

# Boosting Covenant signatories in Emilia Romagna

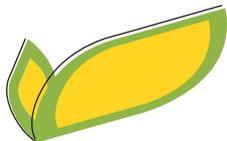
## The role of a Covenant Territorial Coordinator



### A Covenant of Mayors Success Story

The Italian region of Emilia Romagna became a Covenant Coordinator in 2014. It uses the Covenant of Mayors as part of its Regional Energy Plan to help develop an integrated regional energy policy involving the municipalities, their associations, the provinces and several agencies.

The Covenant of Mayors' Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) have been an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and build capacities at the local level. This helped strengthening further the coherence between local planning and regional policies.



#### A Covenant coordinator:

- Is a decentralised authority (such as a region, a province or a grouping of local authorities) or a national public body (such as a national energy agency).
- Provides strategic guidance, financial and technical support to municipalities signing up to the Covenant of Mayors.
- Typically supports signatories in conducting CO2 emission inventories as well as in preparing and implementing their SEAP.

The region has been working closely with a number of stakeholders such as the regional association of municipalities ANCI ER (also involved as a [Covenant supporter](#)), the Environment Agency ARPA Emilia-Romagna and the Development Agency ERVET. The region has also asked municipalities to define the institutional level that would be more suitable to launch and support the integrated actions on the territory, which led to the joint adhesion of groups of municipalities.

In close collaboration with all these actors, the region encourages the adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors through three main actions: capacity-building and exchange of experience, technical support, and financial support.

#### Capacity-building and exchange of experience

Together with ANCI ER, Emilia-Romagna supports the organisation of information sessions for municipalities and has trained energy managers in SEAP monitoring.

The region also supports best practice collection and promotion of replicable actions during events.

#### Financial support

The region opened 3 calls in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to support municipalities and unions of municipalities in their involvement in the Covenant of Mayors. The region allocated more than 1 million of its ERDF 2007-2013 to SEAP development, which resulted in the adhesion of close to 300 municipalities.

Other financial tools were made available to municipalities to implement actions under the COM. For instance, the [Energy revolving Fund](#) for SMEs, endowed with close to €1 million including 80% from the ERDF 2007-2013, supports energy efficiency or renewable energy investments in SMEs through low interest loans which can cover up to 70% of the amount of investment.

For the new 2014-2020 financing period, more than €104 million will be dedicated to the fourth priority axis: Promote a low carbon economy within the territory and the productive system.

#### Background information

The Emilia-Romagna Region is divided into nine provinces (Bologna, Ferrara, Forli-Cesena, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Ravenna, Reggio Emilia and Rimini) and 340 municipalities (generally small, between 5000 and 10000 inhabitants). Emilia-Romagna is one of Italy's wealthiest regions, but most municipalities lacked competence in the energy field before 2010.

## Technical support to SEAP development, implementation and monitoring

The region developed a series of tools in the framework of an Energy Working Group coordinated by ANCI ER and composed of representatives from various provinces and municipalities.

The tools facilitate the preparation and monitoring of the SEAP, and the development of a coherent regional system with a common methodology and data sets. They also link the regional government with local authorities, thus ensuring that the measures implemented locally contribute to regional objectives.

### Examples include:

- [IPSI](#) (Inventory of greenhouse emissions for the Covenant of Mayors), an Excel file developed with the support of ARPA (regional environment agency), in coherence with the regional methodology for the local climate plans and the Baseline Emission Inventory requirements. The calculation of the emission factors adapted to the regional context simplifies the benchmarking of SEAPs from various municipalities, and leads the way towards a uniform monitoring across the region while still allowing some flexibility. Regional energy public data and energy providers' data are also made available to municipalities.

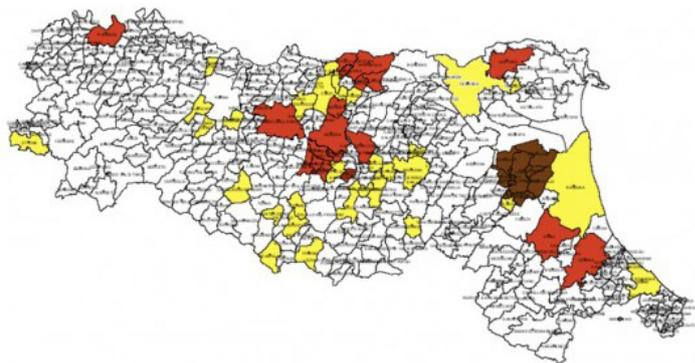
- [CLEXI](#), a free web-based software developed by ERVET (regional development agency), offers methodologies and tools for the quantification of results of the actions developed in the framework of the SEAPs in terms of CO2 reductions, energy savings and renewable energy production. A list of proposed actions and measures is available for SEAP development.

*The Covenant of Mayors has been defined by our region as the most important instrument to implement our regional energy policy.*

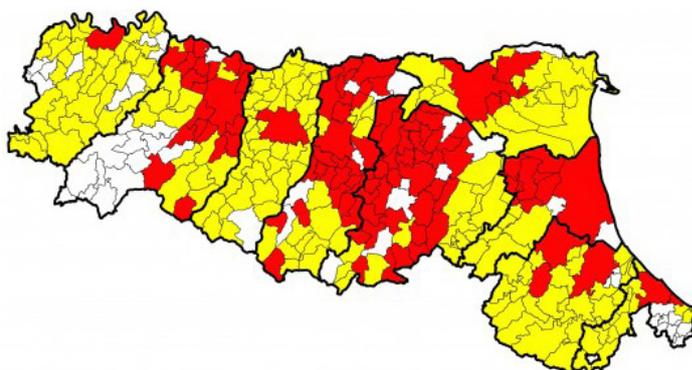
Attilio Raimondi, Emilia-Romagna Region

## Evolution of Covenant of Mayors signatories

April 2012



January 2015



### Legend:

-  Signatory municipalities with SEAP
-  Signatory municipalities (SEAP in progress)
-  Non-signatory municipalities

Source: [ANCI Emilia Romagna](#)



### A successful outcome

Overall, 294 out of 340 municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors, representing 94% of the region's citizens.

Around 100 SEAPs have been prepared and more are to come.

In 2014, more than 80 municipalities had a Councillor with a clear mandate on energy.

For more information:

<http://www.energia.regioneemilia-romagna.it> - <http://www.anci.emilia-romagna.it/>

**Covenant of Mayors, [press@eumayors.eu](mailto:press@eumayors.eu)**