

# Sharing urban sustainable energy strategies – promoting the Covenant of Mayors (come2CoM)

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# About come2CoM

- IEE funded project
- Project duration: 24 months (May 2010 – April 2012)
- Project partners coming from:
  - Germany
  - Austria
  - Czech Republic
  - Poland
  - Denmark
  - Sweden
  - Belgium
  - Italy
  - Slovenia
  - Portugal
  - UK

# Aim of the project

- Inform about the Covenant of Mayors in the respective countries
- Support municipalities in SEAP-development
- Specific tasks:
  - Inform about CoM through mailings, newsletters etc.
  - Personal consultations with city representatives
  - SEAP-development for selected municipalities
  - Poster presentations, presentations at events
  - Press releases
  - Etc.

# CoM-approach in Austria

- **AT** has about **2500 municipalities**
- Long tradition of energy- and climate programmes in Austria (e5, Climate Alliance):
  - Approx. **1000 municipalities member of Climate Alliance**
  - More than **100 municipalities member of e5**
  - Other local programmes in place: local agenda 21, energy- and climate best-practice programme
  - **Only 7 municipalities have joined CoM so far**
- No added value for joining the CoM is seen

# Arguments for joining the CoM in AT

- Formal commitment for municipalities to reach energy- and climate targets at local level (exclusion possible)
- Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) – local energy and climate balance
- Energy- and climate targets
- More visibility at European level

# CoM-approach in Austria

- Austrian Energy Agency concluded subcontracts with Climate Alliance and e5 programme managers for come2CoM-project
  - Every-day contact with municipalities
  - 5 SEAPs are currently developed
- Approaches chosen:
  - (1) Transferring existing local energy concepts to SEAP
  - (2) Transferring e5 approach to SEAP

# Barriers and challenges encountered in AT

- Language
- Political commitment at local level  
(perspective 2020 and beyond vs. municipal election cycles)
- Feedback on SEAP developed
- Monitoring of measures implemented and targets reached
- Financing of measures

# Lessons learned in AT

- Municipalities need support in developing a SEAP
- For beginners, 1 year is not sufficient to develop a SEAP
- Feedback on SEAP is key to keep municipalities motivated to take action
- Choice of base year is crucial → methodology applied for collecting data needs to be documented and shall remain the same for the upcoming years
- Harmonisation of approaches is needed (e.g. e5 and CoM)



Thank you for your attention