

COVENANT COORDINATORS

Crucial contributors to the Covenant of Mayors success

Covenant Coordinators are public administrations or authorities which provide strategic guidance, technical and financial support to Covenant of Mayors signatories and potential municipalities willing to join the initiative.

The Covenant of Mayors can be heralded as a ground-breaking movement as since the beginning it has spurred the emergence of wide-ranging cooperation platforms at local, regional and European levels and strengthening multi-level governance in Europe. This document summarizes the main accomplishments of the Coordinators of the Covenant of Mayors' according to the efforts undertaken throughout the years.

This report is based on the results of a survey launched in 2020 directed to the Covenant Coordinators as part of their reporting activity. It focuses on the key role played by coordinators, with some inspiring quotes for potential administrations and authorities wishing to pursue this travel and it is meant to provide an overall picture in relation to the support provided to signatories (such as awareness-raising, technical support and financial support among others).

More info: <https://eumayors.eu/about/covenant-community/Coordinators.html>

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Published by the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office in June 2020



Inspiring quotes from the Coordinators of the Covenant of Mayors

“Being a covenant coordinator leads to new methods and techniques in mitigation, learning from each other is very important to broaden our network” **Region of Stuttgart Verband (Germany)**

“The coordination and support actions implemented by territorial coordinators push local authorities to an everlasting improvement in their capacity to act for the low carbon energy transition”. **Region Piedmont (Italy)**

“The covenant territorial coordinators, are an essential tool to support the signatories to achieve the climate change targets”. **Badajoz County Council (Spain)**

“The biggest achievement as a Covenant Coordinator is that we managed to realize an important change of mind concerning local climate policy”. **Province of Flemish Brabant (Belgium)**

“Covenant of Mayors coordinator are leaders! Are your citizens looking for a leader? Join the Covenant of Mayors and be that leader!”. **Province of Luxemburg (Luxemburg)**

“Become an actor in a ground-breaking movement, supporting local authorities in climate and energy initiatives, to share a vision for a sustainable future!”. **Marche Region (Italy)**

“Being a Covenant coordinator allowed us to know better the reality faced by municipalities and collaborate with them in order to define a roadmap for sustainability.” **Consejo Insular de la Energía de Gran Canaria (Grand Canary Islands)**

“The creation of synergy between the signatory municipalities is very rewarding!”. **Province of Liege (Belgium)**

“By supporting our municipalities, we can also achieve our own climate targets.” **Province of East Flanders (Belgium)**

“Have a network to go beyond in your Region!”. **Region of Murcia (Spain)**

“The role of Covenant Territorial Coordinator enables to give value to the quality of the relationships system. Not only what to do, but also with whom and how to do it”. **Region Emilia-Romagna (Italy)**

“Gather efforts and leveraging on the synergies of a shared work”. **Xunta de Galicia (Spain)**

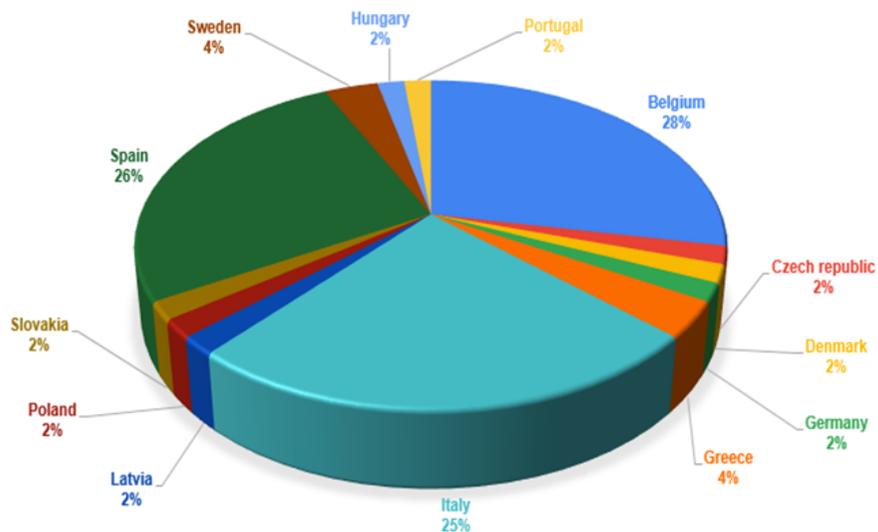
“Covent Coordinators are catalyser of climate actions, they optimize existing resources and potentiate concerted actions. The sum multiplies the results” **Province of Barcelona (Spain)**

“A regional approach has many advantages also for the larger municipalities and cities”. **Interwaas, Belgium**

“Let’s be proud to be an effective local hub for a climate-neutral EU (by 2050)”. **Province of Potenza (Italy)**

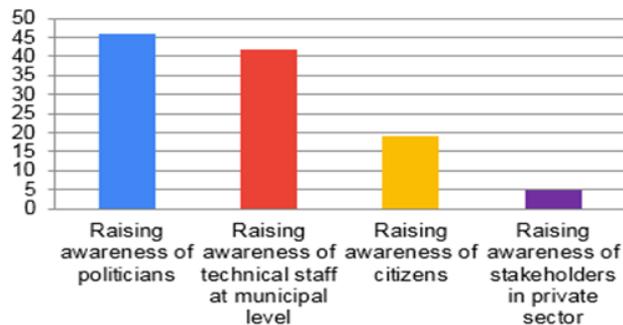
“Covenant Coordinator can be a driving force to draw other European investments useful for the territory”. **Province of Venice (Italy)**

Overview of respondents by country



Awareness-raising

Coordinators are strongly committed to the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors within their contexts. A tangible success of the coordinators is the increased number of municipalities that have joined the Covenant of Mayors through the organization of events, workshops and conferences as well as ad-hoc meetings and dissemination of relevant materials. Awareness-raising and promotion of Covenant of Mayors' initiative is directed towards politicians, technicians of municipalities, but also citizens and stakeholders.



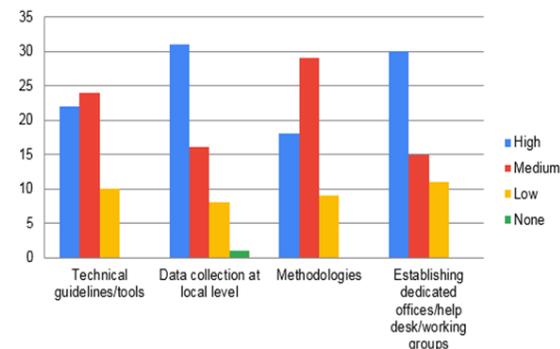
The Province of Liege (Belgium) keeps informed citizens via social media and has a webpage dedicated to the climate plan and also organizes games in school to raise awareness on climate-related risks.

Province of Barcelona (Spain) raise awareness of the dimension of vulnerabilities to municipalities and facilitates the prioritization of actions with the calculation of municipalities' inaction cost.

60% of coordinators also **promote Joint Action Plans** for small-sized municipalities.

Technical Support

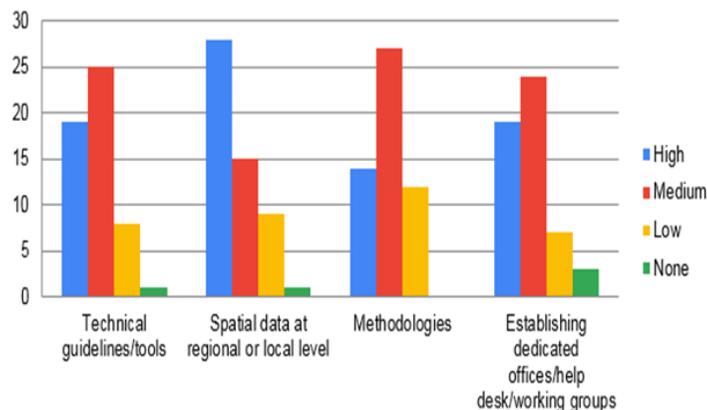
Providing technical support to municipalities is a well-established role of coordinators. For mitigation, technical guidelines, tools, data collection at local level as well as the establishing dedicated helpdesks are the most successful forms of support. Signatories receive training on how to develop emission inventories, receive templates in national languages and simplified methodologies.



Central Region of Denmark develops the **Energy Accounts** in cooperation with municipalities to measure progress in the transition to sustainable energy and CO2 emissions reduction in the region. The energy account (updated every 2 years) is an essential part of the cooperation with municipalities in the energy field, where the region as facilitator and coordinator actively contributes to the development and initiation of joint efforts.

For adaptation to climate change, the risk and vulnerability assessment shows not only the expected consequences of climate change but also support the identification of options for action. The provision of spatial data

at regional/provincial level is a key in aiding signatories to develop risks and vulnerability assessments, this is accompanied by technical guidelines, tools and working groups/ dedicated offices/helpdesks.



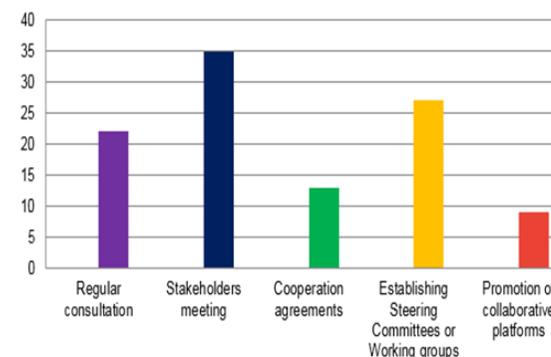
The [Verband Stuttgart Region](#) (Germany) developed a [climate atlas](#) with measures developed for water, green areas, facades, shadow areas and impermeable surfaces.

The [Barcelona Provincial Council](#) (Spain) has created different tools to facilitate the understanding and evaluation of vulnerabilities to climate change by providing with a simplified municipal vulnerability and risks assessment and a [catalogue](#) with standard actions for the municipalities' inspiration.

Cooperative Mechanisms

Coordinators contribute to strengthen multilevel governance by establishing cooperative mechanisms with their associated signatories and municipalities and other coordinators.

Coordinators establish mechanisms for cooperation via [Stakeholders meeting](#) (62%); [Steering committees or working groups](#) (48%), [Consultation](#) (39%), [Cooperation agreements](#) (23%) and the [Promotion of collaborative platforms](#) (16%).



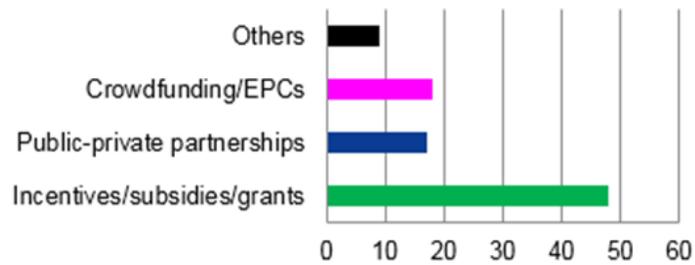
Among the benefits of cooperative mechanisms, better coordination for action plan implementation, consensus building, wider collaboration for joint proposals, increase of EU funded proposals or ELENA grants and access to data are mentioned.

[Abruzzo Region](#) (Italy) has adopted a bottom-up approach in the development of the regional strategy with a series of meetings, conferences and consultations together with citizens and experts from regional and local governments, energy agencies, stakeholders, university to discuss best practices and challenges related to climate change, laying out the basis for the regional strategy of adaptation.

[Interleuven](#) (Belgium) collaborate with the [Province Flemish-Brabant](#), and private stakeholders (gas and electricity supplier) to support signatories.

Financial Support

Financing is a crucial aspect for implementing energy and climate-related measures. Local authorities face challenges due to their limited budget which coordinators help to overcome by providing economic support and guidance. Financial support is given via incentives/subsidies/grants, encouraging public-private partnerships and crowdfunding/EPC.



Energy Poverty

In the 2030 framework of the Covenant of Mayors, signatories take actions also in relation to alleviation of energy poverty. By alleviating energy poverty, signatories can enhance the quality of life of their inhabitants and create a more just and inclusive society.

The [Province of Granada](#) (Spain) carries out [studies on energy poverty](#) at provincial level which resulted in the lack of information for inhabitants on consumers' rights and energy consumption. In order to fill this gap, since 2016 the Province organizes [courses on energy poverty for technicians of municipalities](#) with the creation of [information points](#) for residents at the provincial level.

[Province of Girona](#) (Spain) developed a [guide on actions for energy poverty](#).

The [Inter-Municipal Community of West Portugal](#) (Portugal) promotes and disseminates through seminars the [social housing tariff](#).

[Intercommunale IGEMO](#) (Belgium) through the [energy scans](#) aims to optimize the energy use and reduce bills for socially disadvantaged groups with a view on higher living comfort.

In the [Inter-municipal association of IGEAN](#) (Belgium) the Energy Savers a project of KOMOSIE who are long-term unemployed people, trained to implement energy saving interventions by performing a free energy scan of houses. They also distribute a free humidity sensor to people with provide information on ventilation.

[Wallonia Region](#) has an [energy fund for energy bills](#) of people in need.

Monitoring Action Plans

Monitoring is a crucial step of every planning process and aims at understanding the progress achieved towards the targets and plan for corrective actions. It also shows results of the efforts undertaken by signatories and communicate them to the wider audience. Establishing monitoring processes relying on data collection and indicators are important elements to which coordinators contribute.

The [Province of Flemish Brabant](#) (Belgium) provides, together with the Flemish government, data for the emission inventories on a yearly basis and acts as helpdesk to municipalities organizing [sessions dedicated to fill in the monitoring template](#).

The [Province of Granada](#) is working towards the simplification of the monitoring process, in terms of methodologies and data collection, to support small-sized municipalities in rural areas.

The [Intecommunale IGEMO](#) (Belgium) [citizen science](#) is a tool for data collection process.

[Region Örebro County](#) (Sweden) work together with municipalities at the regional level to collect statistics and data to follow up on the plans and progress.

[Intercommunale WVI](#) (Belgium) monitoring has enabled to understand the [co-benefits of mitigation actions](#) such as air quality, road safety enhanced living standards, liveable neighbourhoods, increase the broad support for climate measures.

The [Region of Wallonia](#) make use of the [POLLEC tool](#) and [a user guide](#) to monitor the action plan.