Covenant of Mayors in the Basque Country

EVE-Ente Vasco de la Energía

2011



Monitoring report 31/12/2011



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✓ BACKGROUND

EVE - Ente Vasco de la Energía is the energy agency of the Basque Country responsible for developing projects and initiatives in line with the defined policies from the Basque Government. DG TREN publicly recognised EVE by the agreement signed in Brussels, 9 February 2009, as a Covenant Coordinator for the Basque Country.

In relation to this appointment, EVE is committed to perform the following tasks in the area of the Basque Country:

- -Perform the work of promoting membership to the Covenant and also to provide support and coordination to partner municipalities in the region.
- -Provide technical assistance to municipalities willing to participate in the Covenant but which lack the necessary resources to prepare a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (hereinafter SEAP).
- -Analyse and approve the aforementioned Action Plans in such a way as to contribute to the established goals.
- -Support partner municipalities in organising the awareness actions required by the Covenant.
- -Monitor on a regular basis the actions in each municipality and the progress of the targets in its Action Plan, using the information provided by same.
- -Report regularly to the European Commission's DG ENER on the results obtained in the area of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and participate in the strategic debates on implementation of the Covenant proposed by the Commission.

✓ EVE'S STRATEGY TOWARDS MUNICIPALITIES

In the last year a thorough analysis has been carried out on the strategy towards municipalities followed by EVE. This in-depth study concluded with the creation of a dedicated working team named "Activities with Local Councils", composed of 3 full-time people. The main working lines of "Activities with Local Councils" team are summarized in the following lines:

The Basque Government, through EVE, its energy agency, bases its work in the area of energy with Basque municipalities on municipal energy planning in energy efficiency and implementation of renewables at local level, developing "tailor-made solutions" for each municipality within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. This is coordinated with the conception of the Basque Country as a smart community (Smart Cities & Communities) and a single city (Smart Community). Both tiers – local, via the Covenant of Mayors and regional, via Smart Cities & Communities must be compatible and consistent.



COVENANT OF MAYORS (CoM) constitutes the strategic working framework for defining local energy planning to 2020, led by Basque municipal authorities. The goal is to achieve energy saving over and above the EU target a 20% cut in CO₂ emissions, by way of a 20% reduction in energy consumption and a 20% contribution by renewables to energy demand (20-20-20). In order to meet this goal, **Basque regional, provincial and local public authorities are coordinated under the European umbrella of the CoM**, helping Basque municipalities to define their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).

The Basque Government, through EVE, defines and accepts the COVENANT as the strategy for municipal energy planning for all Basque municipalities; however, it is also aware that the requirements in terms of time for the work to be carried out and the available resources cannot be the same for all Basque municipalities. In consistency with the real energy situation at municipal level in the Basque Country, within the framework of the COVENANT, the "Advancing towards the Covenant" initiative has been designed for medium and small-sized municipalities which generally have fewer resources, while the COVENANT itself is reserved to larger municipalities. EVE therefore proposes the following two lines of work in order to develop energy planning at local level:

a. <u>Covenant of Mayors (COVENANT)</u>, targeted at large Basque municipalities where the SEAPs will be deliver within 1 year of signing of the COVENANT. The goal is energy saving over and above the EU target of achieving a 20% cut in CO₂ emissions, by way of a 20% reduction in energy consumption and a 20% contribution by renewables to energy demand (20-20-20).

EVE offers a broad assistance for the development of the Covenant of Mayors in the Basque Country. EVE performs the aforementioned work as a Covenant Coordinator, offering strategic guidance and technical support to member municipalities. The current strategy for the development of the Covenant of Mayors in the Basque Country is, on one hand, to prioritize the commitments of the still non-members largest municipalities and on the other, to help signatories in the implementation process of the SEAPs. The implementation of these plans requires from EVE's side to allocate budget in subsidy programs which are identified as essential for some project developments and to try search for any national or European level programs that could well suit to Basque municipalities' characteristics. Additionally, EVE proposes and analyzes technical issues of projects that could be implemented in the municipalities and promotes singular projects.

b. Advancing towards the Covenant of Mayors (ADVANCING TOWARDS THE COVENANT), targeted at medium-small sized Basque municipalities

During the last quarter of 2011 and thanks to the accumulated experience as Covenant Coordinator, EVE started to design the initiative "Advancing Towards the Covenant of Mayors".



The municipalities that, for some reason, find the CoM's goals too demanding for their actual situation can join the "advancing towards CoM" initiative. The target of it is to work, within a defined framework, with the smaller municipalities, or those with fewer resources, in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources promotion so in the future they can join the CoM and achieve the objectives. The first sector to tackle is the municipal dependencies and public lighting.

The only difference between the CoM and Advancing towards the Covenant is that the latter does not require a single Overall Action Plan combining in a single document all the energy consuming sectors in the town. Rather, it calls for SEAPs to be drawn up, divided up by energy consuming sectors. Summing up, the idea is to work towards the same objectives with different timescales.

Besides these two lines (Covenant of Mayors and Advancing towards Covenant of Mayors), EVE is also working in the strategy EUSKADI SMART COMMUNITY:

The municipalities of the Basque Country are working in improving their energy performance, either within the CoM framework or in "advancing towards CoM". In any case, they have to pursue to fulfil the European targets and the targets set out by the Energy Strategy of the Basque Country 2020. In this sense, one of EVE's working lines is to assure the alignment of local, regional and European strategies and "technologise" them. All these efforts will make possible to shape a Euskadi – Smart Community.

✓ EVE'S PERFORMACE

EVE has undertaken various activities in relation to the Covenant of Mayors during the year 2011.

-NEW SIGNATORIES

During the year 2011 four (4) new municipalities joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative:

Municipality	Adhesion date	Population
TOLOSA	28/03/2001	17.829
PORTUGALETE	17/10/2011	47.856
HONDARRIBIA	27/10/2011	16.464
USURBIL	30/11/2011	6.054

-DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

EVE has promoted the Covenant of Mayors and the methodology, expressly elaborated to this purpose, in various places and events.



Conferences & events

- Participation in EUSEW 2011. On the 14th April 2011 EVE participated in a workshop organized by the Covenant of Mayors Office on the theme "Regions, provinces and networks: key to Covenant Success". EVE was asked to provide its expertise on how the Covenant of Mayors initiative is handled in the Basque Country and to give explanation on the methodology developed to this end.
- Participation in CoM annual ceremony. Basque delegation to attend third anniversary of the Covenant of Mayors in Brussels (further information here)

Press conferences

- Balmaseda. On 13th January 2011, a press conference was organized among the Town hall of Balmaseda and EVE to announced the adhesion of this municipality to the CoM initiative (further information here)
- Basauri. On 10th February 2011, a press conference was organized among the Town hall of Basauri and EVE to announced the adhesion of this municipality to the CoM initiative (further information here)
- Tolosa. On 28th March 2011, a press conference was organized among the Town hall of Tolosa and EVE to announced the adhesion of this municipality to the CoM initiative (further information here)

CoM website

 News. EVE contributed to the Covenant of Mayors website with an article on its works in the framework of the CoM in the Basque Country (further information here)



Basque Region: Energy Agency supports municipalities commitments
9 February 2011 - 09:51

Thanks to the promotion efforts deployed by the Basque Energy Agency, 10 local authorities from the Basque Country are now signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, representing 42% of the Basque population. While Vitoria-Gasteiz, European Green Capital of 2012, has already seen its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) approved by the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the other 9 municipalities* are actively working, in cooperation with the agency, towards the submission of their own SEAP....

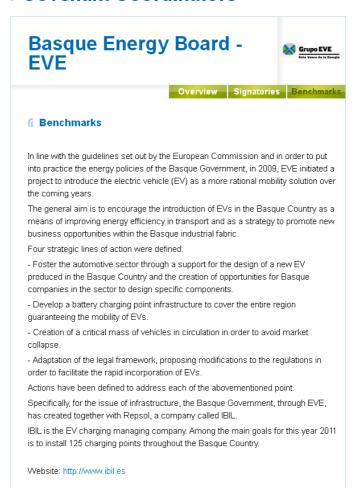
Read more

 Benchmark of excellence. EVE has updated the benchmark of excellence on the CoM website.





Covenant Coordinators



Energy Days

• Exhibitions. EVE adopted the commitment to support adhered municipalities in organising the awareness actions required by the Covenant. The year 2011 has been an unusual year in the Basque Country in terms of various elections taking place: municipal elections in 22nd May 2011 and national elections in 20th November. EVE launched a public tender in January for contracting external experts to help in the organization of the abovementioned events. This tender had to be cancelled twice due to the election periods. This is why along 2011 EVE has not organized any "energy days". As an alternative, and with the aim of supporting our municipalities above all, shorter and more focused events were organized, with less political overtone, such as, eco-driving courses, an online training course on ESCOs Action Plan, workshop on biomass energy for housing, Begiralea project.



-WORK PLAN SCHEDULE

The work developed by EVE under the Covenant of Mayors in the year 2011 expressed by milestones is: (*Please check Annex I*)

Responsible

0.- Previous analysis in the town hall on the suitability to join the Covenant of Mayors

Municipality

As far as EVE is informed, in the year 2011, this phase was undertaken by the following municipalities: Tolosa (17.829 inhab.), Portugalete (49.788 inhab.), Hondarribia (15.940 inhab.), Usurbil (5.661 inhab.), Erandio (23.338 inhab.), Mungia (14.882 inhab.), Ugao-Miraballes (4.060 inhab.), Zamudio (3.176 inhab.).

Responsible

1.- **Meeting with EVE** to discuss the implications of the adhesion to the Covenant:

Energy management situation in the municipality, Municipal Energy Manager, grants available, others...

Municipality EVE

A number of meetings were held during the year with the aim of making clear the points of the adhesion to the CoM. These meetings were in some cases organized in presence of the Mayor and Municipal Corporation and some others, with the municipal technicians.

This step was carried out in the municipalities of:

Tolosa	09/02/2011
Erandio	15/04/2011
Hondarribia	03/06/2011
Ugao-Miraballes	20/07/2011
Portugalete	19/09/2011
Barakaldo	27/10/2011
Zamudio	02/11/2011
Usurbil	28/11/2011
Mungia	29/11/2011

Responsible

2.- Further analysis. Formal adoption of the municipal decision to join the Covenant of Mayors: Mayor and/or plenary.

Municipality

Once the meetings with EVE are celebrated the municipality again considers internally the suitability of the adhesion.

3.-Official signing of the Covenant of Mayors

The Mayor, on behalf of the City Hall, signs the adhesion form that is sent electronically to the Covenant of Mayors Office



EVE provides the municipality assistance with the adhesion procedure, explaining in detail the steps to be followed, verifying the correct implementation and the corresponding registration.

Along the year 2011 the following municipalities signed the CoM:

Tolosa 28/03/2011

Portugalete 17/10/2011

Hondarribia 27/10/2011

Usurbil 30/11/2011 Responsible Support

4.- Public signing of the Covenant (voluntary).

Municipality | EV

If the municipality is interested in making a "public signing", EVE organizes a press conference at the signatory town hall where the mayor and Basque Government's representation or EVE assists.

In the current year press conferences took place in the municipalities of:

Balmaseda 13/01/2011

Basauri 10/02/2001

Tolosa 28/03/2011

Responsible

5.- Public information process of the initiative in the Municipal Sustainable Forums (voluntary).

Municipality

If the municipality has in place sustainability forums (which occur in the majority of Basque municipalities) and the council is interested in being informed about the initiative, they can invite EVE to participate and contribute to the information about the initiative. EVE will assist to support the council in briefings and workshops to be organized on the subject.

6.	Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) elaboration.	Responsible	Support

6.0- Municipal Energy Manager Designation.	Municipality	
6.1-Recopilation and analysis of existing documents.	Municipality	
6.2- Baseline emissions inventory. (Choice of base year)	Municipality	
6.3- Elaboration of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). Identification of actions to be undertaken with technical, economic and investment analysis.	Municipality	EVE External Assistance



6.4Emissions inventory, final situation (year 2020).	Municipality
6.5Citizen participation (voluntary).	Municipality

EVE will support the signatory council in the elaboration of the SEAP in order to have a document compiling the list of actions to be undertaken to achieve the set target of 20-20-20.

Currently, most municipalities are developing their Action Plans while it is true that the degree of progress varies considerably from one another.

Step 6.5	Step 6.3	Step 6.1
Donostia-San Sebastián	Irún	Tolosa
Bilbao	Abanto-Zierbena	Portugalete
Areatza	Balmaseda	Hondarribia
	Amezketa	Usurbil
	Basauri	
	Oñati	

7. - Municipal APPROVAL of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan

In 2011 no SEAP has been approved.

Responsible

8.- Implementation of the SEAP

Adapting of municipal structures, including the allocation of adequate human resources to develop the necessary actions. Roadmap in the municipal vicinity.

Municipality

The municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz has started the implementation of an Electric Vehicle Recharging Infrastructure. To start with these works, the city hall of Vitoria-Gasteiz and EVE singed a collaborative agreement (further information here). As first fruits of this agreement, recharging points were installed in Vitoria Gasteiz (further information here) and the design of an Electric Mobility Centre.

9.- Monitoring, evaluation and control:

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.

Municipality EVE

EVE will support municipalities in the tasks of monitoring, evaluation and control of the actions being described in the SEAP. While it is true that internal monitoring

Municipality



is being developed in Vitoria-Gasteiz's case, this SEAP does not have two years so no report was presented in the Commission.

10.- Dynamize the Plan

- Mobilize the society
- Share experiences
- Organize "Energy Days" or "Covenant of Mayors day"
- Disseminate the message of the Covenant

EVE offers "tailor made" assistance to Basque municipalities. In this way, EVE is continuously adapting, to the extent of its capabilities, to the specific needs of municipalities in order to achieve the highest levels of energy savings and renewables implementation.

The work undertaken by EVE towards municipalities can be summarized as a facilitator of all technical and administrative aspects that will help the municipalities to get a guidance document, setting out the actions to be undertaken to achieve the 20-20-20 in their town and of course, its implementation.

✓ STATUS OF THE COVENANT IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

To date, 14 municipalities (Donostia-San Sebastián, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Areatza, Bilbao, Irún, Abanto-Zierbena, Balmaseda, Amezketa, Basauri, Oñati, Tolosa, Portugalete, Hondarribia, Usurbil) among which are the three Basque capitals, have joint the Covenant of Mayors. As result, 46% of the Basque inhabitants are committed to the European Commission's objectives of 20-20-20 and municipalities summing up over 55,3% of the population presented interest in the initiative.

In particular, the situation is as follows;

Donostia –San Sebastián

On 20th June 2008 Donostia-San Sebastián (183.308 inhabitants) singed the Covenant of Mayors. After various submission deadline extensions they are about to deliver the SEAP.

SEAP status: ready to submit, in the step 6.5 of the work plan schedule.

Vitoria-Gasteiz

On 19th December 2008 Vitoria-Gasteiz (239.361 inhabitants) joined the Covenant of Mayors. They submitted the SEAP on September 2010 and despite the difficult general economic situation Vitoria-Gasteiz is making a big effort to implement projects.

SEAP status: implementing the SEAP, in the step 8 of the work plan schedule.



Areatza

On 23rd March 2010 Areatza (1.036 inhabitants) became part of the Covenant of Mayors community. At present time, they are working on the last version of the SEAP after having asked for a second deadline extension.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.5 of the work plan schedule.

• Bilbao

On the 21st May 2010, Bilbao (353.340 inhabitants) officially adopted the commitment with the Covenant of Mayors. Last May they asked for a deadline extension of 6 months. Currently they have adopted the commitment to submit the SEAP by February 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.5 of the work plan schedule.

• Irun

On 9th September 2010, Irun (61.445 inhabitants) took on the Covenant of Mayors. The municipality asked for a deadline extension of 3 months but these resulted insufficient and in December 2011 they asked for another 6 months extension. They will submit the SEAP on 31st July 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

Abanto-Zierbena

On 28th October 2010, Abanto-Zierbena signed the Covenant of Mayors. Last October they asked for a deadline extension of 6 months. The SEAP submission is foreseen for 28th April 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

Balmaseda

On 12^{nd} November 2010, Balmaseda signed the Covenant of Mayors. Last November they asked for a deadline extension of 6 months, thus, the new deadline is 12^{nd} May 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

Amezketa

On 19th November 2010, Amezketa signed the Covenant of Mayors. Last November they asked for a deadline extension and they will fulfil their commitment on 19th May 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.



Basauri

On the 29th November 2010, Basauri signed the Covenant of Mayors. Last November they asked for a deadline extension of 6 months, converting the new deadline on 25th May 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

• Oñati

On the 2^{nd} December 2010, Oñati signed the Covenant of Mayors. Last December they asked for a deadline extension of 6 months adopting as new date the 2^{nd} June 2012.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

Tolosa

On the 28th March 2011, Tolosa signed the Covenant of Mayors. Currently they are working on the SEAP.

SEAP status: elaborating the SEAP, in the step 6.3 of the work plan schedule.

Portugalete

On the 17th October 2011, Portugalete signed the Covenant of Mayors. They are about to launch a public tender to hire the services of an external expert to help them in the elaboration of the SEAP.

SEAP status: laying down the basis for SEAP elaboration, in the step 6.1 of the work plan schedule.

Hondarribia

On the 27th October 2011, Hondarribia signed the Covenant of Mayors. The municipality is preparing the public tender to contract an external expert.

SEAP status: laying down the basis for SEAP elaboration, in the step 6.1 of the work plan schedule.

Usurbil

On the 30th November 2011, Usurbil signed the Covenant of Mayors. The municipality is preparing the public tender to contract an external expert.

SEAP status: laying down the basis for SEAP elaboration, in the step 6.1 of the work plan schedule.

Other municipalities interested in the initiative

Amurrio (9.512 inhab.), Valle de Harana (329 inhab.), Getxo (82.687 inhab.), Mungia (14.882 inhab.), Barakaldo (94.967 inhab.), Berriz (4.468 inhab.), Erandio (23.338 inhab.), Errenteria (37.873 inhab.), Galdakao (29.594 inhab.), Gautegiz-



Arteaga (869 inhab.), Oiartzun (9.730 inhab.), Ugao-Miraballes (4.060 inhab.), Zamudio (3.176 inhab.).

✓ USED RESOURCES

In terms of people resources, during 2011, the Covenant of Mayors required dedication in hours equivalent to 1.714. Monetary resources, on the other hand, have brought about 245.000 € in the form of <u>grant program</u> for SEAP development. This program, besides encouraging the development of SEAPs, gives financial assistance to all Basque municipalities (in the Covenant or not) in improving the public exterior lighting and in general, energy efficiency in buildings. The whole budget for all actions (SEAPs and energy efficiency measures) is up to 3 million euro.

✓ SUMMING-UP

The current status of the Covenant of Mayors in the Basque Country is as follows; fourteen municipalities adhered and other thirteen interested in the adhesion. Besides, Vitoria-Gasteiz is already working on implementing the SEAP and because of its nomination as European Green Capital 2012, we think that next year will suppose a boost to its implementation. The forecast for the next few months is that couple other municipalities will join the Covenant and with regard to the municipalities whose deadline is 2012, surely, they will present their SEAP before the end of the year.

All this means that 46% of Basque population is already committed to the Covenant, and in a near term it is expected to reach 55%.

Further information in Annex II.



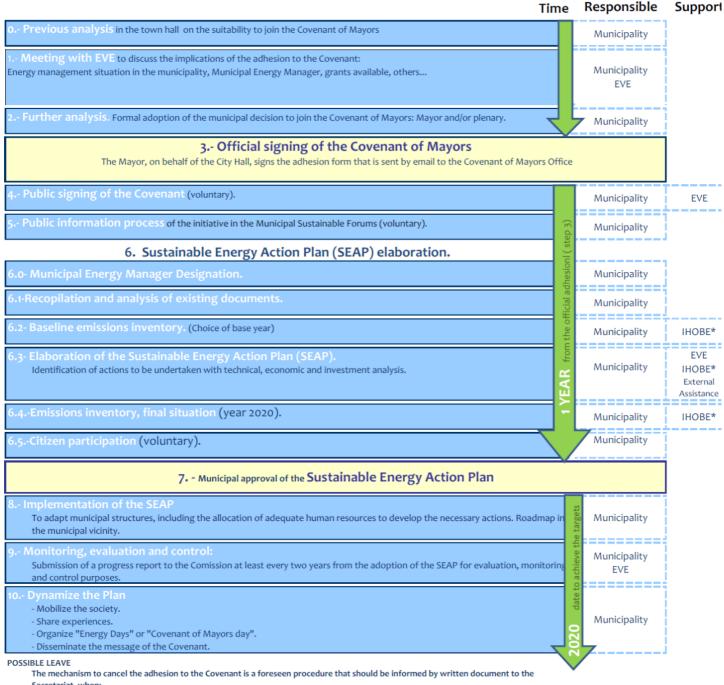
✓ RECOMMENDATIONS

As previous year, the biggest difficulty that municipalities are finding in their way to implement actions to promote a more rational use of energy is funding. The situation of Basque municipalities is crucial so they require high implication of all institutions. EVE is making a big effort in allocating budget in subsidy programs but this doesn't seem enough. Additionally, contacts with other local institutions are held to see in which manner all of us can contribute to these demanding objectives of CoM. For this reason, we solicit European institutions other mechanisms than current in this regard.



ANNEX I

WORK PLAN SCHEDULE



Secretariat, when:

i)the SEAP is not submitted within one year from the official adoption of the Covenant.

ii)the overal objectives of CO2 reductions in the SEAP are not achived due to lacking or inadequated implementation of it.

iii)in two successive periods a progress report is not presented.

*IHOBE: Basque Environmental Agency

For further information:

Covenant of Mayors web page

In Euskadi: http://www.eve.es/covenant/cas/

En Europa: http://www.eumayors.eu/







ANNEX II

EVE Ente V de la E	asco nergia			REP		t of Mayors NANT COORDINATOR			
Date									
31/12/2010									
Supporting Structure									
Organization:	Ente Vasco de E	nergía (EVI	E)						
Covenant with EC:	09/02/2009								
Area:	Autonomous Co	munity of th	ie Basque Coun	try - ACBC					
Municipalities:	251			> 50.000 inhab:	6	5.000-50.000 inhab:	53	1.000-5.000 inhab:	86
Inhabitants:	2.172.175								
Basque municipalities' si	tuation								
Municipality	Inhabitants	% ACBC	Interest	Municipal covenant	Adhesion date CoM	SEAP submition date	Report 2010	Report 2011	Report 201
Donostia-San Sebastián	183.308	8,44%	✓	✓	20/06/2008				
Vitoria-Gasteiz	239.361	11,02%	V	~	19/12/2008	30/09/2010		П	
Areatza	1.036	0,05%	V	V	23/03/2010		H	H	П
Bilbao	353.340	16,27%	V	V	21/05/2010			H	П
Irún	61.445	2.83%	V	V	09/09/2010		Н		
Abanto-Zierbena	9.315	0.43%	V	V	28/10/2010		H	Н	H
Balmaseda	7.117	0.33%	V	▼	12/11/2010		П	H	H
Amezketa	969	0.04%	V	▽	19/11/2010		_	_	
Basauri	44.627	2.05%			29/11/2010				
Oñati	10.711	0.49%	V	V	02/12/2010				
Tolosa	17.829	0,49%	V	<u> </u>	28/03/2011				
		2.20%	V	✓					\Box
Portugalete	47.856	_,	✓	✓	17/10/2011				
Hondarribia	16.464	0,76%	~	✓	27/10/2011				
Usurbil	6.054	0,28%	V	V	30/11/2011				
Amurrio	9.592	0,44%	~						
Valle de Harana	329	0,02%	~						
Getxo	82.687	3,81%	~						
Mungia	14.882	0,69%	~						
Barakaldo	94.967	4,37%	V						
Berriz	4.468	0,21%	V						
Erandio	23.338	1,07%	V	П				П	
Errentería	37.873	1,74%	V	Ħ				ΠÄ	
Galdakao	29.594	1,36%	V	П			П	П	П
Gautegiz-Arteaga	869	0,04%	V	H			H	H	
Oiartzun	9.730	0,45%	V	Н			Н	П	ΠH
Ugao-Miraballes	4.060	0,19%	V	H			Н	H	
Zamudio	3.176	0,15%	V						
CoM indicators									
	Interested population	Interested % ACBC	Interested municipalities	Municipal covenants	Committed municipalities	People involved	ACBC involved	Elaborated SEAPs	
	1.201.889	60.5%	27	14	14	999.432	46.0%	1	