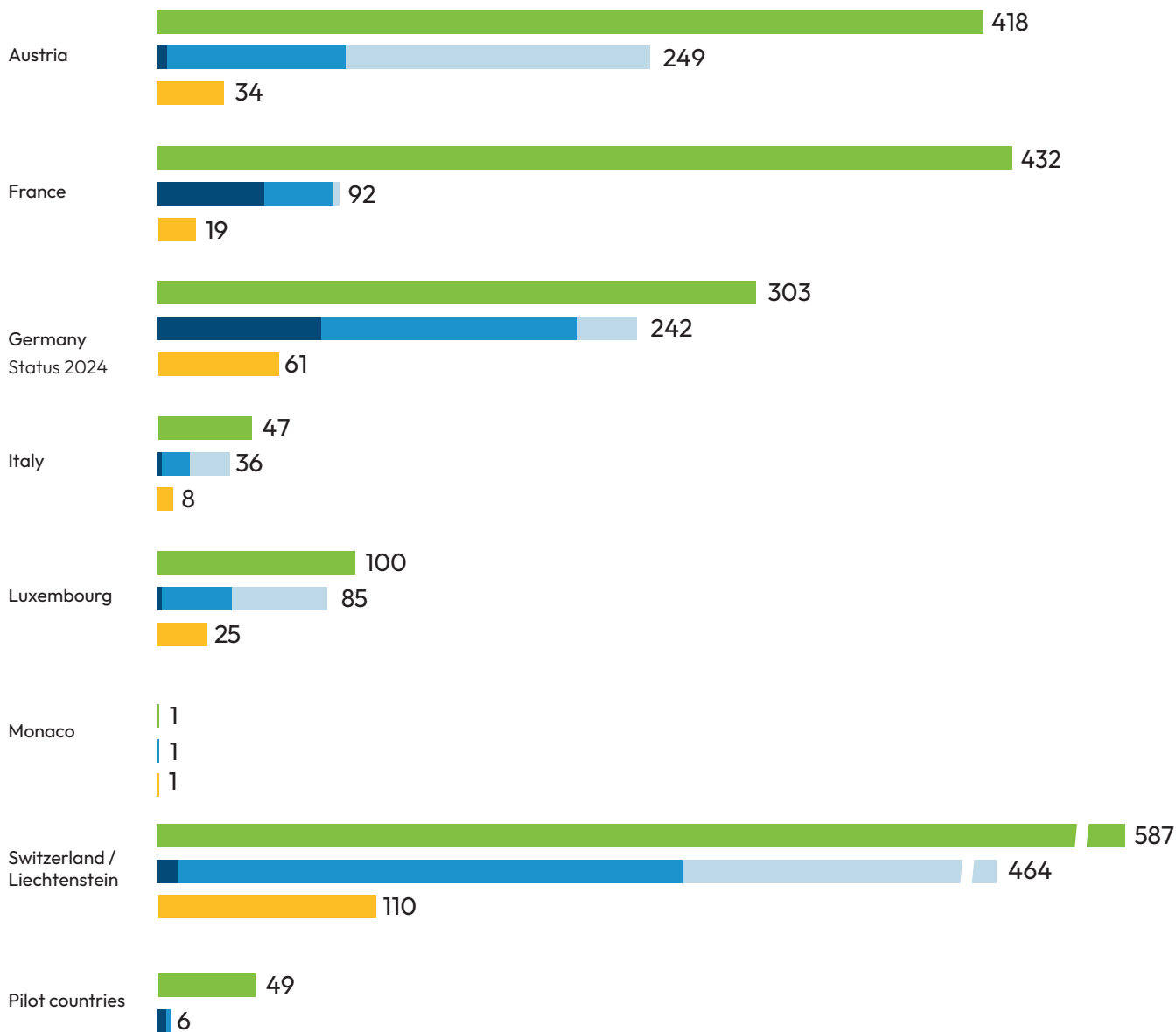
awarded eea Gold

258

Local authorities participating in the eea 2015–2025



Participating and awarded local authorities per country



No. of participating local authorities
Total 1,937

No. of awarded local authorities
> 50,000 inhabitants
Total 161

No. of awarded local authorities
5,000 - 50,000 inhabitants
Total 562

No. of awarded local authorities
< 5,000 inhabitants
Total 452

No. of awarded local authorities with eea Gold
Total 258

Activities in eea countries

Member countries Pilot countries

Austria

The e5 program supports municipalities and cities in implementing energy and climate policy measures. The federal government supports the program's quality assurance and further development through the climate protection initiative 'klimaaktiv'. In 2025, municipalities in all federal states were audited and certified for the first time based on the catalogue that had been revised in the previous years. The adapted catalogue places a stronger focus on national targets and therefore aligns more closely with decarbonization and quantification.

France

Launched in 2008, the programme now includes 430 local authorities, covering 36 million people (53% of the French population). In 2025, 24 received the 5-star CAE label, 19 the 4-star, 80 the 3-star, 120 the 2-star, and 187 the 1-star label. Key events included the Advisors' Days in Paris, gathering 90 advisors for exchange and learning. Five webinars addressed topics such as organic matter management, just transition, responsible consumption, land use, and citizen participation, with practical insights from local authorities and regions.

Germany

In December 2025, the nationwide association Klimakommune Deutschland e. V. was established, marking a key milestone for municipal climate action in Germany. 16 founding members—including municipalities, energy and climate agencies, and consulting firms from NRW, BW, Bavaria, and Bremen—reflect the diversity of local climate initiatives. Klimakommune Deutschland supports municipalities in implementing energy and climate measures and will launch new Labels. The German Energy Agency (dena) is expected to manage the federal office starting in early 2026.

Monaco

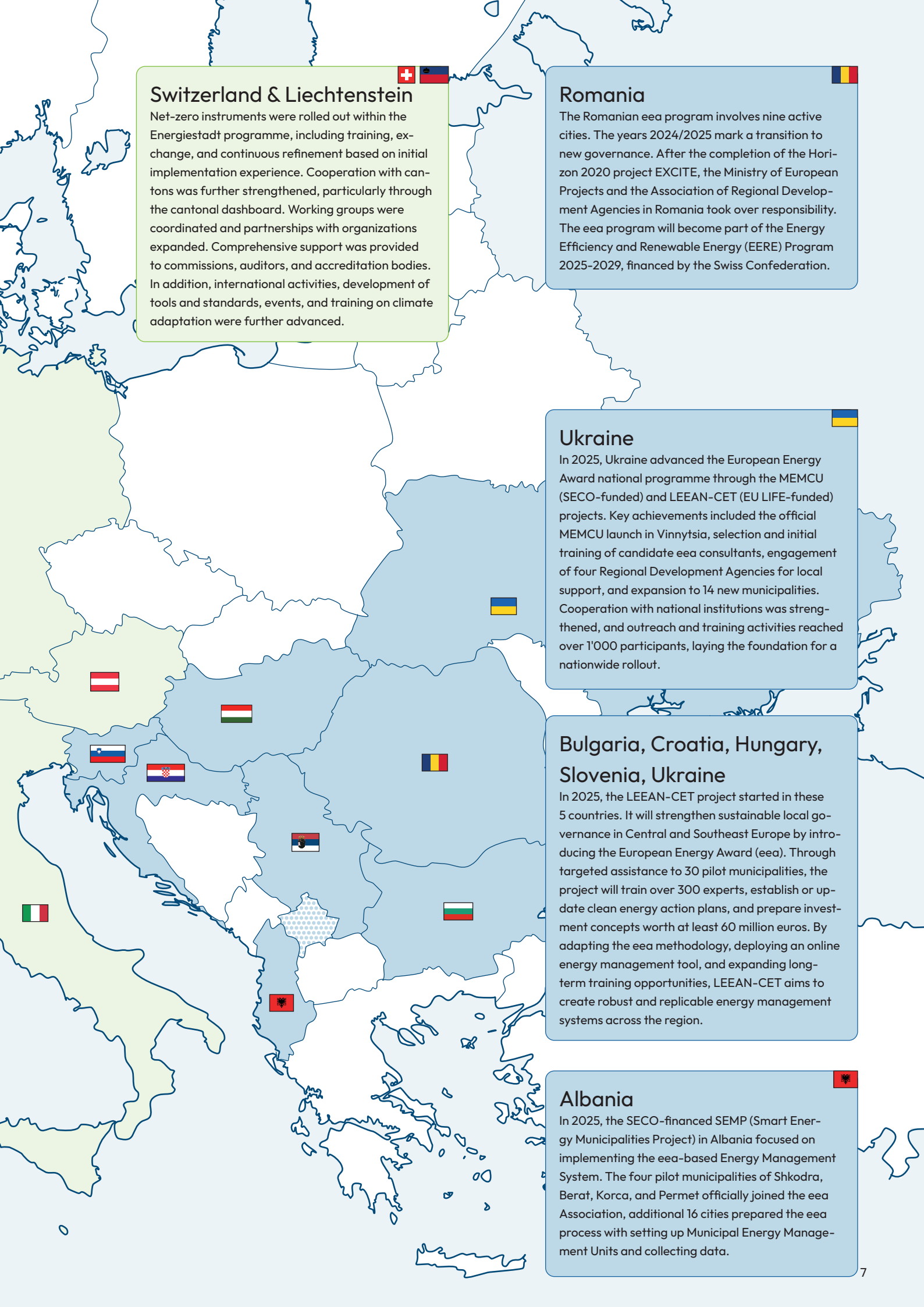
In 2025, as part of its annual energy and climate review, the Principality held two series of thematic workshops to evaluate progress on initiatives with project leaders and the Government, while presenting the 2030 Climate, Air, and Energy Plan. In July, Monaco published its 3rd Nationally Determined Contribution, reaffirming its commitment to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan aligns with the Paris Agreement and covers energy, transport, waste, and urban planning.

Luxembourg

The Climate Pact 2.0 has become a key national tool supporting Luxembourg's municipalities in energy policy, with all 100 municipalities participating. Under the new catalogue of measures, 97 municipalities are now certified, including 25 with Gold status. The annual Climate Pact Day focused on climate neutrality, presenting the national accounting methodology for municipal emissions inventories starting in 2026. These inventories will help track progress in emission reductions, and the evaluation of climate neutrality will become a mandatory part of future Gold audits.

Italy

In 2025, activities focused on promoting the method in support of the European mission "Smart and Climate Neutral Communities by 2030." Within the Net Zero Cities programme and the European pilot project 'Let's Gov', the eea approach was widely presented. Synergistic activities continued with the Covenant of Mayors, particularly regarding the development of climate action plans. In 2025, the ComuneClima/KlimaGemeinde programme celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ceremony in Bolzano.



Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Net-zero instruments were rolled out within the Energiestadt programme, including training, exchange, and continuous refinement based on initial implementation experience. Cooperation with cantons was further strengthened, particularly through the cantonal dashboard. Working groups were coordinated and partnerships with organizations expanded. Comprehensive support was provided to commissions, auditors, and accreditation bodies. In addition, international activities, development of tools and standards, events, and training on climate adaptation were further advanced.

Romania

The Romanian eea program involves nine active cities. The years 2024/2025 mark a transition to new governance. After the completion of the Horizon 2020 project EXCITE, the Ministry of European Projects and the Association of Regional Development Agencies in Romania took 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

In 2025, Ukraine advanced the European Energy Award national programme through the MEMCU (SECO-funded) and LEEAN-CET (EU LIFE-funded) projects. Key achievements included the official MEMCU launch in Vinnytsia, selection and initial training of candidate eea consultants, engagement of four Regional Development Agencies for local support, and expansion to 14 new municipalities. Cooperation with national institutions was strengthened, and outreach and training activities reached over 1'000 participants, laying the foundation for a nationwide rollout.

Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, Ukraine

In 2025, the LEEAN-CET project started in these 5 countries. It will strengthen sustainable local governance in Central and Southeast Europe by introducing the European Energy Award (eea). Through targeted assistance to 30 pilot municipalities, the project will train over 300 experts, establish or update clean energy action plans, and prepare investment concepts worth at least 60 million euros. By adapting the eea methodology, deploying an online energy management tool, and expanding long-term training opportunities, LEEAN-CET aims to create robust and replicable energy management systems across the region.

Albania

In 2025, the SECO-financed 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 officially joined the eea Association, additional 16 cities prepared the eea process with setting up Municipal Energy Management Units and collecting data.

Gold local authorities 2025

By the end of 2025, 258 local authorities were labelled eea Gold. In 2025, 18 local authorities received the eea Gold for the first time, while 41 other local authorities successfully renewed their eea Gold label.



Parc Hosingen Luxembourg

With its new renovation and energy concept, Parc Hosingen has taken a bold step forward. Buildings are becoming more efficient, the municipal fleet is being electrified, and renewable energy is central to its strategy. Analyses of PV, wind, and heat pump potential highlight strong opportunities. Staff training strengthens expertise and fosters shared responsibility. 2025 marked significant progress toward a climate-neutral future.

Gold since 2015



Schaffhausen Switzerland

As Switzerland's first Energiestadt, Schaffhausen received its sixth Gold certification in 2025. District heating schemes, building renovations and the promotion of public transport, cycling and e-mobility have reduced per capita emissions by around 19% since the last certification in 2021.

Gold since 2004



Clervaux Luxembourg

Since 2013, the municipality of Clervaux has promoted climate protection through PV systems, energy storage, modern heating technologies, and insect-friendly lighting. Projects are carefully evaluated and developed with the Nature Park. An AI-based monitoring system will further optimize energy use and detect faults early.

Gold since 2017

All awarded gold local authorities 2025

Austria

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Judenburg 9'691 inhabitants | (eea Gold since 2017) |
| Kötschach-Mauthen 4'217 inhabitants | (2012) |
| Mäder 3'341 inhabitants | (2005) |
| Seckau 1'314 inhabitants | (2025) |
| St.Johann im Pongau 11'628 inhabitants | (2009) |
| Thalgau 6'233 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Wolfurt 8'765 inhabitants | (2009) |

France

| | |
|---|--------|
| Besançon 120'057 inhabitants | (2012) |
| Communauté Urbaine de Grand Poitiers 197'277 inh. | (2025) |
| Métropole de Lyon 1'140'000 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Ville de Lyon 520'774 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Malaunay 6'125 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Ville et Métropole de Nantes 677'879 inhabitants | (2021) |

Germany

| | |
|---|--------|
| District of Böblingen 389'650 inhabitants | (2014) |
| Dülmen 47'738 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Greven 39'235 inhabitants | (2013) |
| Günzburg 21'865 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Minden 83'991 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Warendorf 38'877 inhabitants | (2021) |

Liechtenstein

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Vaduz 5'774 inhabitants | (2021) |
|---------------------------|--------|

Luxembourg

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Bech 1'379 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Beckerich 2'879 inhabitants | (2015) |
| Clervaux 6'289 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Ell 1'644 inhabitants | (2019) |
| Esch-sur-Alzette 3'922 inhabitants | (2018) |
| Garnich 2'311 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Kiischpelt 1'257 inhabitants | (2023) |
| Lintgen 3'483 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Luxembourg 136'210 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Parc Hosingen 4'305 inhabitants | (2015) |
| Putscheid 1'177 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Stadtbredimus 2'009 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Tandel 2'346 inhabitants | (2015) |
| Wiltz 8'310 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Wintrange 5'002 inhabitants | (2023) |

Switzerland

| | |
|--|--------|
| Adliswil 19'180 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Brig-Glis 13'976 inhabitants | (2020) |
| Buchs (SG) 13'493 inhabitants | (2013) |
| Bülach 24'186 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Châtel-Saint-Denis 8'512 inhabitants | (2020) |
| Delémont 12'739 inhabitants | (2011) |
| Entlebuch 3'387 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Fribourg 38'660 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Hünenberg 8'990 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Illnau-Effretikon 17'883 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Lancy 36'229 inhabitants | (2020) |
| Le Grand-Saconnex 12'806 inhabitants | (2016) |
| Montreux 26'828 inhabitants | (2016) |
| Novazzano 2'344 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Orbe 7'842 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Ossingen 1'703 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Payerne 10'545 inhabitants | (2025) |
| Plan-les-Ouates 12'221 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Riehen 22'534 inhabitants | (2003) |
| Saxon 7'114 inhabitants | (2017) |
| Schaffhausen 38'107 inhabitants | (2004) |
| Schlieren 20'581 inhabitants | (2021) |
| Vernier 37'460 inhabitants | (2009) |
| Vevey 20'139 inhabitants | (2012) |



Check out the list of all Gold municipalities on our website

Important bodies & contacts

(status beginning of 2026)

Board of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

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Watch our
eea video!