



EU4Energy



Newsletter

November 2022



Editorial

Dedicated to the launch of the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors - East project in December 2021, the newsletter covers various aspects of the project's objectives implementation concerning sustainable energy and climate adaptation in the face of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In Ukraine, the military invasion by Russia on 24 February 2022 caused changes in the implementation of the project activities in line with new realities. However, despite the challenges the country continues to face, the various projects remain in force in Ukraine and are developing, including infrastructure restoration initiatives.

Aiming to ensure the smooth start of the third phase of the CoM East project a **series of kick-off, introductory and high-level meetings with key stakeholders were conducted in** beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The project remains committed to its key objectives such as contributing to and supporting EaP countries in developing and implementing sustainable energy and climate actions and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, increase the generation of renewable energy and improve climate change resilience.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will get to know more about the first activities that took place in CoM East countries for achieving green goals through the active involvement of local communities in the project. Additionally, you will be introduced to the latest initiatives that governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are implementing, with the support of the CoM East project.

Various educational and awareness-raising events such as expo-exhibitions, participation in the EU Sustainable Energy Days and Europe Days are also in the spotlight of the newsletter.

Your attention will also be brought to the acts of solidarity with Ukraine demonstrated in particular by Moldovan and Georgian people and signatory mayors of the CoM initiative, their support provided to Ukrainian refugees, as well as international support to the country during challenging times, with the focus on the International Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2022) in Lugano, Switzerland.



Armenia, as one of the beneficiary countries of the Covenant of Mayors East project, had been actively engaged in various energy activities and initiatives since the launch of the third phase of the CoM East project in January 2022 in the Eastern Partnership countries.

In February, the country's capital city of Yerevan saw a total of 90 multi-apartment [buildings being provided](#) with Solar PV systems within the "Covenant of Mayor - Demonstration projects" Programme, anticipated to lower electricity bills in common spaces by up to 50%.

As for the educational and awareness-raising part of the activities, in April, Artik city in Armenia's North-Western Shirak region [hosted several events](#), including a

Municipal Sustainable Energy Forum, the Sustainable Energy Technology Expo-Exhibition and a press conference, during which the prospects for sustainable energy investments in local communities were discussed. Bringing together local sustainable energy policy makers, professionals, private companies, donors and financial institutions, the forum involved the discussion of the objectives and activities of the project within the ongoing third phase.

In May, Armenia also hosted several [kick-off meetings](#), in the framework of the third phase of the CoM-East project, during which the need for compliance of the project's goals and planned activities with national priorities was discussed. Additionally, the third meeting of the [Municipal Development Cooperation Platform \(CoM Club\)](#) was held in Yerevan, also covering the activities of the third phase of the project. It is noteworthy that the key goal of the CoM Club is to help the country reduce energy dependence, improve climate change resilience and obliterate energy poverty.

Moreover, the Armenian Government, with the support of the CoM East project, continues to facilitate the development of sustainable energy in the country via [approving the procedure](#) of fully or partially subsidizing interest rates on loans for energy efficient renovation of apartments. The procedure approved in May will apply to loans provided until 1 July 2023, after the decision comes into effect. The initiative contemplates contributing to unlocking the energy savings potential of the construction sector in the country.

Azerbaijan



The launch of the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors East project was welcomed by Azerbaijan with various new initiatives and interesting activities.

One of such activities was the joining of the project by [six Azerbaijani cities](#) including Gazakh, Khachmaz, Nizami rayon of Ganja, Shamakhi, Sheki and Yevlakh in April, along with the [city of Khirdalan](#) with a population of about 101.000 inhabitants, joining the project in June. These cities are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emission by about 30-35% by 2030.

The country also hosted [kick-off meetings](#) held by the Inception mission of CoM with local stakeholders in April, ensuring a smooth start of the project's third

phase and discussing prospects of cooperation in spheres of local energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Inception mission's meeting with the Azerbaijani Ministry of Energy established that the bottleneck in the further advancement of the CoM East initiative in the country was an extremely poor capacity of local municipalities in Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans development, with the state body requesting the technical assistance from the project. Eventually, the meetings resulted in the identification of the main stakeholders along with the European Union and international programmes.

Furthermore, in its efforts in tackling the excessive consumption of electricity, Azerbaijani engineers within the European project "Support for Further Improvement of Energy Efficiency in Azerbaijan", are conducting an energy audit of buildings in the country to determine the general picture of what percentage of buildings need to improve their energy class, with the local state body experts being taught about the use of energy saving requirements in practice. Designed until the end of 2022, this [EU project](#) focuses on two major directions: energy saving in buildings and electrical appliance labeling.

As for the future activities of Azerbaijan in this direction, the country's Ministry of Energy plans to submit its final draft of by-laws concerning the issues to the cabinet for consideration in mid-October.



Georgia



Similarly to its neighbour countries Armenia and Azerbaijan, Georgia was not an exception in terms of hosting kick-off meetings, dedicated to the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors East project.

Held in Georgia's capital city of Tbilisi on 19 May, the [kick-off event](#) brought together the project team and key local stakeholders from various state bodies and ministries, with the topics discussed during the event including national climate and energy commitments, municipal project financing instruments in Georgia, project activities and development and implementation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans in the country. The meeting also covered the political context of the ongoing phase of the project, with the initiation of the coordination between the CoM East team and local stakeholders.

Additionally, Georgian representatives of the country's Black Sea port city of Poti and South-Eastern Dedoplistskaro municipality, along with their Moldovan and Ukrainian colleagues [took part in the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland](#) and exchanged their experience among themselves and CoM team experts.



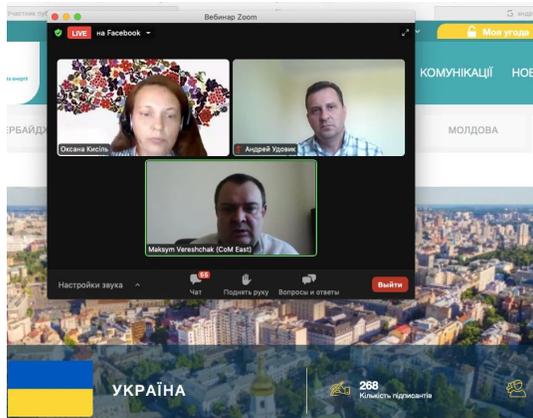
Since the launch of the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors East project, Moldova carried out a lot of activities in the areas of sustainable energy development, green initiatives and support for Ukraine following the full-scale invasion of this country by Russia in February.

Showing exemplary [support to Ukraine](#), Moldovan residents and local signatory authorities of the project provided the Ukrainian refugees with aid, money and housing, manifesting a high-level of solidarity.

in April, alongside these acts of support, Moldova also [hosted the visit of CoM East project experts](#), who presented the concept of the third phase of the project, during which Moldovan partners pledged their commitment to further cooperation and expressing gratitude for the support of the country's signatories of the CoM East within the project.

In addition, the Technical University of Moldova and CoM East project [signed an agreement](#), which covers the areas such as strengthening the efforts in capacity building on the issues of energy and climate change, developing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans and raising awareness of local communities on sustainable energy and climate change mitigation.

Moreover, this year, Moldova has been actively engaged in civil activities and events promoting green development in the country by marking international occasions such as Europe Day, EU Green Week and World Environment Day through various events, including interactive quizzes, creative workshops, an exhibition of green energy technologies and cycle marathon.



In spite of ongoing military aggression carried out against Ukraine by Russia over the last eight months, the country remains involved in the activities of the Covenant of Mayors East project and already plans restoration works.

Taking action to restore, rebuild and develop critical community infrastructure in the country, Ukrainian officials expressed readiness to rebuild the country based on new

requirements during the [“Planning to restore the functioning of critical community infrastructure: public buildings”](#) event organized on 19 May by the CoM East project.

Vasyl Lozynskiy, the First Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, spoke of “certain development plans” for Ukraine and funds from the European Union, while Olha Borodankova, Head of the energy efficiency sector of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, announced that the European Commission would provide Ukraine with a new package of macro-financial assistance worth 9 billion Euros.

Bringing together hundreds of individuals including community representatives, eager to take part in the restoration process, the event covered several other topics as well, including legal regulations of inspection and implementation of construction works, sources of finances and development and sustainability of the energy management system in the country.

Furthermore, despite the challenges Ukraine faces, various initiatives remain in force and continue to develop in the country, including a new initiative from the Energy Efficiency Fund and the “Energodim” programme, along with the selection of projects on restoring social infrastructure, housing and communal facilities in regions affected by the war, being also [announced](#) in Ukraine in August within the Ukraine Recovery Programme.

Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano, Switzerland

On 4-5 July 2022, Switzerland, jointly with Ukraine, hosted the International Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2022) in Lugano. Recovery is a massive task and poses challenges of a magnitude that cannot be precisely



measured at this point. However, the scale of response and resources needed can already be anticipated. To help the country get back to its feet and seize the opportunity to transform it, we need to pursue close coordination and be prepared to fully devote ourselves to implementation when the time comes.

The following topics were discussed at this conference:

- The Recovery and Development Plan for Ukraine (within “United24” initiative of the President of Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy) and different contributions of international partners for the recovery of Ukraine.
- The methods, priorities and principles of recovery.
- Social, economic, environmental and infrastructure recovery from damages and losses caused by the war.
- Reforms that are possible or necessary to implement in the current situation.

The conference stresses the necessity of an inclusive approach and application of the principle of shared responsibility during the recovery phase to ensure its success. The URC 2022 welcomes representatives from governments, international organizations, academia, think tanks, civil society and the private sector.

Read more: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/aktuell/dossiers/alle-dossiers/urc2022-lugano.html>

Publications



Save energy and reduce Fossil Fuel Demand – useful Toolkit on CoM East web

During the crisis, cities can be models of energy saving!

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the already-urgent energy transition

has become even more pressing. Saving resources means solidarity. Savings are good for the climate and necessary for many cities whose energy bills increase significantly in annual budgets. The EU urges signatories to the Convention of Mayors - East initiative to participate in the Cities Energy SavingSprint Programme, to show the desire to get involved in solving the energy crisis and to be a part of events with the European context.

This toolkit is a non - exhaustive list of measures municipalities can take to save energy and reduce the demand for fossil fuels. It is available on the CoM web in [AM](#), [AZ](#), [GE](#), [RO](#), [UA](#) and [EN](#) languages.

<https://com-east.eu/en/publications/>

Disclaimer

This Project is funded by the European Union under the EU4Energy Initiative.

The views expressed in this newsletter are the sole responsibility of the CoM East project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Kyiv,
Ukraine

info-eap@eumayors.eu



You received this email because you signed up on our website or are representative of Signatory city.

[Unsubscribe](#)

