

Peer Learning Programme - 2021/22 - Call for Territorial Coordinators

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is offering regional and sub-regional authorities across Europe the opportunity to take part in peer learning exchanges that aim to increase regional and sub-regional authorities' capacity and knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change and tackle energy poverty. Applications are open until Friday 19 March 2021, 17.00 CET.

1. What is the peer learning programme about?

The Covenant of Mayors peer learning programme has been designed to cater to the different needs of our CoMmunity. In this vein, we are **launching tailored programmes** offering regional and sub-regional authorities the possibility to participate in exchanges that aim to increase their capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to develop and implement ambitious long-term strategies as well as address energy poverty*. These programmes will ensure stimulating exchanges including activities such as:

- Exchanging ideas on how to encourage and manage private sector commitments
- Learning how to co-create a climate pact with citizens and business or to develop a climate neutrality strategy
- Hearing from experts on how to transition to 100% renewable energy sources
- Giving and receiving tailored feedback and advice on Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation Plans (SECAPs)

Successful applicants will be offered a place on the programme that most accurately responds to their needs, challenges, and expertise as described in their application.

**Note, applicants will not be able to select which programme they wish to apply for. Rather, the Covenant of Mayors Office will select and pair successful applicants according to their learning needs, challenges, and expertise as described in their application.*

2. Who can apply?

The 2021/22 peer learning programme is open to:

- All Covenant of Mayors – Europe Territorial Coordinators from the Horizon 2020 associated countries ([list here](#)), except those from the UK or those covered by another regional covenant.
- Applicants that did not participate in the previous twinning programmes*
- Non-Covenant of Mayors Territorial Coordinators from the EU, under the condition that they will complete their registration to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 before the start of the peer learning programme in June 2021.

Priority will be given to applicants that did **not participate in the previous learning programmes*

3. What do you commit to?

As each learning programme is different, your commitment as a participant varies depending on the programme. Certain exchanges will involve travel and/or responsibilities to host a partner, while others will take place purely online*. Through all our exchanges, you will be required to invite relevant departments of your regional / sub-regional administration, policy makers, and relevant stakeholders, and to define and implement concrete actions through the course of the programme. Additional commitments may include:

- join online meetings to understand and discuss the specific needs and challenges of participants

- identify clear learning objectives, and define and implement concrete actions throughout the learning programme
- prepare jointly with participants an agenda for the physical visit (if necessary)
- invite relevant departments of your regional / sub-regional administration, policy makers, cities' representatives, and other relevant stakeholders
- provide support to participants with the development or implementation of actions related to long-term planning

Further information as to your exact commitments will be available upon offer of a place on a peer learning programme.

**Note that applicants will not be able to choose which programme they wish to apply to (see point 1 above).*

4. Why join the peer learning programme?

The Covenant of Mayors peer learning programme has been designed to cater for the various needs of our CoMmunity by providing tailored peer learning exchanges. While each programme is slightly different, the benefits of joining could include:

- Participants will build their capacity to address challenges through tailored discussions;
- Opportunity to network with others through a focused learning programme;
- Promotion on Covenant of Mayors channels as a regional authority committed to peer-learning exchange;
- Possibility to be offered speaker slots at Covenant of Mayors events;
- Chance for more advanced participants to share best practices and be promoted within the CoMmunity as such
- Support of a projects dissemination through the Covenant communication tools
- Potential opportunity to join as guest to the Group of Practitioners meeting in Brussels, to liaise with highly engaged practitioners of the CoMmunity

5. Enabling Resources

To ensure that participants gain the most and ensure a successful journey through the peer learning programme, certain conditions are necessary. All participants are required to have at least level B1 command of English to ensure effective learning. Additional requirements include having appropriate financial and human resources to be actively engaged in the learning process. Those programmes that require travel will be reimbursed up to a certain amount*.

Further information will be made available to successful applicants upon contact to offer a place on a peer learning programme.

**Note that applicants cannot select a particular programme to apply to you (see point 1 above).*

6. How to apply?

Interested local authorities simply need to fill in an online application form available here: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CoM_CTC_peer_learning_programme_application_form_2021.

Applications are open until end of Friday 19 March 2021, with all learning programmes starting in June 2021.

For this round of the peer learning programme, up to 11 coordinators will be selected. Selection results will be announced in May 2021.



7. Data and privacy policy

The Covenant of Mayors Office will store the application forms for 5 years after the termination of the current service contract with the European Commission. After those 5 years (December 2028), the application forms will be deleted. Please note that during this period, the application forms might be shared with the European Commission.

8. More information

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About the Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brings together local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing the EU's climate and energy objectives on their territory. This unique bottom-up movement, which started in 2008 with the support of the European Commission, now counts over 10.000 signatories. In 2015, the initiative took on new objectives: in line with EU targets the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy steps up the initial CO₂-reduction commitment to 40% and includes adaptation to climate change. Signatory local authorities share a vision for making cities decarbonised and resilient, where citizens have access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

Signatories commit to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and to implementing local climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The Covenant of Mayors is supported by an Office in charge for the overall coordination of the initiative. The Covenant of Mayors Office is managed by a consortium composed of networks of local and regional authorities including Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, CEMR, Eurocities, FEDARENE and ICLEI.