

**YES (DA) TO THE COVENANT ('DACO')
ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO
IMPLEMENT A MORE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ENERGY POLICY WITHIN
THE COVENANT OF MAYORS' FRAMEWORK.**

Project proposal submitted under call for proposals EuropeAid/131258/C/ACT/Multi "Covenant of Mayors going East Supporting the participation of Eastern Partnership and Central Asian cities in the Covenant of Mayors"

Project leader:

PROVICIA DI CHIETI, ITALY

Project partners:

ALESA, ITALY

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

SUMGAYIT , AZERBAIJAN

NOVOGRUDOK, BELARUS

SOMONIYON, TAJIKSTAN

TARAZ, KAZAKHSTAN

Project Objectives

The **global objective** of the "DACO" (Yes (DA) to the Covenant) action is to support the local authorities in the Central Asia Area and ENP-East Area to acquire a common methodology to correctly monitor, evaluate and reduce their energy consumptions and CO2 emissions. That means to improve security of their energy supply by enhancing energy efficiency, reducing their dependency on fossil fuels, and contributing to climate change mitigation in their respective areas, and thus implementing the concept of "Think Globally, Act Locally". This general objective will be reached by the joining to the Covenant of Mayors' principles, rules and goals.

The **specific objective** is to encourage and support local authorities to implement a more sustainable local energy policy within the Covenant of Mayors' framework. The DACO project idea is to develop the SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) methodology, in accordance with the established format within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. This experience will be replicated in those Eastern countries by the elaboration of a common methodology that will be customized according to their specific characteristics and needs. This process will require collecting information and data which will characterize the energy and environmental profile of cities and territories involved in the action. The local authorities supported by external local experts will provide their energy and environmental indicators, schemes and rules. Those fundamental contributions will make it easier to collect the data, evaluate the current status, check all possible corrective interventions and continuously monitor the new situation. This will allow us to define a new local management of the energy sources based on common, replicable and transferable methodology. In this regard we will need to quantify and obtain relevant parameters regarding various components of energy consumptions: electricity, residential and public; heating, civil and public; public and private transport, industry, etc. Other components which govern and influence the energy use and daily behaviours: local and national legislation; training and retraining of the technicians (public and private); education.

Project location

The action will take place in Kazakhstan (Central Asia), Tajikistan (Central Asia), Azerbaijan (ENP-East) and Belarus (ENP-East). The "DACO" action will take care of relevant aspects, directly and indirectly linked to the energy management: awareness raising activities, organization of energy days (or thematic) opportunities to meet professional people and wider audience. The work, based on the strong experience by the Province of Chieti (the applicant) in the involvement of the local authorities, the operative expertise by A.L.E.S.A. (Local Energy Agency of the Province of Chieti) in the realization of the SEAPs in the development of the Covenant of Mayors activities on the whole territory of the province (104/104 municipalities joined to the CoM) and the extensive know-how and knowledge about the multilateral cooperation on energy matters and institutional capacity to establish effective networks by the Energy Charter Secretariat in the ENP-East and Central Asia will seek the complete and concrete involvement not only of the local authorities in Eastern areas but also the major involvement of the stakeholders and wide sections of citizens. The Energy Charter Secretariat has been tasked to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency policies and measures within its constituency. All targeted countries under this project proposal are within the ECT framework. The exchange and the adoption of the best practices matured within the Covenant of Mayors experience will be a real point of strength of the project strategy.

Brief outlook of participating cities

Taraz city and Zhambyl oblast, Kazakhstan

Taraz is the capital of Zhambylskiy oblast (southern Kazakhstan). Taraz city is located at the junction of Talas River and Turkestan-Siberian Railway. Taraz has the population of about 380,000 (2009). Taraz city has large phosphate-processing works, a large power station, sugar, leather, and footwear factories and a wool-washing plant. Zhambylskiy oblast is situated in southern Kazakhstan.

Although the country's rich fuel resources have led to low electricity prices, many southern areas lack sufficient electricity infrastructure and are prone to power cuts during the bitterly cold winters. Taraz city and Zhambylskiy oblast have relatively developed energy infrastructure but nevertheless experience shortage of the electricity supply. In order to tackle the problem several partners have initiated construction of 200 wind farms in the region.

The main problems and barriers identified to the implementation of sustainable energy actions by the municipality include:

- lack of programme strategic documents at the municipality level taking into account climate change and international requirements to prepare strategies on the development of the sector specific planning to reduce greenhouse gases emissions;
- limited experience in preparation of strategic documents considering particularities of economic growth and the policy on reduction of emissions, connecting different sectors, and analysis of expected activities impact on them, as well as reflecting the issues on climate change, international commitments and potential benefits from reduction;
- Limited competence on identification of economic, financial and social consequences of climate change – Identification of the sphere and volume of climate change impact requires personal special knowledge and skills. Identification of response measures on adaptation and mitigation of climate change impact turned out to be complicated in relation to state planning, since that envisages a new prospect for sustainable development, long-term impact, risks and responsibility both in a short-term and a long-term period;

- Lack of data, information and analysis to identify potential economy sector, spheres and opportunities for GHG reduction to introduce the policy on low-carbon development. Since separate project initiators have no resources to make branch analysis of the sector, there is a need, particularly for industries and branches with great volume of GHG emissions (oil and gas and power sector) in making inventories of their investment plans and modernizations in the context of the criteria of impact on climate change and qualification requirements with the purpose of identification the projects providing good prospects in the current market conditions.

Somoniyon city and Rudaki district, Tajikistan

Somoniyon is the administrative capital of Rudaki district in the Region of Republican Subordination, lying 17 km south of the national capital of Dushanbe. Its population in 2011 is estimated at 30,000 inhabitants. Rudaki is a district in the Region of Republican Subordination in Tajikistan. Electricity is provided 24 hours/day but in wintertime it is available only for 5-10 hours. There are no alternative sources of energy except diesel generators that are very expensive to run. The winter of 2007-2008 was one of the coldest in the last 25 years. Many cities and towns were left without access to electricity altogether and strict quotas for power supply were introduced in the major cities. Enterprises and industrial facilities had to stop their operations. The low temperature and heavy precipitation caused obstruction of many roads, failure of power transmission lines, pipelines and other infrastructure.

The problem of providing the population of the city and the district with energy sources for heating, cooking and lighting became one of the most urgent ones from the time of gaining the independence. The collapse of a centralized system for delivery of fuel and lubricants was the main reason of increased pressure on scanty natural resources. Lack of access to such services as power supply affects vital activities of local communities and reduces their ability and capacity for further development.

The Somoniyon city and the Rudaki district have very limited experience with sustainable energy planning. However, certain experiences have been made at the level of local communities and NGOs. A relevant reference could be made to environmental organization the Little Earth with support from the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature launched implementation of small-scale energy conservation projects.

In Tajikistan, because of low temperature in classrooms many children have to wear overcoats even during classes in wintertime which unfortunately has become quite common. The problem of heating schools during the cold period is among the most urgent ones. The most difficult situation exists in schools. Electricity supply in such areas is severely limited during the winter period to 3-4 hours per day.

Preparation of the sustainable energy planning should involve different stakeholders in the energy sector. Building awareness of local population about relevance of the project and the need for its implementation must be an important part of activities. It will be necessary to hold broader consultations and discussions with various stakeholders throughout the stage of project development in the future. This will make it possible to prepare the necessary basis for active involvement of the community in the project implementation and will yield more effective results.

Sumgayit city, Azerbaijan

Sumgayit is a city located near the Caspian Sea, only 35 km away from Baku, the capital. It has a population of 406.100 (2008 census), making it the third-largest city in Azerbaijan. Its territory is 96 km². Sumgayit has long been home to intense industrial complex, including chemicals and pipes. Azerbaijan is known as one of the world's most important natural gas and oil suppliers. Recently Azerbaijan entered in the new market of the wind energy.

The Government recognizes the importance of developing alternatives sources of energy and by official acts it is going towards this direction. Recently Azerbaijan instituted legal framework promoting energy efficiency. Enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving are supreme priorities of the government. Based on the cooperation with the Energy Competence Centre GmbH (ECC) from Berlin and the Caspian Technology Company from Azerbaijan, the first wind energy turbine started in March 2009.

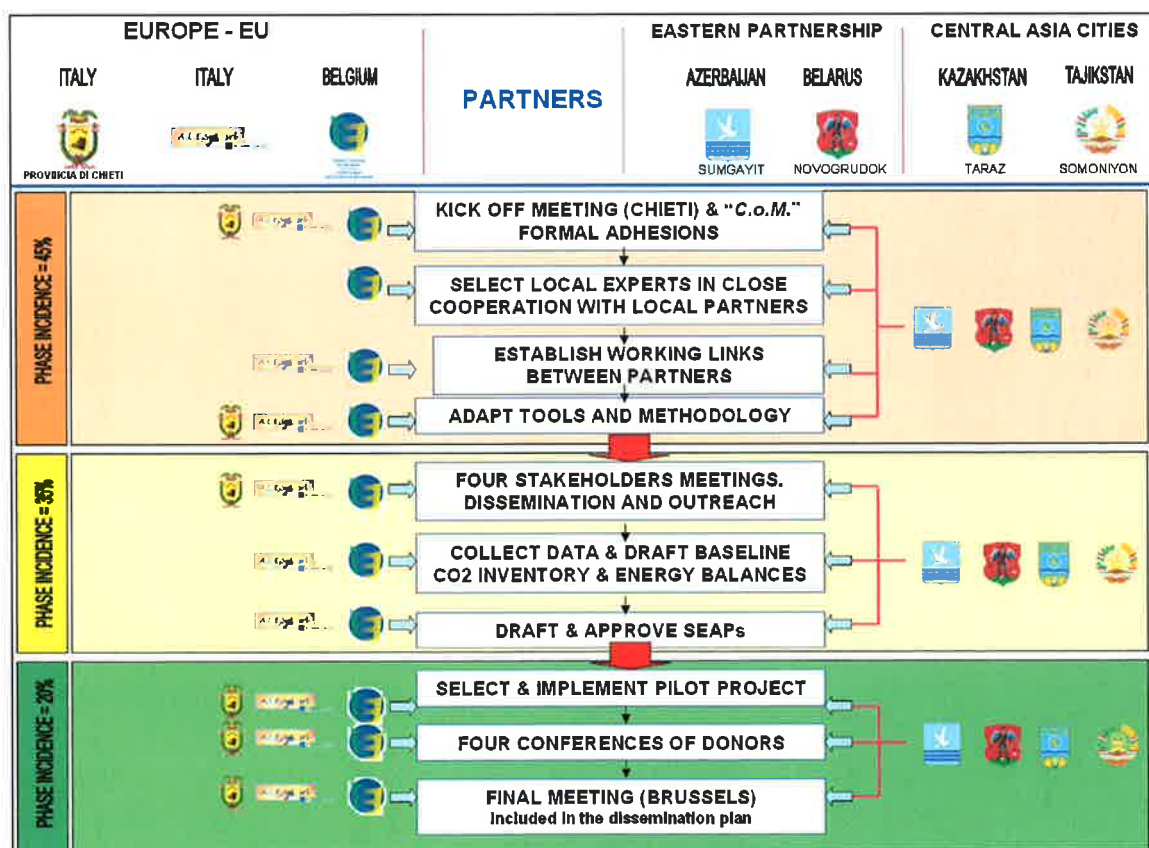
Novogrudok city and region, Republic of Belarus

The city of Novogrudok has a population of around 31,000 people. Although small in size, Novogrudok is a vibrant multiethnic community with a wide range of on-going activities. It is a city in the Hrodna region in the Republic of Belarus

The Municipal Authorities of Novogrudok have sought to reduce energy use by implementing energy efficiency improvements to public buildings such as insulation and glazing. The local authorities strongly support further development of biomass processing and use as a fuel for domestic heating. The Municipality of Novogrudok is truly committed to seeking opportunities to drive forward energy efficiency through partnerships within national and international engagement, using these to promote and learn from best practice.

The local authorities understand their role and responsibility as local leaders to support an energy efficient future, tackle obstacles, set enabling local frameworks and lead by example. They clearly understand that they need to achieve a step change in the levels of energy efficiency and to take advantage of the environmental and economic opportunities in reducing consumption and developing environmental clean technologies locally.

Project activities



The philosophy of the project is to export best practices to the ENP-East Area and Central Asia. The basis of the methodology is the same tested and used in the SEAPs' realization under the CoM. Although the CoM is a voluntary tool available for the European municipalities, the development of the methodology will unify and represent more clearly the objectives of energy conservation and developing renewable sources of local authorities and may also have a relevant impact on national and community (think of the Strategic Environmental Assessment or planning laws).

The starting point of this project is the final adhesion of four municipalities, Somoniyon city (Tajikistan); Taraz city (Kazakhstan); Sumgayit city (Azerbaijan); Novogrudok (Belarus) to the "Covenant of Mayors" to pursue and disseminate the main objectives of the European Union on a top priority: striving to reduce emissions overall at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. Local stakeholders play a key role in the achievement of the EU's energy and climate objectives. This formal commitment is to be achieved through the implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).

The Eastern Partners, contacted and involved, in the preparatory phase of DACO project, by the Energy Charter Secretariat, are interested to join to the Covenant and to go ahead and sign the Covenant giving their formal commitment in the course of this action (during the Stakeholders Meeting). The Partners were selected by the basic criterion to involve both the predefined strategic areas: ENP-East area and Central Asia area. Particularly, each partner was selected in relation to general conditions that characterize its reference territory, the concrete availability to sign and willingness to carry out the development's strategy of the SEAP and to pursue its objectives; also in the dissemination activities on its respective territory. The Western Partners will provide the necessary training addressed to the local technicians (selected by the Eastern Partners) and the technical support in the whole management of the project's activities, particularly the realization of the SEAPs actions.

After the data collection, the database creation, realized by a strong co-operation among the technicians and administrative officers of the municipalities, the realization of the Local SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans) in each municipality that will have joined to the Covenant is the key point of the project. This plan is a strategic instrument to improve the sustainable development in the involved areas in the social, economic and environmental fields that needs to be shared with citizens and stakeholders.

The final local activity scheduled in the DACO action plan is the organization of a "Conference of Donors" in each Eastern municipality. The general purposes of those conferences are: redesigning the architecture of aid and improve aid effectiveness; exploit new solutions to reform public finance management; strengthening resource allocation and use at sector and local level; improving national policy and planning virtuous processes.

Expected project impact

Implementation of the DACO project will increase institutional and professional capacity of local authorities in four cities of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to implement climate change-related energy policies and in particular the design, development and implementation of SEAP. Another important impact on the ground would be enhanced general public awareness on climate change issues. A direct impact on the ground would be implementation of pilot projects linked to the SEAPs in order to demonstrate potential of energy efficiency to the local communities. Four donor conferences would hopefully allow direct engagement of International financial institutions into shifting SEAPs from design into implementation phase.

And finally, it is envisaged that twinning of cities, experience exchange, cross-learning would establish lasting International cooperation among involved municipalities from different countries.

The total amount of energy saved as a result of the action in long term up to 2020 is expected to reach 2,771 GWh for the four partner cities and the CO₂ emission reductions are estimated to the amount of 934,387 t. These amounts correspond to 17% reduction, compared to the baseline year.