

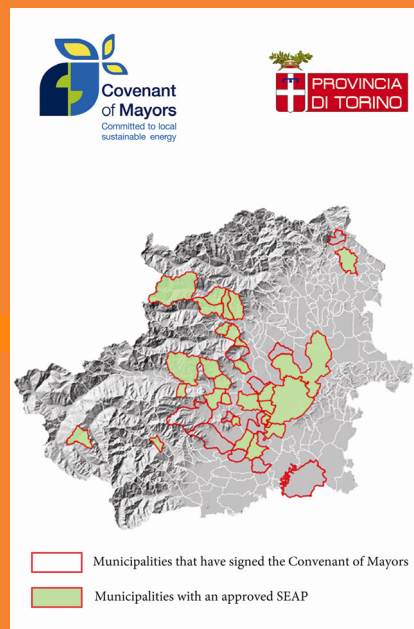
Support actions to the Covenant of Mayors

KEYWORDS:

- Building culture
- Construction
- Closed loops
- Governance
- Planning Tools
- Ecology
- Energy efficiency
- Indicators
- Mobility
- Technology transfer

TARGET GROUP:

- Architects
- Builders
- Citizens
- Craftsmen
- Home Owners
- Planners
- Politicians
- Policy Makers



Results and outcomes (use cases):

After its adhesion as supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors in February 2010, Torino Province launched a wide programme of measures to support local authorities in reaching EU2020 energy targets. Main steps of the process have been: a) adhesion as supporting structure (Feb 2010); b) methodology set up (Dec 2010/ Sep2012) and approval by the JRC (Oct 2012); c) promotion of the CoM at local level (2 events in 2010, 4 events in 2011, 2 events in 2012 and 7 events in 2013); d) SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) elaboration/approval and monitoring (from June 2011 – ongoing).

Such a measure has a great relevance in the case of Turin Province, where there is an extremely high number of small-sized municipalities lacking of the needed technical means for fulfilling the tasks requested for the subscription of the Covenant.

In this view such an action can help overcoming these kind of difficulties, reaching two main goals: a) Municipalities and their

technical staff are empowered, i.e. they get new know-how and capacities, without having financial costs; b) local knowledge, i.e. the internal point of view on local problems in the field of energy consumption and production are fully valorised, increasing the effectiveness of SEAPs.

The main quantitative outputs since the measure has been implemented are: a) 46 adhesions to the Covenant; b) 33 SEAPs approved; c) 200 municipal technicians trained on energy and eco-building legislation; d) organization of 25 “energy days”; e) 1,203 GWh of energy savings are estimated by achieving objectives identified for 2020 by municipalities, coming from structural changes in heat consumption, from reductions in electricity consumption and from the transport sector.

Description:

The methodology is based on a comprehensive "tutorial" approach, with a series of tools and technical services to support local authorities during the whole process, from the adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors to the elaboration/implementation/monitoring of their SEAPs. These actions include: a) elaboration and updating of Baseline emission inventories; b) supporting the elaboration of the SEAPs; c) web-based application "Enercloud" (in the future Smart Energy Web) to support energy management of public properties; d) Building code template fixing energy standards and requirements; e) Subsidies for energy retrofit of

street lighting and public buildings; f) energy help desk service providing consultancy on private and public buildings; g) wide information and awareness campaign.

The initiative has a long-term character, as it has been conceived as a process, without a deadline and with a clear and strong political commitment. Measures are supported with own resources but also through EU projects (e.g. CoP-Central Europe, SEAP Alps-Alpine Space).

Type of measure: policy incentive, support services

Relevance for inter-municipal planning (AlpBC):

The Province holds a super-municipal coordination role, and its direct involvement in the formation of local SEAPs shall enhance the coordination and harmonisation among local policy tools. A first experience of a intermunicipal SEAP has been developed among 6 municipalities (Unione NET) and can be seen as a key issue for the upcoming structural Funds programming period at EU and Regional level. The monitoring phase is an essential action of the project. SEAPs are based on a 3 level monitoring scheme: the ex-ante monitoring checks the consistency of actions with respect to the objectives, the ongoing monitoring verifies the municipal implementation strategies and the ex-post monitoring checks the effectiveness of implemented actions. For all these monitoring phases specific

indicators are used; if anomalies are identified it is possible to act in feedback both on goals (emission reduction target) and actions (which can be changed or strengthened).

For what the building culture is concerned, positive effects of the measure are indirect but relevant, since the reduction of energy consumption has to be based on buildings/public infrastructures energy efficiency, thus the achievement of SEAPs goals requires interventions on the building sector.

Moreover a bundling approach, already set up, will create a favourable condition for the involvement of the private sector as investor in public buildings. Such project, named 2020Together, involves nearly 20 municipalities, 60 buildings and 1.200 street lightning systems.

Relevance for policy goals (Alpine Space, Europe and the region):

The territorial structure of Alpine Space, especially in its Western section, is made of small to very small municipalities, which very often don't have neither the technical capacities nor the financial means for implementing proactive policies on issues such as those tackled by the Covenant of Mayors.

The measure has a direct impact on energy and spatial planning, since it encourages and supports Municipalities in adopting a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which is a cross-sectorial tool.

The effect of such a policy shall be a great contribution to EU energy goals, since it strongly supports the adoption of proactive policies in this field also among the weakest institutional actors (that is small municipalities).