

## Covenant of Mayors – Europe Territorial Coordinators Survey 2021

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy - Europe brings together local and regional authorities and entities voluntarily committing to supporting the implementation of the EU climate and energy objectives. Since its launch in 2008, the initiative has mobilised over 10.000 local authorities in Europe, covering roughly one third of the EU population. The Covenant of Mayors – Europe 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 strengthened multi-level governance in Europe.

2021 represents a milestone for the European Covenant of Mayors, as signatory cities are stepping up their climate ambition to reach a common vision of climate neutrality by 2050. The renewed vision and related commitments were officially launched and formally endorsed by the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Political Board on April 21 [find out more in our [article](#) and [FAQs](#)]. These new commitments are intended to reflect the latest evolutions of the EU policies (mainly the EU Green Deal, EU Climate Pact, 2030 Climate Target Plan and the EU Adaptation Strategy) and positions the Covenant of Mayors – Europe within a new global context, thus strengthening its position as the movement of local and regional authorities leading for change.

To turn this vision into reality, the Covenant Mayors and local leaders pledge to:

- 1) Commit to set mid- and long-term targets (consistent with the EU objectives, and at least as ambitious as national targets), with the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050;
- 2) Engage with citizens, business and government at all levels to implement this vision;
- 3) Act now to get on track and accelerate the necessary transition;
- 4) Network with fellow Mayors and local leaders to get inspiration from each other.

Covenant Territorial Coordinators are regional and sub-regional public authorities which provide strategic guidance, technical and financial support to Covenant of Mayors Signatories and potential municipalities willing to join the initiative.

This document summarizes the main accomplishments of the Territorial Coordinators according to the efforts undertaken throughout the year. The report is based on the results of a survey launched in 2021 addressed to the +200 European Covenant Territorial Coordinators as part of their reporting activity.

Some Covenant National Coordinators (i.e. ministries and national agencies) also submitted their contributions.

The information provided in this report is meant to help the Covenant of Mayors – Europe Office and the European Commission to follow up / get an overview of the activities carried out by regional and sub-regional public authorities to support Covenant Signatories in Europe. It is also meant to assess how the new commitments have been perceived in the European territories by the municipalities and how the renewed Covenant of Mayors – Europe ambitions can support the implementation of regional strategies on climate and energy.

Furthermore, the report highlights Territorial Coordinators' achievements and good practices of the past year.

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

Contact: [coordinators@eumayors.eu](mailto:coordinators@eumayors.eu)

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*Part of*



*“The Covenant of Mayors is, like we call it, the red wire in our daily work. After been recognised as Territorial Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors, we reorganized our work and start to focus on climate mitigation and adaption projects and initiatives”*

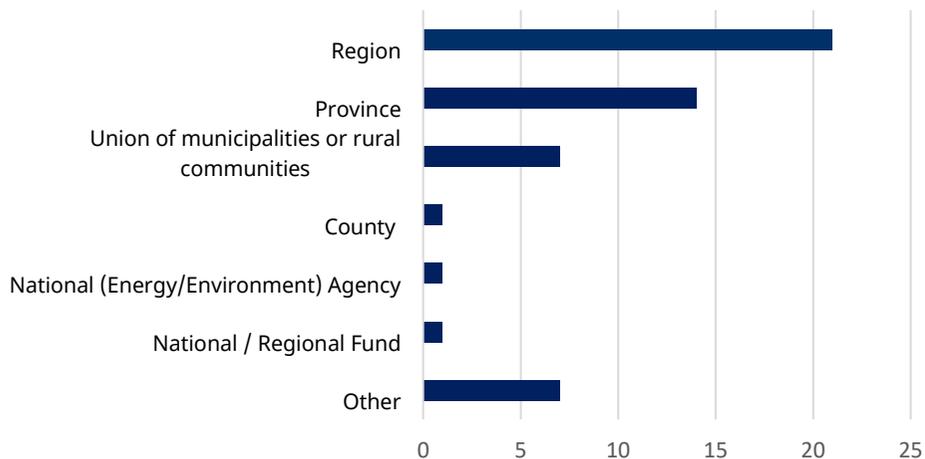
*Interleuven (Belgium)*

Covenant Territorial Coordinator

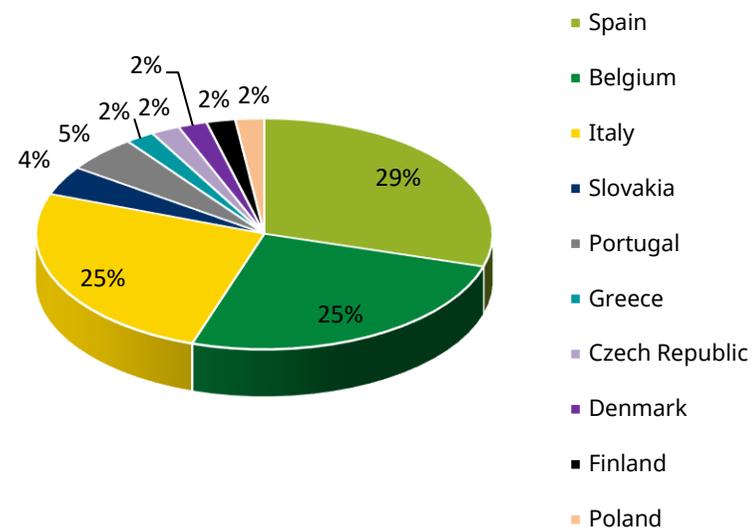
## General Information

The **22,7%** of the Covenant Territorial Coordinators participated in the survey. A total of 52 responses were received out of 229 Coordinators in Europe. Most of the responses come from regional and provincial authorities.

### Structure



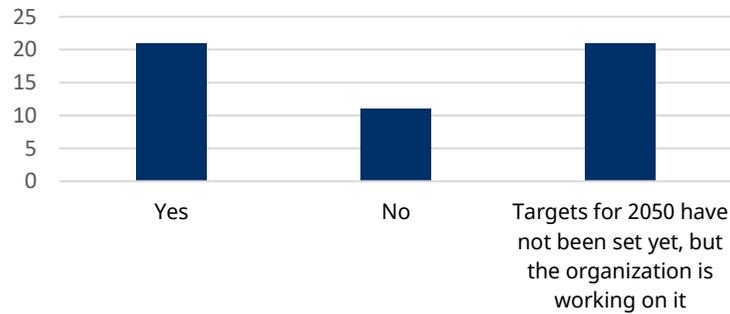
### Overview of respondents by country



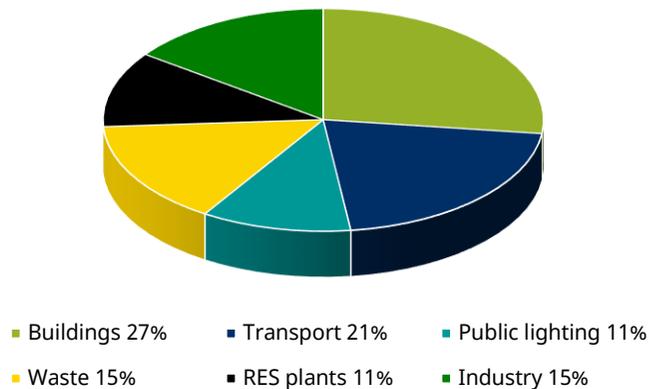
## Long - Term Strategy

The graph below shows that many Coordinators have set mitigation targets and many others are working on them. The sectors in which **mitigation targets** are mainly transformed into actions are the building and transport sectors.

Mitigation targets for 2050



Targeted sectors

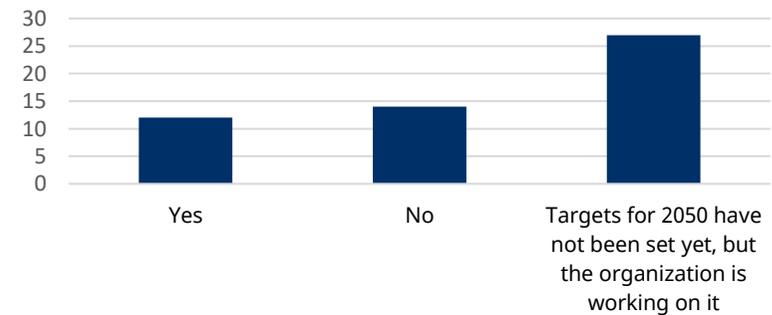


Get inspired by the *Province of Flemish Brabant* (Belgium), which has targeted a minimum of 80% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2040 (base year 2011) and a further 95% reduction by 2050.

And by the *Helsinki - Uusimaa Regional Council* (Finland), with even more stringent targets: Carbon Neutrality by 2035 (standard: 80% GHG reduction compared to 2005).

In contrast to the setting of mitigation targets, fewer Coordinators have set **adaptation targets** for the year 2050. Although they have indicated that the vast majority is working on them.

Adaptation goals for 2050

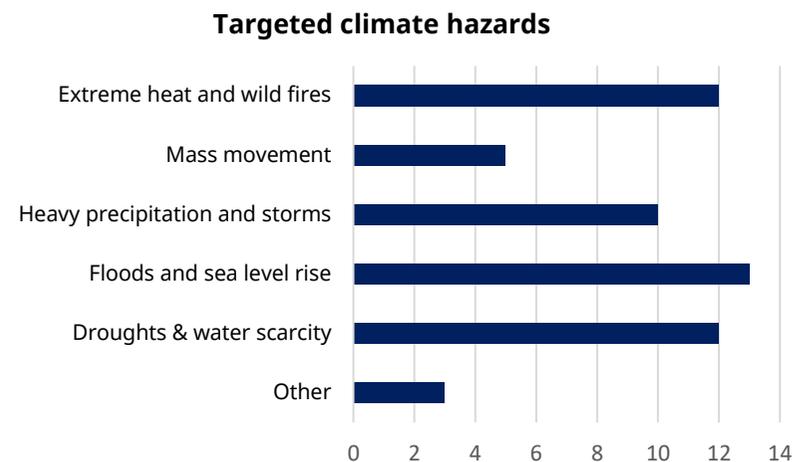


Get inspired by:

- **Sviluppo Marche S.r.l.** (Italy) has developed a series of measures and actions aimed to address the **coastal erosion** in accordance with the Integrated Coastal Area Managed Plan. In particular they worked on the nourishment of the beaches (mainly with gravel and small stones), the stabilization of the cliffs and the elimination of artificial reefs.
- The **Emilia - Romagna Region** (Italy) signed the Pact for Work and Climate with local authorities, trade unions, enterprises, schools, universities, environmental associations, the third and voluntary sectors actors, chambers of commerce and the banking industry, with the aim of decarbonizing the Region by 2050. The Pact addresses, among others, the development of **regeneration processes and zero balance in land consumption**. The regional legislation on land protection and use sets limits on soil consumption and sealing and provides the improvement of urban quality and the hydrological conservation of the soil for the urban regeneration of the territories.
- **Kosický Samosprávny Kraj** (Slovakia) has clear targets. By 2025 they plan to know the **amount of waste in their organisation** and the type of product.  
By 2030 they want to determine the amount of emissions produced by the waste sector; increase recycling of municipal waste to 65%, reduce mixed waste storage to 20%, increase material recovery to 95%, increase recovery of plastics to 65%, avoid generation of new waste; reduce combustion of plastics to 0%, etc.

And by 2050 they aim to increase the number of separated batteries and accumulators; ensure full separate collection of biodegradable waste; reduce the proportion of biodegradable waste in municipal waste to a maximum of 10%; reduce storage of biodegradable waste to 0%.

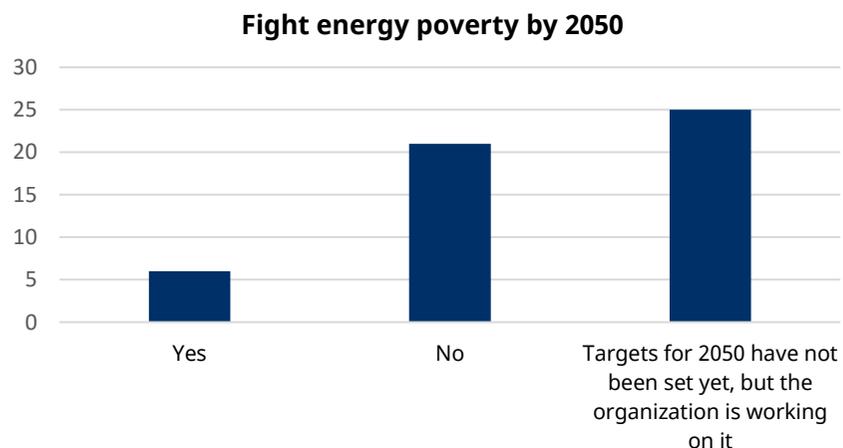
The climatic hazards most addressed are:



Within the European Covenant of Mayors, the Territorial Coordinators are committed to providing access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy for all. This means taking action to alleviate energy

poverty and so improve the quality of life of citizens and create a fairer and more inclusive society.

Most of the Territorial Coordinators are divided between those who are not yet working on **energy poverty**, and those who are already working on it but have no concrete targets for 2050 yet. Only the 6% of the respondents is already working on it.



### The renewed ambitions

Five years from the Paris Agreement, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe continues increasing its ambition to ensure that its three pillars (mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty) are turned into an overarching priority and that ambitious action follows. On April 21,

2021, the Covenant of Mayors – Europe renewed its commitments to reflect the latest evolutions of the EU policies.

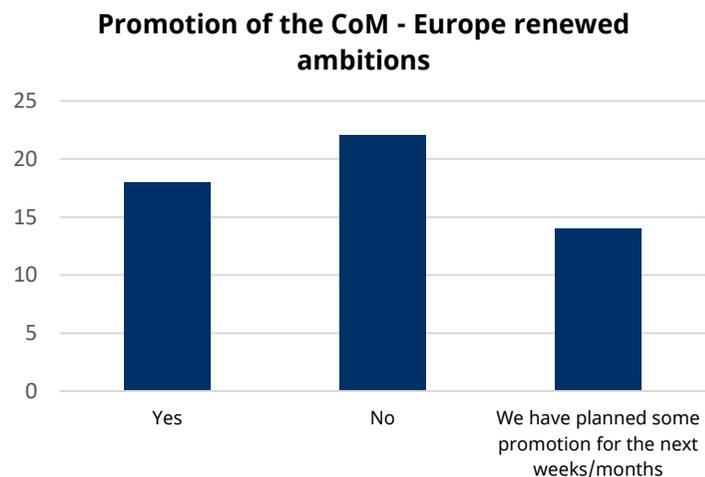
The revised commitment text calls regional and local leaders to jointly and inclusively step up their actions in a mid- and longer-term perspective in a joint effort to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C, considering climate change as a global emergency of our times.

<b>Regional perception on the Covenant renewed ambitions</b>	
The renewed ambitions and related targets seem fair and inclusive; however, the local authorities are currently focused on a 40% GHG emissions target by 2030 only, and long-term targets have not been discussed yet.	<b>63%</b>
The renewed ambitions and related targets are too ambitious for the local authorities in our territory, and therefore not achievable.	<b>7%</b>
The renewed ambitions and related targets are in line with the local authorities' targets for 2050, and therefore achievable.	<b>15%</b>
Don't know.	<b>15%</b>

## Awareness Raising

Territorial Coordinators are strongly committed to the promotion of the European Covenant of Mayors initiative within their contexts. A tangible success of the Coordinators within the initiative is the increased number of municipalities adhering to it thanks to the organisation of events, workshops and conferences as well as ad-hoc meetings and dissemination of relevant materials.

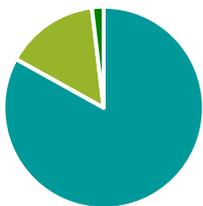
Whitin the renewed CoM-Europe vision, many Territorial Coordinators have organized or planned awareness raising activities to promote the renewed commitments to the municipalities in their territories.



## Attention-grabbing arguments

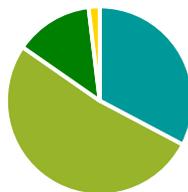
According to the European Covenant of Mayors Coordinators, the arguments that are most likely to capture the attention of local decision-makers and engage them in climate and energy planning are: EU funds for municipalities, energy savings and reduction of energy related costs, and political visibility at regional, national and / or European level.

**EU funds for municipalities**



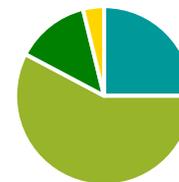
■ High interest ■ Medium interest ■ Low interest

**Increased resilience to climate hazards**



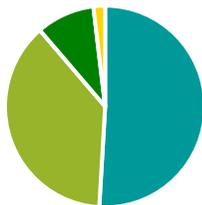
■ High interest ■ Medium interest  
■ Low interest ■ Not known

**Co-benefit of air quality & public health**



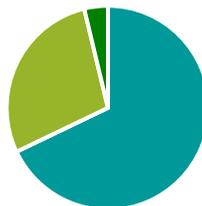
■ High interest ■ Medium interest  
■ Low interest ■ Not known

**Political visibility at regional, national and/or European level(s)**



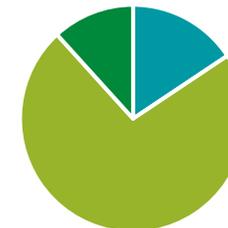
■ High interest ■ Medium interest  
■ Low interest ■ Not known

**Energy savings and reduction of energy-related costs**



■ High interest ■ Medium interest ■ Low interest

**Engagement of local stakeholders**

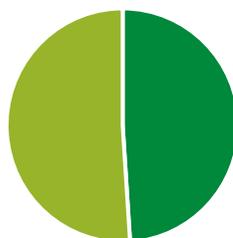


■ High interest ■ Medium interest ■ Low interest

## Local climate and energy days

Local climate and energy days are events organized by Covenant Signatories or Coordinators as part of their official commitments, with the aim of raising public awareness of the opportunities offered by a more intelligent use of energy. They provide an occasion for local authorities to involve stakeholders and citizens in a common dialogue related to the development and implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans. Usually organised for a specified period, the types of events may vary, but normally include activities such as workshops, exhibitions, guided visits and open-door days. Covenant Coordinators are in an excellent position to give visibility to these events, making them reaching a much wider audience. About half of the Coordinators have supported the events.

### Supported the organisation of local climate and energy days

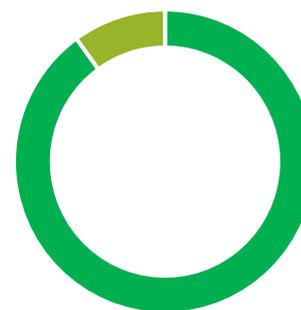


■ Yes ■ No

Get inspired by:

- The *Viceconsejería de Medio Ambiente y Cambio Climático del Principado de Asturias* (Spain) held workshops to communicate the impacts of climate change on the coast and to capture the perceived risk of local stakeholders.
- The Energy Office of the *Diputación Provincial de Granada* (Spain) has organized several workshops and a telematic exhibition on renewable energy, (<http://enclavedesol.eu>).

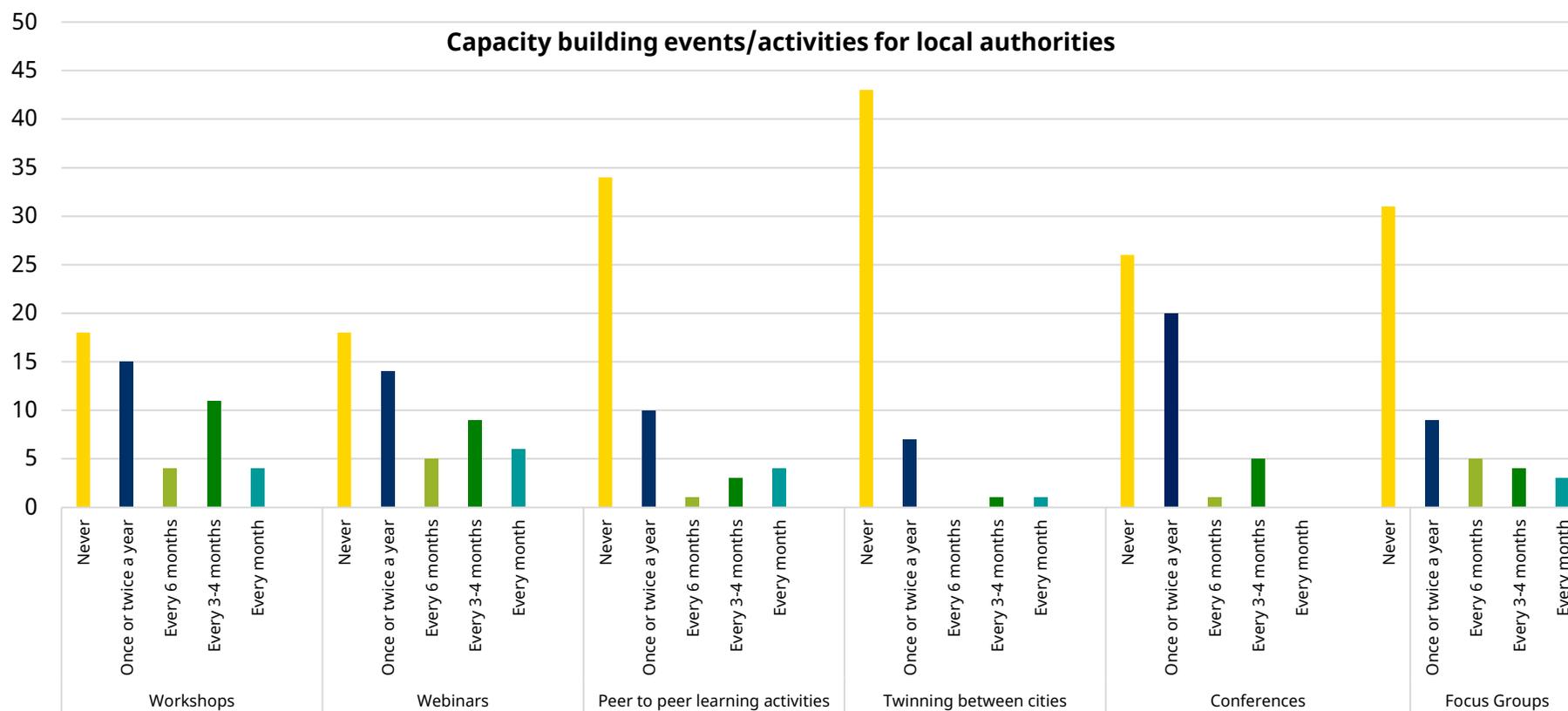
### Coordinators' support for the organisation of local competition between municipalities on climate and energy

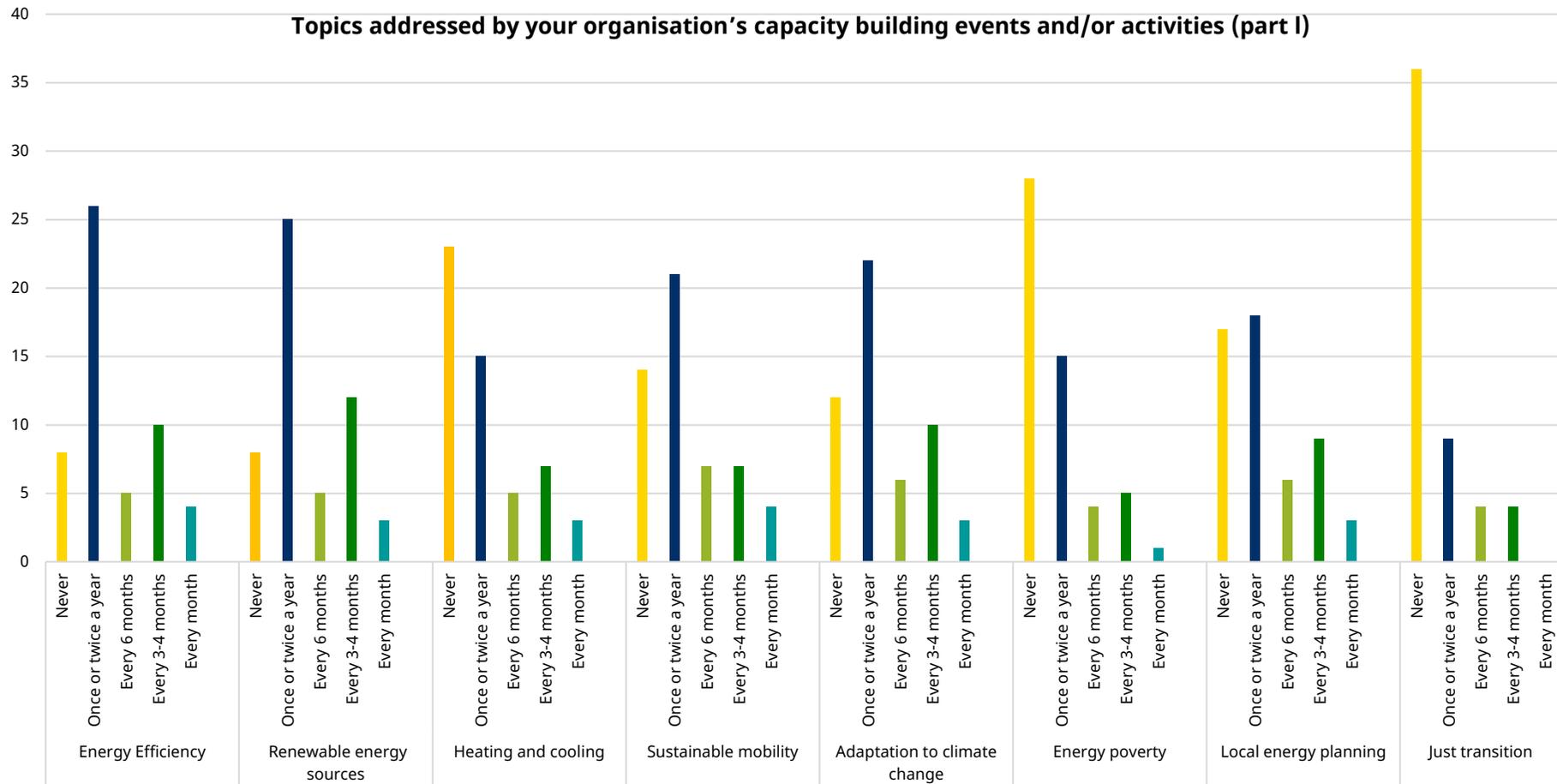


■ No 90%  
■ Yes 10%

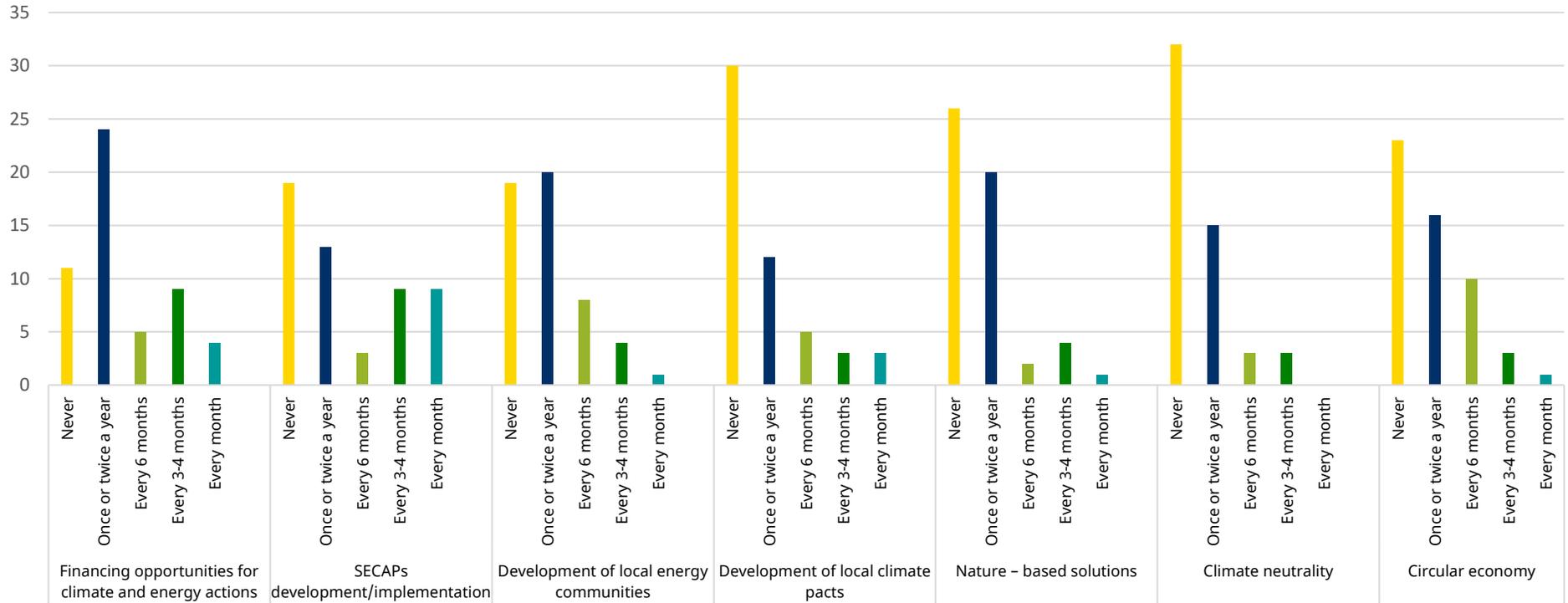
## Capacity building activities

Many Covenants of Mayors Territorial Coordinators organise capacity building activities for local authorities. This process of developing and strengthening competencies, skills, and resources is necessary for local officials to be able to carry out their work in a more knowledgeable way. The most used type of capacity building activities in 2020 – 2021 is of course webinars.



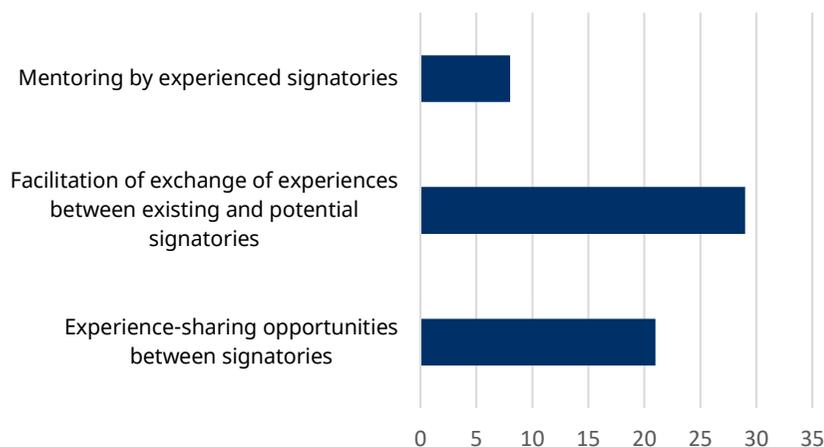


### Topics addressed by your organisation's capacity building events and/or activities (part II)



Another important activity carried out by Coordinators is the organisation of opportunities for networking and exchange of experiences among local authorities. The histogram below shows how the exchange of experiences between potential Signatories is the activity most frequently promoted by Coordinators.

### Networking opportunities for the municipalities

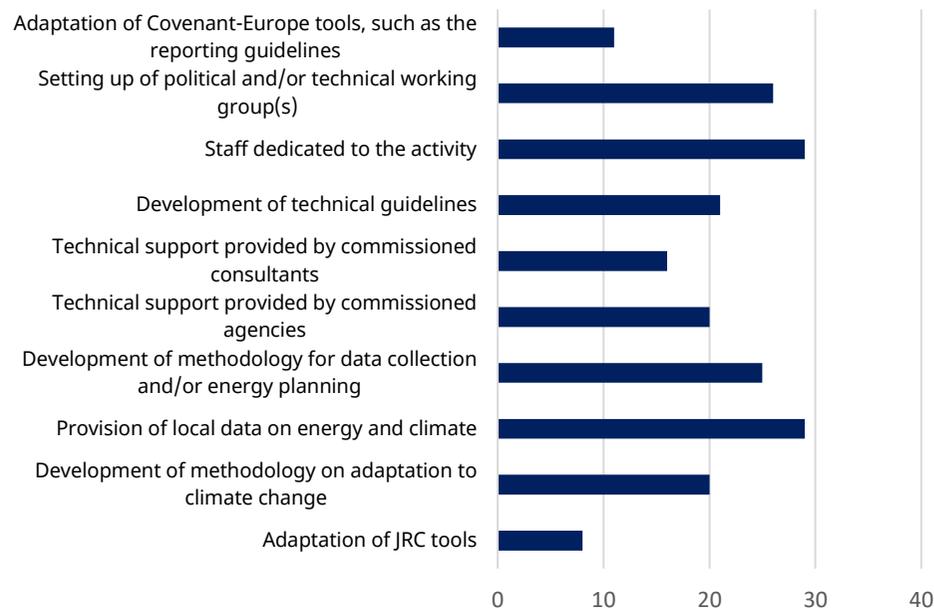


### Technical and financial support for Action Plans development / implementation

Regions, provinces, and other Territorial Coordinators are crucial to the success of the initiative, particularly in terms of the support provided to Signatories through technical and financial assistance for the development and the implementation of SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans).

The histogram below shows what are the main types of technical assistance most provided by Coordinators.

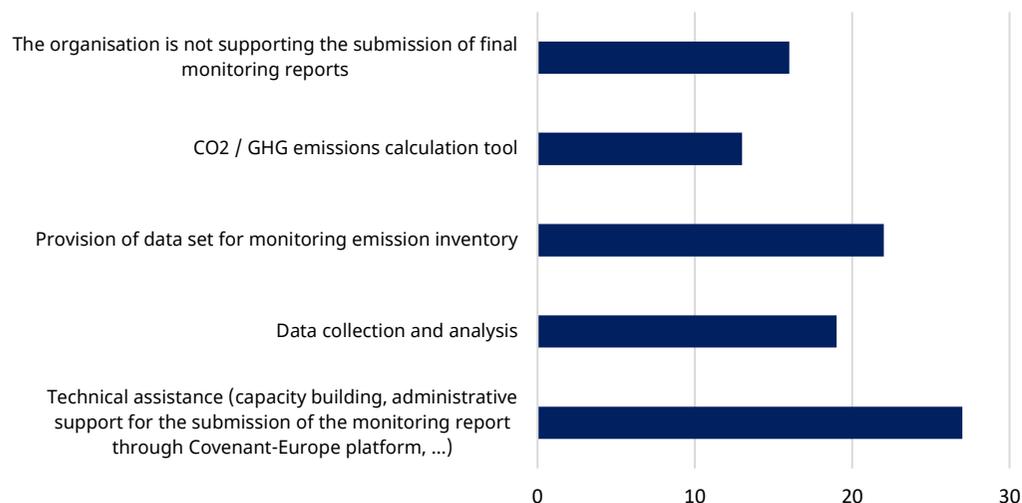
### Support Signatories



## Final Monitoring of Action Plans (2020 targets)

Monitoring is a crucial step of every planning process and aims at understanding the progress achieved towards the targets and plan for corrective actions. Establishing monitoring processes relying on data collection and indicators is a crucial element to which Territorial Coordinators can contribute. An important activity undertaken by several coordinators is the support to the submission of the final monitoring report on the municipalities' actions, mainly carried out through technical assistance and provision of data for monitoring emission inventory.

### Supporting the submission of the final monitoring report

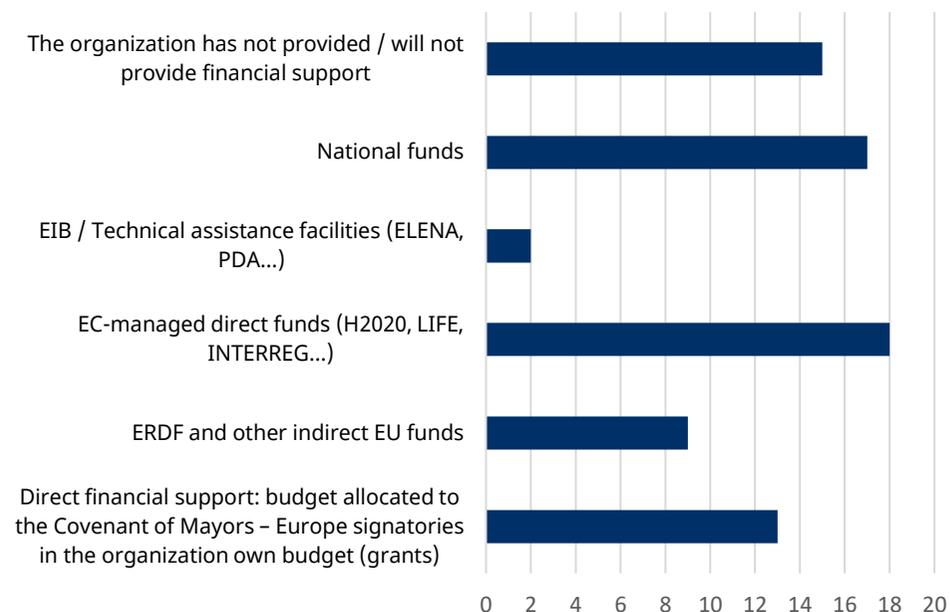


## Financial Support

Financial Support is also a crucial aspect for implementing energy and climate-related measures. Local authorities face challenges due to their limited budget which Coordinators can help to overcome by providing economic support and guidance.

Financial support is mainly delivered thanks to European Commission managed direct funds and national funds.

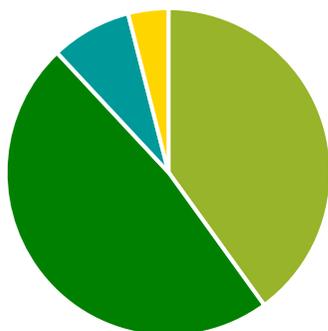
### Financial support for the development/implementation of SECAPs (2030 target)



## Good practices

One of the strengths of the Covenant Community is the ability to lead by example. Many are the good practices shared by the Territorial Coordinators with the Covenant Community. In the last year, most of the good practices reported focused on mitigation of climate change and adaptation.

### Sector covered by the organisation's good practice



■ Adaptation ■ Mitigation ■ Energy Poverty ■ Just transition

Get inspired by:

- **Barcelona Metropolitan Area** (Spain) has created a metropolitan network of *climate shelters* with the help of a driving group of 7 municipalities. By the summer of 2021, Barcelona has expanded the network of climate shelters to more than 155 spaces, with the following characteristics:
  - They are activated during the heatwave prevention phase, which runs from 15 June to 15 September.
  - They are areas that provide thermal comfort to the population.
  - They can be indoors (temperature of 26 degrees) or outdoors (parks and gardens with a high presence of urban greenery and water sources).
  - They address people vulnerable to heat (children, the elderly, people with chronic illnesses, etc.).
  - They have good accessibility.
  - They are well signposted.

To learn more, visit the project [website](#).

- At **Interleuven** (Belgium), they have developed a *digital renovation tool* "Mijn Warm Huis". This tool aims to raise the interest of residents and give them an idea of the energy situation of their home in order to encourage them to undertake an energy renovation. In a simple way, residents can estimate the impact of different renovation measures in their home. The tool is a first step in the awareness raising process for retrofitting. At the moment 11 municipalities use this tool for their citizens. To learn more, visit the project [website](#).

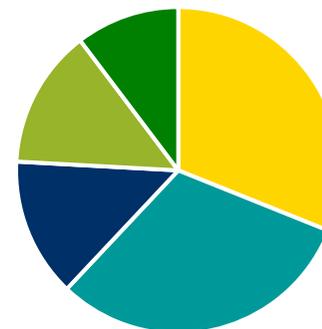
- The **National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management** (Poland), thanks to the initiative "Miasto z Klimatem" ("City with Climate"), offers **grants and advice on climate change adaptation and mitigation** to the most ambitious and active municipalities in Poland. This is a competition for cities, which aims to promote modern and effective urban solutions to improve the quality of life of residents by protecting the climate or increasing the resilience of cities to the effects of climate change. To learn more, visit the [website](#).

## Main Achievements

Being able to reach achievements every year is a motivational point for the Territorial Coordinators to continue to strive for their goals.

The graph below shows the achievements' most popular topics of the past year.

Topics of the achievements



- Adaptation
- Financing
- Mitigation
- Energy Poverty
- Multi-level governance

Get inspired by:

- During the last year **Kosický Samosprávny Kra** (Slovakia) has developed a **water advisory plan** within the Landscape Restoration Programme, the project aims to restore land and revitalise water resources and watersheds, resulting in economic recovery. The restoration plan ensures regional water, food, environmental and climate security within ten years. The region has been able to restore its damaged landscape by increasing the water retention capacity of its ecosystem by 60 million m<sup>3</sup>.

- The **Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic** (Czech Republic) has created the **National Environmental Programme grant scheme**, dedicated to supporting municipalities in developing their SECAPs since 2015, has been opened in 2021 to groups of municipalities to facilitate joint commitments within the Covenant. As a result, during the year 2021, 68 Czech municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors.
  
- The **Emilia Romagna Region** (Italy), with the project "Let's put down roots for the future", aims to **restore the natural ecosystem and improve the use of the territory** by planting 4.5 million trees in 5 years, thanks to regional funds. The actions to be carried out are:
  - o Action A - Urban regeneration, upgrading of urban greenery and forestry (2.5 million trees).
  - o Action B - Thematic projects for the creation of new forests, ecological corridors and agroforestry systems (1 million trees).
  - o Action C - Interventions for the infrastructure's mitigation, compensatory interventions and landscape rehabilitation and other forest plantations (1 million trees).

As result of the first phase (from October 1, 2020 to April 15, 2021), over 587 thousand new trees were planted in gardens and schools, both in public spaces and private areas.

The **EU Covenant of Mayors Office** is responsible for the overall coordination of the initiative in Europe. It is composed of networks of local and regional authorities: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, EUROCITIES, CEMR, FEDARENE and ICLEI Europe.

[www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)