

IEE Project CONURBANT



Report on local trainings

D2.3

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Introduction

The EU has a significant number of Municipalities that have started a path of sustainable energy action planning and policy-making and propose replicable good practices.

The CONURBANT project aims at helping medium-large cities from seven countries and the smaller towns in their urban area, through capacity building using peer to peer support and training between less and more experienced Municipalities, in the framework of the CoM.

Trainee cities and 40 conurbation towns are involved in centralised and local training actions and supported in the development and actual implementation of their SEAPs.

In the framework of the project two local training sessions for conurbation towns were organised between September 2011 and March 2012. The summary report covers training sessions held in all partner regions and is based on information submitted by the partners in their reports of the trainings.

The first chapter of the report summarises general information of all the training sessions in partner regions. The second chapter presents information of the two training sessions held in each partner region.

1 General overview of the trainings sessions

General idea of the training sessions was to spread locally the knowledge that was gained during the centralised training sessions held in Vicenza (May 2011) and Alba Iulia (November 2011).

Training sessions were designed as following:

1. The aim of the first training session was to give a general overview of the Covenant of Mayors, emission baseline and development of Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). The objective of this session was to inform and involve Conurbation towns in CONURBANT and sign Covenant of Mayors.
2. The task of the second training session was to provide technical information on most related issues to the municipalities that will lead to reduction of CO₂ emissions. Topics covered:
 - a. energy efficiency in energy production (heat, electricity and cooling) and distribution;
 - b. energy efficiency in buildings;
 - c. use of renewable resources;
 - d. mobility;
 - e. efficient lighting;
 - f. ESCO.

The training sessions were organised in all partner regions, except Alba Iulia. In total there were 218 participants in the first session and 230 participants in the second training session.

In most cases the training sessions were structured as described above: the first session gave an overview of Covenant of Mayors and related issues, but the second focused on technical matters how to reduce energy consumption and thus CO₂ emissions.

The main discussions during the training sessions were on:

1. Obligations to reach commitments of the Covenant of Mayors – will there be any sanctions if the CO₂ emission target will not be achieved.

2. Data acquisition and availability – how to get trustful data. In most of the cases data from 1990 will be hard to get.
3. Availability of financial sources for improvement measures – main doubt expressed: will there be any financing available for municipalities to implement energy efficiency and other measures to reach CO₂ emission target. In the meantime the possibility to combine projects of conurbation towns was considered as good and promising.
4. Technical issues – countries and even regions in the same country have different technical issues to be discussed. However, issue on the energy efficiency in the buildings has been one of the most argued in all training sessions. Conurbation municipalities have similar problems to solve and therefore best practice can be obtained and main mistakes can be avoided. For instance, one municipality during the last 3 years has gained a lot of experience with energy efficiency projects in kindergartens and shared it with other conurbation towns.

General conclusions of the training sessions:

1. Each partner region has adapted the training sessions for their specific needs. However, in general both sessions were designed according to the common template developed in Task 2.1.
2. Trainings were implemented between September 2011 and March 2012 and in total 527 persons participated in both training sessions in 10 partner regions.
3. The approach of conurbations has been appraised positively by all partner regions. It will assure the possibility to join the ideas and projects to reach the commitments of the Covenant of Mayors. For instance, one of the proposals was created already during the first training session - establishment of the joined energy information centre.

The presentations of the training sessions are available at the home page of the project: www.conurbant.eu.

2 Region by region analysis



Region by region description includes the descriptive table where information on number of attendees, names of municipalities attending, topics discussed and also Conurbations that have signed the Covenant of Mayors is given. Below the table main issues discussed during the training sessions are comprised.

2.1 Alba Iulia

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	19 September 2011	16 December 2011
Organiser	Municipality of Alba Iulia	Municipality of Alba Iulia
Number of attendees	27	32
Conurbation towns participating	Ciugud, Aiud, Berghin, Zlatna, Sintimbru	Ciugud, Aiud, Berghin, Zlatna, Sintimbru
Arguments discussed	Conurbant project; Covenant of Mayors; development of SEAPs; Basic emission inventory; financing possibilities; successful SEAP cases	Conurbant project; Basic emission inventory; efficient street lighting; energy efficiency in public buildings; SEAP and Energy Master plan of Alba Iulia
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	TV broadcast	TV broadcast

Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Ciugud, Aiud (28.08.08.), Berghin, Zlatna (27.01.11.), Sintimbru	

2.2 Arad

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	28 October 2011	25 November 2011
Organiser	Municipality of Arad	Municipality of Arad
Number of attendees	25	41
Conurbation towns participating	Lipova, Nădlac, Sântana, Pecica	Pecica
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors: aim and objectives; technical information to join CoM; SEAPs and financial sources	Energy efficiency in buildings; energy efficiency measures; responsibilities of public authorities; methodologies
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press release; TV broadcast; information in home pages of related organisations	Press release
Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Santana (20.09.11.), Nadlac (19.10.11.), Pecica (24.11.11.), Lipova (28.11.11.)	



The main discussions related to following issues:

- The main concern expressed by the representatives of the District Heating Plant is meeting their compliance plan with the EU environmental programme (European Directive 2001/80/CE-emissions, and European Directive 1991/31/CE – waste) until 2013.
- The Local Transport Company insisted on the necessity of renewing their tram fleet in order to make public transport more attractive and reduce transport by cars.
- The Environment Protection Agency described their activity, mentioning the success of the Mobility Week organised each year in collaboration with the Municipality of Arad.

Input from Arad:

- Compared to the first local training session, the second one was more dynamic, the participants being already better informed on the project and more familiar with its purpose. The participants debated at length the topics presented.
- The presence of the Environment Agency ensured a fruitful dialogue on climate change, while the representatives of the District Heating Plant added valuable information on buildings efficiency and energy savings. The comprehensive presentations on climate strategies made by the consultant invited offered a better understanding of the SEAPs and their importance for local authorities.
- On the other hand, just one of the four conurbation towns attended the 2nd training session. The other three will have to be informed separately, in their turn, on the topics tackled. All the presentation materials have been submitted to the missing conurbation towns.

2.3 Limassol

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	19 October 2011	15 December 2011
Organiser	Municipality of Limassol & Strategm	Municipality of Limassol & Strategm
Number of attendees	25	20
Conurbation towns participating	Kato Polemidia, Mesa Gitonia and Yermasoyia	Kato Polemidia, Mesa Gitonia and Yermasoyia
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors – 10 principles; long term commitment of municipalities; CO ₂ inventory; SEAP development	Local energy production; mobility solutions; data acquisition of electricity consumption; building efficiency; financial opportunities
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press release	Press release
Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Kato Polemidia (05.10.10.), Yermasogia, Mesa Gitonia	



Main issues discussed:

- What are the consequences if municipality will not reach targets and the possibilities of adoption of the principals of the CoM within the national and local conditions.
- As some of these Municipalities are quite small, discussions were on the best possible solutions for allocating human and financial resources.
- Data gathering, selection of the base year and tools to be used: in Cyprus there are no efficient data dated in 1990, therefore the base year will be more recent. Also calculations of the CO₂ emissions and the model to define base line year was discussed.

Input from Limassol:

- Local authorities were very much interested to learn the different ways/actions for energy efficiency in buildings, for local energy production and mobility and have actively discussed on the possibilities of implementing such energy efficiency actions during designing of their SEAP's.
- Participants have shown great interest in the funding opportunities for the above mentioned actions for energy efficiency in general.

2.4 Osijek

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	24 & 26 October 2011 16 & 21 December 2011	20 April 2012
Organiser	Municipality of Osijek	Municipality of Osijek
Number of attendees	14 & 15; 18 & 27	20
Conurbation towns participating	Belišće; Donji Miholjac Beli Manastir, Vinkovci	Vinkovci, Belisce, Donji Miholjac, Beli Manastir
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors – 10 principles; long term commitment of municipalities; institutionalisation; CO ₂ inventory; SEAP development	Energy efficiency; mobility solutions; local energy production; energy efficient lighting
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press releases; TV broadcast; information in websites of related organisations	TV broadcast; articles; information in websites of related organisations
Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Belišće (22.03.12.), Beli Manastir, Donji Miholjac, Vinkovci	

2.5 Padova

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	28 October 2011	16 March 2012
Organiser	Municipality of Padova and Sogesca	Municipality of Padova and Sogesca
Number of attendees	14	11
Conurbation towns participating	Rubano, Abano Terme, Este, Selvazzano, Ponte San Nicolo	Ponte san Nicolò, Vigonza, Rubano, Due Carrare
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors: opportunities and principles; emission inventory; technical baseline; study cases; institutionalisation	Financial opportunities; creation of covenant office in Padova; energy efficiency in buildings; energy activities
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	None	None

Pictures from the training sessions	
Conurbations signed CoM	Ponte di San Nicolo, Rubano (29.09.09.), Abano Terme, Vigonza

Main issues discussed and outcomes:

- The main outcome of the first training session was the idea that it is essential to work together to get bottom-up data from energy providers. That will simplify coordinating and homogenizing of the Conurbation BEIs.
- All the participants were motivated to share practices and to combine their needs in order to present eventually together an ELENA funding project.
- All participants were very interested in the peer to peer approach for a new networking and having a specific training, to create an environment where medium and large 'less experienced' cities can find support at National and EU level from 'more experienced' cities to overcome the difficulties of sustainable energy planning.
- Padova's second training session was organised purposely to answer the two main perplexities of our cities villages:
 - how can we improve energy efficiency in buildings with sound evaluation systems and reasonable return of investments;
 - where to find money to implement already planned energy related projects.

2.6 Palma

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	29 November 2011	27 January 2012
Organiser	Municipality of Palma de Mallorca & Albea	Municipality of Palma de Mallorca & Albea
Number of attendees	13	11
Conurbation towns participating	Andratx, Calvià, Esporles, Puigpunyent, Santa María del Camí, Marratxí	Andratx, Calvià, Esporles, Puigpunyent, Santa María del Camí, Marratxí
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors: commitments and principles; Conurbant project; emission inventory; development of SEAPs	Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources; co-financing of projects; financial instruments; ESCO
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press release and information in website	none

Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Andratx (31.03.11.), Esporles (24.02.11.), Puigpunyent (29.11.09.), Santa Maria del Cami (28.01.10.)	

The main concerns of the municipalities are related to:

- Lack of data to carry out the baseline emission inventory. It was discussed how to solve this situation individually and collectively.
- Lack of funds to implement the actions of the SEAP. The strategies to solve and overcome this barrier. In general all participants agreed in the difficulty for the small municipalities to access to European funds.

The conclusions of the both training sessions:

- It is an opportunity for municipalities to participate locally to the global changes by doing SEAPs and by participating in European projects like CONURBANT. It's a way to fight against climate change at local level by creating jobs and implementing projects that otherwise could not be performed due to the current economic crisis.
- The application of the ESCO model as an opportunity to perform energy efficiency projects at the municipal level.
- Small municipalities should define jointly strategies to ask for money at European level. It is an opportunity to merge forces and create synergies by municipalities which belongs to the same area. This could be done by implementing and providing services jointly, at a lower cost and coordinated.
- There is need of a major support of the Government of the Balearic Islands to help in the implementation of actions and energy efficiency projects arising from the SEAP's.

2.7 Salaspils

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	26 October 2011	20 January 2012
Organiser	Municipality of Salaspils & Ekodoma	Municipality of Salaspils & Ekodoma
Number of attendees	13	12
Conurbation towns participating	Ogre, Ikšķile, Kegums, Lielvarde	Ogre, Ikšķile, Kegums
Arguments discussed	EU policy commitments; Covenant of Mayors – 10 principles; development of energy sector in municipalities; SEAP of Tukums municipality; cooperation and institutionalisation; emission inventory; SEAPs and alternatives	Energy efficiency action plans; municipal strategies; CO ₂ emission reduction examples; best practice of energy efficiency measures in public and dwelling buildings; ESCO; efficient lighting
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press release; TV broadcast; information in websites of related organisations	Press release; information in websites of related organisations


Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Ogre (22.12.11.), Ikskile (30.11.11.), Kegums (11.01.12.), Lielvarde (28.12.11.)	

The outcomes of the training sessions:

- After the first training session, all of the participating municipalities decided to participate and sign the Covenant of Mayors.
- Participants admitted that this kind of strategic collaboration could be beneficial for all involved sides and conurbation municipalities are looking forward to the next events and further project developments.
- Technical issues and problems are very similar in each municipality. These are mainly related to heat supply, quality and outcome of energy efficiency in public buildings and transport. There are common solutions that could be applied in all municipalities. Also best practice can be adopted and mistakes – avoided.

2.8 Timisoara



	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	30 September 2011	13 December 2011
Organiser	Municipality of Timisoara	Municipality of Timisoara
Number of attendees	53	47
Conurbation towns participating	Jimbolia, Sacalaz, Dumbravita, Giarmata, Sanandrei, Anandrei, Sag, Remetea, Mare, Ghiroda	Bucovat, Carpinis, Duestii Noi, Ghiroda, Giarmata, Giroc, Jimbolia, Mosnita Noua, Ortisoara, Peciu Nou, Pischia, Remetea Mare, Sacalaz, Sinandrei, Sinmihaiu Roman, Sag, Dumbravita
Arguments discussed	Conurbant project; Covenant of Mayors: commitments and principles; emission inventory; SEAPs; climate change; financing; group work; sustainable energy projects; implementation of energy efficiency measures	Conurbant project; cooperation between municipalities; emission baseline; methodologies and techniques; SEAPs; case studies; energy efficiency in public lighting sector; green energy; relevant sectors and measures to reduce CO ₂ emissions
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press release; TV broadcast; information in websites of related organisations	Press release; TV broadcast; information in websites of related organisations

Pictures from the training sessions	 
Conurbations signed CoM	Bucovat (25.11.11.), Carpinis (30.11.11.), Dudestii Noi (14.11.11.), Ghiroda (11.11.), Giarmata (11.11.), Giroc (30.11.11.), Jimbolia (24.11.11.), Mosnita Noua (14.11.11.), Ortisoara (11.11.), Peciu Nou (17.11.11.), Pischia (28.11.11.), Remetea Mare (14.11.11.), Sinandrei (29.11.11.), Sinmihaiu Roman (2.11.11.), Sag (31.10.11.), Dumbravita

The outcomes of the training sessions:

- The second training session was initiated with signing ceremony of adhesion forms to the Covenant of Mayors by representatives of seven local municipalities.

2.9 Vicenza

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	23 September 2011	15 December 2011 & 26 January 2012
Organiser	Municipality of Padova and Sogesca	Municipality of Padova and Sogesca
Number of attendees	22	7 & 10
Conurbation towns participating	Costabissara, Monteviale, Arcugnano, Bolzano, Creazzo, Altavilla, Monticello Conte Otto, Torri di Quatrigo	Costabissara, Monteviale, Sovizzo, Monticello Conte Otto, Torri di Quatesolo
Arguments discussed	Covenant of Mayors: opportunities and principles; emission inventory; technical baseline; study cases; institutionalisation	Energy efficiency in buildings; efficient public lighting; biomass; tackling of complex and challenging energy efficiency processes; financial opportunities
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Article	None
Pictures from the training sessions		

Conurbations signed CoM	Creazzo (20.03.12.), Sovizzo (27.05.10.), Monticello Conte Otto (14.03.12.), Arcugnano (28.03.12.)
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The outcomes of the training sessions:

- The main outcome of the training sessions was the idea that working together small conurbation towns can achieve, with the city of Vicenza, the high goal of supporting a wide and homogeneous policy of sustainable energies.
- Municipalities involved also their own staff members in the trainings in order to guarantee the institutionalisation of the future actions plans preceded and included in a municipal, cross-cutting energy policy strategy shared by all departments.
- The feeling that comes out from this first chance of sharing ideas and to confront different realities was that for each subject, political or technical, was fundamental to sustain the role of local governments as political and administrative bodies guiding their communities in the development of sustainable energy strategies.

2.10 Vratsa

	1 st training session	2 nd training session
Date of the training	13 October 2011	7 December 2011
Organiser	Municipality of Vratsa	Municipality of Vratsa
Number of attendees	24	26
Conurbation towns participating	Krivodol, Kozloduy, Mezdra, Mizia, Oryahovo	Krivodol, Mezdra, Mizia, Oryahovo
Arguments discussed	Political background; Conurbant project; Covenant of Mayors: commitments and principles; emission inventory; case study; SEAPs; long-term commitments; institutionalisation	Mobility solutions; organisation of information; financial opportunities; opportunities for lighting; solar panels; photovoltaic panels; biomass heating; energy efficiency in buildings
Communication (press releases; TV broadcast; other)	Press releases; TV and radio broadcast; information in websites of related organisations	Press releases; TV and radio broadcast; information in websites of related organisations, flyers, stickers for folders and notebooks
Pictures from the training sessions		
Conurbations signed CoM	Krivodol (19.08.11.), Mezdra (4.08.11.), Mizia (29.07.11.), Kozloduy (26.07.11.), Oryahovo (15.12.11.)	

The outcomes of the training sessions:

- The first training session was organized in time to be useful for participants to help them in process to elaborate their BEIs and SEAPs. The presence of external experts from the Ministry of Regional Development and public works, District Vratsa, stakeholders from Regional Inspectorate of

Environment and Water – Vratsa, Water power plants, helped facilitate training and easier assimilation of matter from the other participants.

- In the second training fifth Conurbation town joined the Conurbant project – Municipality of Oryahovo that signed CoM in 15 December 2011.