

# FEEDBACK REPORT

## *Basque Energy Agency (ES)*

### Foreword

The present document is the feedback report from the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) Technical Helpdesk after having completed the analysis of your methodology for the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) used by local authorities from your Province/Region.

The analysis is essentially focusing on the compliance of the methodology with the Covenant formal commitments and principles. The model of SEAP provided by the Covenant Territorial Coordinator to local authorities is also analysed with reference to its structure.

The feedback report serves the purpose of informing the CTC on whether its methodology is compliant with the Guidebook "How to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)" with respect to:

1. The calculation of the Emission Inventories.
2. The selection of the fields of action.

The present report also provides observations on other crucial aspects of SEAP development addressed by the CTC on behalf of its signatories, if described in methodology or in the model of SEAP, namely:

3. The mobilization of civil society.
4. The identification of financial resources.
5. The monitoring process.

This report contains recommendations and suggestions for improvement, which we recommend that you take into consideration as much as possible. Nevertheless, in some instances our remarks might just point out peculiarities which do not need to be addressed because they find their explanation to be in the particular circumstances occurring within your territory. In the worst cases, the issues found may prevent the acceptance of the methodology.

## Overall evaluation

We are pleased to announce that your methodology is compliant with the Covenant principles and therefore has been accepted. We wish to congratulate you for this achievement

Please find here below detailed comments on various aspects addressed by your methodology.

### **1.-The calculation of the Emission Inventories.**

The methodology for emissions quantification followed by Basque municipalities and recommended by you as a CTC, is described in the Book nº5 of Udalsarea 21 Climate Change: "*Calculation of municipal CO2 emissions*" and in the Book nº 8 "*Guidelines for the implementation of local strategies to combat climate change*", both of them, written by IHOBE – Environmental Agency of the Basque Country in the frame of the IPCC approach.

The sectors analysed by this tool are: transport, residential, services (including municipal sector), waste, industry and primary sectors. It's means that not only the four key sectors recommended in the SEAP-Guidebook (*Municipal. Residential. Tertiary and Transport*) are included, but also some facultative sectors. We would like note that the facultative sectors are not recommended and the SEAP will focus in the key sectors mentioned above.

### **2. The selection of the fields of action.**

The scope of the analysis and municipal action in the document is classified as follows:

- a. Sectors: municipal premises, residential, services, and primary sector. The industry sector could be included or not, to be considered by the municipality.
- b. Driving elements: urban planning, ordinances, tax issues, economic issues and any other municipal influence area that could help the implementation of projects.

The document also establishes 6 strategic lines that we can understand as field of actions:

STRATEGIC LINE 1: ENERGY EFICIENCY  
 STRATEGIC LINE 2: MOBILITY  
 STRATEGIC LINE 3: RENEWABLE ENERGIES  
 STRATEGIC LINE 4: WASTE  
 STRATEGIC LINE 5: WATER  
 STRATEGIC LINE 6: ENVIRONMENT

We understand that all the Covenant key sectors of activity are given adequate relevance in your methodology and an example of relevant actions that could be implemented in various key sectors has been reported. Nevertheless is important to make sure that the 20% reduction target is

based on actions included in the strategic lines 1 to 3, since the rest of the strategic lines are not recommended in the SEAP develop.

We would also recommend that communication initiatives aiming at promoting behavioural changes among citizens are further encouraged. With a low cost, such actions can deliver a relevant contribution to the reduction target.

We would like to congratulate you for the recommendation of the use of technical files in the presentation of each action. It will be a very useful tool to understand and monitor them.

### **3. The mobilization of civil society.**

Even if the work plan of the provided methodology includes a final step regarding this aspect, it is not well described. We recommend you to improve this action since each local authority is recommended to take action to ensure an active involvement of citizens and stakeholders in order to achieve a successful implementation of their SEAP.

### **4. The identification of financial resources.**

This aspect was not addressed by your methodology. We would encourage the CTC to support the municipalities in the identification of the most suitable funding instruments for the implementation of SEAP actions. Identifying and reporting the financial mechanisms and the public-private resources used by the municipalities to fund their CO2 reduction programs and strategies related to the Covenant of Mayors, would reinforce the credibility of the actions described in the SEAPs. More information regarding funding instruments is available on the Covenant of Mayors website at [http://www.eumayors.eu/support/funding-instruments\\_en.html](http://www.eumayors.eu/support/funding-instruments_en.html). Nevertheless we are pleased to mention that financial information is provided in the reference cities documentation.

### **5. The monitoring process.**

A submission of a progress report to the Commission at least every two years from the adoption of the SEAP for evaluation, monitoring and control purposes is proposed in the document in the work plan schedule. Meanwhile, EVE together with the municipalities organizes “monitoring committees” (up to date they are 10) that meet every 6 months at least, to check and supervise the planned and implemented projects in that period of time. We wish to congratulate you for this.

We also congratulate you for the inclusion of monitoring indicators in the structure of each action/ measure to be reviewed each year. These would help the municipalities to measure more accurately their progress.



The Covenant of Mayors Technical Helpdesk would like to thank you once again for the time spent and the efforts that you have devoted to producing your Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

*on behalf of the  
Covenant of Mayors Technical Helpdesk*

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*The Covenant of Mayors Technical Helpdesk is jointly managed by the Institute for Energy and Transport and the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels.*

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