

10th anniversary of the Covenant of Mayors in the Eastern Partnership Region

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE:

29-30 NOVEMBER 2022

Courtyard by Marriott, 4 Freedom square, Tbilisi (Georgia)

Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions. The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. The initiative now gathers 11,000+ local and regional authorities across 55 countries drawing on the strengths of a worldwide multi-stakeholder movement and the technical and methodological support offered by dedicated offices. Launched in the European Union in 2008, the CoM enlarged to other regions all over the world. The Global Covenant of Mayors is capitalising on the experience gained over the past eight years in Europe and beyond and is building upon the key success factors of the initiative: its bottom-up governance, its multi-level cooperation model and its context-driven framework for action.

The municipalities from the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region have picked up the flag and voluntarily committed to reduce CO₂ emissions and mitigate climate changes at the local level. With substantive support of the European Union, many of our municipalities have achieved tangible results in climate issues and improved energy efficiency of their local economies. The Covenant of Mayors has become a synonym of the success of bottom-up approaches in the region.

EU4Climate

EU4Climate Action, funded by the EU as part of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) East Regional Action Programme, aims to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries which contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (PA). Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens' lives and make them more resilient to it. It identifies key actions and results in line with the PA, the EaP "20 Deliverables for 2020", and the key global policy goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project also translates into action priorities outlined in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change of October 2016 and in the Presidency Conclusions of the Second Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change of November 2018. It will also contribute to achieving the objectives set up in the Joint Communication: "Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all".

Conference and thematic workshops

The conference will give an opportunity to take stock of the progress of the Covenant, discuss the main bottlenecks and barriers encountered by many signatory cities, provide effective recipes for success as well as outline the future of the initiative and EU support to EaP municipalities from the perspective of the Green Deal and other European initiatives.

Over 150 representatives from local and national authorities, associations of local authorities and other stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine will participate in the event. Representatives from EU institutions and EU Member States will also take part.

EU4Climate regional workshop offers the opportunity to exchange information on experiences and enabling conditions for the implementation of NDC and LEDS on regional and local level and thereby supporting not only the horizontal but also vertical mainstreaming of climate action.

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DAY 1 (29 November 2022)

08.00 – 09.00	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS - WELCOME COFFEE
09.00 – 09.45	<p>WELCOME ADDRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Romeo Mikautadze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia ▪ Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia ▪ Lawrence Meredith, Director Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, European Commission (video address) ▪ Kakha Kaladze, Mayor of Tbilisi (GE)
09.45 – 10.00	<p>LAUNCH OF COM EAST III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicholas Cendrowicz, Deputy Head of Unit for Georgia, Moldova and Economic Investment Plan, DG NEAR, European Commission ▪ CoM East team
10.00 – 11.15	<p>PANEL I – 10 YEARS OF COM IN THE EAP REGION: RESULTS, RECIPES FOR SUCCESS AND LESSONS LEARNED</p> <p>Moderated Irina Plis, CoM East Country Expert for Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicholas Cendrowicz, Deputy Head of Unit for Georgia, Moldova and Economic Investment Plan, DG NEAR, European Commission ▪ Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo (BG) (online) ▪ Vardges Samsonyan, Mayor of Gyumri (AM) ▪ Nino Latsabidze, Mayor of Rustavi (GE) ▪ Roman Ciubaciuc, Mayor of Cantemir (MD) ▪ Yuriy Fomichev, Mayor of Slavutych (UA) (online)
11.15 – 11.45	COFFEE BREAK
11.45 – 13.00	<p>PANEL II – COM 2030 AND 2050: NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES</p> <p>Moderated by Ivan Shchadranok, CoM East Policy and Institutional Relations Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aldo Treville, Project Officer, EC, Joint Research Centre (JRC) ▪ Anatoli Topal, Mayor of Ceadir-Lunga (MD) ▪ Iryna Marunyak, Deputy Mayor of Lviv (UA) ▪ Leyla Mammadova, Deputy Mayor, Nizami rayon municipality of Ganja city (AZ) ▪ Nino Chincharashvili, Head of SECAP development working group, Dusheti (GE)
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 – 15.30	PANEL III – FUNDING GREEN PROJECTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

	<p>Moderated by Maksym Vereshchak, CoM East Local Sustainable Development Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alexandre Darras, Team Leader Connectivity, Energy, Environment & Climate change, EU Delegation to Georgia ▪ Astghine Pasoyan, Director of Foundation to Save Energy (AM) (online) ▪ Jan Waanders, Team Leader of the technical assistance team to the (EIB/EBRD/EU funded) Moldova Energy Efficiency Programme ▪ Jana Cicmanova, Energy Cities (France), Financial expert (online) ▪ Nino Antadze, Environment Portfolio Team Leader, UNDP Georgia ▪ Yegor Farenjuk, Director of Energy Efficiency Fund for Ukraine
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK
16:00 – 17:00	<p>PANEL IV – CITIZENS’ ENGAGEMENT INTO CLIMATE ACTIONS DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Moderated by Zviad Archuadze, Practitioner on Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Davit Sidamonidze, Senior Project Coordinator, Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth (GE) ▪ Leonid Boaghi, Mayor of Sireti (MD) ▪ Nune Sakanyan, NGO “Women in Climate and Energy” (AM) (online) ▪ Serhiy Kondratyuk, Deputy Mayor of Zhytomyr (UA)
17:00 – 17:30	<p>AWARD CEREMONY AND CLOSING SPEECH</p> <p>Moderated by Iryna Horodyska, CoM East Capacity Building and Helpdesk Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicholas Cendrowicz, Deputy Head of Unit for Georgia, Moldova and Economic Investment Plan, DG NEAR, European Commission ▪ New signatories (20): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Armenia (Spitak, Stepanavan, Vanadzor, Yerevan) ○ Azerbaijan (Khirdalan) ○ Georgia (Dusheti, Oni, Tbilisi) ○ Moldova (Andrusul de Jos, Cantemir, Carbuna, Cimisia, Cotova, Criuleni, Giurgiulesti, Greblesti, Hasnasenii Mari, Riscani, Telita, Zirnesti)
17:30 – 18:00	GROUP PICTURE
18:30 –	DEPARTURE FOR 10 th ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

DAY 2 (30 NOVEMBER 2022)

9:00 – 11:00	<p>Bridging the gap between SECAPs and project implementation: money or ideas first?</p> <p>Moderated by Oksana Kysil</p>	<p>Best practices and lessons learned from Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration projects programme</p> <p>Moderated by Jan Waanders & Maksym Vereshchak</p>	<p>Strengthen cooperation between municipalities and civil society sector</p> <p>Moderated by Irina Plis</p>	<p>EU4Climate group discussion: RES/energy efficiency in the municipal context</p> <p>Moderated by Elisabeth Kampel</p>
	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy in communal utilities in Chortkiv (UA), Volodymyr Shmatko, Mayor Municipal solar PV power plant in Artik community (AM), Njdech Anmdrisyan, Energy Expert of the Foundation to Save Energy Support to SIGNs at the regional level, Kharkiv region council (UA), Olena Moroz, Deputy Head of the Department for Territorial and Local Development and International Relations Major reforms and the role of municipalities and HOAs in projects for residential sector, Krzysztof Gierulski, Support Group to Ukraine, DG NEAR <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof-based PV stations in Yerevan (AM), Narine Abelyan, Head of Development and Investment Infrastructural Programs Division Local biomass for sustainable development in Telavi (GE), Elene Gvilava, Project Manager Creation the centre of excellence in Festelita (MD), Nicolae Tudoreanu, Mayor Thermal refurbishment of buildings and improving district heating system in Dubno (UA), Vasyl Antonyuk, Mayor <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public campaigns for promoting sustainable development in Georgia, Nino Tevzadze, NGO 'Caucasus Environmental NGO Network' Raising awareness activities for energy and climate in Moldova, Lilia Rusu, Association of Journalists in Environment and Ecological Tourism Support to local authorities by thematic associations, Svyatoslav Pavlyuk, Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine Experience of Budesti municipality (MD) in projects implementation with CSOs, Nina Costiuc, Mayor <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Opening – Nino Antadze (Team Leader of Environment Portfolio, UNDP Georgia)</p> <p>Introduction to EU4Climate Project (Yevgen Groza – Project Leader)</p> <p>Low Emission Development Strategies in EaP countries (Elisabeth Kampel, UNDP consultant)</p> <p>Keynote speeches – Country experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatia: Lin Herencic (University of Zagreb): Energy communities in decarbonization of local energy systems EU country example on local action Armenia: Armen Grigoryan (Mayor of Stepanavan): Investment in energy efficient building retrofits Moldova: Rodica Russu, Mayor of Telica: Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis <p>Discussion</p>
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK			
11:30 – 12:15	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE WORKSHOP RESULTS IN PLENARY SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop moderators 			
12:15 – 12:30	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoM East Secretariat 			
13:00 – 14:00	FAREWELL LUNCH			