



Twinning Programme – 2017/2018 Call for municipalities

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is offering municipalities across Europe the opportunity to take part in twinning exchanges that aim to increase local authorities' capacity and knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Applications are open until 15 September 2017, 17h00 CET.

1. What is the city twinning about?

This twinning programme offers local authorities the possibility to participate in exchanges that aim to increase their capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Two different types of exchanges are possible:

- Peer-to-peer exchanges

In this type of exchange, selected applicants are at a similar phase/level of development of their strategies and plans. They are matched one-to-one, based on common needs and effective solutions. The aim is to create exchanges that work both ways so that each municipality gets new insights and inspiration for their climate and energy actions.

- Mentoring exchanges

These twinning exchanges connect one local authority that is rather at the beginning of its mitigation and adaptation work (*learner*) to another one that has already successfully designed or implemented strategies to substantially decarbonise its territory and/or make it more resilient (*mentor*). Although we differentiate between learners and mentors, the aim is to create exchanges that work both ways. Past twinnings underlined that the mentors also get new insights and inspiration for their climate and energy work.

To foster the creation of long-term partnerships between European local authorities, each exchange will include two twinning visits. Each selected authority will host one of the two visits and will travel to its partner for the other.

- In the case of mentoring exchange the first visit will take place at the mentor's while the return will be held by the learner.
- For peer-to-peer exchange, participants will be asked to specify if they are willing to host the first or the second visit.

Local authorities will be paired according to their climatic and geographical features, socio-economic and institutional context, level of implementation/design of SE(C)AP, similar interests and preference on mentoring or peer learning (see list of criteria available).

2. Who can apply?

The 2017/18 twinning programme is open to:

- All Covenant of Mayors signatories (i.e. municipalities) from the European Economic Area (EEA), with a priority for:
 - ✓ Applicants that did not participate in the previous twinning programmes
- Non-Covenant of Mayors signatories from the EEA, under the condition that they will sign up to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 before their first twinning visit.



3. What do you commit to?

As a participant, you will commit to both **host** a visit and **travel** to your twinned partner.

When it is your turn to host your partner city, you commit to:	When it is your turn to visit your partner city, you commit to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organize a visit for a minimum of 2 days (<u>English language is mandatory</u>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are the host in the first round, the visit should take place between January and June 2018If you are the host in the second round, the visit should take place no later than 1 year after the first visit took place;Invite relevant departments of your local administration, besides the Environment and/or Energy ones;Invite neighbouring cities and other relevant authorities to take part in an open session during the second visit, to increase replicability of the lessons learned (<u>commitment valid only for peers and learners</u>);Define and implement follow-up actions between the first and the second visit;Ensure collaboration after the end of the exchange.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visit the host for a minimum of 2 days (<u>English language is mandatory</u>).<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are the visitor in the first round, the visit will take place between January and June 2018If you are the visitor in the second round, the visit will take place no later than 1 year after the first visit took place;Prepare a “showcase session” during the visit, presenting the status or future objectives of the climate and energy works;Define and implement follow-up actions between the first and the second visit;Ensure collaboration after the end of the exchange.

For the two visits both participants will commit to:

- ✓ Preparing jointly the visits by co-designing the agenda, identifying topics and arranging the practical modalities
- ✓ Making a transferability assessment after the first visit: Through a transferability assessment template and methodology provided by the Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO) facilitator, the visitor will reflect on how to apply the good practices and lessons learned during the visit, to their local context. The applied measures will be then presented in the return visit.
- ✓ Participating in a conference call between the two visits: After 6 months from the first visit, a conference call between the two participants will be held to update the respective local authorities about the latest developments
- ✓ Preparing a final report at the end of the exchange: The final report will identify the main results of the exchange, including how relevant measures identified will be implemented, and how to ensure further cooperation between participants. A template will be provided by the CoMO facilitators.



4. Why joining the twinning programme?

For learners: <i>Knowledge transfer and support</i>	More concretely, benefits for learners include
The learning city will gain knowledge through purposeful discussions with the mentor municipality and its mitigation and adaptation experts, visits of key sites where their work has been implemented, and insight on how to transfer replicable solutions to the learning city's local conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support from the mentor on transferring the practices learnt in their city;- Promotion on Covenant of Mayors website as a city committed to peer-learning exchange;- Possibility to be offered speaker slots at Covenant of Mayors events.
For mentors: <i>Visibility & Networking</i>	More concretely, benefits for mentors include:
The mentor city is publicly acknowledged as frontrunner in the energy and climate field and a major player in the Covenant of Mayors through the website, promotional materials and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Showcase of achievements in the field of mitigation and adaptation;- Promotion through our Best Practice publications, distributed across Europe;- Highlights on the Covenant of Mayors website through a dedicated article/interview;- Possibility to be offered speaker slots at high-level European events.
For peers: <i>Exchange of best practices</i>	More concretely, benefits for peers include:
By sharing experience in terms of challenges, specific needs and proven solutions with their peer, municipalities will identify ways to efficiently design and implement their energy and climate strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opportunities to discuss common problems and limitations and find solutions together;- Promotion on Covenant of Mayors website as a city committed to peer-learning exchange;- Possibility to be offered speaker slots at Covenant of Mayors events.

5. What will the Covenant of Mayors provide in terms of funding and support?

Local authorities selected for the twinning programme will receive:

- When hosting the visit - **500€** to cover costs related to meeting rooms, catering and local transport.
- When visiting the twinned partner - **710€** to cover travel and accommodation costs (reimbursed on the basis of invoices)
- When hosting the visit: support from Covenant of Mayors office to the organisation of the visit (facilitating contacts with visitor, elaborating the agenda of the twinning visit).
- Presence of a facilitator from the Covenant of Mayors Office during the first visit, and in some cases during the second visit.
- Support during follow-up work after first visit and return (including organisation of the mid-term conference call).



6. How to apply?

Interested local authorities simply need to fill in an online application form available at the following link <http://bit.ly/2soWC8Q>. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email to the email-address provided in the application. In case you do not receive such confirmation, please contact pier.saraceno@eumayors.eu.

Applications are open until Friday 15th September 2017, with first round of visits taking place between January and June 2018.

Up to 6 twinning pairs of cities will be selected and matched according to criteria available on the Covenant of Mayors website. Selection results will be announced in November 2017.

Please note that a second and similar call for city-twinning will be launched in June 2018.

7. More information

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About the Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brings together local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing the EU's climate and energy objectives on their territory. This unique bottom-up movement, which started in 2008 with the support of the European Commission, now counts over 7,500 signatories. In 2015, the initiative took on new objectives: in line with EU targets the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy steps up the initial CO₂-reduction commitment to 40% and includes adaptation to climate change. Signatory local authorities share a vision for making cities decarbonised and resilient, where citizens have access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

Signatories commit to developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and to implementing local climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The Covenant of Mayors is supported by an Office in charge for the overall coordination of the initiative. The Covenant of Mayors Office is managed by a consortium composed of networks of local and regional authorities including Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, CEMR, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE and ICLEI.