european energy award IMPLEMENT

Project coordinator: Bond Better Leefmilieu Vlaanderen (BBL), Belgium

Partners: APERE (Belgium), KAPE (Poland), REGEA (Croatia), AEA (Greece), BSU (Germany), BRE (Switzerland)

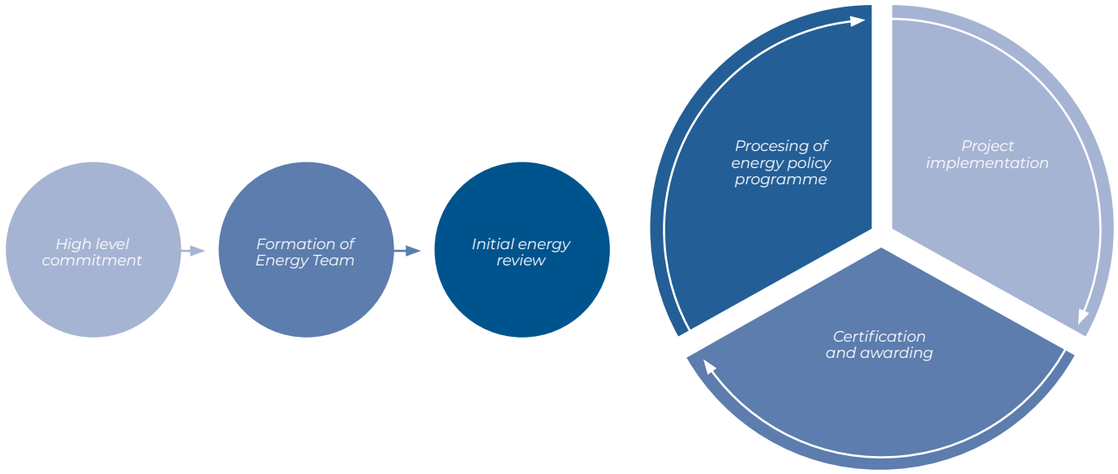
Start date: 01/02/2018

Duration: 48 months

eea AS AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING QUALITY SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES - MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICIES

With the EU setting ambitious climate and energy targets for the period up to 2050, cities and municipalities have a difficult task of developing, implementing and financing equally bold climate and energy plans.

The European Energy Award (eea) supports local authorities in establishing interdisciplinary planning approaches and implementing effective energy and climate policy measures, thus facilitating the achievement of the goals set in the engagement related to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). With more than 1.500 municipalities in the eea network, associated experts, regional and national stakeholders and public authorities are encouraged to regularly exchange the experience and know-how, enabling them to create strong cooperation links between countries and regions.



The step-by-step process

Through a systematic and holistic approach to climate mitigation and adaptation, the eea helps to create appropriate structures to introduce climate protection and energy efficient measures in a sustainable and integrated way. eea's strong focus on facilitating internal process and project management enables the maximum use of the competences a local authority has been assigned to. Starting with an as-is-analysis and setting up an ambitious energy policy programmes, the municipalities get an overview of their current situation and are empowered to become more active in the most pressing areas of climate protection: municipal buildings and facilities, supply and disposal, mobility and development and spatial planning strategy. However, the eea also includes areas such as communication and cooperation, and internal organization. By including measures to increase public awareness and willingness to embrace energy efficiency measures, this method provides an all-round innovative approach to climate policy planning and ensuring the implementation of the planned actions.

The IMPLEMENT project and the eea seek to empower local authorities to implement climate and energy plans aiming to increase the use of renewable energy and implement energy efficiency measures.

The experience of selected pilot cities and municipalities will encourage other local authorities to develop and implement similar energy policies, which will result in the expansion of the eea network. Besides introducing the certification system and expanding the eea network, the IMPLEMENT project seeks to empower local authorities to implement climate and energy plans aiming to increase the use of renewable energy and implement energy efficiency measures.

> *"For the state government of Baden-Württemberg, cities, municipalities and counties are important partners to build a powerful alliance in order to reach ambitious energy- and climate protection goals. The European Energy Award has proven to be a helpful instrument for establishing these alliances."*
>
> *Franz Untersteller*
> *Baden-Württembergs Minister of environment*

> *"The continuous improvement process inherent to the European Energy Award has led us to go even further to build with all the local actors a territory resolutely directed towards the energy transition."*
>
> *Alain Juppé*
> *Former Prime Minister of France, President of the Greater Bordeaux area, Mayor of Bordeaux*

> *"European Energy Award Municipalities attest to the success of an energy policy based on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency."*
>
> *Doris Leuthard*
> *Federal Councilor, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (2010 - 2018)*

> *"The European Energy Award is helping the City of Biel work to realize its potential for action on energy policy. It spurs us systematically to assess planning, construction, supply, mobility, communication / cooperation and organizational considerations and to take appropriate measures."*
>
> *Barbara Schwickert*
> *Director, Public Works, Energy and the Environment, Biel*

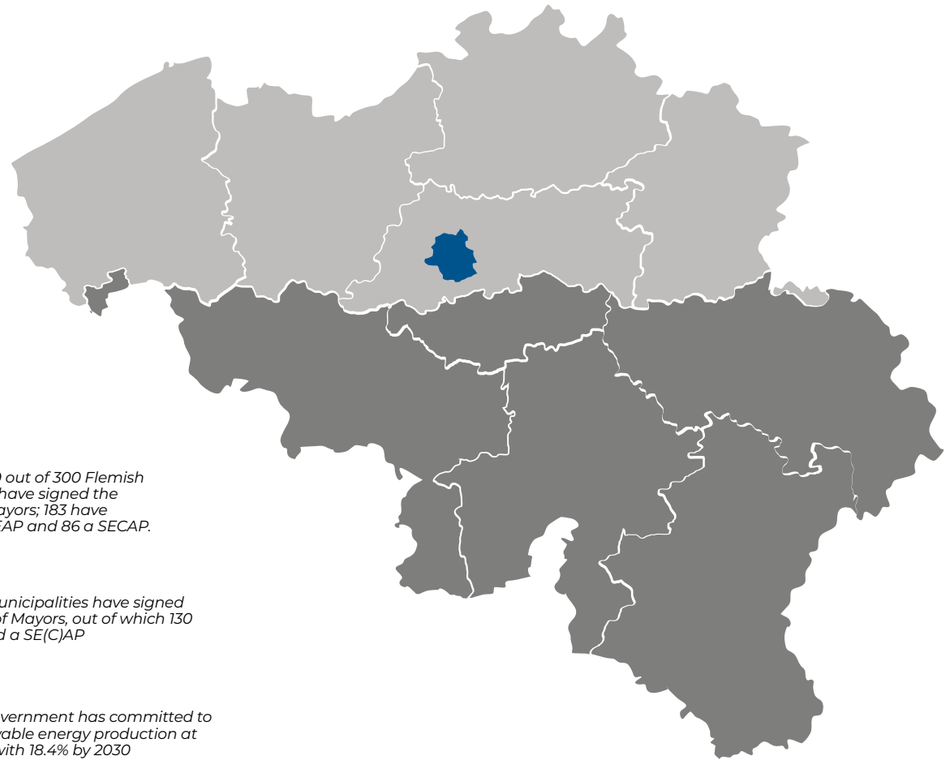
INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPLEMENT COUNTRIES

Belgium – Wallonia

In Belgium-Wallonia, 180 of the 262 municipalities have signed the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). Local climate policy is mainly supported by the Walloon Region which charged the Association for the Promotion of Renewables (APERe) to provide municipalities and supra-local coordinators with methodological and technical support. Several structural grants and one-off calls for projects are also financing municipal actions up to 80% of the investment cost. Despite that support, many municipalities suffer from a lack of human resources and qualitative approach which makes their SECAP/SEAP hardly implementable. That is the case of the six rural and semi-urban small municipalities (Bernissart, Daverdisse, Enghien, Ellezelles, Martelange, and Tenneville) which are taking part in the eea initiative through the Implement project.

Belgium – Flanders

In Belgium-Flanders (6.5 million inhabitants) 269 of the 300 Flemish municipalities have signed the CoM, which is heavily promoted by the five provinces. BBL has targeted two provinces that are very active in their support for municipalities. Limburg (850.000 inhabitants, 44/44 municipalities are CoM signatories and 43/44 have signed Mayors Adapt) aims at climate neutrality by 2050 and promotes ESCO services to their municipalities as well as renovation advice, cheap loans for energy efficient renovations and pilot projects. Vlaams-Brabant (1.1 million inhabitants, 60/65 municipalities are CoM signatories and 64/65 have signed Mayors Adapt) wants to become climate neutral by 2040, trains municipalities in public participation processes and has a 500.000 Euro subsidy scheme for local climate projects. BBL focuses on the seamless integration between the CoM process and the eea programme.



Flanders
In Flanders 269 out of 300 Flemish municipalities have signed the Covenant of Mayors; 183 have submitted a SEAP and 86 a SECAP.

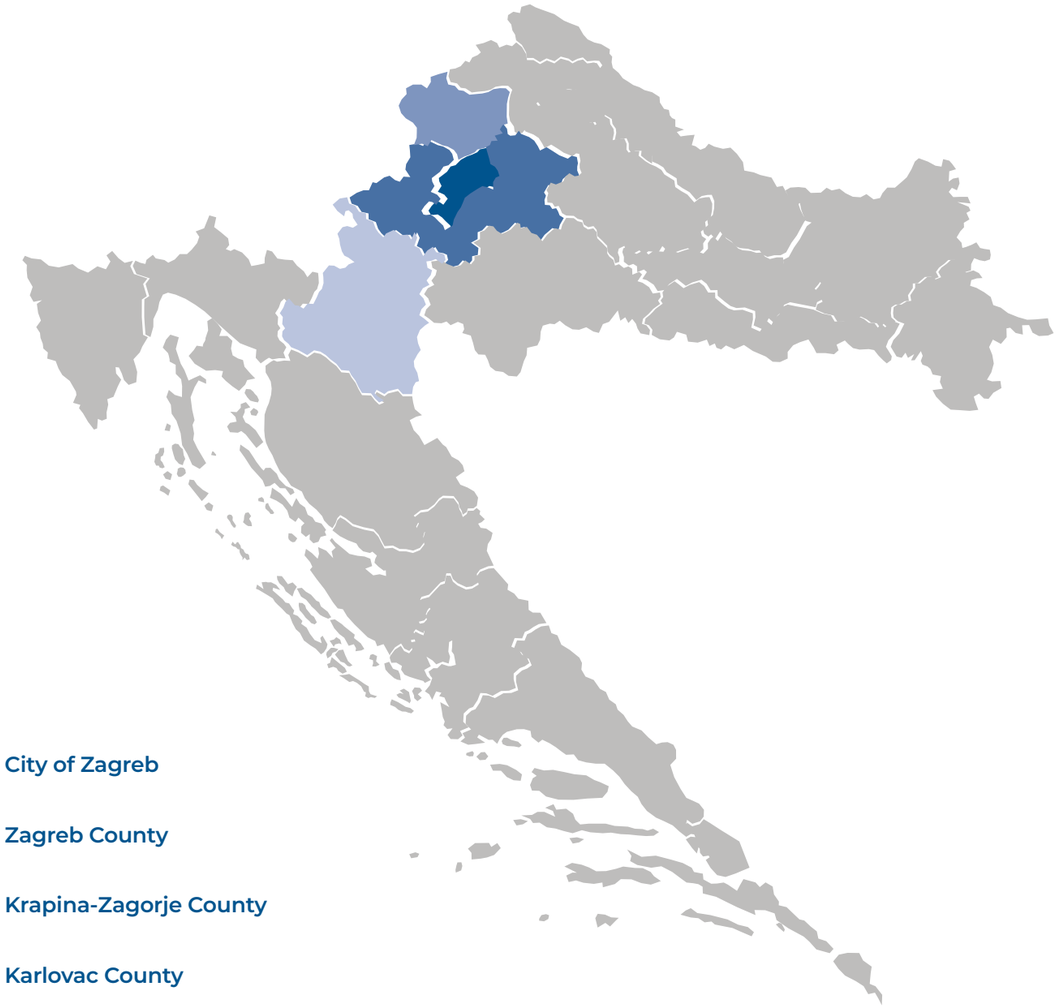
Wallonia
180 Walloon municipalities have signed the Covenant of Mayors, out of which 130 have submitted a SE(C)AP

Brussels
The Belgian government has committed to increase renewable energy production at national level with 18.4% by 2030

12 *Cities and rural, semi-urban municipalities Asse, Bernissart, Daverdisse, Enghien, Ellezelles, Hasselt, Lanaken, Leuven, Lommel, Martelange, Tenneville and Zaventem are taking part in the eea initiative through the Implement project*

Croatia

Croatian target area is the North-West Croatia, which includes three counties (Zagreb, Karlovac and Krapina-Zagorje County) and the City of Zagreb (capital with a county status). Out of the 89 cities and municipalities in the target area, 14 are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, and six of them, Ivanić-Grad, Jastrebarsko, Karlovac, Pregrada, Velika Gorica and Zaprešić are taking part in the eea initiative. Local climate policies are implemented by the cities/municipalities, but also by counties which according to Croatian legislation must prepare and adopt regional energy efficiency action plans on a yearly and three-year basis. The National Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund is subsidizing projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and cities/municipalities/counties can get grants from 40% up to 80% of the investment costs, however, these projects can also be financed through the Croatian Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020 (OPCC). Currently, there are no coherent quality management systems related to energy efficiency and/or renewable energy sources used by cities/municipalities in Croatia.



City of Zagreb

Zagreb County

Krapina-Zagorje County

Karlovac County

The National Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund is subsidising projects related to energy efficiency and RES and cities/municipalities/counties can get grants from 40% up to 80% of the investment costs

16% *Out of the 89 municipalities in the target area, 14 are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors*

43% *6 of them, Ivanić-Grad, Jastrebasko, Karlovac, Pregrada, Velika Gorica and Zaprešić are taking part in the eea initiative*

Greece

In Greece, 227 municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative. However, less than half of them, 101 Greek local authorities, have submitted actions plans, accepted by JRC. The number of monitoring reports is even lower (25 monitoring reports have been submitted), indicating that climate change mitigation and adaptation planning has not been perceived as a continuing process by the local authorities.

AEGEA along with DAFNI, Network of Sustainable Greek Islands, has been assisting island municipalities with energy planning. Out of the 52 DAFNI member islands, 20 have already prepared action plans under the initiatives Pact of Islands and / or Covenant of Mayors. In the context of IMPLEMENT project, 6 island municipalities of North and South Aegean Region take part in the eea initiative: Municipality of Amorgos, Municipality of Chios, Municipality of Kos, Municipality of Milos, Municipality of Mykonos and Municipality of Thira. All six municipalities have committed to scaling up climate change mitigation and adaptation action and improving their levels of experience in planning and implementing greenhouse gas emission reduction projects. In the target local authorities of North and South Aegean, there is currently no quality management system related to renewables and climate change in place (other than eea pilot implementation). By adopting eea, the 6 Greek pilot municipalities, supported by AEGEA, are getting accustomed to mitigating and reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change under a systematic and continuing process.

6 island municipalities of North and South Aegean Region take part in the eea initiative

All six municipalities have committed to scaling up climate change mitigation and adaptation action and improving their levels of experience in planning and implementing greenhouse gas emission reduction projects

By adopting eea, the 6 Greek pilot municipalities, supported by AEGEA, are getting accustomed to mitigating and reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change under a systematic and continuing process

227 *Municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative*

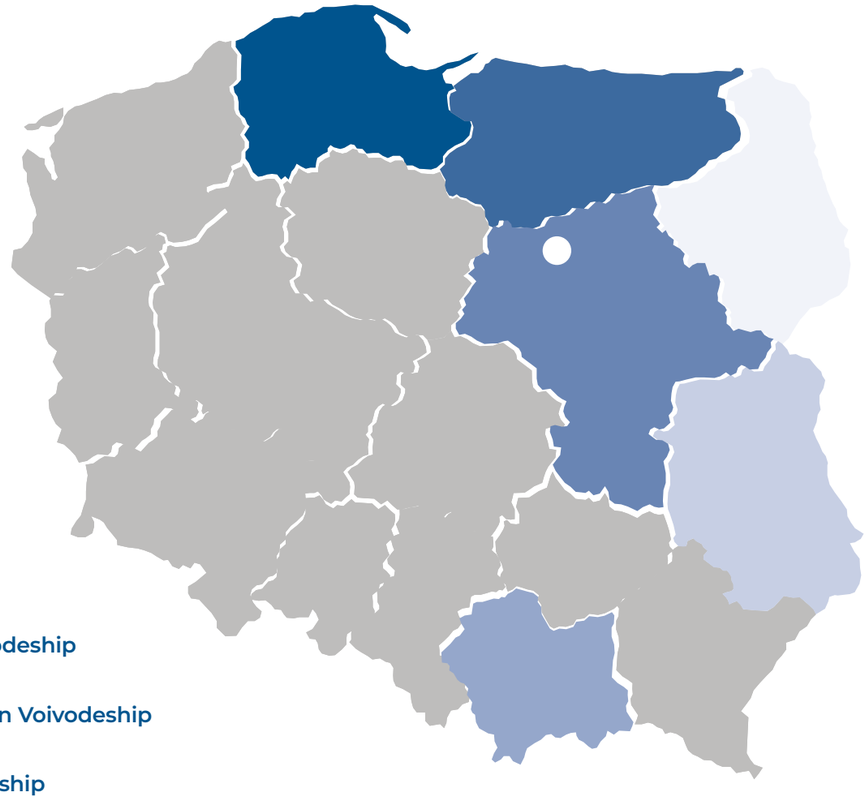
101 *Greek local authorities have submitted actions plans*

45% *Out of the 52 DAFNI member islands, 20 have already prepared action plans under the initiatives Pact of Islands and / or Covenant of Mayors*

Poland

In Poland, a lot of emphasis has been put on the diversity of municipalities that participate (as part of the IMPLEMENT project) in the pilot eea certification. These municipalities are diversified in terms of the number of inhabitants. The smallest of them, Raciechowice (located in the south of Poland) has just over 6,000 inhabitants, and the largest Lublin (located in the east of Poland) has a population of over 340,000. The other municipalities are the port city of Gdynia (located in the north) as well as Olsztyn, Łomża and Pilawa. Each of the municipalities is located in a different voivodship. In total, they have over 800,000 inhabitants.

Three of the six municipalities had already created positions or teams dealing with energy and climate policy before joining the project. However, the scope of their work did not cover the entire eea. Therefore, as part of the IMPLEMENT project, an interdisciplinary energy team has been set up in each of the municipalities to deal with the comprehensive implementation of the eea. Significant added value, which results from joint analysis of key issues related to low-carbon economy and environmental protection, has been evident since the first energy team meetings.



Gdynia
Pomeranian Voivodeship

Olsztyn
Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship

Pilawa
Masovian Voivodeship

Raciechowice
Lesser Voivodeship

Lublin
Lublin Voivodeship

Łomża
Podlaskie Voivodeship

6 *Pilot municipalities will further develop and implement their climate and energy strategy by using the eea standards and the associated criteria catalogue with a detailed set of recommendable measures.*

The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE), Warsaw – **eea** *National Office*

CURRENT SITUATION IN BELGIUM

The Belgian government has committed to increase renewable energy production at national level to reach 18.4% by 2030. Local authorities, driven by the targets set in the CoM, are very active in investigating possibilities to support the increase of the renewable energy production share on their territories. The renewable production (electricity, heat and transport) are estimated to represent 9.4% of the final energy consumption of the country end 2018, with an objective of 13% to reach by the end of 2020. The renewable electricity production is estimated to be 21.1% of the final electricity consumption by the end of 2019. The increase in renewables is mainly driven by solar PV and wind power (both onshore and offshore). In terms of PV-installations on rooftops, there still exists a large potential. More offshore and onshore wind farms projects are planned.

Wallonia

After focusing on mitigation topics and their economic impacts for the first few years, municipalities are now progressively integrating adaptation actions to their policies. They are also definitely giving a social and cultural dimension to their overall approach.

Municipalities in Wallonia are leaders in the energy transition by investing primarily in the refurbishment of their buildings

130 out of 180 Walloon municipalities who have signed the CoM have submitted a SE(C)AP. Their targets remain primarily oriented towards energy efficiency (75% of the overall objective of reducing emissions), and more specifically towards the refurbishment of public buildings and housing.

Municipalities demonstrate through their action plans how much they are open to the development of the wind and the photovoltaic energy sector. In order to ensure the harmonious deployment of these technologies, they wish to set up public-private-citizen partnerships that will enable a coherent and concerted territorial approach and guarantee a maximum economic return to the community. On the other hand, they seem rather cautious to support the development of large biomass energy projects on their territory.

They are positioning themselves as local exemplary leaders in the energy transition by investing primarily in the refurbishment of their buildings. To this end, they are looking for financing solutions and public-private partnerships meeting their expectations both in technical terms (deep refurbishment) and socio-economical ones (financial interest, stimulation of the local economy, involvement of citizens).

Flanders

The Flemish government acknowledges the importance of local authorities in achieving the set climate targets and considers them as an important partner to translate regional goals, actions and measures into the day-to-day life of citizens. 269 of the 300 Flemish municipalities have signed the CoM.

The total CO_2 emissions in Flanders were reduced by 2.6% in 2017 compared to the 2011 figures

Flemish households reduced their CO_2 emissions with 14.46% in that same period, their energy consumption dropped with 3.8%.

Municipality policies have contributed to this downward evolution mainly by offering renovation fees and advice, most often with support from higher authorities and the grid operator, thereby encouraging house owners to take the required measures for increasing the energy efficiency of their habitations.

While their impact on the transport sector is quite limited, with most of the main roads falling under the competence of the Flemish government and with public transport being organized at regional and national level, cities and municipalities aim for example to increase the use of bikes as transport mode from 16% to 20% by the end of their current mandate. They also have stepped up their efforts in providing multimodal transport options via setting up so-called “mobihubs”, central hubs in municipalities where citizens can choose from different transport modes as for example electric carsharing, bikesharing, qualitative bike parking and frequent public transport.

CURRENT SITUATION IN CROATIA

Local governments tend to use SE(C)APs as a key document for energy planning, identifying and drawing precise and clear guidelines for the implementation of energy efficiency projects and measures, the use of renewable energy sources and adaptation to the of climate change effects. The Action Plan focuses on the long-term impacts of climate change in local communities, takes into account energy efficiency and provides measurable targets and results related to reducing energy consumption and CO_2 emissions. The main goal of SE(C)AP is the proposed measures accomplishment which would result in more than 40% CO_2 reductions by 2030. With this systematic approach, local governments are committed to the sustainable development on the principles of energy efficiency, sustainable construction and use of renewable energy sources. For the selected Croatian cities of Zaprešić, Karlovac, Pregrada, Ivanić-Grad, Velika Gorica and Jastrebarsko, this was the first step towards sustainable energy planning. These cities signed the Covenant of Mayors Initiative early on and started with the development of the SE(C)APs and with the implementation of the proposed measures. However, SE(C)APs were developed when the cities joined the Covenant of Mayors Initiative and the revision of those documents is necessary due to the number of activities that have been introduced since the documents were presented.

Cities selected for piloting the eea certification in Croatia are committed to using renewable energy sources and promoting sustainability in all aspects of urban life

Majority of the activities and projects related to energy efficiency improvements in the public and private sector are funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds and the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund resources. Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund has published a number of public calls targeting local authorities and private subjects, providing funds for energy renewal and renewable energy sources use in the households, electric vehicles purchase, waste management facilities and processes improvements. Other sources of funding are the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), aimed at co-funding the objectives and priorities given in the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020 (OPCC). ESIF allocation for the OPCC is 6.8 billion EUR, with more than half of the allocation, 3.5 billion EUR, allocated to environmental protection, climate change adaptation and the transport infrastructure improvement. Based on the available EU and national incentives, local authorities commenced energy renewal and reconstruction of the public buildings. Triggered by the national and EU public calls for co-financing of the energy-efficient street lighting, local authorities started replacing old street lighting with the new, efficient one, thus reducing light pollution and the energy used. Cities taking part in the IMPLEMENT project are currently in the midst of street light refurbishment activities, which will result in reduced energy bills and CO_2 emissions.

Besides the aforementioned activities, local authorities are obliged to monitor consumption of water and energy in their properties, through the Energy Management Information System. The system collects the current energy consumption data which enables the start of the implementation of necessary energy efficiency measures.

CURRENT SITUATION IN GREECE

In Greece, the adoption of Directive 2012/27/EU encourages municipalities to adopt sustainable energy efficiency plans with specific objectives, to involve citizens in their development and implementation and to adequately inform them about their content and progress towards achieving these objectives. The Energy Efficiency Plans, as defined in the Law, focus mainly on buildings. The Law also foresees an energy management system, including energy audits, and a review of these plans every two years.

Since 2008 and prior to the establishment of the above policy, Greek municipalities have started joining the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative and developing their action plans, committing voluntarily to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. In case of the islands and their planning for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, 32 Greek islands have joined the Pact of Islands (PoI), the European islands initiative, officially recognized by the European Parliament. Under PoI, island signatories are committed to developing island Sustainable Energy Action Plans (iSEAP). Dedicated to the islands intrinsic characteristics, the recently launched Clean Energy for EU Islands (CE4EUI) initiative also supports islands clean energy transition. 9 Greek Islands have already joined CE4EUI.

Having an action plan in place constitutes often a prerequisite for a Greek local authority to be granted access to funding instruments and programmes that can help realize important projects and activities for reducing CO_2 emissions and increasing resilience to climate change. Calls for financing energy efficiency projects foresee evaluating with premium points a municipality that has developed a greenhouse gas emission reduction action plan.

Funding opportunities

Subsidies to undertake municipal infrastructure construction, water and waste management as well as repairing projects (after the occurrence of natural disasters)

Loans for solar PV net metering installations and energy efficient street lighting projects

Refurbishment of buildings, RES in buildings, district heating/cooling, energy efficiency and clean urban transport

Reduction the annual average energy consumption of public and private buildings, protecting against natural disasters, contributing to the integrated solid waste management and to wastewater management in the sensible / tourist areas

Subsidies in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and urban development

CURRENT SITUATION IN POLAND

One of the biggest problems in Poland is not conforming to the air quality standards, which in recent years affects almost the entire country. Recorded concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 as well as benzo(a)pyrene are among the highest in EU countries. Sulfur dioxide (mainly in Upper Silesia) and nitrogen oxide (especially in large cities and along major commuting arteries) levels are also high.

The main source of PM10 and PM2.5, as well as of benzo(a)pyrene, are emissions from household energy consumption (i.e. exhaust gases from stoves and solid fuel boilers), as well as emissions from industrial sources. While energy sector can be planned centrally, local actions must play a key role in reducing emissions from transport, industry and emissions from the public utilities sector.

Many EU directives and national documents underline the exemplary role that the public sector, including local authorities, should play in the area of energy saving and management, setting a good example for residents and private entities.

The Polish Energy Policy until 2030 is the main strategic document defining the vision of sustainable development of the country, while the Energy Law defines the main tasks of municipalities in the energy sector. These include planning and organizing the supply of heat, electricity and gas fuels, planning and financing lighting for public places and roads, and also implementation of activities aimed at rationalizing energy consumption in municipalities.

The existing air quality problems are mainly the result of lack of consistent policy in the fields of spatial planning, energy management and transportation. Further reasons are the lack of proper organizational structures, poverty and the lack of education of the society.

Still only few Polish municipalities have dedicated staff for energy management. Most often, projects in the energy field are led by employees of other departments (environmental protection, municipal economy, infrastructure, etc.). Their lack of time and experience in this field often makes them unable to manage issues comprehensively and effectively. Most municipalities do not systematically monitor energy consumption in their buildings and facilities, so they do not have a full picture regarding their energy consumption. These two reasons significantly impede effective energy management at the local level.

However, it is worth noting, that more and more municipalities are deciding to develop comprehensive energy plans and strategies that set the course of action for the coming years. In addition to the mandatory documents like Assumptions for the heat, electricity and gaseous fuels supply plan (as well as the plans themselves if it's needed), they also develop low-emission economy plans (PGN) and sustainable energy action plans (SEAP). Both are based on the methodology developed by the EC Joint Research Center for the needs of the Covenant of Mayors. They are intended to help municipalities in implementation of the vision of sustainable energy development.

The implementation of all necessary actions to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use requires the involvement of external funds as the local governments' budgets are very limited.

The main institution in Poland supporting local governments in realization of ecological investment is The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM) that provides different financial sources.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Vynnitsia, Ukraine

Through the eea, the city was able to generally improve its internal capacities to manage bigger projects, this again gives confidence to classic investors, but also start-ups which note the relatively high dynamic of the city administration.

Vinnytsia was the first Ukrainian municipality to be awarded eea certification (2015). The project, which is jointly funded by the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) and Vinnytsia was first launched in 2011. In March 2015, the project was expanded and extended by another two years in view of its very positive results.

Zhytomyr, Ukraine

A similar project was additionally launched in Zhytomyr in 2015. In 2017, a national eea programme has been established as part of this national programme. A Ukrainian eea executive office has is supported by the International Executive Office and a Swiss partner in establishing the eea programme.

France

The Cit'ergie programme was launched in 2007 with the certification of the first French eea municipalities Besançon, Echirolles and Montmélian and the Europe's first eea agglomeration, Grenoble Alpes Métropole. Since then, the number of municipalities involved in the Cit'ergie programme has increased constantly.

Participating municipalities are recognized as being well positioned for the preparation of Territorial Climate Action Plans (PCAET), which are compulsory in France for municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

City of Lille, France

The eea structures, leads and operationally guides the implementation of the energy and climate policy in the City of Lille. The approach is embodied in an action plan which formalizes for a four-year period the commitments of the city and which allows for their monitoring and evaluation. The eea creates dynamic and transversal progress. It involves several departments and divisions and allows e.g. joint technical and political governance. The eea is linked to other ongoing initiatives within the city like the Covenant of Mayors, Lille Capitale Verte, etc.

> *"The eea anchors the energy-climate topic at the heart of the communal institution. The eea recognizes the commitment of all the administrative and elected officials in the city. The eea perpetuates what has been achieved, reveals shortcomings, and stimulates progress. The outside view of our eea advisors, the exchanges with and the experiences from other eea cities support and energize this mobilization. European Energy Award, quick!"*
>
> *Stéphan Baly, Lille city councillor for energy*

Agglomeration Centre of Martinique, France

Island in the Caribbean, 157 000 inhabitants.

The agglomeration has committed itself to the eea approach for the purpose of:

- Implementing a quality process that guarantees the successful implementation of the energy and climate plan
- Enhancing political commitment for energy and climate change.

This commitment to the eea has allowed to get greater visibility and a regional, national and European recognition, to participate in specific projects and to be open to national and international cooperation. The agglomeration Centre of Martinique has benefited from better technical and financial accompaniment and a lot of feedback and good practices shared with other awarded communities.

The eea is an operational quality management tool which the agglomeration has built into its operations. It has developed its organizational capacities and a better internal organisation based on co-construction.

Urban conurbation of Dunkerque, France

200.000 inhabitants.

Coastal area, industrial-port complex and major energy platform - the urban conurbation of Dunkerque has a large number of assets to succeed with the ecological and energetical transition. Through the participation in the eea, Dunkerque benefits from its structuring approach leading to higher effectiveness and would like to become an example in the field of energy policy. Indeed, the eea translates the communal planning into concrete political commitments on the following axes: support the sectors of the future (including energy); ensuring the energy transition; preserving the climate and the environment.

> *"We wanted to make the energy and ecological transition a driving force for action within the community. The eea has enabled us to build an ambitious energy and climate policy, and to evaluate our public policies in the light of a common framework for all French and European local authorities. The renewal of the eea Gold label is a real satisfaction that objectively shows us that the agglomeration is in transition"*
>
> *Damien Carême, Member of European Parliament, former Vice-President of the Energy Transition in the Urban Conurbation of Dunkerque*

Hafnerbach, Austria

· Participation: involve your population trough the eea in energy and climate topics

In Hafnerbach, there is a Citizen's Platform which organizes all sort of events, support, etc. for the population and which is also part of the eea team and the decision-making processes.

Hafnerbach was already quite active in energy and climate policy before joining the program but it could further improve the energy policy structure, the internal as well as the external image and profit from networking with other active municipalities.

In Hafnerbach the eea energy group/team is an independent association with no political agenda, which is consulting the mayor and the municipality. However, some counsellors as well as the Mayor are a part of the energy team.

Langenegg, Austria

Since joining the eea programme in 1998 the municipality of Langenegg improved the life quality and stopped the strong outward migration trend by implementing a long-term process structuring energy and climate policy.

Several measures contributed to the centre of the municipality's stimulation. Examples are speed limits in the centre, a new café, a new grocery store and a new multi-apartment building. All these buildings are centrally located and were built with passive house standards.

The involvement of citizens also plays an important role. For example, a local currency (called "Langenegger Talente") is well established in the municipality. The purchasing power can be additionally increased because the municipality issues subsidies for local clubs and associations in the local currency. As further results, services in the community can be maintained and commuting trips to other communities prevented.

Montaione, Italy

· Linking-up eea with SECAP creation and ISO commitments

Montaione, a small municipality of 4000 inhabitants, has made the eea team to a multipurpose, interdepartmental energy team boosting the municipality's energy and climate policies.

Currently, 33 Italian municipalities participate in the eea programme. 776.300 people benefit from the eea system in their municipalities. In early 2018, there were 9 eea-certified municipalities. In 2015, two municipalities, Montaione (Tuscany) and Saint Denis (Aosta Valley), achieved the eea Gold award.

The municipalities that take part in the eea programme are supported by external professionals, that have received advanced training courses provided by SPES and the Agency for Energy South Tyrol – CasaClima

Regions with participating municipalities

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33 *Italian municipalities participate in the eea programme*

776 300 *People benefit from the eea system in their municipalities*

Germany

Currently, 304 municipalities are participating in the eea and have a population of more than 25 million people. Out of these, 206 have received the European Energy Award and 47 the European Energy Award Gold.

eea municipalities benefit from recognizable savings in energy costs and improved internal administrative cooperation that allows for more effective planning and successful implementation of associated activities. Thanks to these key advantages, eea municipalities are equipped with superior capacities and capabilities to carry out sustainable energy and climate policies. The eea programme, as well as its instruments and networks, are continuously developed further at all local levels (communities, cities, municipal unions, counties and regions).

The city of **Aachen** committed itself to ambitious reduction targets at an early stage and pursues these targets with systematic climate policy activities such as an energy efficiency concept, a master plan concept, a climate action plan, a transport development concept and a climate protection strategy. For example, since 2009 the “Aachen Standard” has been applied to all new building projects, which is based on the passive house construction method and requires a final energy consumption of < 20 kWh / m²a. The city administration purchases 100 percent labelled green electricity, and the use of renewable energies to supply heat to public properties is just under 55 percent. The city of Aachen has been participating in the eea programme since 2009 and has been awarded the European Energy Award Gold for the third time.

The topic of energy and climate protection has a high priority in the administration of the city of **Geldern**. A working group with an interdisciplinary team was founded in 2012. The task is to coordinate and control the energy and climate protection-related issues in the administration. The establishment of inter-agency steering groups, in which the municipal utilities are also involved, has proven to be useful for handling individual projects. In addition to the actual core business, the municipal utilities have a wide range of services and subsidies in the area of energy savings. The city of Geldern has been successfully participating in the eea programme since 2012.

The city of **Eschweiler** has a dedicated energy team in which teamwork is going well. The energy team is managed by the First and Technical Deputy, and the operative business is delegated to the Head of Infrastructural Building Management. The city administration has appointed a Climate Protection Manager. In addition, the Sustainable Development staff unit has been set up. The energy team meets regularly, approximately every three months, and exchanges information on the planning and implementation of measures. The energy policy work programme is updated and supplemented annually. Measures are continuously implemented by the city of Eschweiler. The city of Eschweiler has been successfully participating in the eea programme since 2012.

Climate protection has been intensively pursued in **Münster** for more than 25 years. The city of Münster has been participating in the eea programme since 2004 and was first awarded the European Energy Award Gold in 2005. At that time, the city achieved 80 percent of the possible points and received the gold certificate at the first attempt. Since then, it has received the European Energy Award Gold four more times and is one of the European leaders in this exemplary municipal climate protection work. The strength of the city of Münster lies in the fact that the topics of climate protection and sustainability are holistically anchored and that high scores are achieved in all six areas of action in the eea. In 2019, the city administration committed itself to the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2030. To achieve this, CO_2 emissions must be reduced by up to 95% and final energy consumption by almost 70%. In this way, the city of Münster is demonstrating its continuous and consistent commitment to more climate protection.

The municipality of **Wasserburg** has 4,000 inhabitants and accommodates about 50,000 guests with about 238,000 overnight stays per year. Together with the energy team, the municipality awards companies that take ecological action both externally and internally and commit themselves to the fields of environmental protection, energy, transport and communication. In the 2016-2017 season the “Ökosonne” was introduced for hotels, holiday apartments and guest rooms. Awards are given to accommodations that offer regional products, use heat and electricity from renewable energy sources, enable guests to use resources sparingly and support travel by bicycle and public transport. The municipality of Wasserburg has been participating in the eea programme since 2006 and has been awarded the European Energy Award Gold.

The municipality of **Nottuln** has decided on climate-neutral building management in 2012. Since 2008, the municipality has been operating its own ground-mounted photovoltaic power plant (with an output of 1,200 kWp and a yield of approx. 1,000 MWh / a). In 2016, the electricity demand of the municipal buildings was 636 MWh, and the electricity required for street lighting was 391 MWh. On the balance sheet, the demand is completely covered by the PV system’s own electricity generation. A regenerative local heating network supplies 25,000 m² of almost 39,000 m² of public building space. In 2016, wood chips covered 60 percent (2,700 MWh) of the total heat requirement of municipal buildings (4,500 MWh). The municipality of Nottuln has been participating in the eea programme since 2005 and has been awarded the European Energy Award Gold for the third time.

Münster
The cycle path network and bicycle parking facilities (especially at train stations) are expanded and mobile stations are upgraded. Local transport is expanded (from 9 million to 10 million km), the frequency of services is increased and hydrogen and electric buses are used increasingly

Nottuln
The electricity demand required for street lighting and municipal buildings is completely covered by the PV system’s own electricity generation

47 *Have received the European Energy Award Gold*

25 million *304 municipalities are participating in the eea and have a population of more than 25 million people*

68% *206 have received the European Energy Award*

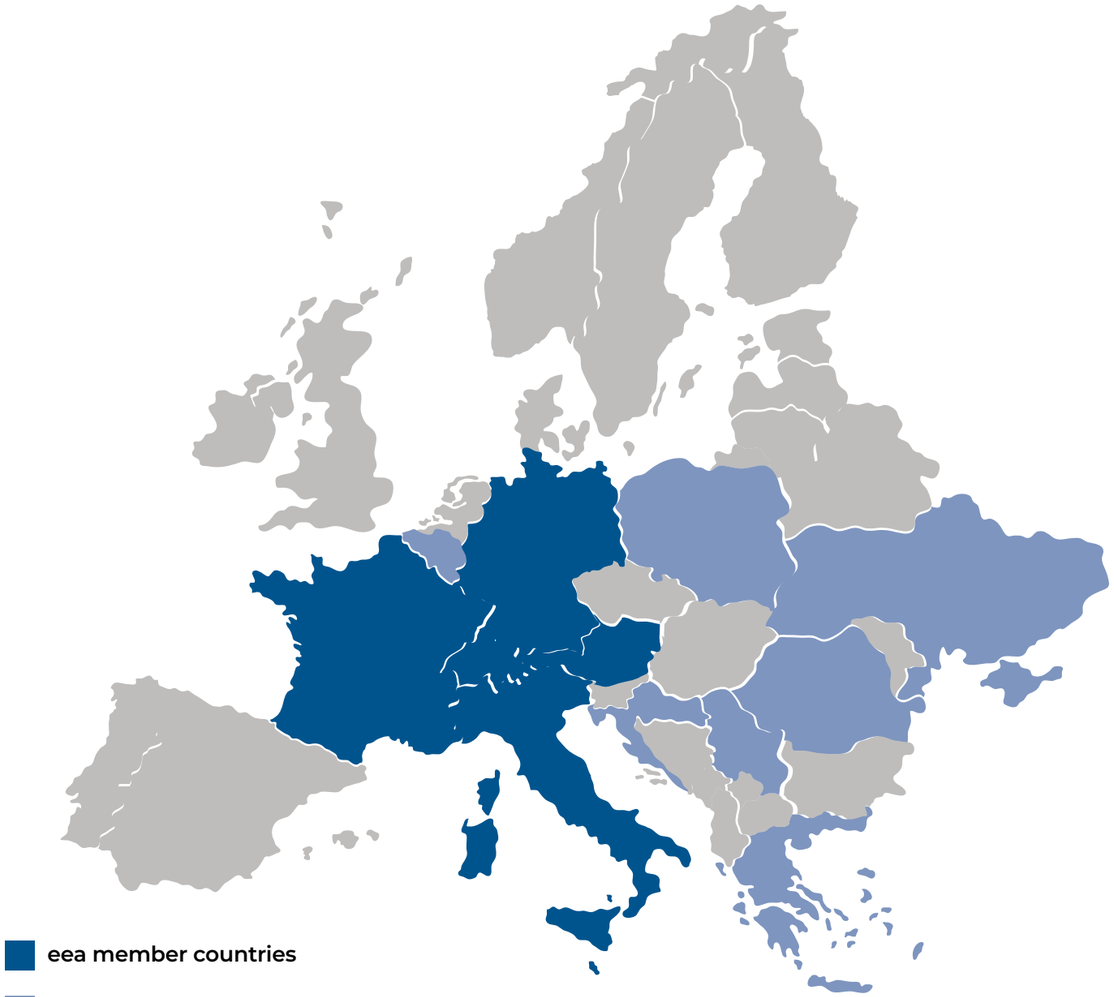
CALL TO ACTION

Municipalities often have ambitious goals and political will but frequently lack capacity, expertise, internal structures and working methodology, measures with impact focus project-based approach – all of them crucial to successfully implement the climate and energy strategies and thus reach the set target. eea and the IMPLEMENT project focus on capacity building in the municipalities and communities, helping them to reach objectives by setting up necessary structures, which lead to the development and implementation of climate and energy strategy by the eea standards.

Join us now!

The benefits of the eea certification are manifold, from building a quality monitoring system for the envisaged activities to strengthening the local community and differentiating from other, less active, municipalities.

Participating municipalities are encouraged to exchange knowledge and experiences and learn from other positive examples in the eea network of municipalities. By implementing the eea certification and following the steps in the eea process, municipalities can reduce energy bills and CO_2 emissions, increase the use of renewable energy sources, which will lead to attracting the families and businesses interested in living and operating their businesses in the promising, sustainable municipality.



eea member countries

Pilot countries

WHAT CAN THE eea DO FOR YOU?

eea local authorities are frontrunners

They reached the EU 2020 targets of 20% renewables by 2017, with 21% renewable heat on their territories

eea local authorities are committed in the long-term to climate policy

The city of Schaffhausen for example has been awarded with eea in 1991 and keeps on getting re-awarded every 4 years

eea local authorities implement the climate transition

The eea local authorities have 40% more CO_2 savings than other average local authorities, they also installed twice as much capacity for renewable power production

eea local authorities lead by example

The share of RES for the heating/cooling in their communal buildings is on average 38%

eea local authorities are more successful in applying for national funds than other local authorities

They have action plans and specific projects ready in the pipeline at any time, resulting in 5-10% more financing through national subsidies

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

If you are interested in joining the eea network and experiencing the benefits of the eea quality management and certification system, please contact IMPLEMENT project partners in your country

Flanders	Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen vzw (BBL) info@bblv.be
Wallonia	Association Pour la Promotion des Energies Renouvelables (APERe) info@apere.org
Croatia	North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA) info@regea.org
Greece	Aegean Energy & Environment Agency (AEGEA) info@aegean-energy.gr
Poland	The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE) kape@kape.gov.pl