



**Networking action to involve Local Governments  
in the EU and international energy and climate debate  
(*LG Action*)**

## **“Highlights of the project”**

**Duration: May 2009 – July 2011**  
Contract number: IEE/08/413 /SI2.530481

**Consortium partners:**



**Co-funded by:**



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## Introducing the project (I)

### Project objectives:

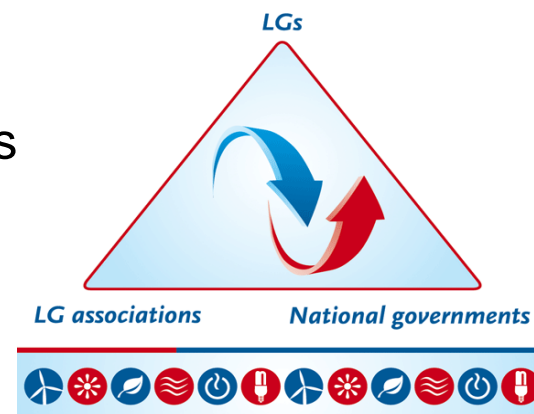
- **Raise awareness** among LGs in EU-27 on their powers for change and responsibility to reduce GHGs.
- **Mobilise LGs** to link up to key European and international (UN) processes and initiatives (including Covenant of Mayors).
- Identify and develop **European LG Positions** that can feed into national, European and international climate and energy dialogues.
- **Assist national-LG dialogues.**
- **Conduct advocacy** at national, European & international level.



## Introducing the project (II)

### Project focus:

- **Local** sustainable energy and climate protection
- European-wide networking in **30 countries**
- **Main actors**, addressing:
  - Local governments (LGs)
  - Local government associations and networks
  - National governments
  - European institutions
  - UNFCCC



## Introducing the project (III)

### Why focus on LGs?:

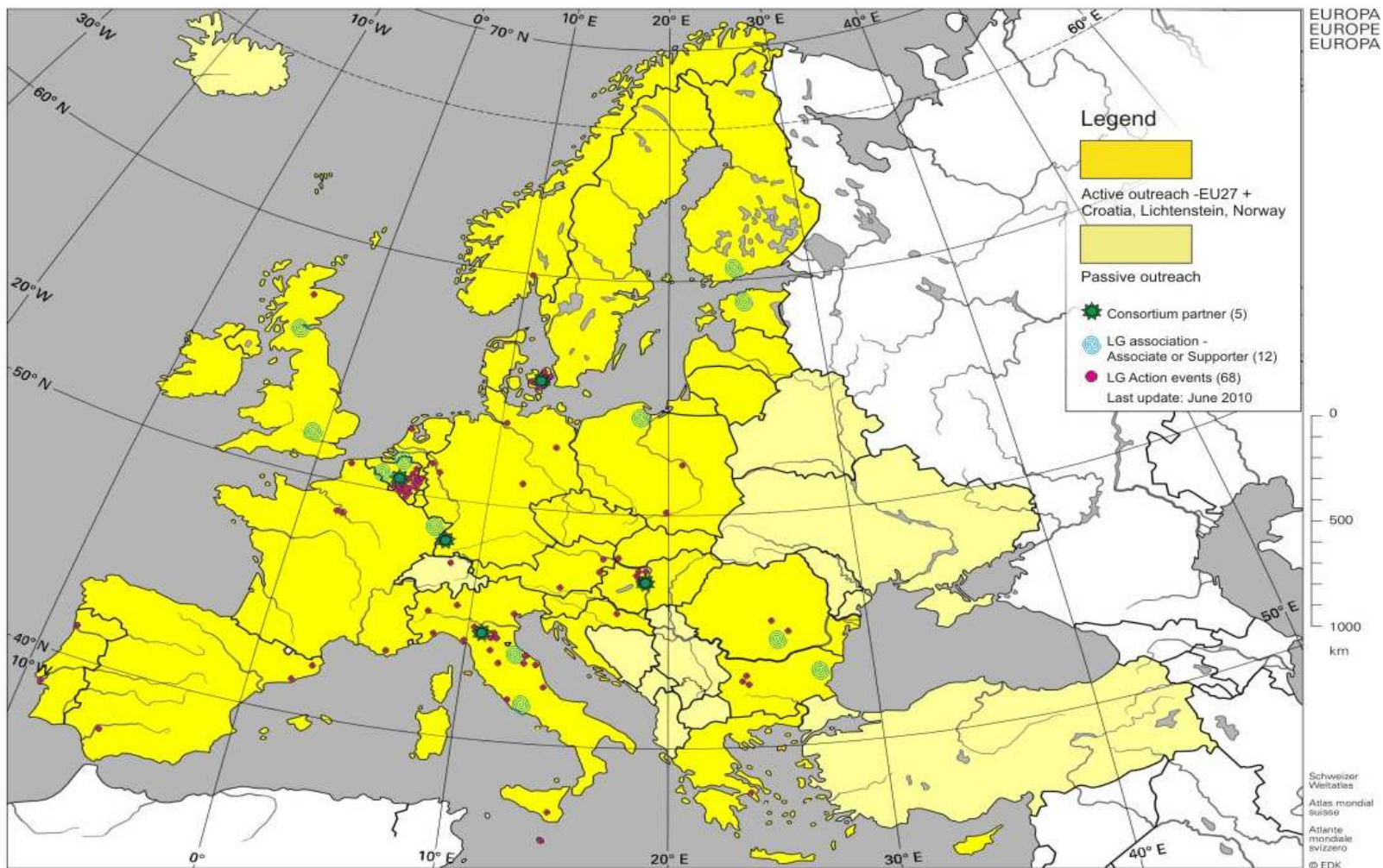
- Local action can be **effective action**.
- Local communities generate high **greenhouse gas emissions**.
- **LGs are not formally recognised** in international climate negotiations, yet key actors.
- **Partnerships** between different levels is needed to optimise climate & energy planning, action and monitoring developments.
- **Sustainable development** is essential – local focus.
- **Energy security** starts at home.





# Introducing the project (IV)

## Outreach across Europe





## Energy and climate in focus (I)

### What are we addressing?

- Three key areas of action:

- reduce energy **waste** (**energy savings**)
- optimise **energy use** (**energy efficiency - EE**)
- switch to **clean, sustainable energy** (**renewable energy - RE**)

- Three key clusters:

- **people** (behaviour change, action)
- **policy** (supporting & enabling framework, enforcing mechanisms)
- **technology and materials** (efficiency, measures)





## Energy and climate in focus (II)

### Local Government (LG) responsibilities:

- **Wide ranging responsibilities:**
  - Community administrators (policy, regulations)
  - Service providers (education, health, owners / managers of infrastructure)
  - Leaders (provide direction, set example, motivate)
- **Options to shape processes / efficiency / energy use:**
  - Staff, citizens, business, industry
  - Electricity, heating, cooling
  - Buildings, urban planning
  - Transport, waste and water







## Energy and climate in focus (III)

### Local Government Climate Roadmap:

- **At Conference of the Parties (COP) LGs were represented:**
  - through their national governments (in some delegations)
  - as the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Major Group to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - ICLEI acting as constituency focal point.
- **International climate negotiations – National Government Roadmap since COP13 – with LG Climate Roadmap in parallel:**
  - call for **recognition** of LG role in climate protection
  - call for **enabling framework** conditions to support local action.



## Global context (II) - Local vs Global processes

Level of complexity and integration

**FORMAL RECOGNITION!**  
The Mexico City Pact  
& carbonn Cities Climate Registry

COP17, Durban ?

**COP16, Cancun  
Agreements:**  
Measurable, Reportable,  
Verifiable Climate Action



**Copenhagen  
Catalogue**

COP15, Copenhagen Accord



**LG Action**



**LG Climate Roadmap**

COP13, Bali Action Plan

**WMCCC, C40, UCLG, ICLEI**

Kyoto Protocol

**Voluntary local  
action (Climate  
Alliance, CCP, etc)**

**UNFCCC**

**Local**

**Global**

Process

1990

Year

2005

2007

2009

2010

2012



## Main activities & results (I)

### Information and mobilisation across Europe:

- Visibility at events: informing and mobilising LGs
  - **linking to more than 100 events**
- Outreach to LGs across Europe
  - **estimated that more than 46.000 LGs were reached**

### Advocacy at International level:

- COP 15 (Copenhagen): raising visibility on role of LGs
  - **largest LG delegation ever at a COP.**
- COP 16 (Cancun): calling for formal recognition
  - **Cancun Outcomes = recognition achieved!**



## Mobilising & informing LGs at 100+ events

### Project country focus:

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom





## LG associations / networks as “associates” & “supporters”




LG Action supporters - local government networks supporting LG Action 's aims and ad hoc activities:



## Main activities and results (IV)

- **Publications available on website:**

- **Website:** in 7 languages - [www.lg-action.eu](http://www.lg-action.eu) 
- **LG Action mailing list:** used to share information
- **News:** newsbits and press releases
- **Video Statements:** local decision-makers share their views
- **LG Action Leaflet:** in DE, DK, EN, FR, HU, IT, PL
- **LG Action Guide:** basic introduction to local climate and energy action (what, why, how) in 7 languages
- **30 Case Studies:** local climate and energy examples – in English & other languages
- **Final Public Report**



## Main activities and results (V)

### Call for recognition and exploring partnerships

- Contact with **30 national governments** (heads of UNFCCC national delegation, Ministry of Environment, Energy, Economy, etc. )
- **Bilateral meetings** e.g. at COP 16: Belgium, Denmark, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia. And always the EU Presidency!

### Substantial arguments:

- Collection in **City Climate Catalogue** with 3,200 cities
- **Video statements** and **policy briefings**
- **4 local-national dialogue benchmarks**
- **30 Country Profiles** presenting context of local action
- Strong and growing **Covenant of Mayors initiative**



## Main activities and results (VI):

### Identifying 'Positioning':

- What are LG needs / challenges / opportunities / views regarding local climate / energy action?
- **Collection tools:** Questionnaire, direct contact (email / interviews), events
- Analysis of **1,000+ positioning** inputs from LGs across Europe
- June 2009: Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit
- December 2009: Local Government Climate LOUNGE at COP15
- May 2010: Dunkerque Climate Call
- Nov./Dec. 2010: Benchmark and Positioning papers at COP16
- **3rd European Local Government Positioning Paper**

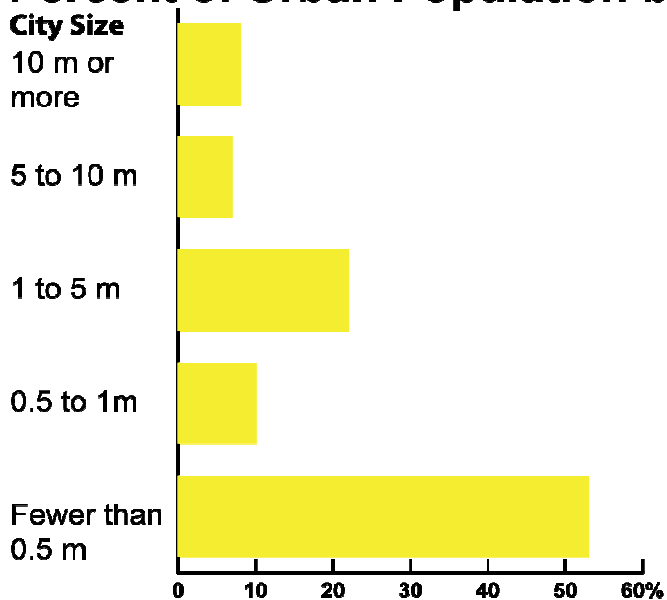




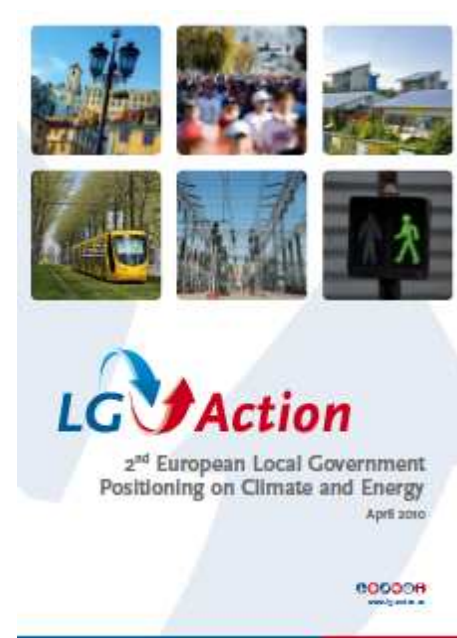
## 3rd European LG Positioning on Climate & Energy - a selection of interesting elements (Elements I)

### Typical European city and towns size:

#### Percent of Urban Population by City Size



Source: UN World Population Prospects, 2008 and 2007 (year 2000)



## Elements (II)

### Rising level of LG interest and engagement:

“Different, often combined, motivations for local climate and energy action”, e.g.

- Growing interest in climate protection:
  - Recognise ‘local to global’ responsibility
  - Experience local impact – need to respond
- Interest to improve efficiency and reduce energy demand, thereby also energy costs.
- Energy security = safe energy, affordable energy, stable energy.
- Keep money in local economy – through local energy production, local use = local job creation, sustainable economic development, ...

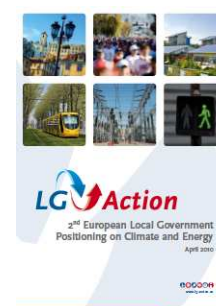


## Elements (III)

### European policy framework and its impact:

“Not always supportive, with a request for more exchange to explore impact at local level and contribution of LGs”:

- **European guidance and policy is needed**, targets are clear – general support from LGs – **but national context** is key. Requests for supportive, enabling framework.
- **Dialogue needed**: on Smart Cities, on financing needs, on directives and their impact / timeline on LGs, ..
- **Information needed**: on technologies, financing options, etc.
- **Need framework conditions** to be fair and supportive.



## Elements (IV)

### Impacts on local action:

- **Money, money, money!** – easy access needed, also for smaller communities (majority of EU LGs).
- “Low hanging fruit” is easy to do. **But then .... much more difficult.**
- Need political support for **long time planning** (urban development, secure infrastructure).
- **Need time** to develop good plan, build technical expertise.
- **Need improved decision-making knowledge** of local leaders (need for continuity, long-term vision) .
- Need **capacity development of municipal staff.**







## Elements (IV)

### Local government strengths:

- Easy to change **local government operations - ownership.**
- **Buying power:** Huge procurement potential – switch to sustainable procurement, green public procurement.
- **Existing planning processes** in place for whole community – can address energy in all sectors, all departments, at all levels.
- **Communication mechanisms in place:** effective to inform citizens, engage inhabitants and business (Energy Days, ..)
- **Political leaders with vision** – local benefits, global benefits.
- **Dedicated staff:** solid foundation for next steps.





## Elements (V)

### Local level policy:

- **Inter-departmental cooperation** urgently needed, very challenging - „Energy Planning Group“ needed
- **100% renewables** and **energy autonomous** – a new and interesting development, mostly in smaller rural communities. Interested as they can not afford rising energy costs.
- Transport focus: **e-vehicles** and **biofuels** are of interest, but huge uncertainty about technologies and sustainable solutions.
- **Quality communication needed to raise citizen awareness and improve engagement** – much more basic knowledge sharing needed, plus financing of good campaigns. Some inspiring campaigns as good practice.



## Opportunities (I)

### Dialogue with national governments:

- Status of dialogue - improvement potential everywhere
- Some countries need for support to engage in dialogue
- Need for transparency and fairness of task-budget sharing

### Access to funding:

- Explore financing **options and possibilities**: PPPs, ESCOs, grants and low cost loans, Structural Funds, ...
- **Easy access** to financing: information (where, how) and much reduced admin.
- **Yes, also for low-hanging fruit!** Want to reach 20% EE target by 2020 then get your cities and towns on board ...





## Opportunities (II)

### Support available:

- Existing **twinning** relationships – use for local climate and energy action (motivation, peer exchange, peer support)
- **Role of LG Associations and networks** – local, regional, thematic – representative, conduct advocacy, useful networking, they understand context and challenges. Some very active in climate & energy.
- Covenant of Mayors **Coordinators and Supporters**



### Partnerships needed:

- **Cooperate:** Coalitions, synergies, local stakeholder involvement
- **Local / national press:** inform on topic, make it interesting!
- **Sub-national government:** explore cooperation optimisation





## Consortium

- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat (ICLEI Europe) – *coordinator*
- Local Government Denmark (LGDK)
- The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+)
- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
- Italian Local Agenda 21 Association (CA21L)



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



## Contact

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