

Summary - Covenant of Mayors

On May 10th 2010, Abruzzo Region joined the Covenant of Mayors in Brussels as supporting structure.

The objectives of the Covenant commonly summarized with the saying "twenty-twentytwenty", are to achieve by 2020 a production of energy from renewable sources up to 20% of the total, with a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, CO2 in particular. In implementation of the Regional Council Resolution No 761 of October 4, 2010, on October 18 a Protocol Agreement was signed between the 4 provinces, the ANCI and the region itself, to establish a management group for the coordination of all activities necessary to implement the Covenant. The members of the Management group are the Presidents of the provinces and their delegates, ANCI contact person for energy issues in Abruzzo, as well as provincial and regional technical directors. The activities carried out by the Management group are crucial for achieving the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors both to support decision making and for the use of financial resources.

All 305 municipalities in Abruzzo joined the Covenant of Mayors and the 4 Provincial governments (supporting structures too) guaranteed together with the region their action of support.

For this shared energy policy, the "Covenant of Mayors" is outstanding at European level and is considered at European level as best practice to be disseminated and replicated. A Key issue for the municipalities of the Covenant of Mayors is the preparation, within one year of accession, of the Municipal Action Plan (Sustainable Energy Action Plan - SEAP).

This document, based on the budget of CO2 emissions (Emission Balance Inventory - EIB), includes in the identification of strategies to achieve 20-20-20 objectives, and then in the definition of specific interventions on plants and casings.

As first supportive action, the Region allocated € 300,000 from the regional budget to the provinces to assist the municipalities in preparation of Operational Plans and the entire resource of 35 million euros of structural funds EDRF 2007-2013, axis II Energy, to support the implementation of the Covenant of Mayors in the region. The financial breakdown of the funds mentioned above has been determined within the management group, as follows:

POR / ERDF - AXIS II Energy (Reformulation of December 29, 2010)

Overall allocation € 35,239,821.00

II.1.1 Activity - Promotion of energy production from Renewable sources:
Actuating Bodies

- 4 Provinces: Resources available € 4,000,000.00

II.1.2 Activity - Promotion of energy saving systems:

Overall allocation; € 28,000,000.00 of which: Bodies Actuators

- 305 Common: Resources available € 20,700,000.00 of which
250 municipalities with fewer than 5000 inhabitants (cu € 50,000.00) € 12,500,000.00
38 towns with population up to 15000 (€ 100,000.00 cu) € 3,800,000.00

12 towns with population up to 50000 (€ 200,000.00 cu) € 2,400,000.00
 5 towns over 50,000 inhabitants (cu € 400,000.00) € 2,000,000.00
 - 4 Provinces: Resources available € 7,300,000.00

II.1.3 Activities - Activities for the promotion of renewable sources and saving energy:

Actuating Bodies

- 4 Provinces + ANCI: Resources available € 3,239,821.00 of which
 4 Provinces € 2,200,000.00 ANCI € 700,000.00
 Region € 339,821.00 (Additional Regional Funds already allocated to the provinces) € 300,000.00

Specifically, the activities supported under the activity 1.1, implemented by the provinces, regarding the incentives to greater use and increased production of energy from sources renewable through tangible and intangible investments aimed at:

- Installation of photovoltaic panels and related equipment (with the guarantee of co-financing of at least 40% of the share of production);
- Construction of solar thermal systems;
- Realization of CHP electricity and heat.
- As for the types of intervention of 1.2, done by Provinces and municipalities to be admitted to funding, the following activities have been identified to improve the energy efficiency of production, distribution, emission regulation:
- Efficiency of the plants; - Replacement of equipment; - Installation of photovoltaic (co-financing with the guarantee of at least 40% of the share of production); - Installation of solar thermal for heat production and electricity; - Installation of cogeneration plants for heat and power (systems cogeneration and regeneration); - Boiler replacement; - Installation of temperature controllers on radiators; - Efficiency of public lighting systems; - Replacement of lighting fixtures; - Replacement of windows and glass; Construction of insulation; - Functional works energy efficiency in buildings, for an amount not exceeding 25% of the funded intervention.

The funds are to be used primarily for school buildings, where present, without prejudice for the admissibility of actions on other municipal or provincial buildings or facilities and in the case of justified reasons, however, all work must be included in Municipal and Provincial Action Plans (SEAP).

Regarding the activity 1.3., In accordance with the Regulations implementing POR FESR 2007-2013 for the Axis II Energy, this activity relates to the animation, coaching, awareness and technical support in favor of the possible beneficiaries of the resources devoted to Axis II Energy itself. With this in mind, for the Covenant of Mayors, the four provinces of the Region and ANCI, have been identified as supporting bodies for the implementation of these activities.

Specifically, the provinces and ANCI are called the support their respective municipalities for activities resulting from the accession by the municipalities themselves to the Covenant, that ensure, to the beneficiaries of the resources referred to in II.1.1 and II.1.2 activities, adequate information on the availability of new technologies and related costs, nature and cost of energy consumption and ensure adequate training and information to those involved in the sector. ANCI and the provinces will also guarantee technical and logistical support necessary to effectively animate and make all stakeholders aware. Membership in the Covenant of Mayors from all the regional administrations in

Abruzzo

has raised a great deal of attention at European level, so that it became a unique case reference.

On April 5 during a meeting at the Board Room of the City of Pescara, among the provinces, ANCI, and the Abruzzo region, all municipalities in the region signed their formal commitment to start the procedures (documents to provide to get funds, deadlines, eligible actions) and activities defined by the Management Group to achieve the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors.