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## Introduction

**ENNEREG - Regions paving the way for a Sustainable Energy Europe** is a European Project supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme which aims to establish and inspire EU Regions to take up the challenges of fulfilling the EU 20-20-20 climate and energy targets of at least 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 20% increase in energy efficiency and 20% of energy from renewables by 2020.

11 of the **12 Pioneer ENNEREG Regions** are producing regional **Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs)** as part of the project - Wales (UK), Cyclades (Greece), Region Blekinge (Sweden), Kaunas Region (Lithuania), Region Rhône-Alpes (France), Silistra Region (Bulgaria), Pomerania (Poland), Triangle Region (Denmark), Basque Country (Spain), Upper Palatinate (Germany) and Wielkopolska (Poland). In addition, through the ENNEREG project, Madeira, aims to promote at local and regional levels, two important European initiatives - **The Covenant of Mayors (CoM)** ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)) and the **Isle Pact Project - Sustainable Energy Action Plans in support of the Islands Pact** ([www.islepact.eu](http://www.islepact.eu)) - which will produce two Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) for Madeira and Porto Santo Islands, with the common aim of the 2020 target.

### 12 Pioneer ENNEREG Regions



Given the various starting levels, as to development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan concerns, regional networks are operating in diverse forms within the ENNEREG regions.

Networks were chiefly meant to be consultation teams for the final definition of goals at regional level. Actually some regions are in possession of a final version of the SEAPs and others still in the definition phase. Networks then are being used in various forms with the aim to meet the needs in each reality.

This document has been drafted based on the information provided by the regional partners of the ENNEREG project, at an early stage of the development of the ENNEREG foreseen activities and describes the activities that are planned in each region for the SEAP development. The regions shall work in this task with different approaches adapted to the characteristics of the region and its governance structures and will provide at a later phase of the project a description of the performed activities and update it in a second phase.

An integrated part of forming the regional networks is to create Supporting Structures for the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). At present, only two of the regions in ENNEREG, Rhône-Alpes and Basque Country, have them. This issue should not be left unaddressed in the networks.

## **Wales, UK**

Wales will draw its SEAP (elaborated by SWEA) upon existing documents such;

- Climate Change Strategy for Wales
- The Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Wales

These documents are influenced by “One Wales: One Planet”, the sustainable development scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government.

As the SEAP will be based on existing documents and there is no intention to introduce any elements that are not already included in approved policy, SWEA is not planning to present it to a wide consultation but yes to the key stakeholders as Carbon Trust Wales and Energy Saving Trust. The SEAP contents will be sent to the General Assembly Government for scrutiny.

The networking is divided into three broad categories;

- That which the Welsh Assembly Government undertook in preparing the abovementioned documents
- That which is coordinated by the Welsh Assembly Government not necessarily linked to the preparation of a specific policy documents such “Energy Summits”
- Very specific networking activity instigated by SWEA in furthering the SEPs.

The first networking activity, an Energy Summit, was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010. SEP networking activities, in the other hand, will have a variety of forms such as meetings, telephone calls etc. Only in exceptional circumstances would be considered to establish a dedicated network since there are a number of well-established ones already existing.

To date, there are 2 CoM signatories in Wales; Cardiff City Council and Mold Town Council. SWEA is participating in the come2COM project to address this issue.

## **Cyclades, Greece**

Cyclades Region has identified some key stakeholders to establish with a network that will be coordinated by the Regional Energy Agency. The objective of the network will be to elaborate the SEAP with all the phases concerning it.

### Stakeholders for the development of the SEAP in the Cyclades Region - Categories.

- Hellenic Government
  - ✓ *Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change*
- Public Bodies
  - ✓ *RAE- Regulatory Authority for Energy*
  - ✓ *CRES - Centre for Renewable Energy Sources*
  - ✓ *Energy Agencies*
- S.A. - Utilities
  - ✓ *Hellenic Transmission System Operator S.A.*
  - ✓ *Public Power Corporation*
  - ✓ *Public Power Corporation - Renewables*
  - ✓ *Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA)*
  - ✓ *Development Companies*
- Local Administration
  - ✓ *Region of South Aegean, regional unit of Cyclades*
  - ✓ *Municipalities of islands that belong to the regional unit of Cyclades.*
- Universities
  - ✓ *University of Aegean*
  - ✓ *National Technical University of Athens*
- Chambers
  - ✓ *Chamber of Cyclades*
- Financial Entities
  - ✓ *Banks*
- Professional Associations
  - ✓ *Hellenic Wind Energy Association:*
  - ✓ *Greek Solar Industry Association*
  - ✓ *Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies*
- Hotel Associations
- Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives
- Investors
- Ecologist and environment related entities
  - ✓ *Archipelagos - Institute of Marine Conservation*

Regarding the Covenant of Mayors, 6 municipalities are already participating in the initiative and have already submitted their SEAPs. The Covenant Coordinator supporting them in the elaboration of the SEAPs is DAFNI, the network of sustainable islands of Aegean.

## Region Blekinge, Sweden

The network has been created to identify problems and opportunities in the work with energy and climate strategies. ESS will act as leading actor in the network where participants have been chosen by them. Other identified actors are; representatives of County Councils, all municipalities in Blekinge Region, municipal energy companies, E.On, local business community and Swedish Energy Agency.

The main mission of the network will be to identify opportunities to municipalities join the Covenant of Mayors. The network has also until now acted on reviewing existing goals at local and regional level and making consideration.

Upcoming activities will cover lectures on energy and climate policies and strategies, regular meetings to coordinate key players, assistance to municipalities in the elaboration of the energy balances, training in which politicians must be involved, etc.

Primarily contact keeping will be performed by mail, email, telephone calls or physical meetings.

Future plans for SEAP development include trying everyone to agree with the set goals, acquire knowledge at municipal level and develop energy balances.

The municipality of Karlskrona has signed the Covenant of Mayors and Blekinge Region will act as a “non official supporting structure”.

## **Kaunas Region, Lithuania**

The objective that Kaunas Region has established for the network is to find most reasonable and promising actions on implementation, control and monitoring of sustainable energy measures to reach the joint 202020 goals in the Region.

The Lithuanian Energy Institute has identified several stakeholders (Kaunas Region, certain municipalities, district heating, energy supply, water supply, waste management, lightening and public transport companies and energy related agencies) which will help implement the Sustainable Action Plan.

The previous networking activities consisted in online overview of energy related activities in the 8 municipalities of Kaunas Region. Since regional authority does not exist anymore, the region is represented by the Board of Kaunas Region Development, who has adopted the Kaunas Regional Development Plan 2010-2020.

Lithuania has a highly centralized energy sector which makes difficult to get regional energy data. Based on the Kaunas City experience, the only signatory of the Covenant of Mayors in the region and already in possession of a SEAP, a regional SEAP will be elaborated. At present a survey of Kaunas Region energy sector is already made and planning process is active.

## **Region Rhône-Alpes, France**

The commitment of the Country on the horizon 2020 results in regional contributions to those objectives. Rhône-Alpes has developed a Regional Plan Climate Air Energy (SRCAE).

10 working groups were created in 2009 to contribute to the elaboration of the SRCAE, co-led by DREAL and Rhône-Alpes Regional Council. These groups treated various themes such as; climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, renewable energy etc.

With the official launch of the SRCAE different workshops and technical committees will be created and Rhonalpénergie-Environnement will be involved in most of them.

Additionally, RAEE through its members and networks will create 3 working groups to link the SRCAE (regional plan), the local plan (called Climate-Plan) and the stakeholders. Each group members are carefully selected.

In the previous phases, contributions of the working groups will be considered and an outsider service provider will elaborate the scenarios in horizons 2020 and 2050. The technical committee will follow up the process and will propose details for implementation of the SRCAE and monitoring indicators. In parallel, workshops with citizen will occur.

RAEE has identified key stakeholders and prepared a detailed planning for SEAP elaboration, contrasting and launching.

Rhône-Alpes region has 12 municipalities adhered to the Covenant of Mayors and a supporting structure: le Grand Lyon.

## Silistra Region, Bulgaria

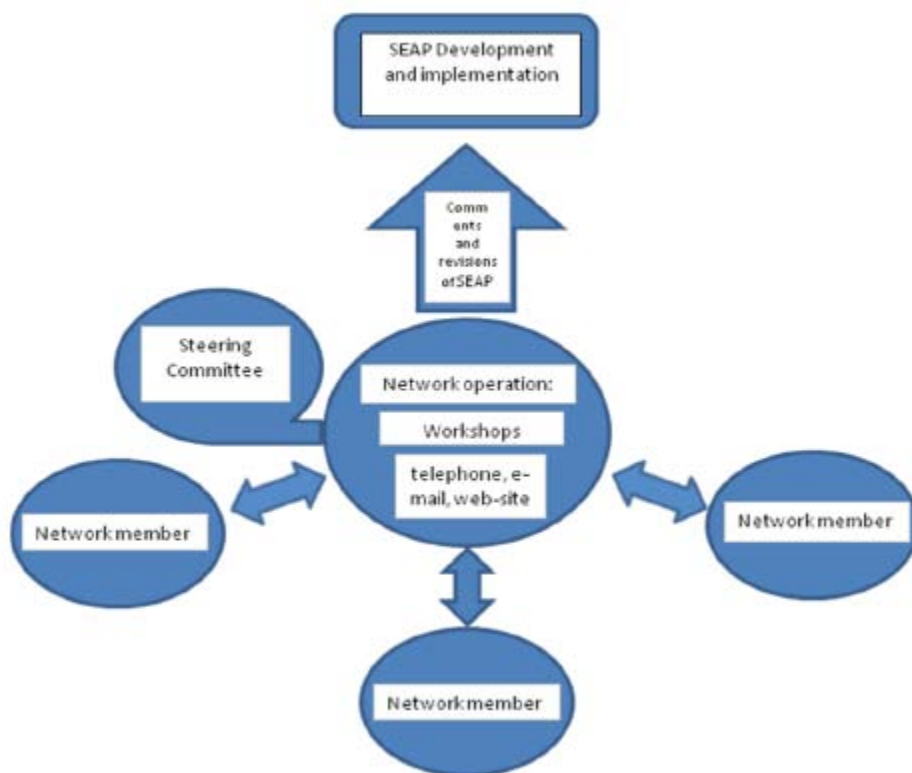
Silistra region will use the regional network to gather the efforts of local stakeholders in defining local energy priorities and goals and the means/action necessary to achieve them. In view of the foreseen replication targets the networking process will include representatives of other communities outside Silistra region, both neighbouring and more distant and possibly local communities from Romania.

The main communication tools envisaged are direct contacts by phone/email and periodic network meetings and workshops. The overall scope of the workshops is:

- To present EC and national/regional policy measures
- To present SEP opportunities (based on results of WP4)
- To perceive the stakeholders points of view on the social, economic and technical framework and trends in the region
- To present draft policy measures and receive feedback for the preparation of the SEAP
- To engage stakeholders in the development of sustainable energy projects in relation with the SEAP
- To promote CoM
- To give the network an EU dimension, at least one workshop is aimed to attract participants from abroad

Additionally a Regional Steering Committee will be established composed by: two representatives of Silistra municipal authorities, a representative of Sofia Energy Centre and a representative of the local gas supply company.

Stakeholders for the development of the SEAP in the Silistra Region.	
• Silistra Municipality administration	• Silistra Chamber of Commerce and Industry
✓ <i>Department of Energy</i>	• Financial Entities - local representatives of financial institutions/banks
✓ <i>Department of International Projects and programmes</i>	• Local gas supply network development company
• Private homeowners representatives	• Local electricity supply utility
• University of Rousse, Silistra subsidiary – Technical college	• Local project developers – industries, agricultural cooperatives, private persons
• Local authorities of neighbouring villages and towns	
• Local authorities of the Romanian municipality of Medjidia	



There is no Covenant of Mayors coordinator or supporter in Silistra Region.

## Pomerania, Poland

Pomerania region already has a Regional Strategy for Energy Development including RES for the period 2007-2025 however, it is not equivalent to Sustainable Energy Action Plan. It does not include information on CO<sub>2</sub> or other greenhouse gas emissions. Neither the strategy defines 2020 targets.

So based on the abovementioned document, BAPE has already defined energy goals for the year 2020 and these will be discussed in the network. Additionally the network will support BAPE's activities in promoting ENNEREG project and its achievements, initiating local SEPs within the region and finding out the replication region.

As the networking activities started from the very beginning of the project, a series of seminars have already been organized and with the idea of promoting the CoM, a seminar to be organized in collaboration with ManagEnergy is foreseen. This seminar will be of great importance because none of Pomeranian cities is member of the CoM and as few as 10 Polish cities are member of the initiative. The main barriers identified for municipalities to join the CoM are that no statistical data is available, communication in English is still difficult for some areas and no direct financial benefits are expected and much additional costs are estimated for the SEAP preparation.

The created network consists of Pomeranian Marshal's Office, Association of Regional Energy Management Agency in the Vistula River Valley and the Energy Agency of Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship.

## Triangle Region, Denmark

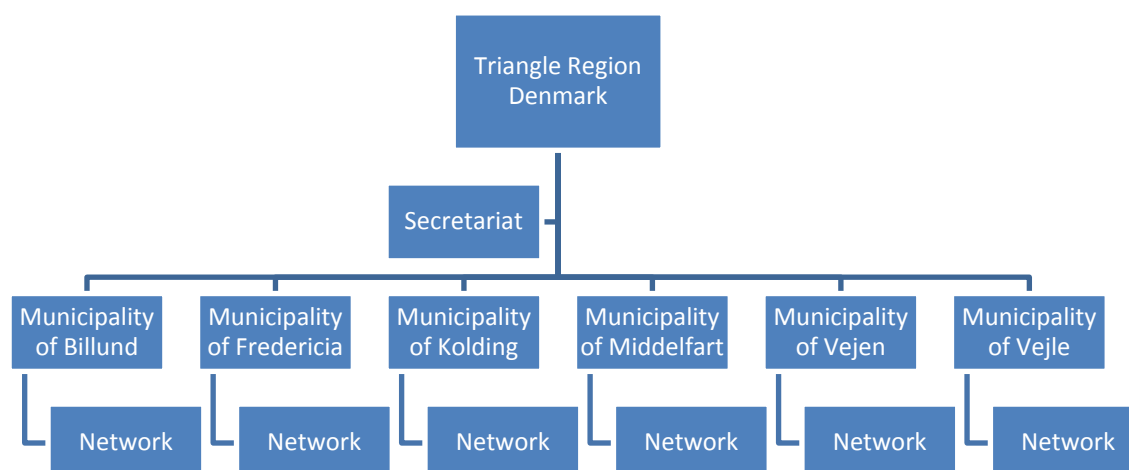
The Triangle Region, a sub-region of the South Denmark Region, has already an existing climate and energy network. The network is facilitated by the Triangle Region and consists of the 6 municipalities in the region. The objectives of the network are to develop a methodology for cooperation between municipalities, companies and educational institutions in the field of energy efficiency and climate activities. Each municipality has developed or is developing its own SEAP and also has established its own network with companies, educational institutions and private stakeholders.

The Triangle Region Denmark is also participating in Green Network, which consists of the municipality of Vejle and the region of South Denmark, and small and large manufacturing companies, service companies, farms, fish farms, utilities etc.

- The Network's main activities are:
- Knowledge sharing between municipalities
- Project development

And future activities to be adopted by the network

- Development of a common SEAP (starting in the spring/summer 2011)
- Development of a common strategic energy planning in the region (starting in the summer/autumn 2011)



With regard to the CoM, Triangle Region made an attempt to become Covenant Coordinator but due to various circumstances they had to leave this position. However, each municipality is developing or will develop a local SEAP so Triangle Region's objective will be to create method cooperation.

## Basque Country, Spain

Networking activities for the development of the Basque Energy Strategy - BES2020 were carried out in cooperation with the regional Government as the main stakeholder. A document showing the outline of the action plan was prepared, presented and discussed with the stakeholders, which had the opportunity to provide their comments in an early phase of the preparation of the plan through workshops specifically organized for the discussion of the SEAP and through the mail.

The first step in the process of working with the interested organization and people was to select the main stakeholders. The stakeholders were selected because of their capacity to influence on the

energy scene in the future or their interest in the sectors affected by the action plan. The stakeholders belong to different categories: departments of the Basque Government, other regional public bodies, local (provincial and municipal administration), universities, enterprise associations, industry clusters, professional associations, ecologist groups and other socio-economic stakeholders (financial, chambers of commerce, consumer associations, trade unions...)

The stakeholders were called up to meetings and requested to present one-by-one their opinions to the document previously presented. This was followed by an open discussion on different topics. The comments that arose in the meetings were written down for their consideration in the preparation of the action plan. The participants in the meetings and those who were invited but did not attend had the opportunity to analyze the documentation after the meetings and send their comments to a dedicated email address created to this end.

The strategy followed by EVE to let the project be known among the stakeholders and others is to distribute periodical information through its own mailing list. An article in the EVE's e-bulletin, which reaches over three thousand people, was written describing the objectives and partners of the ENNEREG project. By this means, the Regions 2020 website was also announced and also the possibility to subscribe to it. Furthermore, in EVE's own website, in the European Projects section, a short explanation and a link to the ENNEREG webpage is shown.

The process for the development of the Basque Energy Strategy - BES2020 started at mid-2010. Approval by the Basque Government is expected before the end of 2011.

Once the BES2020 is approved by the Basque Government this will be made public in various ways, such as publicizing in the Official Gazette of the Basque Country, press conference, the official webpage of the Basque Government, EVE's webpage. Also paper copies will be distributed to the main stakeholders in the region and will be made available in EVE's offices.

With respect to the CoM, 11 municipalities have signed it in the region, even though only one has submitted the SEAP. This is the municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz, which is one of the Basque Covenant of Mayors signatories and since last September 2010 the plan is in the hands of the city hall. This Action Plan is already disseminated in the Regions 2020 website. Donostia-San Sebastián, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Areatza, Bilbao, Irún, Abanto-Zierbena, Balmaseda, Amezketta, Basauri, Oñati and Tolosa have joined the Covenant of Mayors; among them are the capitals of the three Basque Provinces. As result, 42% of the Basque inhabitants are committed to the European Commission's objectives of 20-20-20 and other municipalities adding up an additional 10% of the population presented interest in the initiative. It is expected to have about another 6 SEAPs submitted by the end of the year from other Covenant of Mayors signatories.

DG TREN publicly recognized EVE by the agreement signed in Brussels, 9 February, 2009, as a Covenant Coordinator of the European Commission for the Basque Country.

The promotion of the CoM among the municipalities is being carried out through the organization of workshops and direct meetings with the Association of Basque Municipalities EUDEL, and by a specific web page which has been prepared in Basque and Spanish languages which explains the CoM and provide basic information about this initiative (see <http://www.eve.es/covenant/cas/>)

In terms of budget, about 245.000 € in the form of grant program for SEAP development have been distributed by EVE from the Basque Government's own resources. This program, besides encouraging the development of SEAPs, gives financial assistance to municipalities in improving the public exterior lighting and in general, energy efficiency in buildings. The whole budget for all actions (SEAPs and energy efficiency measures) is up to 3 million euro.

Since the beginning of the ENNEREG project, various training programs and workshops for municipal technicians have been organized by EVE.

## Upper Palatinate, Germany

The participants of the ENNEREG's Steering Committee for the Region of Upper Palatinate mainly come from three types of organizations: public administration, i.e. districts and cities of Upper Palatinate, relevant regional companies (basically of the energy sector) and other energy-relevant organization, e.g. energy agencies. By the end of 2010, the regional Steering Committee consisted of representatives from eleven regional organisations.

The regional government of the Upper Palatinate is currently not represented in the Steering Committee. This is due the fact that regional government currently does not have any pro-active strategic planning tasks in energy and climate policy in the State of Bavaria. However, with the development of the different elements of the regional SEAP it is planned to also involve and confront regional government with the results and recommendations of this plan.

A Kick-off Meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 05 August 2010. At this meeting, organised at the premises of the ZREU in Regensburg, the objectives of the ENNEREG project were introduced to regional participants and stakeholders, including the work program for the next 3 years. The following elements were discussed with respect to a regional implementation of ENNEREG:

- Starting points for regional networking activities in order to convince other municipalities and districts to enforce their local energy planning activities, networking activities should focus on issues already identified in existing local SEAPs
- Discussion of existing good practice SEPs, which can be used for a wider European dissemination
- Potential cooperation for development of regional SEAP (e.g. data collection), general discussion on content of SEAP from a regional administrative perspective
- Discussion of useful approaches to also motivate private industry to engage in ENNEREG activities

The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting was then held on the 11 January 2011, again at the premises of the ZREU in Regensburg. Fifteen regional stakeholders participated at this event. The discussion of this Steering Committee Meeting evolved around the following issues:

- Focus for further development of regional SEAP (consideration of requirements for a sustainable regional use of biomass, expansion potentials for small hydro power, heat pumps and PV, focus of SEAP development should also be on IE education (low-cost investments and energy services for municipal bodies, etc.)
- Organization of a regional event (1st ENNEREG Forum), aimed at informing local and regional stakeholders about benefits that can be gained from SEAP development and SEP implementation, financing options in these topics; event was planned for the 2nd trimester 2011.

One first important regional event planned for a wider distribution of the regional objectives of the ENNEREG project is the organization of a 1st Regional ENNEREG Forum, which is planned to be organized in the City of Neumarkt. The organization of the event is planned in the 2nd trimester 2011 and should mainly be addressed to local mayors and high-level administration managers in order promote the development of SEAPs and concrete SEP measures.

Another activity envisaged to improve the regional initiation of SEPs is the organization of a seminar on European Funding Schemes supporting investments into energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. So far, this seminar is planned for the third trimester 2011.

The City of Neumarkt is currently the only signatory of the Covenant of Mayors in the Region of Upper Palatinate.

With respect to the SEAP development in Upper Palatinate, the situation is as follows. Until now, a Baseline Emission Inventory does not exist for the different sectors of energy consumption in this region (three municipalities, seven districts comprising more than 1 million inhabitants). Some initial data for constructing emission inventories have so far been collected only for six of ten authorities. However, these emission inventories evolved in a bottom-up process, comprising different approaches of data collection and calculation as well as reference years. Accordingly, they are hardly comparable. In addition, there is currently no regional authority or competence dealing with these emission inventories.

Taking into account this difficult data situation and availability, the SEAP for the region of Upper Palatinate is planned to be realized in a stepwise approach comprising the following sectors:

1. Buildings sector: development of an energy and emissions baseline, differentiating between residential and public buildings, assessment of energy saving potentials via building refurbishment, building-related expansion potentials for use of renewable energy sources, recommendation of measures
2. Energy production: assessment of regional energy generation of non-grid-bound energy sources (heating oil, coal, wood) for buildings and other installations, renewable energy generation
3. Industrial sector: development of an energy and emissions baseline, differentiating between existing industrial sectors
4. Draft version for a regional sustainable energy action plan, summarizing the results of all three sectors for later political discussion

## **Wielkopolska, Poland**

UMWW has based the networking activities mostly on direct communication with the stakeholders through mails and organization of conferences and meetings with local authorities and companies. The network is based on an already existing database of local governments (226 communes and 31 poviats), regional RES and EE market stakeholders including energy producers, regional energy agency WAZE Ltd. and scientists from high schools and institutes.

Updated draft SEAP for the Wielkopolska Region is awaiting the approval of the regional parliamentarians (deputies). The main goal is the reduction in energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emission in particular sectors of regional economy.

The detailed regional aims result from the 'Strategy for increase in energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources in the Wielkopolska Region for the period 2011 – 2020' elaborated by the regional energy agency – WAZE Ltd.

The most important ones are the following:

- Increase in competitiveness of the EE and RES sector in the Wielkopolska Region.
- Increase in energy security in the Wielkopolska Region.

Till the end of September, 2011, there was no city or commune from the Wielkopolska Region in the Covenant of Mayors. There is no official CoM supporting structure in the region; however, there is regional energy agency which may undertake efforts to become such a structure.

The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region (UMWW) in cooperation with the Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités" (supporting structure for CoM in Poland) organized the conference "Covenant of Mayors – initiative of European Commission in terms of the energy potential of the Wielkopolska Region" on March, 23rd, 2011. During the conference there was also

an exhibition called 'Good Energy' promoting Polish and Ukraine Covenant of Mayors (CoM) signatory towns and cities. There were over 160 attendees, mostly representatives of the Wielkopolska communes and poviats but also from universities, scientific institutes and companies operating in the field of energy. The media patronage was given by the monthly "Czysta Energia" (Clean Energy) and self-government magazine "Monitor Wielkopolski" (Wielkopolska Monitor). Since the conference, Jarocin Commune has become the first Wielkopolska community to become a member of the Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités".