



EU4Energy



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy
CoM East

CoM East
Newsletter
February 2018

September 2017 – January 2018

BELARUS IN FOCUS

SECOND PHASE OF THE COM-DEP
PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

COM EAST CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

PROMOTING NEW COVENANT IN EAP COUNTRIES:

- International Conference "Covenant of Mayors East: Joining Forces for Climate & Energy Action"
- CoM East Outreach Media Campaign in EaP Countries
- CoM East promotion at public events



Number of Signatories	42
Active Signatories	39
SE(C)APs submitted	11

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Covenant of Mayors came to Belarus in 2011, when Polack became the first city to join the EU Initiative. Since then, the popularity of the Covenant has grown significantly: as of today, 42 Belarusian municipalities are the CoM Signatories, where a third of the country's population lives.

The year 2017 was very successful for the Covenant of Mayors in Belarus: 20 new municipalities joined the Initiative. As of today, Bioroza, Braslaŭ, Brest, Čavusy, Karma, Navahrudak, Polack and Vilejka are among the most active Signatories.

Such significant expansion of the Covenant has become possible, among other things, due to the awareness raising, promotion and capacity building activities of the EU-funded project "Covenant of Mayors East", which is being implemented in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries since 2016. The CoM East Team regularly provides consulting assistance to Belarusian municipalities and supports them in developing and implementing SE(C)APs, also paying particular attention to the promotion of the new Covenant and its benefits amongst local population and media.

International conference "Covenant of Mayors East: Joining Forces for Climate & Energy Action" held in Minsk on December 13-14, 2017 became the highlight of the year. The event was attended by more than 150 CoM leaders from the EaP countries and their EU counterparts. Implementation of innovative CO₂ reduction measures, key aspects of cooperation with business in the region, as well as new opportunities of attracting funding from international financial institutions were in the focus of discussions. The conference was jointly organised by the EU-funded Programmes "Covenant of Mayors - Demonstration Projects" and "Covenant of Mayors East" in close cooperation with the Energy Efficiency Department for the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus.

Besides, the EU Programme "Covenant of Mayors — Demonstration Projects" allocated grants to 2 new projects that will be launched in 2018 in Ašmiany and Bioroza. Other 10 initiatives from Bielaaziorsk, Braslaŭ, Brest, Čavusy, Hlybokaje, Kobryn, Viciebsk and Vilejka were supported in the framework of the project "Strengthening the Covenant of Mayors movement in Belarus".

Anton Radnianskou,
CoM East Communication Expert in Belarus

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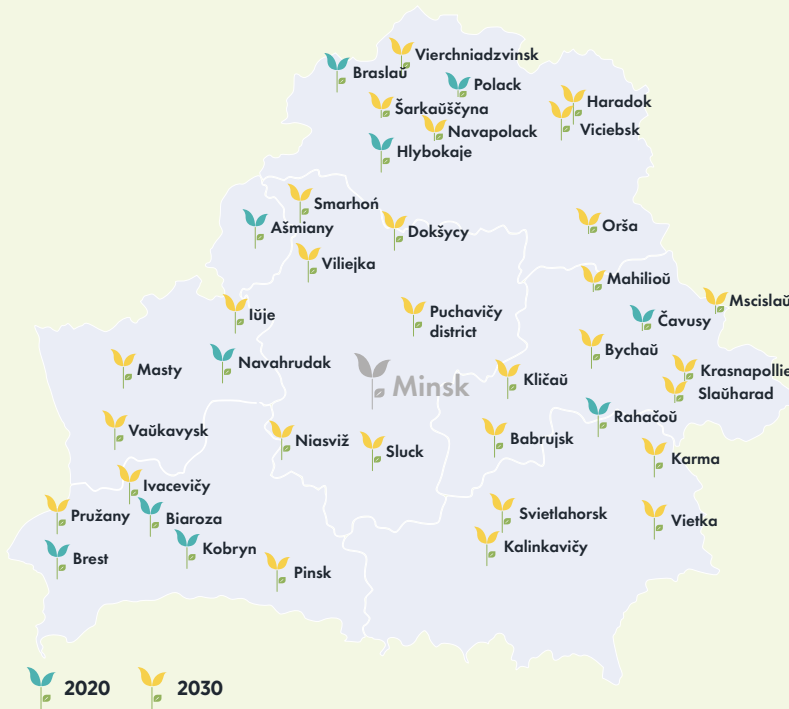
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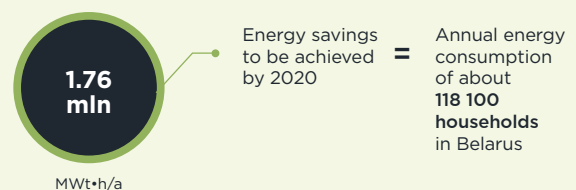
COVENANT OF MAYORS GOING BELARUS



COUNTRY FACTS & FIGURES:

- 42 Signatories (20 of them joined the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in 2017)
- Every 3rd Belarusian lives on the territory of CoM Signatories (2.96 mln)
- 11 Signatories with accepted SEAPs plan to invest 288 mln EUR to fulfill their commitments
- 2 CoM National Supporters – *Interakcia Foundation* and *IPO "Ecopartnership"* – help Belarusian Signatories achieve their goals on reducing CO₂ emission and implementing SE(C)APs.

EXPECTED RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTING 11 ACCEPTED SEAPs:



EU4Energy Initiative

The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It does this by financing projects and programmes that help to reform energy markets and to reduce national energy dependence and consumption. Over the longer term, this makes energy supply more reliable, transparent and affordable, thus reducing energy poverty and energy bills for both citizens and the private sector.

More information on: www.EU4Energy.eu





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COVENANT OF MAYORS – DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN BELARUS

THREE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN BELARUS SINCE 2015

PUBLICITY: Energy efficient modernisation of public lighting in the city of Polack (“GorSvet”)

The project is aimed at conducting energy-efficient modernisation of the street lighting system in Polack. It presupposes energy audit of 40 streets of Polack, a comprehensive energy-efficient refurbishment of the street lighting system in 16 central streets, decorative LED lighting of 26 historical facilities and monuments, installation of control and management lighting system, as well as development of the Strategic Sustainable Street Lighting Development Plan by 2030 and dissemination of the project results in Belarus. Within the framework of the Demonstration Project, during the Energy Days 2018 Polack will hold a large-scale festival of light art, taking into account the experience of Lyon city (France), where this festival has already gained a huge popularity.



System of automation for vision of energy and water in the city of Čavusy: Save Water

The project involves introduction of dispatching control of wells, establishment of a smart system for water supply monitoring and management, refurbishment of the central sewerage collector, implementation of sewerage bio-treatment technology, introduction of ACECAS (automated commercial energy consumption accounting system) as well as establishment of a public information center “Water and Energy”.

Braslaŭ district – the first climate neutral municipality in Belarus

The general goal of the project is to transform Braslaŭ into the first climate neutral district of Belarus. The project, in particular, provides for modernisation of a boiler house with installation of two biomass boilers, as well as replacement of pipes of the central heating system with preinsulated ones; installation of solar panels in the kindergarten No 1, and replacement of old city lighting lamps with LEDs.



Photos are courtesy of the EU-funded CoM -DeP Programme

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TWO NEW DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED IN 2018

■ Introduction of LED street lighting in the Biaroza district using the automatic control system

The project aims at modernisation of street lightning in the Biaroza district by installation of LED lighting fixtures with automatic control system. In particular, it is planned to replace 2 802 street lights with new LED lamps, to install 30 outer lighting control cabinets and introduce energy monitoring and management system based on the automated system of commercial account of electric power (ASCA).

■ Implementation of energy-efficient measures aimed at sustainable energy development of the Ašmiany district of Belarus

The project provides for a complex thermal refurbishment of the kindergarten No 3, including replacement of windows, insulation of roof and walls, installation of photovoltaic panels, heat pump, individual heat point and hot water collectors, modernisation of ventilation and lighting systems, replacement of obsolete equipment in the kitchen with the new one.



WINNERS

Greetings to the winners of the second phase of CoM-DeP Programme!

In December 2017, the European Commission identified 14 winners of the second phase of the EU-funded Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" (CoM-DeP). 14 projects will be implemented in 15 municipalities of the Eastern Partnership countries: 6 in Ukraine, 3 in Moldova, 2 in Belarus, 2 in Armenia and 1 in Georgia. Availability of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) approved by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission and innovative approach to finding solutions that can be further multiplied were the main criteria for selecting awardees.

The total budget of the Programme constitutes 13.8 mln EUR, the EU contribution amounts to more than 10.6 mln EUR (77% of the total funding). These funds will be used for improving integrated thermal modernisation of public buildings, wide use of renewable energy sources, modernisation of heat supply systems and street lighting.

All projects start their activities in 2018, while the implementation of most of them will last until August 2022.

Learn more about the CoM-DeP projects at: <http://com-dep.enefcities.org.ua>

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CoM East CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES



Armenia

November 28, 2017

WORKSHOP "FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF SEAP/SE(C)AP IMPLEMENTATION"

The workshop on capacity building and strengthening the CoM East Signatories' potential was held in Yerevan on November 28, 2017. It was attended by more than 45 people, including representatives of public authorities, technical specialists and energy managers of 17 Armenian CoM East Signatories, National Coordinators and Supporters. Artem Kharazyan, CoM East Country Expert in Armenia, presented the main stages of the CoM development, as well as regional and national Covenant related statistics. He also analysed the measures proposed by the Signatories in their SE(C)APs and the main obstacles for their financing and successful implementation. Considerable attention was paid to the theoretical and practical aspects of identifying economically viable SEAP/SE(C)AP measures and development of the project proposals to attract funding for their implementation.



Belarus

October 19-20, 2017

WORKSHOP "THE EXPERIENCE OF BELARUS ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE"

Within the framework of the Sustainable Energy Week 2017, a workshop for representatives of the CoM Signatories from Belarus was held in the "Sporovsky" wildlife preserve (Brest region). Participants learned how to develop a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and got an opportunity to study the experience of climate change adaptation measures undertaken by the "Sporovsky" wildlife preserve and the secondary school of Zditovo (Biaroza district). Apart from that, Vladimir Rak (Center for Environmental Solutions) presented the possible ways of low-carbon energy development in Belarus, which implies the maximum increase of using renewable energy sources.



Moldova

December 19-20, 2017

TRAINING "DEVELOPMENT OF BASELINE EMISSION INVENTORY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN"

The training participants learned about the CoM East activity in Moldova and, in particular, on the development of emission baseline inventory for combating climate change as well as assessing the risks and vulnerabilities for the adaptation part. Victor Parlicov, CoM East Country Expert in Moldova, presented the theoretical and practical framework for the CoM Signatories to succeed in fulfilling their commitments. The trainers explained how to correctly collect the initial emissions data and what kind of measures can be included in SECAPs.



PROMOTING NEW COVENANT IN EaP COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “COVENANT OF MAYORS EAST: JOINING FORCES FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION” Minsk December 13-14, 2017

In the mid-December 2017, Minsk hosted International Conference “Covenant of Mayors East: Joining Forces for Climate & Energy Action”, which undoubtedly became the key event of the year. It brought together more than 150 participants from 6 Eastern Partnership countries, including project managers and experts, National and Territorial Coordinators, Country Helpdesks’ representatives of the CoM East project and, of course, full-fledged and new CoM East Signatories. A Steering Committee meeting was held prior to the conference, where the main CoM East achievements and plans for the next implementation period were discussed by the stakeholders.

Particular attention was paid to energy efficiency policy in Belarus and CoM East achievements in other EaP countries. A series of panel discussions ended up with a Signing Ceremony, when 20 new Belarusian municipalities joined the Initiative. Babrujsk, Bychaŭ, Dokšycy, Haradok, Ivacevičy, Kalinkavičy, Karma, Krasnapol’ie, Masty, Mscislaŭ, Navapolack, Niasviž, Pružany, Slaŭharad, Sluck, Smarhoń, Svetlahorsk, Vaŭkavysk, Viciebsk, Vierchniadzvinsk are now among 39 CoM Signatories in Belarus, committed to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030.

VASSILIS MARAGOS, HEAD OF UNIT, DIRECTORATE GENERAL NEAR, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, stressed the significant progress of cities in the EaP countries in the CoM East implementation and the growth of practical interest to the Initiative. He also assured that the EU would keep providing support to CoM East Signatories.

“Today we are marking the success of the Covenant of Mayors initiative in the Eastern Partnership countries. With over 300 Signatories in all six countries, and 20 more joining today from Belarus, it is safe to say that the Covenant has a strong brand in the Eastern Partnership countries. The EU is committed to continue supporting this important initiative as it delivers tangible benefits to the citizens by building resilient cities and so contributing to quality of life for their inhabitants.”



The conference provided an excellent opportunity to intensify joint efforts in the field of local sustainable development, to share successful experience in modernising municipal infrastructure in the cities of the EaP countries and, in particular, the Republic of Belarus. Participants learned and shared the best examples of implementing energy efficiency and CO₂ emission reduction measures, strengthened their potential for attracting external funding for innovative energy efficiency projects and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.





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CoM East Outreach Media Campaign in EaP Countries

MEDIA BREAKFASTS

A series of informal meetings with national, regional and local media of the Eastern Partnership countries in the format of media breakfasts was held by the CoM East Project in autumn 2017 to promote the new Covenant, its targets and benefits, as well as the CoM East achievements and planned activities in the region. The CoM East Project Team provided the journalists with general overview of the CoM EU initiative, new targets for the EaP countries, why CoM East project comes to EaP region, how the CoM East is being implemented in specific EaP Country, what benefits it brings to their residents etc.



Yerevan, Armenia
September 12, 2017



Tbilisi, Georgia
September 13, 2017



Minsk, Belarus
September 21, 2017

Media representatives increased their understanding of the new Covenant of Mayors, and learned about the CoM East Project and its implementation in Armenia, Georgia and Belarus. The acquired knowledge they will further use in their professional activity.

The similar media events took place in Chisinau (Moldova) on 19 July, 2017 as well as in Odesa and Kyiv (Ukraine) on 18 and 20 July, 2017 respectively. More information about the media breakfasts in Moldova and Ukraine can be found [here](#).

MEDIA WORKSHOPS FOR JOURNALISTS FROM THE EAP COUNTRIES

Covenant of Mayors East has increased the quality and quantity of news coverage on key energy efficiency and climate change issues in Signatory cities of targeted countries.

The CoM East Communication Team organised two 1,5 day workshops for journalists of TV companies, radio stations, print and Internet media outlets from EaP countries. On November 27-29, 2017, Tbilisi (Georgia) hosted the first media training for the winners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova. Ukrainian awardees gathered on December 6-7, 2017, in Myrhorod (Ukraine). The workshops were designed to increase the journalists' knowledge about the EU initiative and CoM East developments in the EaP countries.

Both workshops consisted of one-day theoretical and practical sessions and half a day site visits to the municipalities where successful energy efficiency measures have been implemented. Together with the CoM East experts, the trainees studied the best methods of preparing news materials (articles, videos etc.) on climate and energy efficiency issues, learned success stories from the Signatories, discussed the case studies and the most efficient ways to disseminate the CoM related information to ensure the proper perception by potential audience.

With the view to promoting the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and transparently select the participants of the workshops, the CoM East Team for the first time launched a selective contest for media representatives from the EaP countries. Journalists of TV companies, radio stations, print and Internet media outlets were invited to submit their articles or news stories on energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other CoM related issues. The contest was held on October 6 – 30, 2017.



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On the basis of 85 entries submitted for the contest, 48 journalists (23 from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova and 25 from Ukraine) were selected to take part in the CoM East media trainings. Awarded media materials have been posted on the CoM East Facebook page.



Media Workshop in Tbilisi
(November 27-29, 2017)



CoM East Team at Media Workshop in Myrhorod
(December 6-7, 2017)

Covenant of Mayors East Facebook page is an effective information tool to promote the CoM East developments, share success stories and best practices implemented in the EaP countries, as well as to keep the audience timely informed about the project's news and achievements.

CoM East in social media

In September 2017, the CoM East Communication Team launched the on-line media campaign to promote the CoM East developments in each EaP country and convert the CoM East Facebook page into the main dynamic interactive source of information. The CoM East Team on the regular basis posted brief pieces of interesting and useful information about the CoM East Signatories, success stories, best practices, news and events.

The most vivid example was the on-line media campaign "Morning Coffee with a Taste of Energy" initiated by Oksana Kysil, CoM East Country Expert in Ukraine. Every morning during three weeks the Expert posted short information about one of the Ukrainian Signatories engaging the visitors and encouraging them to active discussions and exchange of opinions.

The 🏆 **"Facebook champion"** title can be rightfully granted to Andriy Kyrchiv, Communication Expert in Ukraine, whose post about the 320km-trip of the ecobus Electron E191 from Lviv to Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine (dated November 16, 2017) reached 5 639 people with 154 reactions, 110 likes and 28 shares.

COM EAST PROMOTION AT PUBLIC EVENTS



HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE "UNLOCKING ENERGY EFFICIENCY POTENTIAL IN THE SECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ARMENIA", YEREVAN

November 8, 2017

The EU Delegation to Armenia in cooperation with the EU4Energy Programme held a high-level conference meant to generate a dialogue between public authorities, donors and international financial institutes, representatives of the private and public sectors, as well as technical experts from NGOs and academic institutions. Participants discussed the challenges hampering the achievement of targets to reduce Armenia's baseline energy consumption by 20% set in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP). Artem Kharazyan, CoM East Country Expert in Armenia, delivered presentation "Energy efficiency in public sector as a priority of Covenant of Mayors East Signatories", paying particular attention to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by CoM East Signatories by 2020, as well as analysis of energy efficiency measures for public and residential sectors highlighted in SEAPs.



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PRESS CONFERENCE IN MINGACHEVIR

The first achievements and future plans of the city of Mingachevir (Azerbaijan) in the context of fulfilling the commitments taken under the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy were presented to the local mass media. The member of the municipality working group, Head of ECO-TES Chingiz Nazarov, the city mayor Joshgun Abdullayev, representative of the municipal authorities Azer Huseynov, Head of the Housing and Municipal Economy Department Shahriyar Mustafayev took part in the press-conference. Journalists learned about the CoM East events held in Georgia and Belarus in 2017, in which representatives of the municipality took part.



January 15, 2018



CLIMATHON

The first international hackathon in Belarus dedicated to the climate change issues – Climathon – was held in Minsk. For 48 hours 8 teams have been working on various solutions in the field of ecology and urban development. CoM East Country Expert in Belarus Ivan Shchadranok was invited as one of the team mentors. Amongst the most interesting ecological solutions presented at the event were, for example, the application with the air pollution map by city districts and the platform for solving residential issues with the help of a blockchain technology.



October 27-29 2017



10TH FORUM ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)

The forum dedicated to the discussion of most challenging energy efficiency issues was held in Tbilisi. It was attended by representatives of public and local self-government authorities of Georgia, academic institutions and NGOs, international and local experts. Christophe Frering, CoM East Team Leader, took part in one of the forum sessions moderated by George Abulashvili, CoM East Country Expert where he presented the CoM East objectives, main activities and achievements.



September 13, 2017



6TH BOSTANIADA ETHNO-GASTRONOMIC FESTIVAL

Pumpkin became a symbol of clean energy in the village of Lozova, Republic of Moldova, Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. Thousands of green lovers attended the sixth edition of the Bostaniada Ethno-Gastronomic Festival, where organic farming, healthy eating and green energy were celebrated. A stand of the CoM East project attracted not only the active villagers but also representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, as well as environmental NGOs who expressed their interest in collaboration with the CoM East in the future.



September 24, 2017





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CIVIC FEST

The CoM Initiative was promoted at the Civil Society Forum – Civic Fest – that took place on 29 September 2017 in Chisinau. Lilia Curchi, CoM East Communication Expert in Moldova, stressed on the civil responsibility and voluntary commitments of municipalities, which are CoM Signatories, to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 30% by 2030 and to adopt an integrated approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Ms Curchi encouraged civil society members to support the efforts of the CoM East Signatories on this way.

September 29, 2017



MOLDOVA ECO ENERGETICA

On December 7, 2017 Albana Kona, scientific adviser of the Joint Research Center of the European Commission (JRC), participated in the "Moldova Eco Energetica" conference in Chisinau, which is a part of the "Days of Moldova EcoEnergetics" Annual Forum. The event is targeted at local government authorities and economic agents in the energy field. At the conference she delivered a presentation "Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency in the Republic of Moldova: Opportunities and Prospects". In her speech, Albana Kona touched upon the monitoring process of evaluating the SEAPs achievements.

December 7-8, 2017



DISCUSSION OF THE PROSPECTS OF ENERGY POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE

The CoM East office in Kyiv hosted a high-level meeting with representatives of the CoM National Coordinator and the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Reform Support Team under the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy of Ukraine (Minregion) and GIZ. Participants discussed the main barriers to energy policy implementation and possible ways to overcome them in the CoM related sectors. Oksana Kysil, CoM East Country Expert in Ukraine, presented a plan for working with the CoM East Signatories in the field of promoting a responsible attitude amongst the homeowners of multi-family apartment buildings that will allow attracting investments from the future Energy Efficiency Fund.

November 10, 2017



"COMMUNTECH - 2017"

XV International Trade Fair "CommuneTech - 2017" organised by the Minregion took place in Kyiv on November 7-9, 2017. Oksana Kysil, CoM East Country Expert in Ukraine, delivered a speech at the Conference "Energy Efficiency and renewable energy sources: today and perspectives". The intervention was focused on investment component of the city's energy policy, promoted the CoM East in general and the Municipal Development Coordination Platform (MDCP) in particular.

November 7-9, 2017



The Project is implemented by the Energy Cities-led Consortium:



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