

# HOW TO FINANCE YOUR LOCAL ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Get inspired by Covenant  
of Mayors cities & regions!



**Covenant of Mayors**  
for Climate & Energy



Signatories to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy are taking local action to mitigate climate change, adapt to its unavoidable consequences and provide their citizens with access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

Covenant of Mayors cities have committed to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans for 2020 and 2030. In order to ensure their successful implementation despite strained public budgets, Covenant signatories are finding ways to mobilise the necessary investments.

In this leaflet, you will find financing success stories from Covenant cities and regions all across Europe. These examples are clustered in three sections:

- Unlocking investment opportunities through EU funding
- Setting up innovative financing schemes
- Supporting citizens' initiatives.

We hope that you will enjoy your journey through these creative and ambitious financing actions, and that these can serve as an inspiration for your local energy and climate actions!

## Marche Region, Italy

*Using European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) to support sustainable urban mobility actions*



1.54 million inhabitants



Territorial Coordinator since 2012

Provides support to 32 Covenant signatory cities

As many other Italian regions, Marche has fully integrated the Covenant of Mayors into its funding programmes, and thereby supports municipalities in fulfilling their Covenant commitments. The Marche Region is laying the foundation to decarbonise urban transport by providing grants to its local authorities for establishing smart transport systems, setting up charging infrastructure for electric cars and building new multimodal transport hubs to enable citizens to commute more efficiently by train, bus and bicycle.

## Wroclaw, Poland

*Cities directly managing EU Structural Funds (ERDF Funds) to implement integrated territorial investment*



637,683 inhabitants



Signatory since 2016



Committed to the 2030 Covenant of Mayors mitigation and adaptation targets



Hundreds of local authorities across Europe have been entrusted with directly managing a significant portion of ERDF funds, in order to implement integrated sustainable urban development strategies. The Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) is a key

### FACTS & FIGURES

- Funding available: EUR 7.35 million (ERDF)
- Beneficiaries: Individual and/or clustered local authorities, local public transportation companies
- Implementation period: 2014-2020



tool to implement these strategies, as it fosters urban-rural linkages and brings together all local players in a cohesive investment strategy. Wroclaw agglomeration was entrusted by the Lower Silesia Province with establishing a key ITI strategy, as the agglomeration is home to 30% of the province's inhabitants. Through its ITI strategy, Wroclaw agglomeration has created a genuinely inclusive partnership with all its stakeholders, ensuring that the European funds it manages are efficiently and effectively spent to boost the low-carbon transition in its area.

### FACTS & FIGURES

- Funding available: EUR 300 million
- Area covered: 15 local administrative districts of the Wroclaw agglomeration
- Key investment areas:
  - EUR 81 million for low-emission economy (e.g. high-efficiency cogeneration, implementation of actions of low-carbon economy plans)
  - EUR 42 million for transport (e.g. creation of multimodal nodes, modernisation of rail networks, construction of cycling paths)
  - EUR 41 million for entrepreneurship development (e.g. new SME business models)
- Implementation period: 2014-2020

## Almada, Portugal

*A revolving fund to jointly finance local climate mitigation and adaptation actions*



Almada is one of the 18 municipalities located within the Lisbon Metropolitan Region. In 2009, the city established the “Almada Less Carbon Climate Fund”. The fund aims at reducing Almada's carbon footprint by financing both climate mitigation (energy efficiency, renewable energy) and adaptation investments in key areas such as energy efficiency in buildings, small-scale renewable energy production, use of native species to promote ecosystem functions and resilience within the local urban ecological structure and enhance adaptation to climate change and mitigation by capturing CO<sub>2</sub>. Thanks to the city's participation in the EU-funded

INFINITE Solutions project, the fund could be upgraded in 2016 to a revolving fund. This means that the cost savings resulting from the implemented climate mitigation and adaptation measures are now directly returning to the fund, ensuring further sustainable leverage of the fund and boosting further investments in tackling climate change and accelerating the clean energy transition in Almada.

### FACTS & FIGURES

- Size of revolving fund as from 2016: EUR 500,000
- Achievements 2009-2016:
  - Total investment: EUR 1.6 million
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided per year: 953 tons
  - Energy consumption reduced per year: 3,000 MWh
  - Financial savings for the city: EUR 375,000
- Implementation period: the fund has been operational since 2009



► **More info:**

[www.energy-cities.eu/infinitesolutions](http://www.energy-cities.eu/infinitesolutions)

## Rhodope Region, Bulgaria

*The first one-stop shop for energy efficiency renovations in buildings in South-East Europe*



The Rhodope Region in southern Bulgaria has a significant local potential for building retrofitting projects and the integration of renewable energy within its energy mix. However, there is a lack of administrative capacity, collaboration and bundling efforts among the region's municipalities to benefit from favourable financing conditions for energy efficiency renovation projects. This is where the Horizon 2020-funded CITYnvest project came in. Supported by GRE Liège (the development agency for the Liège Province in Belgium),

Sofia Energy Centre and the Association of Rhodope Municipalities, the CITYnvest team has successfully worked with the municipalities in the Rhodope area in order to establish the first one-stop shop for energy retrofitting in South-East Europe. The one-stop shop supports Rhodope municipalities in bundling projects, identifies tailored financing solutions and acts as a knowledge centre. The centre also promotes the use of Energy Performance Contracting in the region, thereby providing the energy efficiency market with a solid and sustainable basis for the future.

### FACTS & FIGURES

- 42 municipal buildings identified for refurbishment in the region
  - Investment needs: EUR 11.5 million
- Street lighting improvements identified in 46 settlements in the region
  - Investment needs: EUR 1.7 million
- Expected energy savings: 8.8 GWh/year
- Implementation period: due to start in autumn 2017

► **More info:** [citynvest.eu](http://citynvest.eu)

## Utrecht, the Netherlands

*Municipalities facilitating the development of community-led urban green spaces*



Utrecht has a long history of working with its citizens in the co-design of the city's infrastructure. In its Neighbourhood Green Plans (NGP) initiative, Utrecht invited its citizens to propose ideas for improving the quantity and quality of the city's green spaces, a key measure to adapt to climate change, improve biodiversity and mitigate the urban heat island effect. After undertaking a feasibility study of the proposed ideas, Utrecht provided a budget of EUR 500,000 to each of the 10 NGPs and encouraged the citizens to self-manage their projects (i.e. continued care and maintenance).

In addition to this, each NGP obtained on average an additional EUR 175,000 in co-funding from various public and private sources, such as the Province of Utrecht, the Utrecht Water Board, housing associations and co-operatives or community organisations. Through the NGPs in Utrecht, the inhabitants notably greened their roofs, increased the variety of flora and fauna of their parks and extended the number of edible organic gardens.

### FACTS & FIGURES

- 10 Neighbourhood Green Plans covering the entire city of Utrecht
- 140 projects delivered and/or approved
- Funding volume for each NGP: ca. EUR 675,000
  - EUR 500,000 from Utrecht municipality
  - EUR 175,000 in co-funding from public and private sources
- How the funds are spent in each NGP:
  - EUR 595,000 for implementation
  - EUR 80,000 for process (facilitating participation, idea development)
- Implementation period: since 2010

## Quiévrain, Belgium

*Boosting solidary local energy communities through city-cooperative partnerships*



Local energy communities are a key instrument to foster public support for the energy transition, as they directly involve citizens in providing renewable energy. Furthermore, they can increase the flexibility of the energy system and ensure that investments and jobs stay on the territory. The Wallonian municipalities of Quiévrain and Dour have understood the added-value that energy communities bring at local level. Quiévrain and Dour have facilitated the continued operation of

the local energy community "Les Moulins du Haut Pays", by forging a partnership with the citizen cooperative "émissions zéro". The shares and voting rights are equally divided between the municipalities and the citizen cooperative (50/50), thereby ensuring that the decisions made are equitable and to the benefit of all parties.



### FACTS & FIGURES

- Total renewable energy production of 2 wind turbines: 9,980 MWh
- Total number of household supplied: 2,800
- Amount of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided: 4,400 tons
- Investment volume of structure: EUR 1.1 million
- Profit in 2015: EUR 366,653
- Implementation period: since 2015



*This leaflet is available in all EU languages in the Covenant of Mayors' online Library.*

Learn more about financing and funding solutions for your energy & climate actions in our **Interactive Guide!**  
► [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu) > **Support** > **Funding Instruments**

**The EU Covenant of Mayors Office** is responsible for the overall coordination of the initiative in Europe. It is composed of networks of local and regional authorities: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, CEMR, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE, & ICLEI Europe.

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