

## Together for energy-efficient buildings

La Spezia Province, Italy

President: Marino Fiasella

Since its launch in 2008, the Covenant of Mayors has had an extraordinary success in Italy, where some 2,000 signatories are now committed to reaching EU climate and energy objectives. Italian cities and municipalities account for half of the total number of signatories, an impressive achievement due to the active involvement of provinces and regions, which play a pivotal role in enticing local authorities to join the initiative.

*The Province of La Spezia is fully aware of the need to adopt energy-efficient measures and eco-friendly behaviors to reach the EU 20% energy target by 2020. The Covenant of Mayors initiative has been very important for us in order to learn from other European cities and provinces' experiences and to assess the replication of those measures within our Province. Marino Fiasella, President of the Province of La Spezia*



To assist small and medium-sized municipalities in implementing Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and getting access to funding, technical and administrative support, the European Commission signs cooperation agreements with a wide range of public and associative bodies. Among these are "Covenant Territorial Coordinators", or in other words sub-national decentralized authorities that support groups of signatory municipalities. In Italy there are currently 67 "Covenant Territorial Coordinators" and a very active one is the Province of La Spezia, composed of 32 municipalities, all of them Covenant Signatories. Apart from reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20% by 2020, the Province also aims at increasing its energy efficiency and enhancing the use of renewable energy by no less than 20%.

At present, the main focus of the Province is to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by municipal buildings. To this end an ambitious energy audit was launched in 2008 to evaluate 250 public buildings. Each building is identified by an "energy card" that gathers the building's most important data, such as surface, volume, heating system, thermal and electrical consumption, among other information. The audit points out the building's technical deficiencies from an energy point of view, analyzes the



construction quality and performance, and ultimately identifies the energy-efficient measures that are achievable with a quantification of the costs. The audit process is supported and directly financed by the Province and it is carried out by a joint network within which the university and public employees cooperate simultaneously.

At the same time, the Province of La Spezia has developed a web-based platform "AuditGIS" to make all the information collected from energy audits publicly available through interactive maps. The application makes it possible to monitor energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and to manage all the data at the municipal level. It also simulates various possible interventions and follows the evolution of the consumption and emissions over time. The tool has been instrumental for the development of the SEAPs of the municipalities of La Spezia.

As a "Covenant Territorial Coordinator" the Province has been helping out its 32 municipalities in putting together their SEAPs and in providing them with the necessary support instruments through its dedicated [website](#). In parallel, a wide range of communication activities are being developed with citizens to help them develop eco-conscious behaviours and raise their awareness of energy-saving issues. For instance, citizens all have the opportunity to check the energy objectives of any given municipality, school or public building from the Province thanks to the software "EcoGIS", which makes it possible for users to verify how a specific action is being carried out. The purpose of such strategy is to actively involve a large number of residents in the supervising process, inviting them to take direct action towards the Province's energy commitments.

In addition, the Province recently signed (22 September 2012) a bilateral agreement with the Province of Massa-Carrara to strengthen collaboration towards achieving the Covenant of Mayors objectives. The two provinces agreed to share knowledge and work together in the administration, supervision and implementation of tools that can improve the Covenant of Mayors initiative all over their territories. The agreement also aims at involving those municipalities that have not joined the Covenant of Mayors yet and proposing to structure their SEAP with common tools.

#### La Spezia Province – Key facts

- 32 municipalities with a total population of 230 000 inhabitant
- Covering a total area of 882 km<sup>2</sup>
- Joined the Covenant of Mayors as territorial coordinator in 2009
- Main SEAP priorities address: municipal buildings and public lighting

***As a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, the Province of La Spezia voluntarily commits to reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2020.***

#### Contacts & further information

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