

# LG Action

## LG Action – Final Report

Results and highlights of the  
‘Networking action to involve Local Governments  
in the EU and international energy and climate debate’ project

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## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This document provides an overview of the project **‘Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate’ (LG Action)**, and results achieved. Additional details and all public project results can be found on the website [www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu).

For comments or additional information please do not hesitate to contact us via the following e-mail address: [lg-action@iclei.org](mailto:lg-action@iclei.org)

## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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## 0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### *A unique project*

The project “**Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate**” (**LG Action**), co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme, ran for 26 months, from 12 May 2009 to 11 July 2011. This summary reflects key results achieved in the project.

**LG Action** was a unique, extensive local government networking action. It addressed climate protection and sustainable energy at the local community level, and focused on actors in thirty (30) European countries, namely the EU-27, Croatia, Liechtenstein and Norway. Results linked to and fed European local government perspectives into the international Local Government Climate Roadmap and into the European and international climate debates.

**Project definition of sustainable energy:** Sustainable energy can be defined as energy, in the production or consumption of electricity, heating and cooling, which has no or limited impacts – compared to fossil fuels or nuclear energy – on human health, the functioning of local and global ecological systems and the environment. Sustainable energy is the combination of energy savings, energy efficiency measures and technologies, as well as the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar energy (passive and active use, e.g. solar building design using natural day-lighting and natural ventilation, solar thermal, photovoltaics,), wind -, bio-energy, geothermal energy, small hydro power, wave and tidal power, as well as hybrid systems. Its objective is to provide energy security (sufficient, safe, affordable) for the present and future generations.

### *Focus on local action*

As complex fields of action, climate protection and the transition to sustainable energy require a range of actors to engage through multiple actions in many different areas.

The local community level provides an ideal starting point to implement policies and actions that address climate change mitigation, sustainable energy, and improve local energy security. The transition to a sustainable energy future – by combining energy savings and energy efficiency with the use of renewable energy sources (RES) – provides interesting benefits for local governments and their communities. Some of these include achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions in local government operations and the wider community, improving air quality, more sustainable urban development through improved planning approaches, local economic growth and job creation, as well as enhanced community resilience in a changing environment.

**LG Action** was shaped around these aspects. Its value lay in its key messages disseminated, in the nature of the planned activities at various levels, in engaging actors in multiple target countries, and by reaching a range of key stakeholders – each with a particular purpose. Last but not least, it dealt with widespread networking and stimulating an interest in local climate and energy action – successfully building on existing actions and networks.

The project had five objectives, namely to:

- I. Raise awareness among local governments (LGs)** in the EU-27 on their powers for change, their responsibility to engage in local climate and energy action, and the key role they can play to drastically reduce GHG emissions in their government and community sectors.
- II. Mobilise LGs** to link to, and where possible, to influence European and international climate protection processes – and to contribute to a strong European framework and to the global climate debate, also through the Local Government Climate Roadmap<sup>1</sup>. Further, LGs were to be encouraged to link up to key European initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors<sup>2</sup>, and gaining a better understanding of relevant European and international processes such as the EU climate and energy package and “20-20-20” targets<sup>3</sup>, as well as international climate negotiations that are being dealt with by Member States and the EU Troika in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC<sup>4</sup>]).
- III. Collecting and disseminating LG Positionings** (i.e. issues identified as important or relevant by LG representatives), summarising input received, and presenting these positionings to key actors involved in national, European and international processes – with the aim to further identify and address needs, challenges and opportunities as highlighted by municipality representatives.
- IV. Assist national-local and European-local dialogue with national governments**, to improve communication and discuss recognition as well as improved support for local climate and energy action, in the view of implementing the EU climate and energy objectives, and supporting local sustainability goals.
- V. Conduct advocacy at national, European and international level** to encourage recognition for the essential role LGs play in the climate and energy debate, using the events of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 15)<sup>5</sup> in Copenhagen in 2009 (*where the post-2012 international climate negotiations were to be concluded*), and the COP 16 in 2010<sup>6</sup>, to present the European LG Positionings(s) and update the situation of EU-27 national dialogues. Results were to be used to encourage local-national dialogues

**Dynamic networking  
action with a clear  
purpose**

1 <http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap>

2 <http://www.eumayors.eu>

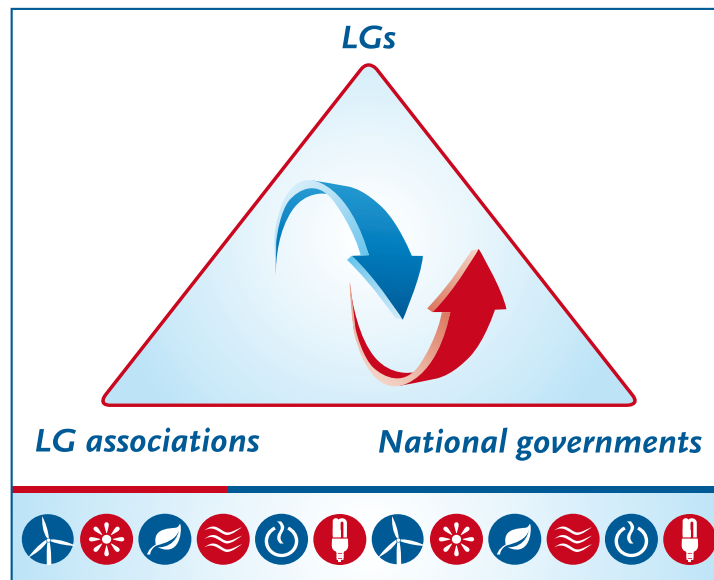
3 [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm)

4 <http://unfccc.int>

5 <http://en.cop15.dk>

6 <http://www.cop16.mx>

(either formal or exploratory exchanges) addressing climate and/or energy topics, and exploring the role of LGs vis-à-vis that of other government levels.



### Addressing key stakeholders

The activities and planned outcomes were, and still are, highly relevant to a wide range of actors in the 30 target countries. It was necessary to inform and engage as many of them as could be reached, with the focus to improve the understanding of the roles and interests of LGs in local climate and energy action.

The key stakeholders addressed were:

- representatives of **local governments (LGs)**, in particular local political decision-makers and senior technical staff dealing with climate and energy issues,
- **local government associations**, as representatives of their members (cities, towns, counties, ..),
- **national governments** and **other levels of sub-national governments** that play a role on climate and energy strategy development, policy, and roll-out support,
- the **European Commission** (EC) and **other European institutions** that deal with European approaches and actions, and
- the **international level**, in particular focusing on the post-2012 climate negotiations in the process led by the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.





*June 2009, the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit in Copenhagen*

Activities that were engaged in by the **LG Action** consortium and supporting / associate networks and associations were diverse and extensive – with excellent results achieved in many different areas.

## **Key results and highlights**

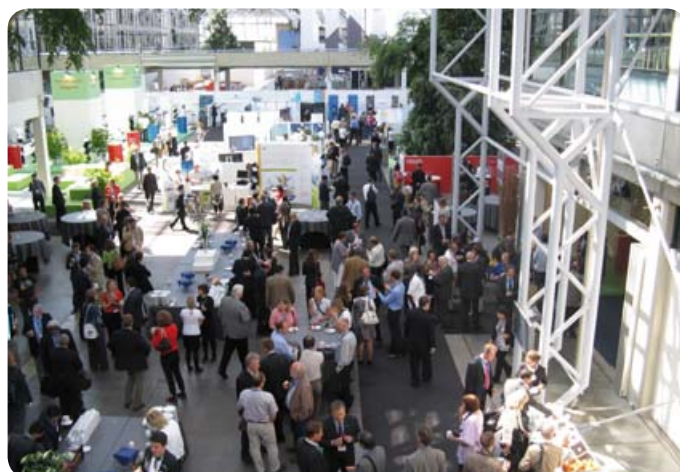
As a networking action, the **LG Action** project focused on activities and achieving results in three (3) key action areas that can be clustered:

### **a. Raising awareness and mobilizing local governments:**

From the project start these were two key elements were dealt with in various ways, including:

- **Using more than 100 events across Europe** to draw attention to the project and inform the target groups about developments in the Local Government Climate Roadmap – by speaking at, exhibiting at and attending events to network with the target groups.
- **Direct contact with LG representatives, as well as with LG associations (European and national, as well as thematic networks)** to inform them about **LG Action** and the Local Government Climate Roadmap, encouraging them to link and share messages to and from LGs.
- Extensive outreach to LGs in the EU-27, Croatia, Lichtenstein and Norway was achieved, in particular with the assistance of the EU and national LG networks and associations. It is estimated that at least **46.959 European LGs were reached** (based on direct contact, as well as association membership and associations' agreement to inform / involve members).
- The active support of **16 LG Action supporters and associates** (i.e. received a letter of support or letter of intent from organisation stating

*Networking, exhibiting and exploring  
local climate and energy options*



their interest in linking and level of support that can be explored) who acted as extremely valuable replicators and disseminators of information to and from the **LG Action** consortium. For their support they are warmly thanked!

- **12 EU networks and 92 national LG associations / networks** (some also thematic e.g. waste / energy focus) were contacted, with most of these linking and sharing information with and from their members.
- Dissemination of an **Information Package** comprised of:
  - **‘Your LG Action Guide’** – a basic guide to encourage LGs newly interested in the topic of local climate and energy action to explore options, with a few good examples to inspire them (printed and electronic dissemination, on website for download).
  - A series of **thirty (30) case studies** on a wide range of topics relevant to climate and energy, to inspire and motivate LGs to engage in this field (*electronic dissemination, on website for download*).
- Promotion of the **Covenant of Mayors (CoM)** as an important initiative for European cities and towns, encouraging LGs to join the CoM, also reflecting this in relevant case studies and other public material.

### ***b. Collecting and disseminating LG Positionings:***

As a central activity throughout the project, the collection of viewpoints of LGs – regarding perceptions on needs, challenges, barriers and opportunities – was conducted by various means. Input was collected through questionnaires, personal contact, event results, and cluster input summaries provided by LG associations and networks. From the positioning input collected the following actions were engaged in:

- Compiling and disseminating **three (3) Local Government Positioning Papers on Climate and Energy**, as summaries that are based on input received from LGs and their representatives. These summarise issues that were identified as important or relevant, and that reflect trends relevant to LGs, in most or all of the 30 target countries.





*Norwegian Minister interviewed at COP15 by ICLEI President*

- **Sharing results with key actors** involved in national, European and international climate and energy debates (*the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Positioning Papers were disseminated electronically; the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Positioning Paper was translated into all project languages, printed and disseminated to key stakeholders, and available for download from the website*).

### **c. Conducting advocacy at national, European and international level:**

Using the outcomes of the step above, national government representatives involved in the international climate debate and in departments dealing with the thematic areas of climate and energy, as well as European and United Nations institutions were informed – calling for recognition of the role LGs play in climate protection. The following activities and publications were used in this context:

- **Action “Send a letter to your government”:** As an outcome of the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit (June 2009), a call was made by the event host and Roadmap partners to the UN climate negotiations, with a letter template provided to interested LGs.
- Linking to the **Local Government Climate Roadmap**, feeding LG positioning relevant to climate and energy that was collected in the 30 target countries into the post-2012 international climate negotiations, through this international Roadmap process led by and facilitated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.
- Compiling **30 Country Profiles** to reflect the context of local climate and energy action (LG mandates, interest to act, challenges and needs) (*available on the website*).
- Sharing news through **press releases, newsbites** and **informing the media** on key developments (*available for download from the website*).
- Input collected was further used to **assist local-national dialogues:**
  - by disseminating **four (4) “local-national dialogue benchmarks”** that were selected to show how, through formal or informal local-national exchange, the coordination of activities and the share of budget between different levels of government can be addressed to support local climate and energy action (*available on the website*).

- **by encouraging national governments to engage in constructive dialogue with their LGs about roles and budget-sharing**, with interesting benchmark examples shared at the COP15 / COP16 and through other channels.
- The UN Climate Conferences were important focal points, feeding into these processes European LG perspectives. Successes achieved here include the following:
  - The COP15/CMP5 had the **biggest local government participation ever** at any UN Climate Conference event, with 1,200 local government delegates, of which the majority represented European local communities.
  - Through LG Action facilitation and support, the LG delegation attending the UN climate talks in Cancun (COP16) was able to **meet up with European national delegations and engage in dialogue** towards the key position of cities and municipalities to deal with the climate challenge – helping to achieve success, namely:
    - recognition of local governments for the first time, by States, as key governmental stakeholders in global climate change efforts,
    - numerous references to local governments in the COP16 Decision on “Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (LCA)”

### Highlight

In Mexico during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) at the Cities’ and Parliaments’ Initiative meeting senior local government (LG) representatives who addressed the attendees included Minister Huytebroeck (Brussels-Capital) as senior delegate of the participating European LGs, Mayor Ebrard (Mexico City) and President of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, and David Cadman (ICLEI president) on behalf of the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency.

An extraordinary panel was held here, chaired by the COP 16 President with a keynote from Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This event, as a highlight following all the advocacy and exchanges conducted in the Local Government Climate Roadmap, helped to ensure that reference to local governmental stakeholders would be included into the final agreement of Cancun.

During this high level event Figueres stated that “Legislators, mayors and city leaders are at the forefront of the efforts to care for the planet, implementing both mitigation and adaptation efforts in the cities.”

[http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/LG\\_COP16\\_Outcomes.pdf](http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/LG_COP16_Outcomes.pdf)

# 1. INTRODUCING THE LG ACTION PROJECT

## 1.1 Context

### *International response to global challenge*

Dealing with accelerating climate change has become a global priority, with its environmental, economic, social, political and security impacts a grave concern for many national governments. The Kyoto Protocol – an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – comes to an end in 2012. This was the first effort to set binding targets for states – with 37 industrialized countries and the European community agreeing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These commitments are on average five per cent (%) against 1990 levels, over the five-year period 2008 to 2012. With the Kyoto Protocol coming to an end in 2012, and a number of key nations not on board, the international climate debate was intensified since 2007.

### *Roadmap for nations: from Bali to Copenhagen*

The United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007 (called the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties – COP13) formed part of this process. It ended with relatively vague results, and no agreement on what the way forward should entail regarding global climate protection and cooperation, despite growing recognition of the challenging situation. However, national delegations did agree to move together toward a defining a new international agreement, and so the 'Roadmap' from Bali to Copenhagen was launched. Its aim was to decide on the new post-2012 agreement by December 2009 during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties – COP15). It was clear that a stronger successive agreement to the Kyoto Protocol was urgently needed – to set up new instruments and strengthen existing mechanisms to prepare the economical, political and social arena for radical change caused by climate change.

### *Urban focus, energy focus*

Considering that today nearly two-thirds of the European population lives in cities, using ±80% of energy, and more than half the global population lives in urban areas, cities and towns are clearly places to engage in local climate and sustainable energy action. Energy is needed for electricity, heating and cooling. It is used in buildings, for transport, to manage waste and water, to offer services and create products. Improvements can be made in nearly all these areas, through energy savings and the use of efficiency measures and technologies, and by switching to clean and renewable energy solutions. This is a process to move towards a sustainable energy future – step-by-step. It requires changing the way energy is generated, distributed, used, and how it is perceived.

Considering the local impact of climate change, and the local impact on climate change, local communities are in the spotlight. They are (already) experiencing changes – flooding, droughts, changes in rainfall patterns, changes in intensity of weather phenomena. Localized events are having an impact on people, their environment and infrastructure, leading to costs and causing insecurity. Further, their contribution to the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

by burning fossil fuels and dumping waste into landfill has an impact on global climate change and requires a concerted local mitigation response.

### ***Lack of mandate***

Yet, in most European (and other) countries local governments (LGs) often do not have a formal mandate to deal with climate protection and energy issues. “Climate and energy” is typically dealt with by the national government level. This lack of a local mandate thus means that LGs also may not have the capacity to act (i.e. have available budget, know-how and trained staff), unless it is dealt with through related areas such as urban planning or sustainable development. Considering that LGs are key players, as the closest level of governance to citizens, as community leaders, and with excellent potential to guide the process of change by changing their own energy use in municipal operations (corporate sector), and by leading change among citizens and businesses (community sector), potentially also local industry.

### ***Local leadership***

There are several leading LGs that have engaged in climate and energy action, and have found effective solutions. These include a vast array of options where implemented actions have led to efficient GHG reductions – not only showing “yes, we can” but also “yes, we want to”. This approach can be positively reinforced where there is support from other actors, and where enabling framework conditions exist – addressing supportive legislation, updated knowledge sharing, multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues and financing options. In some cases where there is a burden- and budget sharing agreement between various levels of government, this helps to (re)define and regularly review mandates and accompanying finances. This partnership approach is considered to be effective, valuable and highly replicable in many countries.

### ***Support for EU “20-20-20” (30%) targets***

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are fully engaged in the negotiation process and have put forward their commitments and proposals under the “2007 EU Energy Package” and subsequent climate / energy relevant decisions. Globally, the EU has set the most ambitious targets for multiple countries in a region, namely to achieve:

- A reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20% below 1990 levels;
- 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources;
- A 20% reduction in primary energy use compared with projected levels, to be achieved by improving energy efficiency.

In Europe there are more than 100.000 local governments (used as an overarching term for the lowest level of governance, referring to as municipalities, local authorities, county councils, etc.). Their potential effective involvement in local climate and energy action, and the potential for drawing the interest and engaging their citizens, businesses and local industry, is vast. The contribution

that can be made to achieving EU targets, even more ambitious targets (e.g. 30% that was proposed should an international climate agreement be obtained), is extensive.

### ***Addressing lack of formal recognition***

Coming back to the international area, LGs were not explicitly mentioned in the Kyoto Protocol or in the international post-2012 negotiation process – despite their importance and potential for effective action. Their need for recognition can be addressed from various perspectives:

- Being a formal level of government and the closest level of government to the local community (thus called “local government”), it has high potential to directly reach, motivate and lead local climate and energy action: involving citizens, local business as well as local industry.
- Joint LG involvement around the globe, in partnership with other levels of government, is important to optimise fast global climate change mitigation on a comprehensive scale.
- With nearly half the global population living in urban areas today, and growing urban areas around the globe with increasing energy demand (also greenhouse gas emissions released) – this is a crucial area where action is needed, to address community resilience and changing the way energy is perceived and used.



*A post-2012 global climate agreement requires national-local partnerships*



### ***The Local Government Climate Roadmap***

As an unprecedented international movement for local governments, the Local Government Climate Roadmap was developed to run in parallel to the national governments' Roadmap – from Bali to Copenhagen. It was however, developed **by and for** local governments with the aim to inform and mobilise LGs as well as draw the interest of national governments around the globe. This unique process was supported by all major local government networks active internationally, namely:

- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), as lead and facilitator;
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG);
- Metropolis;
- The World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC); and
- C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40).

The two roadmaps were aimed towards the COP15 as *the* event where a post-2012 agreement was expected. This event was to be focus in sharing information with LGs and national governments, as well as the UNFCCC – mobilising an interest in local action, and feeding input to and from international processes that also impact on European local governments. It was identified as essential to conduct advocacy on behalf of LGs in this forum, as it also offered unique access to the EU Troika and other European national governments active at this level.

#### **Note**

When the COP15 did not result in the desired climate agreement, ICLEI and UCLG, the two leading local government organisations, agreed on continuing the Roadmap process of advocacy and awareness rising through COP16 (in Cancun, Mexico) and towards COP17 (in Durban, South Africa).

### ***Moving forward***

Next key steps for LGs are to take on more responsibility in climate protection and local energy security, and explore partnerships with their respective national governments. This includes calling for increased support from national governments, to contribute to a coherent and supportive framework across EU and other European countries – in turn pooling contributions into the national, European and international climate and energy debate. LGs need to be recognised as playing an integral part in achieving success to reach Kyoto and post-2012 Protocol targets!

## 1.2 Objectives

The project LG Action ([www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu)) was a unique, short-term (26 month) networking action involving cities, towns and local government associations from **30 European countries**, co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme. It explored challenges and needs local governments are facing in the current climate and energy context – with results feeding into various important processes.

### Developing the *LG Action* concept

Recognising the important role of European LGs in contributing to global climate protection and their own local sustainable development, the **LG Action** proposal was submitted under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme in mid-2008. Its aim was to mobilise European local governments to become interested and engage in the European and international climate debate. Proposed as a networking action, it also aimed at informing key stakeholders of the roles LGs play in the field of climate and energy, their perspectives and interests in these topics – and linking to a unique global development: the Local Government Climate Roadmap.

### *Specific objectives*

The project had the following specific objectives, namely to:

- I. **Raise awareness among local governments (LGs)** in the EU27 on their powers for change, their responsibility and key role to drastically reduce GHG emissions in their government and community sector.
- II. **Mobilise LGs** to link up to, and where possible to influence, European and international climate protection processes – and to contribute to a European framework and the global climate negotiations (encouragement to link up to key European initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, and gaining a better understanding of relevant European and international processes such as the EU climate and energy package and “20-20-20” targets, as well as international climate negotiations that are being dealt with by Member States and the EU Troika in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]).
- III. **Collecting and disseminating LG Positionings** (i.e. issues identified as important or relevant by LG representatives), summarising input received, and presenting these positionings to key actors involved in national, European and international processes – with the aim to further identify and address needs, challenges and opportunities as highlighted by municipality representatives.
- IV. **Assist national-LG and European-LG dialogue** with national governments, to improve communication and recognition as well as support for local

climate action, in the view of implementing the EU climate and energy objectives.

- V. Conduct advocacy at national, European and international level** to encourage recognition for the essential role LGs play in the climate and energy debate, using the events of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen in 2009 (where the post-2012 international climate negotiations were to be concluded), and the COP 16 in 2010, to present the European LG Position(s) and update the situation of EU27 national dialogues. Results would be used to encourage local-national dialogues (formal or exploratory exchanges) addressing climate and/or energy topics, and exploring the role of LGs vis-à-vis that of other government levels.

### **Strategic objectives**

The **LG Action** project supported European decisions regarding climate protection and sustainable energy (directives, policy) to improve Europe's competitiveness, protect the environment, and secure future energy supplies, by involving communities in actions that promote sustainable energy in the urban environment. It specifically addressed the following:

- **Security of energy supply**, by reducing energy demand, improving energy efficiency and moving towards the extensive use of renewable energy sources.
- **Mitigation of, and adaptation to, negative climate change impacts**, by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and addressing energy infrastructure stability.
- **Improving the quality of life of inhabitants**, by ensuring a stable and affordable energy supply that provides local benefits, e.g. air quality and local jobs.

## **1.3 Activities**

### **1.3.1 Initiating a large networking action**

**Why?** To reach as many LGs across the 30 target countries – potentially 100.000+ LGs – the main focus would be on informing and engaging the interest of LGs and their networks / associations in the project and its aims, including the international Local Government Climate Roadmap.

**How?** The following activities were planned and implemented:

- **Sharing information and mobilising LGs**, making them aware of their powers for change in local energy issues and using:
  - Direct contact and inviting organisations to connect
  - News shared through the mailing list: newsbites and press releases
  - Case studies to share great stories that could motivate LGs to engage.

### 1.3.2 Engaging at international and European level

**Why?** It is important to work together for a strong and comprehensive international post-2012 climate regime, as it is critical to deal with climate change. This is a major global challenge that potentially has vast economic, social, political and security impacts – some already visible. In this context it is thus important to draw attention to the crucial role and highlight the growing interest of LGs in climate protection – to help them gain recognition of this development.

**How?** By drawing attention to these aspects in for a where global and European developments are being discussed, there is a possibility to obtain recognition.

- **Collecting positioning**, identifying issues relevant to LGs and to obtain recognition of the essential role LGs play in climate protection and sustainable energy roll-out at local community level.
  - Develop a strong European LG position (identifying issues LGs identified as important and reflecting European trends),
  - Encourage LGs to link to and influence national, European and international ((UN), and gaining formal recognition of their important role.
- **Conducting advocacy on behalf of LGs**, which was amongst others done through:
  - Using the role of the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency at the UN level, with the focal point represented by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), and
  - Sharing information at European level by informing key institutions and leaders, including the EU Troika.
- **Gaining recognition** of the essential role LGs play in the climate and energy through advocacy activities towards national governments, European institutions and the UN climate negotiations.
- **Calling for enabling framework conditions** to support local climate and energy action.

## 1.4 The project consortium

The consortium was comprised of different types of organisations, each with an area of expertise and engaged in an important role:



### **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat**

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. The international network is comprised of regional and country offices, and members, around the globe – including the European Secretariat which is responsible for the wider European region.

ICLEI Europe is leading this project consortium. As a European LG network addressing sustainable urban development, ICLEI Europe is active as a membership association, and provides practical support to its members and partners on a wide range of topics relevant to urban sustainability. ICLEI Europe closely cooperates with the ICLEI World Secretariat, based in Bonn, which acts as lead and facilitator of the Local Government Climate Roadmap process. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is also the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this project ICLEI Europe dealt with a large number of target countries across Europe, and fed European results into and from the Local Government Climate Roadmap process.



### **Local Government Denmark (LGDK)**

LGDK is the interest group and member authority of Danish municipalities. LGDK supports the municipalities with consulting services and information to enable them to attend to their tasks in the best possible way. The membership organisation also assists regional networks in order to support political cooperation between the municipalities.

Its main focus in the project was to support outreach in Brussels, where many LGs and associations have offices, and further maintaining contact towards the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Its target countries were mainly the Nordic countries, with a strong link to Denmark hosting the COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009.



### **The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+)**

ACR+ is an international network of nearly 100 members with the shared aim of promoting the sustainable consumption of resources and the management of municipal waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. ACR+ membership mainly consists of local and regional public authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing more than 1100 municipalities around Europe (EU-27 + candidate countries) and neighbourhood policy countries.

ACR+ provided expertise on the waste focus (e.g. waste-to-energy, also energy



efficiency through waste separation and re-use), as an important element in local climate and energy action. It further supported outreach in Belgium and France.

### **The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)**

REC is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems. The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among governments, nongovernmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

REC focused extensively on a number of Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in this project, as its main area of operations – with Hungary and Poland of particular importance due to the hosting of the EU Presidency in this timeframe.



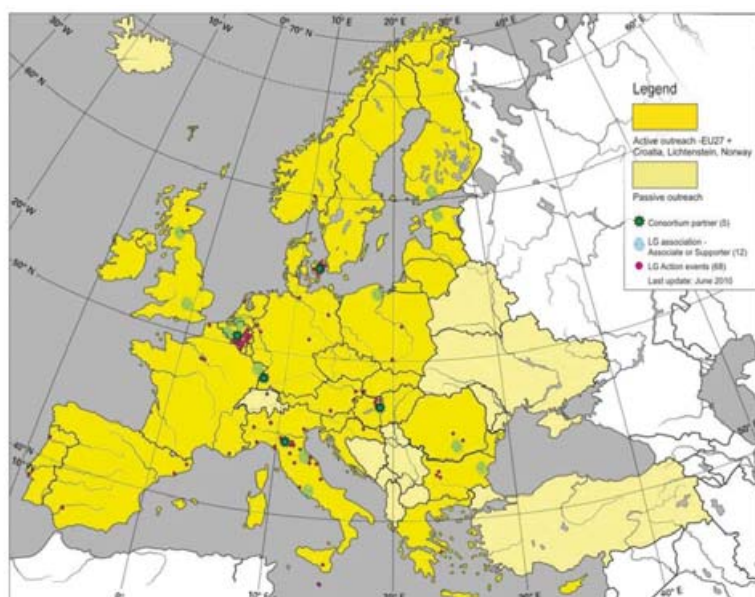
### **Italian Local Agenda 21 Association (CA21L)**

CA21L is a non-profit national association that spreads the Local Agenda 21 concept and promotes sustainable development models. Members of the association are municipalities, provinces, regions and other local authorities, as well as all protected areas where a Local Agenda 21 Action Plan is promoted, adopted or considered in the short term.

The organisation provided invaluable insight into local processes in Italy, with an additional support focus on the two target countries, Bulgaria and Croatia.



## 2. MAIN RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



**LG Action outreach**

The **LG Action** project focused on European developments to empower local community initiatives to support the achievement of the EU's 20-20-20 targets and linking to key international activities. It has helped to inform and mobilise European LGs to become more active with local climate and energy action, also drawing attention to the range of powers and options that LGs have to move forward in this field. LG Action established a link between European LGs and the international Local Government Roadmap process, bringing in a European perspective provided by LGs and their networks / associations.

The main project results and highlights achieved are presented below, with a brief overview in the table followed by details on the outreach approach and key documents.

	Main expected outputs and results	Estimated achievements
<b>I</b>	<b>LGs across Europe informed and mobilised, with increased interest to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>become more active in developing and implementing local sustainable energy solutions, and address energy challenges of climate change, security of energy supply, sustainable development, and the efficient use of local resources;</li> <li>link to the European and global LG climate movement, and strengthen the strategic impact of LGs in sustainable energy implementation and the in the post-2012 process.</li> </ul>	  
<b>II</b>	European LG positions on local climate and energy action developed and promoted in the EU27, at national, European and international events.	
<b>III</b>	Improved support from EU27 national governments and recognition in the international climate forum for the essential role LGs play in climate protection and the implementation of local sustainable energy solutions.	
<b>IV</b>	Improved national-LG dialogues linked to the EU climate and energy initiatives, to assist LGs in expressing their opinions and needs, also for the post-2012 period.	

## 2.1 Outreach approach

### 2.1.1 Supporters and associates

**PURPOSE:** From the start of the project it was clear that extensive outreach was required – to try to reach around 70.000 LGs – and that this would only be possible with the voluntary support of other networks and associations. The focus was thus on contacting, informing and convincing European networks and national LG associations of the importance of the action and its potential impacts.

**APPROACH:** To this end these organisations were invited to link, either formally by signing a letter of intent, or informally through engaging in ad hoc activities. They could select how they wanted to engage and to which extent – recognising that this was voluntary involvement and that capacities may not be available. Through those organizations that engaged, various opportunities were offered to present the project, to jointly raise awareness among LGs, mobilise them, collect positioning input, disseminate news and identify potential case studies.

**RESULTS:** 104 LG associations and networks were contacted, with many engaging in some form or another – of which 16 connected as **LG Action supporters and associates**. These organisations were extremely valuable replicators and disseminators of information to and from their members and the project consortium. **For their support they are warmly thanked!**



*LG Action associates – local government associations and networks that connect to LG Action and actively inform and involve their members*



*LG Action supporters – local government networks supporting LG Action's aims and ad hoc activities*



*LG Action – Mobilising & networking to LGs at more than 110 key events*

### 2.1.2 Key events

**PURPOSE:** Many events organised across Europe deal with climate and energy issues, and/or address LGs on these topics. Those European, cross-border and national events that had a high potential for outreach (for example EUSEW, OPEN DAYS, and national LG association annual conferences) – and where the organisers agreed to link to LG Action – were useful in presenting the project and obtaining ‘positioning input’ (more details below on terminology).

**APPROACH:** Organisers of key events identified were approached with a request for a speaking slot, an exhibition stand and/or making use of any other visibility options available, also to collect input from LGs and their representatives on relevant issues. The positive response was overwhelming.

**RESULTS:** More than 100 events across Europe were used to draw attention to the project and inform the target groups about developments in the Local Government Climate Roadmap. All event organisers who connected to the project are sincerely thanked for their support!

## 2.2 Key publications

### 2.2.1 Promotional material

**PURPOSE:** As a networking action, it was important to make available information, to introduce the project and its aims, and to share news. The connection to, and differentiated purpose of the project versus the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) was explained, with LGs encouraged to link to both. The LG Action project was a short term mobilization and advocacy activity, while the COM was an important initiative for European cities and towns, collecting commitments and dealing with reporting – expected to run over a longer period.

**APPROACH:** Multiple tools and materials were developed for use within the project by the partners and associates / supporters, and are available on the project website.

**RESULTS:**

- **Project flyers** were disseminated in the seven (7) project languages – English, Danish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, and Polish.
- An **exhibition set** was created to be used at events, as a drawing point for exchange and collecting positioning input (see details below).
- A number of **video interviews** with local political decision-makers were recorded and are available online, sharing relevant statements and perspectives.
- A **news section** was created on the website for the press, with several press releases and newbits uploaded and disseminated electronically
- A **public mailing list** was created to share news with all individuals interested in this project and climate / energy policy and advocacy developments.

### 2.2.2 Local government positioning results

#### What is 'positioning'?

Through the LG Action project, local governments in Europe had the opportunity to provide 'positioning' input between May 2009 and May 2011, by sharing their experiences and perspectives on sustainable energy and climate change. This could for example include their (dis)interest, mandate and role in engaging these topics, their needs and challenges, as well as the opportunities and the contexts within which they act.

**PURPOSE:** As one of the primary objectives of the project, input was to be collected from LGs and their representatives, and summarized in three (3) Local Government Positioning Papers on Climate and Energy. These papers



would reflect trends of issues that were identified as important or relevant to LGs in most, or all, of the 30 target countries. The results would assist to inform national governments, EU institutions, as well as LG associations / networks, of important developments in the 30 target countries – and be fed into the international and European climate negotiations for the post-2012 era, through the Local Government Climate Roadmap.

**APPROACH:** A positioning input collection process was conducted throughout the project. Various means were used to collect input: online and hand-out questionnaires, calls for input through newsletters and mailing lists, personal interviews and contacts, event results and reports, as well as cluster input summaries provided by LG associations and networks.

**RESULTS:** Interesting input was obtained from the target groups across Europe, with **more than 1.000 positioning inputs received**. The support by numerous networks and associations acted as an effective replicator level to and from LGs. All involved are warmly thanked for their valuable support and contributions. These Papers were disseminated electronically in English. The Final Paper has also been translated into all 7 project languages, printed and widely disseminated to LGs and their associations / networks, as well as to all the UNFCCC Focal Points of the 30 target countries and to European Institutions.

The 3 papers are available for download on [www.lg-action.eu/results](http://www.lg-action.eu/results).

#### **2.2.2.1 1<sup>st</sup> European Local Government Positioning Summary on Climate and Energy (June 2009)**

This paper contains a summary of the first LG positions identified during the **Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit**<sup>7</sup>, held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 2 to 4 June 2009. It was organised by Local Government Denmark (LGDK), in close cooperation with many global and regional LG associations and international organisations, and was a milestone in the Local Government Climate Roadmap<sup>3</sup>.

The event mobilised more than 800 representatives from municipalities and regions from over 60 countries to agree on a call to the Parties (national governments) to the UNFCCC. The recommendations were delivered to Ms. Connie Hedegaard, then Danish Minister of Climate and Energy, as host of the COP 15. The call was also presented to the Parties at the following UNFCCC event, namely the Bonn Climate Change Talks in 2010.

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7 <http://www.kl.dk/localclimatesummit>

**Some of the common messages from the Summit to the COP 15 were:**

- Climate change is a global phenomenon but consequences differ from region to region. Therefore, solutions should be worked out and implemented locally.
- Climate change is not just an environmental issue for cities. Local Governments cannot tackle issues by sector, the full governance of cities is at stake and collaboration with other levels of governments is imperative.
- There is a need to support the local authorities in order to combat climate changes
- The national level is needed to support the action plans for climate change with economic and political tools.
- Transfer of knowledge between local governments is essential. Financial support should be given to facilitate this.
- Global crises hit hardest in developing countries. Local governments in developing countries need funding, technology transfer and capacity-building to cope with the challenges of climate change.

The complete report / call from the summit is available on the following website: <http://www.kl.dk/localclimatesummit/Artikler/57332/2009/06/Final-Report-from-the-Summit>

**2.2.2.2 2<sup>nd</sup> European Local Government Positioning on Climate and Energy (April 2010)**

This document provides a summary of input received until March 2010 from representatives of European local governments (LGs) and their networks / associations on topics relevant to energy and climate. It was electronically disseminated in English, and is available for download on [www.lg-action.eu/results](http://www.lg-action.eu/results). It is recommended to read this paper in combination with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Positioning Paper elaborating further on trends identified.

**2.2.2.3 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final European Local Government Positioning on Climate and Energy Summary Paper (June 2011)**

This document, published in June 2011, captures the project's final summarized overview of trends relevant to local government (LG) in Europe collected between June 2009 and May 2011. It is based on input provided by representatives of European local governments (LGs) and their networks / associations in 30 countries: EU-27, Croatia, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

(See insert on the next pages)

## European Local Government Positioning – key messages from 2009 – 2011:

### a) Increasingly diverse reasons to engage in local climate and energy action

Local governments (LGs) – *a level of government with specific mandates and government budget* – address community-level issues, with core mandates usually revolving around urban development, local economic stability / growth, local service provision (the extent thereof differs widely from country to country), as well as developing and maintaining a good quality of life for citizens. In many countries energy and climate change do not form part of the typical municipal mandate. Despite this there is a growing interest to engage, also to obtain benefits in several areas. This is often based on a perception of responsibility to reduce emissions in local government operations, as well as the realisation that community emissions are more challenging to address as it largely depends on changing behavior.

### b) Main areas identified for support: policy, finances, technology

The need for a comprehensive, well-integrated climate and sustainable energy policy is one of the main challenges identified by LGs, once these two areas – climate change and energy – are recognised as priority areas. Policy is needed to direct and drive the sustainable energy transition process at community level, with adequate financing and appropriate technologies required to implement measures. The challenges faced include selection of appropriate policy, finding funding options, and choosing the optimal range of actions and technologies. As these activities tend to be new there is often no in-house municipal expertise, requiring support from experts – helping to guide setting-up of processes, completing integration into existing systems and structures, conducting assessments, accessing financing, designing action plans, monitoring and evaluating their implementation.

### c) Improved awareness of European and international climate and energy context

A combination of developments has helped to raise interest among many LGs in contexts beyond their own local community and national borders. The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) has gained in visibility, highlighting the need for a commitment and reporting framework for LGs. The Local Government Climate Roadmap process has led to visibility and recognition of the role of LGs as government stakeholders in the international climate negotiations, and helping to focus national governments' attention on the potential in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation in partnership with their LGs. Further to this cross border peer-to-peer exchange among LGs and their associations / networks on the topics of climate and energy has helped to draw attention to the wide range of options, tools and support offered.

### d) Local governments seek to be part of the European energy and climate dialogue

With about 80% of energy related decisions that have an impact on LGs taken at the EU level, LGs increasingly want to engage in dialogue to raise their concerns – also prior to decision-making. The renewable energy, biofuels, buildings or waste management directives are but a few examples that determine local conditions through national interpretations. Some European initiatives like the CoM and actors representing LGs at European and national level have become important channels of communication between different government levels.

### e) Support EU's lead in climate negotiation and call for ambitious targets

The growing realisation among European municipalities that climate action is a responsibility at a local, sub-national, national, European and global level, is connected to the next step – the need for exploring partnership and closer inter-linkage to unfold full potential. There is an overall understanding of the important role that the EU plays by setting up the general energy and climate framework – in Europe through policy-making, regulative directives and funding programmes – but also internationally, playing a leading role in the climate negotiations. The step-up to a potential 30% GHG reduction target by 2020 requires active local support, with partnership to be explored.

# 1. EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT FOR LOCAL ACTION

## European policy

Many different EU policies are relevant to local communities, energy and climate change, although their direct impact is not always obvious or recognised. Overall the EU climate and energy package with targets to 2020, as well as the resource efficiency and green economy aspects, are highly relevant to local governments (LGs). This also leads to the EU Roadmap 2050<sup>1</sup>, although LGs are not yet extensively engaged in dialogues on this. The roles of LGs in linking to and supporting European policies are mostly addressed via the Member States, but also through sub-national government levels and LG associations or networks representing their 'constituency'.

## Growing Covenant of Mayors

A key development is the growth of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), established in 2008. This has become a central initiative for European LGs in the context of local climate and energy action. It brings together cities and towns committed to go beyond the EU 20-20-20 targets, with signatories required to deliver a baseline emissions inventory (BEI) and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) within one year of joining. Thereafter there is a requirement for regular reporting on developments. By the end of May 2011, the CoM had 2,666 signatories (out of more than 100,000) – large and small communities from 42 countries. These are in turn supported by Covenant Coordinators (ministries, sub-national governments, national energy agencies) and Covenant Supporters (networks and associations of local governments). The steady growth of the CoM shows there is an interest in linking to a broader framework, although there remains obvious hesitancy by the majority of European LGs to join the CoM. The following main reasons have been identified among LGs, mostly revolving around three issues:

- Technical know-how: A lack of capacity to deal with CoM requirements in the specified timeframe, in particular providing a BEI and develop a SEAP within one year of joining. Typically the municipal team working on climate / energy issues is small and does not have the required in-house competence to deal with these tasks on top of their day-to-day work.
- Political significance: In some cases there is a low level of interest in implementing comprehensive local climate and energy strategies (rather a focus on ad hoc actions), which means joining the CoM is too challenging. This situation is linked to the fact that there is often no specific mandate to address climate and/or energy – meaning a lack of staff and budgetary capacity, thus setting priorities and not dealing with any 'extra tasks'. In addition, there is often a perception that energy security and economic development has to be dealt with at national level with improved framework conditions needed to support local action. Once this is addressed the level of interest is likely to rise.
- Uncertain value: There is in many cases a limited knowledge and understanding about the value of the CoM and benefits it offers (rather perceived as "more work, more reporting – but what are the real benefits?"), combined with a local focus – which is the priority area of work. Council leadership's interests also shape CoM interest – where inward-looking there is limited interest or understanding of the value. Smaller communities tend to have a local and national focus due to reduced capacity to explore and monitor issues beyond this area. Last but not least, there is also uncertainty regarding the longevity of the CoM (refer to examples of short-lived EC supported actions addressing LGs where funding was stopped). In some countries this 'disinterest' is enhanced by national political complexities, including wariness vis-a-vis national governments (party political dynamics, tensions regarding mandates and budget sharing, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> [www.roadmap2050.eu](http://www.roadmap2050.eu)

Through the Local Government Climate Roadmap<sup>2</sup> a unique global mobilisation action of LGs took place and positioning input was collected. This resulted in several documents e.g. 'International Local Government Responses' addressing issues such as shared vision, adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building – feeding into the global advocacy process, taking place for, and with, LGs. Success was achieved at the end of 2010, with the explicit recognition by states of LGs as governmental stakeholders in global climate change efforts, as reflected in the Cancún Agreements – outcomes of the 16h Conference of the Parties (COP 16) UN Climate Conference. This provides the foundation for a potentially strong partnership and requires intensified local-national dialogues as a next step to explore cooperation options – also in Europe.

***Relevance of the international climate negotiation process***

A second key development at the end of 2010 was the launch of the Mexico City Pact and the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)<sup>3</sup>, as the global response of LGs to measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) climate action. Still voluntary, this is a first step towards harmonising global reporting of local climate action – in turn also relevant to the CoM and other initiatives (with synergies being explored).

***New global reporting process for LGs***

Financing continues to be highlighted by LGs across Europe as a major challenge. The financial and economic crisis has had a huge impact on many LGs across Europe (country specific). In general there is a call for improved information about financing options, and easier access to (application and administration processes) funds highlighted. In Europe there have been several developments to address this, with changes in the Structural Funds being explored and funding lines in the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility<sup>4</sup> being added for GHG mitigation investments by clustering LGs and options for smaller and medium-sized communities – the typical European community size. Further options are currently being explored to address the need for smaller amounts of financing for local action (reducing financial risk for Councils).

***Financing developments***



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- 2 [www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap](http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap) and [www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/lg-input](http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/lg-input)
  - 3 <http://carbonn.org/carbonn-cities-climate-registry>
  - 4 [www.eib.org/elena](http://www.eib.org/elena)



## 2. CURRENT STATUS OF LOCAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

### **Context complexity**

The European framework that impacts on local energy and climate action (e.g. relevant funding programmes) and the national “translations” of EU directives provide a diverse, often complex context for local governments to work in. It is estimated that about 80% of energy related decisions that have an impact on LGs taken at the EU level, LGs increasingly want to engage in dialogue to raise their concerns – also prior to decision-making. Hence the interests and needs within the local-European debate on energy and climate are equally diversified.

### **Supportive, passive or restrictive frameworks**

National contexts clearly provide an essential framework for LGs. These range from a centralized policy and legislation framework, often without (financial) support for local action in these two fields (e.g. in many Southern and Eastern European countries), to more decentralized responsibility sharing, typically more often with national assistance. The level of open dialogue and joint budget negotiation needed between local and national governments is not yet a widely applied approach, despite a need for this in a partnership context (*refer to benchmark examples in Nordic countries*). While some LGs seek direct financial and technical support from any available options (funds, programmes, voluntary support) to bridge the lack of supportive conditions, others do the same to complement more favorable national conditions to local climate and energy action. In general reduced tax income, increased need for social services and the widening of local services, means budgets are tight and many national frameworks need to be re-assessed.

### **Exploring links to other themes**

In the fewest European countries it is a legal mandate for LGs to develop a local climate and/or energy action plan. This has an impact on different aspects, including availability of budgets and staff, as well as priority setting by Councils. Local climate and energy is per se of interest, and exploring options to link activities to other municipal mandates is a viable alternative, e.g. urban planning and development, quality of life (also affordable and stable energy, community resilience, economic stability / growth) that link to local job creation and economic stimulus (e.g. retaining money in the local economy or getting an external financing boost). The focus on sustainable development is used to further explore options, which helps to link overall planning, activities and reporting to typical Council reporting. In some countries the Local Agenda 21 approach is helping to communicate and involve different municipal and external stakeholders.

### **Comprehensive approach: a missing element**

Where local climate and energy action is voluntary it is often not addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and long-term manner – often citing budget limitations. Successful approaches tend to reflect a realisation that energy and climate are in effect excellent horizontal elements that can be well integrated into all activities and sectors. This can be very effectively incorporated in an action plan, guiding actions and monitoring developments – moving forward with the local climate and energy strategy. However, an overall comprehensive and integrated approach is largely missing among most European LGs. Only a small percentage of LGs have developed a comprehensive medium term action plan (e.g. up to 2020) action plan – with a smaller number still for the timeframe beyond this. The reason for this can in part be linked to the relatively short political term in office and election cycles (around 4-5 years), which tend to lead to a short term focus of local political parties in power. In those cases where there is consensus among all or most political parties that climate and energy are priorities, continuity is more likely – thereby making planning, implementation and monitoring more effective.

### **Positive trend: growing SEAP interest**

Despite the mandate aspect and low number of comprehensive LG Action Plans available, there is a growing interest in the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) (or other Action Plans e.g. climate or sectoral) across Europe. This trend may be more slowly developing in some countries, but a constant interest has been observed. Typically in more centralised governmental structures, e.g. in many Central and Eastern European countries, opportunities for action are less flexible as local

regulations can generally only be developed according to the national framework (which does not foresee this). National legal and financial frameworks are clearly influencing SEAP development trends (*refer to the 30 LG Action Country Profiles for more details*).

Three main streams tend to draw an interest in inter- and intra-municipal (inter-departmental) cooperation on these topics. Firstly, alarming negative trends in local ecosystems (e.g. loss of biodiversity) or political differences with other levels of government (e.g. on energy dependency and security) have motivated intra-municipal action to swing back to local sustainability, with local climate action a core element thereof. Secondly, through political and/or technical staff exchanges with other LGs (neighboring, regional, national or even at international level) ideas are exchanged and action is stimulated (e.g. what works well and why, how can it be replicated – *refer to the series of LG Action case studies*). Finally, via the flow of information on European and national initiatives (e.g. through members of the Committee of the Regions and European LG networks) the interest in and cooperation between local actors is triggered, also across borders.

The influence on local energy policy, e.g. through the EU climate or cohesion policies, encourages exploring bottom-up approaches (i.e. how can LGs link to and support EU policy). Here ambitious local policy can be shaped from different entry-points:

- Immediate neighbourhood shaping local policy: A variety of different approaches, especially regarding target setting or “marketing” of the (wider) community approach also help to further shape LGs “inner policy”. The most common examples of such urban frameworks across Europe that start as local policy approaches triggering action planning in cities are: 2,000 Watt society, fossil fuel free city, low carbon economy, green-, solar- or climate resilient city (often requiring a wider geographical context, beyond local community borders). In rural areas these tend to be 100% renewables or an energy autonomous municipality. Towards each of these medium to long-term goals, corresponding short and mid-term milestones usually feed into the overall target (e.g. sectoral sub-targets). While in urban areas by trend the focus is on the building, waste and mobility sector, and many efforts on energy efficiency measures are taken, the rural areas usually focus firstly on renewable energy production in all their diversity. For both clusters energy saving remains a sleeping giant in their policy mix.
- External impacts on local policy impacted: Lately, and separate from the national level, the provincial / regional level represents a growing influence on local energy decisions, as targets are increasingly also set at this intermediate level – with a top-down impact for municipalities in the geographical area (e.g. climate neutrality or energy autonomy). This potentially also helps to shape a joint identity and required support services, as those offered by Covenant Coordinators within the CoM. In general the range of tools developed and support offered is increasing.

It is increasingly recognised by many local decision-makers across Europe (also due to increased awareness raising efforts and information campaigns by multiple actors e.g. DG ENER, the CoM and its supporting actors, also through European directives such as the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive) that sustainable energy is an effective entry point to tackle climate change. Exploring “low-cost, no-cost” options (also referred to as “low hanging fruit”) as a starting point tends to lead to a wider exploration of opportunities, from which point onwards synergy elements between typical mandates and local climate and energy action are increasingly becoming obvious to local councils. Most frontrunners have engaged in local action based on a realisation of their responsibility to contribute to climate change mitigation and the need for improving community resilience. This means budget and staff capacity is made available, based on priority setting. For those LGs that started later and do not necessarily have climate / energy as priorities, the entry point is saving money through improved energy savings

***Inter- and intra-municipal motivation to act and cooperate***

***Local entry points and interaction options***

***“Low-cost, no cost” interesting start***

and energy efficiency – also an interesting starting point immediately understood by citizens, with short payback times. Energy efficient lighting and changes in local government operations where prompt action is possible (e.g. switching municipal energy use to green energy, training staff on energy savings, etc..) are highly efficient in terms of immediate emissions reduction.

### **Challenging CoM requirements?**

The requirements for developing a baseline emissions inventory (BEI) and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) within one year (this is a requirement on joining the CoM) is challenging for many LGs starting with local climate and energy action, especially for smaller communities with few staff. This is partly due to the need for initiating new processes and potentially also changing or setting up structures. Those LGs that have joined the CoM with an Action Plan ready tend to adjust these to address CoM requirements before submission, but do not spend time on completing all the reporting forms comprehensively (due to limited available staff time) – thereby giving an impression of low quality SEAPs. However, many municipalities starting up often do not have in-house technical know-how to deal with these activities, further impacted on by budget restrictions (lack of mandate = lack of staff and budget capacity). CoM reporting requirements also do not exactly align with typically reporting needs for a Council (it is rather focused on alignment of national reporting criteria towards the UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Thus an inventory tool that has been adapted to CoM requirements is needed, or else staff has to invest additional effort to calculate required CoM reporting needs – a process that makes it unattractive to some LGs to join this initiative.

### **Support for LGs**

On the other hand, the need for (planning, monitoring, evaluating, reporting) support implies an important role for organisations that can support LGs in a practical manner – in new CoM terminology these are called Covenant Coordinators (national ministries, sub-national governments, national energy agencies) and Covenant Supporters (mostly the European LG networks offering technical support at this stage, as many national networks are still new to these topics).

### **Small teams dealing with multi-focus topics**

The majority of European LGs represent small to medium sized communities (less than 250.000 inhabitants). Typically teams (departments, teams, sections) dealing with these issues are (very) small – in response to the standard municipal mandate. The new interest in climate and energy implies a situation that is dramatically changing, but this does not mean municipal systems and procedures are necessarily adapted to respond to this change. The internal focus would then typically be spending most of the available staff capacity on advising Council, planning (and coordinating inter-departmental involvement), implementing and monitoring actions. This leaves limited capacity to explore the value of joining the CoM for example, or to identify optimal tailor-made policy options, to deal with searching for appropriate financing options and applying for complex financing schemes. Further to this, the selection of suitable measures and technologies – that could offer viable solutions over the next decade or more – is difficult, as there is no concise, centralised (national language) information to ease selection of low-carbon technology and infrastructure.

### **Tools: steering groups and champions**

LGs that have set up a climate or energy steering body tend to have more effective, comprehensive approaches as this body can help identify involvement of appropriate actors which in turn helps to promote cross-sectoral approaches. A well-coordinated integrated management system also supports effectively combining efforts of different departments or teams. With a political “champion” leading the process and maintaining the Council’s interest, supported by a technical expert (or team) e.g. “energy manager”, an LG can build a solid basis for continuity of local climate and energy action – the most effective examples in Europe show the value of this approach.

However, it is not only the thematic department that has to deal with these topics. Also the finance department, the procurement team, the communications colleagues are operating detached from climate and energy issues. In-house information sharing and systems for involvement are needed to ensure “buy-in” of all relevant municipal stakeholders. Creating an ‘energy manager’ or person who has the technical knowledge to shape direction and lead actions is a useful approach – and can also be partially funded from the savings made through low hanging fruit.

**Tools:**  
*systems and processes*

It is critical that LGs’ technical staff have an overview of available information, tools and good practices as well as the ability to ask the right questions. This also refers to the political decision-makers who require information to make informed decisions (also on the medium to long term) on many different topics: the range of policy options and measures, selection of appropriate policies, measures, technology options, financing opportunities, finding the optimal mix of financing constellations (energy service companies, public-private partnerships, energy service contracting, etc). Looking at a new technology as one example that reflects the complexity of choice – smart grids – it is important to ask questions from many different angles, e.g. “what are smart grids?, how does it work?, will it work in my community?, how can we finance this?, is this a viable long term solution?, how can I convince my political leaders of this if there are no smart grids they can see and learn from experiences?”. Facts are needed to enable informed decision-making, also on new technologies.

**Tools:**  
*information empowers*

It is essential to have an understanding of the starting point, also for future comparisons, regarding local greenhouse gas emissions. This is referred to as a baseline emissions inventory (BEI). Only the fewest LGs have thus far been in a position to develop a BEI of their own municipal operations and for the whole community. It is challenging for a number of reasons, including the need for an appropriate calculation tool, availability of data that is reliable (lack of knowledge where to find data, inaccessible data, data ownership and privacy issues, inadequate quality of data, etc.). The number of tools available makes selection difficult, as the differences between these are not always obvious.

**Baseline**  
*assessments and data*

Generally, it could be noticed that LGs which already invested into a local renewable energy enjoyed a more stable income and job situation, as well as quicker recovery from the economic crisis. However, national funding is still needed (fair budget sharing, local climate financing programmes, low cost loans, etc.), in particular as a stable and reliable resource to help LGs’ planning the use of such funds. Many existing national government funding lines for energy and climate were reduced or put on hold, while “recovery packages” were created that were not optimised for incorporating climate and sustainable energy solutions – as long term EU targets. In those cases where EU funding had to be complemented by national or LGs’ own finance, in particularly in the CEE, programmes and funds such as the Structural Fund did not reach their potentials. Once the economy started recovering and national programmes restarted, there was an over demand for these, resulting in a bottleneck of proposals management by the ministries – with delayed funding and other impacts. LGs require stable financing solutions for proper long-term energy planning and action.

**Stable financing**  
*mix needed*



### 3. MAPPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTENSIFIED LOCAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION

#### ***Partnership as basis***

European LGs recognise the need for stronger inter-linkages between different levels – local, national, European and global level – with clearly defined roles and frameworks. However, it is also obvious that these inter-linkages are not yet optimised, especially as it relates to dialogue between national / federal level and LGs, particularly when considering the local impact on, and local impact, of climate change. LGs are calling for improved communication and coordination of strategies, replacing the typical top-down approach (that often fails to address synergies and strengths offered by LGs) with a partnership approach. This has been explored in the Local Government Climate Roadmap process, with the premise that it is necessary to pick up the pace of ambitious, effective climate action – only possible with the support of local communities. The Cancún Agreements were a first step in this regard with formal recognition gained of the role of LGs. A next step is to explore options, together with LGs, on supportive policy and financing frameworks that can enable and guide local action – in turn to lead to immediate emissions reduction and other positive impacts.

#### ***Topics of local-national dialogues***

Where local-national dialogues do take place these tend to revolve around mandates and budgets, exploring fair burden sharing and balancing needs of citizens and services offered against available resources. It is certainly a challenging discussion area, yet also essential to find win-win solutions that address realities and can shape responsible policy, including climate protection embedded in local developments, over the next decades. This in turn requires good management, careful planning, capacity to act, as well as long-term commitment to reach targets – as a “package” requiring open dialogue between all levels of government, jointly exploring options and finding solutions in partnership – to the benefit of society as a whole.

#### ***Mobilising people a key issue***

As LGs have direct influence over a relatively small percentage of the overall emission generated in their communities, the need for informing and actively involving the community is essential. However, this is also a challenging area – as one has to address many different target groups in appropriate ways that respond to their specific needs (appropriate media and messages). LGs do communicate with their citizens on many different topics, yet the climate and energy message(s) seem to require specialists to engage multiple sectors and target groups, and lead to changed behaviour. In addition to expert guidance, research on social behaviour and encouraging change is needed – these areas are still underexplored, yet key when one considered that the EU energy efficiency target will not be reached at this tempo.

#### ***Energy services and procurement***

There is a growing interest in exploring options regarding energy services that establish partnerships or some form of cooperation linked to financing activities. These for example include public-private partnerships (PPPs) and establishing energy service companies (ESCOs) – with many constellations possible for co-ownership and win-win situations through investment, improvements in efficiency and the use of renewables used in the provision of electricity, heating, etc., but also sewage, waste and maintenance services. Pre-tendering dialogues with the private sector (for procurement) have shown that there is an interest in cooperation to reduce the carbon footprint and optimize efficiency in developing products and offering services. The budgets available to LGs for procurement can effectively be used to create and shape demand for “green” services and products – an area vastly under-exploited by LGs across Europe. Money savings potential through joint procurement (bulk buying and obtaining price concessions) is one area starting to draw attention, although tender specifications should be tailor-made, requiring training on improved tendering procedures.

#### ***LG-to-LG cooperation***

Often municipalities involved in climate and energy also engage in cooperation with other LGs, to share information, motivate one another, cooperate on actions (e.g. joint procurement), especially if there is a similar context such as a region or country (i.e. where similarities are known). Thus far existing formal city-twinning relationships have not yet been extensively explored as a cooperative framework on this thematic angle – with tremendous potential for cooperation.

The urban-rural connection is another area where cooperation is starting on the topic of energy, with interesting win-win possibilities. Dialogues exploring local renewable energy supply are often started where energy security is at risk, or where there is a realisation that ambitious climate and energy targets cannot be met without wider geographical cooperation. An interesting trend is the development of 100% renewable communities or energy plus communities (exporting excess energy generated), with smaller rural municipalities clustering to strengthen their situation. This development offers other interesting add value, e.g. an increased regional value chain and reduced urbanisation.

### **Rural-urban-energy twinning**

Moreover, many LGs link to regional or European LG and/or thematic networks addressing sustainability, climate and energy to enhance exchanges, motivate and transfer knowledge. These networks engage both from a top-down and bottom-up perspective, sharing key messages and information relevant to LGs, and often also representing LGs (some also in a formal advocacy capacity) towards other levels of government. Increasingly national LG associations across Europe are understanding and exploring the (energy-relevant) needs of their members, respond to these by providing services, networking at events, providing input for positioning papers, etc. All platforms of interaction can further be used more effectively, if adequately involved and resourced.

### **Representing and motivating LGs**

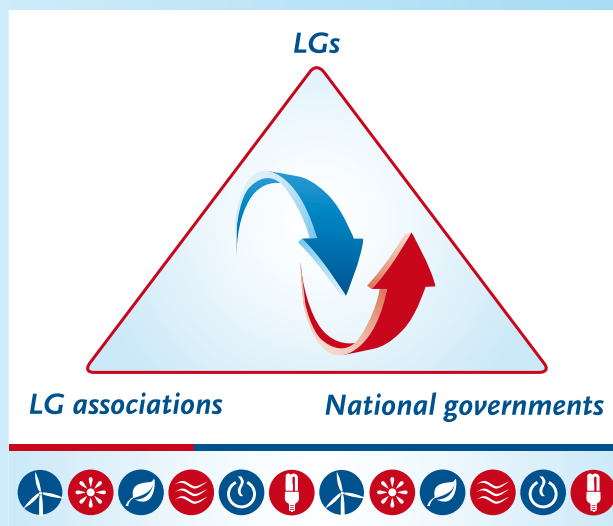
#### **Introducing the LG Action project:**

Climate protection and the transition to a sustainable energy future are currently two major priorities – particularly for local governments. **LG Action** is a European networking action that aims to involve Local Governments in the EU27 European and international energy and climate debate. It will provide information, mobilise and support the positioning of local governments (LGs), and call for greater recognition of their essential role in climate protection and sustainable energy roll-out.

The project **LG Action** “Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate” is an important local government (LG) networking action aimed at presenting LG positions relevant to climate and energy to a range of actors: local government associations, the Covenant of Mayors and national governments feeding results into the post-2012 climate negotiations.

#### **LG Action addresses:**

- Local governments (LGs)
- Local government associations and networks
- National governments



[www.lg-action.eu/results](http://www.lg-action.eu/results)



### 2.2.3 Climate and Energy Information Package

#### 2.2.3.1 “Your LG Action Guide”

**PURPOSE:** As part of the information and mobilisation activities, a European LG information and awareness-raising package was developed for dissemination in the 7 project languages. The purpose of the Guide was to draw the interest of LGs that have not yet engaged in this field of action, or are just starting with local climate and energy action.

**APPROACH:** The guide was developed as a brief, easy-to-read document containing arguments on why European LGs should engage, with short local success stories as examples.

**RESULTS:** The Guide was translated and printed in 7 project languages, disseminated at key events and through direct mail-out to key actors. It is also available for download on the project website.



#### 2.2.3.2 LG Action Case Study Series

**PURPOSE:** The case study series on local climate and energy action was aimed at informing and motivating LGs across Europe of interesting, replicable good practice cases. It was further to give recognition to local action, and to used to back up the argumentation that LGs are key actors in climate action – supporting the call for recognition in the post-2012 climate negotiations.

**APPROACH:** A series of **30 brief (2-3 pages) cases** was compiled, using existing material. Each partner contributed a number of cases, also some from LG networks, based on the topics and countries they focused on, with the final range selected to:

- cover a variety of topics relevant to local sustainable energy and climate protection action;
- share examples from strategic approaches to sector specific practical examples (e.g. waste);
- reflect activities from communities of different sizes;
- show cases from all parts of Europe: North-South-East-West, and from many different countries;
- illustrate activities that are unique yet replicable, though the contexts are also important.



**RESULTS:** Selected cases were made available to the press and national delegations in the Local Government Climate LOUNGE at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December 2009. All the case studies are available electronically in all the project languages (English, Danish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, and Polish), and promoted through the project website and those of other associates and supporters.



**Local climate and energy action is essential – great examples!**




From the management of local administration to dealing with local governance issues, LGs can engage in a number of critical areas that can influence climate change mitigation, improve local security supply and support sustainable local development. Roles of LGs differ from country to country, but most include dealing with public services (education, local policing, healthcare) – with buildings, energy use and contact with citizens implied. With vast potential to unfold, promote, shape and lead local climate change mitigation strategies and actions, this is a level of government that has more flexibility to act, and act quickly. Many great examples exist!

**TABLE: A brief summary of the cases, plus community size and keywords is provided.**





Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#1 NAESTVED, Denmark</b>  <b>Municipal-led Zero Carbon Network involves business sector</b>            To reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the region, Naestved municipality established a network of companies as part of Naestved's climate plan in the autumn of 2009. In cooperation with Zealand Business Connection and "Zero Carbon Network" the municipality requires companies to map their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, set reduction goals, and prepare an action plan – with steps and a clear time-frame to reach these targets. Through this project the companies contribute to climate protection, save money due to reducing energy consumption, and profile themselves as 'green' companies.</p>	 Municipality of Naestved	80,000 inhabitants	strategy, Municipal Climate Plan, influencing community emissions, involving companies, network
<p><b>#2 REGGIO EMILIA, Italy</b>  <b>Encouraging behavior change in mobility</b>            Two low cost projects, namely 'Pedibus and Bicibus' and 'Collect Green Miles', were implemented in Reggio Emilia to address behaviour change, healthier living and reducing the carbon footprint of school transport – through cycling and walking, and promoting other modes of sustainable mobility. By raising awareness among the youth and their families on different options for mobility and the need for sustainable solutions, behaviour could be positively influenced.</p>	 Reggio Emilia	150,000 inhabitants	strategy, Local Agenda 21, behaviour change, youth and schools, GHG-free transport: cycling and walking, competition
<p><b>#3 TATABANYA, Hungary</b>  <b>Hungary's first regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan</b>            The Municipality of Tatabanya developed the "Local Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan of Tatabanya", following several stakeholder consultations. The Plan was adopted in 2008, and runs until 2025 – combining mitigation and adaptation strategies. Implementation was started with two projects, namely building the capacity of the fire brigade, and the "Smart Sun Educational Programme". It runs on the budget for Environmental Education and Climate Change, with the Department for Proposals and Projects of the Tatabanya Municipality taking the lead in the development and implementation processes.</p>	 Tatabanya	70,541 inhabitants	strategy, Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, mitigation and adaptation, leadership, cooperation with research
<p><b>#4 LOLLAND Municipality, Denmark</b>  <b>Hydrogen Community Lolland – a European role model</b>            The Hydrogen Community Lolland is a demonstration facility for hydrogen and fuel cell technology and energy storage. It addresses the need for providing sustainable energy directly to the end-user – with stable distribution and high efficiency. Power produced by wind turbines is stored and later used to provide complete heating and electricity needs of the residents in Lolland municipality. The target audiences for the demonstrations are mostly companies, researchers, delegations and educational institutions both from Denmark and from abroad. Since August 2009, there have been more than 300 groups of visitors, consisting of between 20 to 600 people.</p>	 Lolland Municipality	48,219 inhabitants	electricity and heating distribution, energy storage, RES combined with hydrogen and fuel cell technology, biomass production





Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#5 SAMSØ Municipality, Denmark</b>  <b>Towards self-sufficiency from renewables</b></p> <p>Samsø Municipality is situated on an island known as the “renewable Island of Denmark”. The island is 100% electricity self-sufficient from wind-energy and about 70% heating needs are covered from renewable energy (RE). The main heating plant in the municipality of Samsø is the district heating plant in Nordby/Mårup, which produces its energy from solar thermal systems and wood chips. The plant is financed by local investors and the population of Samsø. Without any direct subsidy from the Danish government, the islanders built a 50 million Euro energy system. Of the capital required 80% was raised from local investors, relying only on Danish laws and regulations.</p>	 <p>Samsø Municipality</p>	4,100 inhabitants	“renewable island of Denmark”, electricity self-sufficiency, high percentage heating needs covered by RES / biomass production, local financing, public awareness-raising and education
<p><b>#6 COPENHAGEN, Denmark</b>  <b>A capital investment in green energy</b></p> <p>With one of the world's most ambitious climate plans for a capital city, Copenhagen has set the target to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 20% by 2015. It has already achieved a 25% reduction between 1990 and 2005 through a combination of different activities. The use of local resources plays an important role in this. With excellent wind resources, it was decided to install 14 wind turbines for green electricity production – in the city! The concept success revolves around good planning and local engagement. Copenhageners and companies are invited to buy shares in the wind farms. In return, shareholders could make a profit and contribute to carbon neutrality in Copenhagen – the ambitious, yet realistic vision for 2025.</p>	 <p>Copenhagen</p>	528,208 inhabitants	carbon neutrality target, financing RE implementation, wind turbines, citizen involvement
<p><b>#7 NANTES METROPOLE, France</b>  <b>An example to follow</b></p> <p>The Nantes Metropolitan region has adopted an ambitious climate plan for the city which set out targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One of the priority action areas is the Green Buildings Programme (GBP) in which Nantes is focusing on the development of new energy efficient buildings and renovation of old ‘inefficient’ buildings.</p>	 <p>Nantes</p>	600,000 inhabitants	Green Buildings Programme / new energy efficient buildings / building renovation
<p><b>#8 PANEVEŽYS, Lithuania</b>  <b>Leading sustainable city in Lithuania</b></p> <p>With the initiative “Sustainable City of Panevezys – Municipal Responses to Climate Change Emergencies and The Action Plan” the city focuses on climate protection, protecting air quality, the long-term development of the city, as well as economic, social and environmental sustainability. This combination has led to success in local climate and energy action, building on one of the main priorities, namely informing and educating civil society. The simple concept has led to very effective results – making Panevezys a leading sustainable city in Lithuania.</p>	 <p>City of Panevėžys</p>	116,000 inhabitants	long-term development plan, sustainability of economic, social and environmental components, air quality, informing and educating citizens


Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#9 FREIBURG IM BREISGAU, Germany</b>  <b>Organising key local actors in the Climate Strategy</b>  A city with a long history of environmental awareness and action, Freiburg is a renowned solar and green city, which has systematically been addressing climate protection. Through a combination of energy savings, energy efficiency and renewable energy, it presents a diversity of local climate action, also highlighting the need for municipal leadership and community involvement. The latest Climate Protection Strategy 2030 – aiming for a 40% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030 – reaffirms that climate change mitigation as a long-term priority. This also requires effective coordination and involving a wide range of actors – making it a challenging, yet rewarding task.</p>		220,000 inhabitants	long term vision, regular review of Action Plan, organisational approach, involving key stakeholders
<p><b>#10 PORTO REGION, Portugal</b>  <b>Less waste, less carbon – a climate protection approach in the region</b>  The waste sector is an important, often underestimated, area that can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases. LIPOR – Intermunicipal Waste Management System of Greater Porto is responsible for the management, treatment and valorisation of the municipal solid waste produced by eight municipalities of the Porto Region: Espinho, Gondomar, Maia, Matosinhos, Porto, Póvoa de Varzim, Valongo and Vila do Conde. Serving an area of 650 km<sup>2</sup> and around 1.000.000 inhabitants, LIPOR manages more than 500.000 tonnes of waste per year. The company started a project to evaluate its carbon footprint and to identify measures to contribute to significant reduction – with a range of initiatives covering many different areas relevant to the waste sector: waste collection, training and energy efficiency.</p>		1,671,536 inhabitants (metropolitan area), 237,559 (city)	waste reduction, carbon footprint assessment, waste action plan development, optimising processes
<p><b>#11 MÜNSTER, Germany</b>  <b>The Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection</b>  Climate protection has a long tradition in Münster, and is approached as a team work concept. The involvement of citizens is a key element in this approach – essential when planning to reach Münster's ambitious target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 40% by the year 2020 (compared to 1990). Inhabitants are involved through the Citizen's Pact for Climate Protection ("Münster packt's! Der BürgerPakt für Klimaschutz").</p>		220,000 inhabitants	ambitious CO <sub>2</sub> reduction targets, local stakeholder involvement, citizen engagement as priority, Citizen's Pact, multiple awards for Münster
<p><b>#12 CALVIÀ, Spain</b>  <b>Focus on a comprehensive climate protection approach</b>  Calvià's Climate Change Office was established to coordinate climate change and sustainability policies and programmes in the community. To understand where greenhouse gas emissions are emitted, a baseline emissions inventory was conducted, and different activities were started within a comprehensive programme. As a tourist destination, balancing environmental aspects with and in this important economic sector is an essential element in the overall approach – with the involvement of citizens receiving priority.</p>		51,700 inhabitants	establishing a Climate Change Office, conduct baseline emissions inventory (BEI), develop comprehensive climate change strategy, Local Agenda 21, schools programme



Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#13 PADUA, Italy</b>  <b>Energy Efficiency Plan of the Municipality of Padua</b>  The Energy Efficiency Plan, developed, coordinated and promoted by the Municipality of Padua's Environmental team, helped to create a new approach involving not only the technical sector of the Municipality, but also utilities and different stakeholders and companies that work with the municipality. The activity was initiated following the realisation that a more sustainable path had to be followed by the municipality, urging citizens and firms to do the same. Through this plan the Environment sector has been successful in creating a link between sectors within the municipality, with increased awareness regarding these issues, and last but not least establishing a new work methodology in the municipality.</p>	 Padua	212,500 inhabitants	strategy, energy efficiency, cross-sectoral involvement, new municipal work methodology
<p><b>#14 BARCELONA, Spain</b>  <b>A new energy model to tackle climate change</b>  Barcelona ranks among the cities of the developed countries with the lowest per capita emission levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – under 4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per inhabitant per year. Yet despite this climate protection remains a priority, with a new energy model being developed to tackle climate change – through actions to reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency and utilise available renewable energy sources. Famous for its solar thermal ordinance, this remains a leading example and effectively continues in conjunction with numerous projects being rolled out.</p>	 Ajuntament de Barcelona Barcelona	1,619,337 inhabitants	10 year action plan, strong focus on renewables: electricity, cooling and heating supply / photovoltaics and solar thermal
<p><b>#15 LONDON, United Kingdom</b>  <b>Responsible Procurement for a low carbon London</b>  At an operational level the Greater London Authority (GLA) group spends in the region of £8 billion every year on goods, works and services. The scale of this procurement means that they have real opportunity to drive value for money for its citizens, and have a transformational impact upon the businesses it works with and communities it serves. The GLA group is achieving this through its Responsible Procurement programme.</p>	<b>MAYOR OF LONDON</b> Greater London Authority (GLA)	approx. eight million inhabitants	green public procurement, strategic approach, impact on businesses and community, building energy efficiency, electric vehicles, maintenance and works contracts
<p><b>#16 ALBERTSLUND, Denmark</b>  <b>Sustainable urban development and climate focus</b>  Albertslund is a small city outside Copenhagen with big ambitions to play a leading role in environmental efforts. With a comprehensive approach to climate protection, the City Climate Plan contains a broad range of activities to reduce the city's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with 25% by 2015 (52.000 tonnes annually compared to the baseline year 2006). The underlying strategy is integrating climate thinking in a holistic manner in all activities.</p>	 Albertslund	27,600 inhabitants	strategy, City Climate Plan, energy efficiency building renovation, passive house standard for new buildings, LED lighting



Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#17 BRUSSELS, Belgium</b>  <b>Food labelling supports climate impact decision-making</b>  Food production, packaging, transport, as well as food waste have a huge environmental impact – in particular with the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. With nearly 30% of the Brussels population's ecological footprint linked to food, the city started a pilot project in July 2008 to raise awareness on this issue and encourage emissions reduction through behavior change. Emissions of selected food products sold by local producers were calculated and a labeling system was developed by the National Association of Farmers (L'association nationale de producteurs fermiers asbl [anpf]). Following the roll-out of this system, consumer reactions to the labeling were evaluated. The majority of the consumers responded positively to a food labeling system and the project demonstrated that extensive CO<sub>2</sub> reductions could be obtained during both the production and consumption phases.</p>	 Brussels	1,125,728 inhabitants	food-related emissions, addressing food production, packaging, transport, waste, labeling farm products, awareness-raising
<p><b>#18 MADRID, Spain</b>  <b>Energy and material recycling in Madrid: integrated waste management model</b>  Waste treatment and energy recovery from waste in the city of Madrid represents numerous environmental benefits, including saving of natural resources, preventing the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and providing a resource to produce renewable energy. Using an integrated concept to waste management based on a modular approach, the implementation of a wide range of actions helps the city move forward with its climate protection concept and reduces the need for landfill.</p>	 Madrid	3.4 million inhabitants (city), and around 6.271 million inhabitants in metropolitan area	waste treatment, waste-to-energy, preventing, local resource to produce renewable energy, waste management approach, reduce landfill
<p><b>#19 VALGA, Estonia</b>  <b>Reducing energy costs through smart renovation</b>  Valga Municipality has started concrete local actions for climate protection and energy saving. It implemented the first passive house building renovation pilot project in Estonia, using modern technologies and building design – to achieve more than 60% energy savings in the Kaseke kindergarten. This project is drawing extensive attention due to its innovative approach, the huge reduction in energy demand in a cold climate where heating is typically required, and because it was initiated by a municipality.</p>	 Valga	15,000 inhabitants	buildings, 1st passive house building renovation pilot project in Estonia, kindergarten, cold climate, public procurement process
<p><b>#20 LJUBLJANA, Slovenia</b>  <b>Energy improvements in social housing</b>  The Municipality of Ljubljana, through its Public Housing Fund, is implementing an energy efficiency programme to renovate existing public housing and construct new buildings. The goal is to consistently reduce management and consumption costs of public social housing, by using high standards, to reduce environmental impact (increasing energy savings, greenhouse gas emissions reduction) and to reduce costs for occupants that usually have a low social background – so responding from an energy security perspective.</p>	 Ljubljana	280,000 inhabitants	buildings, new construction and renovation, social housing, manage non-profit low-cost housing, passive house standard, active and passive systems

Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#21 OSTRAVA, Czech Republic</b>  <b>Test case: multi-purpose house running 100% on renewable energy</b>  As an important test case, an old nursery building on the outskirts of Ostrava was changed into a multi-purpose low-energy house for children, their teachers and families. The idea of the project was to study the possibility to increase building space and use technologies for low-energy building construction, including renewable energy sources (RES). The project realized a new, innovative and environmentally friendly energy approach – using solar energy, a biomass boiler for wood chips, and an underground heat exchanger for heat recovery. Although the building area increased, fuel consumption decreased, and energy is 100% supplied from renewable energy technologies (RET).</p>	 Ostrava	310,464 inhabitants	buildings, renovation, energy efficient technologies, 100% renewable energy, local bio-energy (wood)
<p><b>#22 KRIVODOL, Bulgaria</b>  <b>Improving energy efficiency in educational facilities</b>  Energy security has increasingly become important for many municipalities – Krivodol Municipality is also concerned with affordable prices and stable energy provision. It decided to focus on improving energy efficiency and air quality in educational facilities, for example in the Slaveyche Child Care Establishment. Improving building technology and energy performance, as well as indoor comfort were the result of energy efficiency renovations – possible to do in all municipally owned buildings, using innovative financing approaches such as performance contracting.</p>	 Krivodol	11,027 inhabitants	renovating educational facilities, energy security (affordable prices), user comfort, energy efficiency, performance contract, short pay-back time
<p><b>#23 MILTON KEYNES, United Kingdom</b>  <b>Biogas from food waste collection into National Grid</b>  Milton Keynes, one of the first local authorities in the United Kingdom (UK) to implement a waste recycling collection, has signed a contract with Renewable Power Systems to divert food and green waste from landfill and produce biogas to be fed into the national gas grid. The process of identifying appropriate options and running trials was a solid start to a new approach with multiple energy and environmental benefits.</p>	 Milton Keynes	241,000 inhabitants	waste recycling collection, waste-to-energy, reducing landfill, biogas, finding appropriate options
<p><b>#24 HARGHITA COUNTY, Romania</b>  <b>Harghita Energy Management Agency in action</b>  Drawing the interest and active involvement of citizens remains a major challenge when switching to sustainable energy solutions. The Harghita Energy Management Agency started a public information campaign to inform inhabitants of governmental financial support for energy efficiency improvements in residential buildings. From material dissemination to training workshops, and involvement of different key stakeholders, this project helped to raise awareness and led to submissions for financial support of energy efficiency measures in apartments.</p>	 Harghita County	326,222 inhabitants (county)	energy agency, energy efficiency financing, building renovation measures, awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder involvement

Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#25 MISKOLC, Hungary</b>  <b>Using biogas for district heating</b>            Biogas produced from a re-cultivated urban landfill in Miskolc is used for cogeneration of electricity and heat for 319 apartments at the Hejőcsaba Housing Estate. The project addresses local energy production through renewable energy sources (RES) as well as environmental protection, also leading to a rewarding financial incentives.</p>	 Miskolc	170,000 inhabitants	waste-to-energy, reducing landfill, methane, biogas, cogeneration, district heating and electricity
<p><b>#26 BOLOGNA, Italy</b>  <b>Integration of energy strategy within Urban Municipal planning tools – The Municipal Energy Programme</b>            In 2007 The Municipality of Bologna developed a Municipal Energy Programme in parallel with the review process of the Urban Master Plan. The Municipal Energy Programme, through a specific methodology, foresaw the implementation of measures on energy efficiency in buildings and using renewable energy sources (RES) to match the Italian Kyoto target in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction by 2012.</p>	 Bologna	380,000 inhabitants	municipal energy strategy, energy programme, urban planning tools, energy efficiency, RES
<p><b>#27 ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands</b>  <b>Surging ahead with electric vehicles</b>            Within five years, at least 1,000 electric vehicles will be on the streets of Rotterdam. This is the aim of Project Power Surge, launched in September 2009. Rotterdam wants to become a trendsetter in electric transport, while addressing climate protection, improving the air quality, and reducing noise pollution. To accomplish this goal the city will install charging points in the city and provide funding for individuals, organisations and companies.</p>	 City of Rotterdam Rotterdam	590,000 inhabitants	mobility, sustainable transport, electric vehicles, null emissions, green electricity charging stations, incentives to citizens
<p><b>#28 GIRONA, Spain</b>            Building on an existing energy plan of 2004 and the Energy Policy adopted in 2007, the Municipality of Girona produced a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan in a European Commission funded project. The aim was to update and strengthens the list of potential actions and to provide citizens with information on actions that they, and their city, can do to achieve significant climate protection targets. The LAKS project also helped the city prepare the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for submission to the Covenant of Mayors.</p>	 Girona	96,236 inhabitants	Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), list of potential actions, calculating per capita emissions, long term planning, monitoring of results, local stakeholders

Number and Title	Community	Community Size	Thematic Focus
<p><b>#29 COUNTY of SPLIT-DALMATIA, Croatia</b>  <b>Sustainable Energy Plan of the Island of Brač</b>            Within the EASY Project the County of Split-Dalmatia in collaboration with the 8 municipality of the Island of Brač and the University of Split, developed the Sustainable Energy Plan of the Island of Brač.            This was a pilot project to define a standard model for an energy system that could easily be adapted to any insular community with similar features (e.g. on islands, in tourist areas) in the Adriatic Region. The results supported the development of small and medium sized sustainable energy communities.</p>	 <p>Island of Brač</p>	13,000 inhabitants on Island of Brač, with county population of 455,242	Island Sustainable Action Plan, energy self-sufficient, small communities, model, local and regional governmental cooperation, Demand Side Management (DMS) procedure, Least Cost Planning (LCP) approach, local expert group
<p><b>#30 BYDGOSZCZ, Poland</b>  <b>Exploring municipal restructuring</b>            Embedding climate protection into the city strategy and exploring municipal restructuring, were two promising results of the first Climate Mitigation and adaptation Action Plan developed for the Municipality of Bydgoszcz. This was dealt with through the LAKs project, which provided the city with many new experiences in cross-departmental cooperation and citizen consultation. Positive feedback was received from staff, students, professors and entrepreneurs – with the Environment Department staff intent on revising the process again and also support other cities starting a similar process.</p>	 <p>Bydgoszcz</p>	356,637 inhabitants	compiling a GHG emissions profile, involvement of citizens and business, improvements to heating, cooling, and lighting services in public buildings, water and wastewater facilities, and changes to traffic lights and streetlights

#### 2.2.4 “Local-national dialogue” benchmarks

**PURPOSE:** A number of interesting examples were selected to show how, through formal or informal local-national exchange, the coordination of activities and the share of budget between different levels of government can be addressed to support local climate and energy action

**APPROACH:** Based on the local-national dialogues identified, a number of interesting examples were briefly described as benchmarks. These were used to interest key actors in exploring similar activities in their own contexts for example at the COP15 and COP16, encouraging national governments to engage in constructive dialogue with their LGs about roles and budget-sharing.

**RESULTS:** The following documents were compiled and are available on the project website:

- **BULGARIA** – Close regular local-national exchange drives effectiveness of governmental programmes
- **DENMARK** – Annual agreement on task and budget sharing
- **ITALY** – Italian local-regional cooperation in the climate and energy field
- **NORWAY** – Empowering local climate action through joint efforts

##### What are ‘local-national dialogues’?

These refer to formal or exploratory exchanges between different levels of government, namely the national (federal) and local levels. In the LG Action project the dialogues in particular refer to the topics climate and/or energy. These can for example explore roles of different levels of government, addressing the coordination of activities and the share of budget between the national and local levels of government.

### 2.2.5 Country Profile collection

**PURPOSE:** For each of the 30 target countries of LG Action, a Country Profile was developed to reflect the current status on:

- Government levels and departments responsible for / working with local governments (LGs).
- Main national climate and energy relevant legislation and strategies that impact / has potential to impact cities and towns (also identifying what is legally not possible or difficult).
- National LG networks / associations' support for local climate and energy action
- Potential opportunities to be explored to improve the roll-out of local climate and energy action
- A summary on the LG and their networks / associations' interest and involvement in the Roadmap and advocacy processes.

**APPROACH:** The partners conducted basic research. Where an interest existed, LG associations and/or other experts active in each country supported the development of these Country Profiles.

**RESULTS:** Available in English, the 30 Country Profiles have been disseminated electronically to selected actors, and are available for download from the project website. These can be used and further developed, also in the context of improving local-national dialogues.



### 3. USEFUL LINKS

#### *European policy and strategy*

##### **The EU climate and energy package**

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm)

The Climate and Energy package proposed by the European Community (EC) in 2008 is a far-reaching policy strategy aimed at delivering on the European Union (EU) commitment to fight climate change and promote sustainable energy (European Commission, 2008). The package and legislation, adopted in 2009, set ambitious targets to be reached by 2020: cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20% below 1990 levels, increase the share of renewable energy (RE) to 20%, and improve energy efficiency (EE) by 20%.

- Climate – [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm)
- Energy – [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm)
- Mobility – [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index_en.htm)



#### *Support Programmes and Initiatives*

##### **Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) programme**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

The Intelligent Energy – Europe programme is the EU's tool for funding action to improve these conditions and move us towards a more energy intelligent Europe. IEE delivers on:

- Creating favourable market conditions
- Shaping policy development and implementation
- Preparing the ground for investments
- Building capacity and skills
- Informing stakeholders and fostering commitment



##### **IEE Projects Library**

<http://www.eaci-projects.eu/iee/>

Information on projects supported by the European Union's "Intelligent Energy – Europe" programme is provided in this online database.

Intelligent Energy – Europe is a part of the EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). – <http://ec.europa.eu/cip>



### ***Covenant of Mayors***

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

The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective by 2020.



### ***ManagEnergy***

[www.managenergy.org](http://www.managenergy.org)

ManagEnergy is a technical support initiative of the Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) programme of the European Commission which aims to assist actors from the public sector and their advisers working on energy efficiency and renewable energy at the local and regional level.



### ***Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign***

[www.sustenergy.org](http://www.sustenergy.org)

The Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign showcases activities dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. We think it's time to form a bigger picture out of our isolated efforts to inspire change. Concretely the focus is on spreading best practice in sustainable energy technology, build alliances and inspire new energy ideas and actions.



### ***CONCERTO***

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

The EC's CONCERTO initiative, is a Europe wide initiative proactively addressing the challenges of creating a more sustainable future for Europe's energy needs. Today, there are a total of 58 communities in 22 projects, each working to deliver the highest possible level of self-supply of energy. CONCERTO is part of the framework research programme supervised by the DG Energy and Transport of the European Commission.

## **Eltis**

[www.eltis.org](http://www.eltis.org)

Europe's main portal on urban mobility, Eltis facilitates the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences in the field of urban mobility in Europe. It is aimed at individuals working in the field of transport as well as in related disciplines, including urban and regional development, health, energy and environmental sciences.



## **CIVITAS**

[www.civitas-initiative.org](http://www.civitas-initiative.org)

The CIVITAS Initiative helps cities to achieve a more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport system by implementing and evaluating an ambitious, integrated set of technology and policy based measures.









www.lg-action.eu

Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy climate debate

## Lokalne działania na rzecz klimatu i energii – studium przypadku # 17

### Bruksela, Belgia

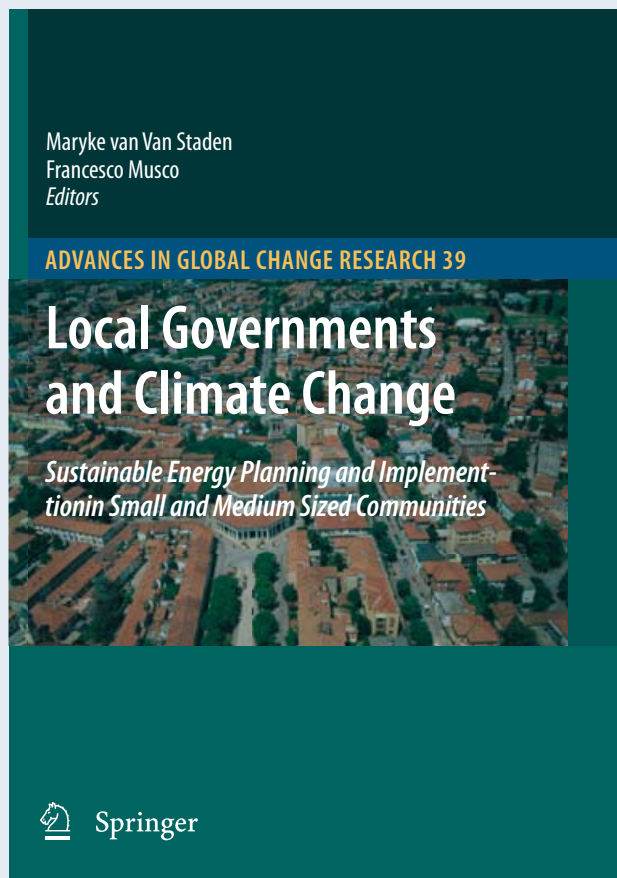
#### Etykiety żywnościowe wsparciem w podejmowaniu decyzji klimatycznych

**W kilku słowach**  
Produkcja, pakowanie i transport żywności, jak również pochodzące z niej odpady mają duży wpływ na środowisko – a szczególnie na emisję dwutlenku węgla (CO<sub>2</sub>). trzydziści procent oddziaływania, które wywiera na środowisko populacja Brukseli jest efektem produkcji i wykorzystania żywności, miasto rozpoczęło więc w lipcu roku 2008 działania pilotażowe, celem poprawy świadomości społecznej i zmiany zachowań. Obliczone zostały emisje CO<sub>2</sub> z wybranych produktów sprzedawanych przez lokalnych producentów a Krajowy Związek Rolników (L'association nationale de producteurs fermiers asbl [anpf]) opracował system etykiet. Po wdrożeniu system zbadane zostały reakcje konsumentów na pojawienie się etykietek. Większość konsumentów wypowiedziała się o nowym systemie pozytywnie i uznano, że jego efekty zapowiadają możliwość znacznych redukcji emisji CO<sub>2</sub>, zarówno w fazie produkcji jak i konsumpcji żywności.



**Do przemyślenia**  
W krajach UE żywność odpowiada za ok. 22 – 33% "odcisku węglowego" typowego gospodarstwa domowego. Wysoki wpływ jedzenia i emisji związanych z jego produkcją, przetwórstwem, transportem i utylizacją skłoniły władze Brukseli do zastanowienia. Zapadła decyzja, że miasto musi zrobić coś z tą kwestią aby poprawić swoje oddziaływanie na środowisko. Zdecydowano się na organizację szeroko zakrojonej, wieloletniej kampanii informacyjnej, która podnosi świadomość mieszkańców i zachęca ich do działania.

Dodatkowo opracowano system etykietek na żywność, które pomogą kupującym podejmować bardziej racjonalne decyzje i wybierać produkty przyjazne środowisku. Wybrane produkty sprzedawane przez rolników zostały opatrzone etykietami energetycznymi, podobnymi do tych, w które wyposażone są urządzenia RTV i AGD. Oznaczone produkty sprzedawano w sześciu losowo wybranych miejscach w Brukseli w grudniu 2009 r.. Potem przeprowadzona została ankieta, badająca zainteresowanie kupujących. 233 odpowiedzi, że podoba im się system etykietek na żywności i że chcą wiedzieć więcej o pochodzeniu i produkcji żywności, którą kupują.




A collage of images related to climate and energy, including a tram, a crowd, a building, and a pedestrian crossing signal. The collage is arranged in a grid-like fashion with various images.

**LG Action**

3<sup>rd</sup> and Final European Local Government Positioning on Climate and Energy

Summary Paper

June 2011

[www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu)





[www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu)

All the LG Action project results are available on  
[www.lg-action.eu/results](http://www.lg-action.eu/results)