

Strengthening the Covenant of Mayors Movement in Belarus (StrongCoM project)

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46 cities & districts in Belarus are Signatories to the EU initiative Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

They took **voluntary obligations** to cut carbon emissions by at least **30% by 2030** and to adapt to climate change.

Municipalities develop **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)**.

The goal of StrongCoM project is to strengthen public participation & stakeholder involvement in energy & climate policy at local and national level

StrongCoM project (2016-2020)

- ...**builds capacities** of NGOs and LAs on sustainable energy & climate solutions,
- ... facilitates **exchange of experiences** between the cities,
- ...promotes **stakeholder involvement** in strategic planning at municipal level and **policy dialogue** at national level,
- ...supports local **pilot project** and **info-campaigns...**



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Current results

- Ecopartnership organized 8 trainings and 3 national Covenant conferences, provided consultations to NGOs and LAs, created [web-site](#), financed 10 joint local pilot initiatives.
- Number of Covenant Signatories in Belarus raised from 10 to 46 cities & districts.
- Public participation & stakeholder involvement in SECAP development & implementation was improved in 21 cities & districts (Viciebsk, Mahilioŭ, Iuje, Kličaŭ, Sharkaushchyna, Pukhavičy, Krasnapollie, Bychaŭ, Viliejka, Masty, Kobryn, Brest, Chavusy, Hlybokae, Biaroza, Braslau, Mstislaul, Slonim, Zelva, Vaukavysk, Voranava)
- 23 local NGOs participate in SECAP development & implementation, among them 9 NGOs were invited by municipalities to join the local working group, 8 NGOs attracted grants for SECAP implementation and 5 NGOs assist municipalities on voluntary basis. More than 30 local multi-stakeholder meetings were held.

Stakeholder involvement in CoM in Belarus

Preparation: cross-sector local working group on energy and climate is established and it includes local NGOs or civil society initiatives.

SECAP development: local WG meets regularly, NGOs \ CSIs provide inputs, suggestions from inhabitants and stakeholders are collected via surveys, draft SECAP is presented to wide public and is open for comments.

SECAP implementation: SECAP is available online with contact information, the progress is regularly evaluated and presented to wide public, stakeholder involvement events are regularly organized (Energy Days, forums, etc.).

In case if SECAP targets are not achieved consultations with stakeholders are initiated and SECAP is revised.

Case study: SECAP development for Vitiebsk

- **Co-creation team:** Deputy Mayor, local NGO for urban development, national NGO Ecopartnership, municipality staff, housing utility company, water supply & wastewater treatment company, academic experts from local university and national academy of science, environment protection inspection, energy efficiency inspection, local investment and privatization agency, local mass media.
- **Goal** - SECAP development for Vitiebsk - was achieved. Now need to implement it.
- **Motivation of stakeholders:** Deputy Mayor (+ municipality staff + utility companies) want to fulfil Covenant obligations and to attract investments, local NGO wants to promote urban development and cooperate with authorities
- **Incentives - highly recommended!** EU support project for NGOs and municipalities with involvement of academic experts, sub-grant for local NGO, municipality intent to attract foreign investments.
- **Difficulties / barriers / challenges:** long and painful collection of data on energy consumption for GHG inventory, motivation decreases if the process is long and result is not immediate, need for further fundraising for implementation
- **Good practices to ensure the co-creation process:** study visit for multi-stakeholder group and further support for highly-motivated team

Vitebsk



Minsk

- Minsk City Executive Committee and the EBRD implement a joint project “**Green City**” since May 2018.
- It aims to minimize negative effects of urbanization on the environment and to make the city cleaner and more resilient.
- City authorities with the support of international consultants are developing a special action plan. Priority areas - activities in housing and communal services, streetlighting, urban transport, the development of green spaces, energy efficiency, etc. The plan is developed according to the methodology of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and ICLEI. It is expected that the plan will be approved by the end of 2019.
- Currently Minsk does not participate in the Covenant of Mayors initiative. With EBRD support Minsk intends to join the international network of "Green Cities", where such capitals as Yerevan, Tbilisi and Tirana take part.



Thank you for attention!

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