

COVENANT TERRITORIAL COORDINATORS

Survey 2023



This report summarizes the main accomplishment of the Covenant Coordinators on the efforts undertaken throughout the past year.

The document covers the main and concrete barriers to the energy transition and the consequent - increased - challenges in the energy emergency; mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change; approaches for SECAP's development; and multi-level governance practices.

More info: <https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/home>

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Covenant Territorial Coordinator Survey Report 2023



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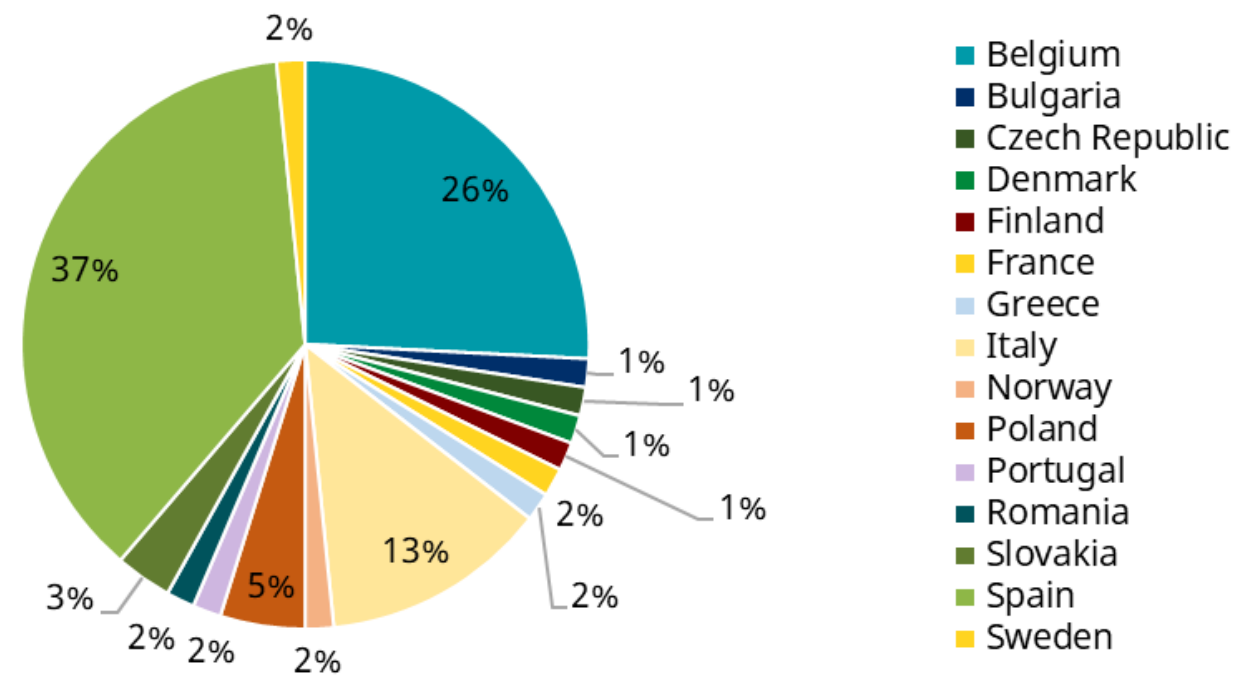
Part of



General Information

The **27,1% of the Covenant Coordinators (61 out of 225)** participated in the survey, so distributed:

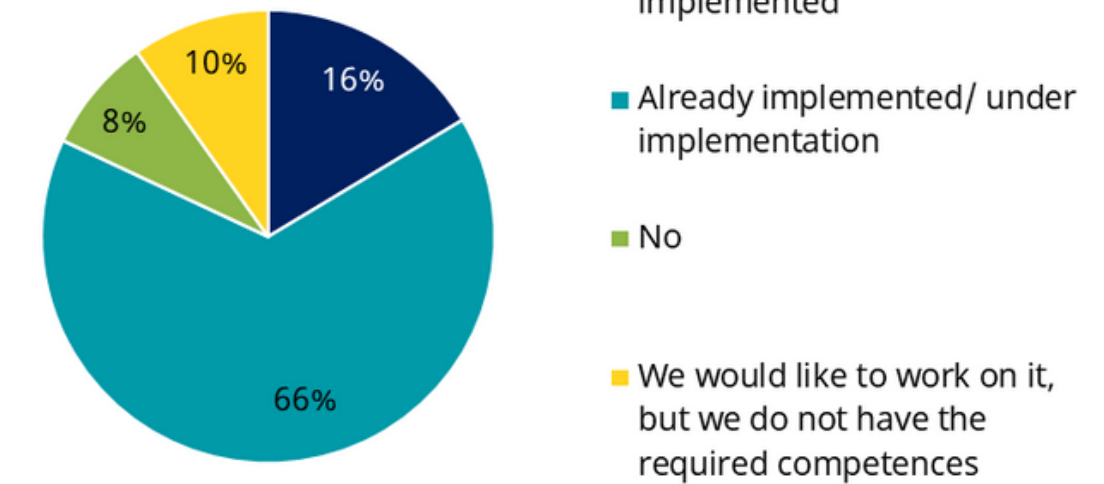
Overview of respondents by country



Facing the energy emergency

With the aim of becoming self-sufficient in energy and resources, the EU Member States have agreed to limit energy consumption. Here is what Covenant regions and provinces are doing:

Accelerating the installation of RES plants / building integrated renewables



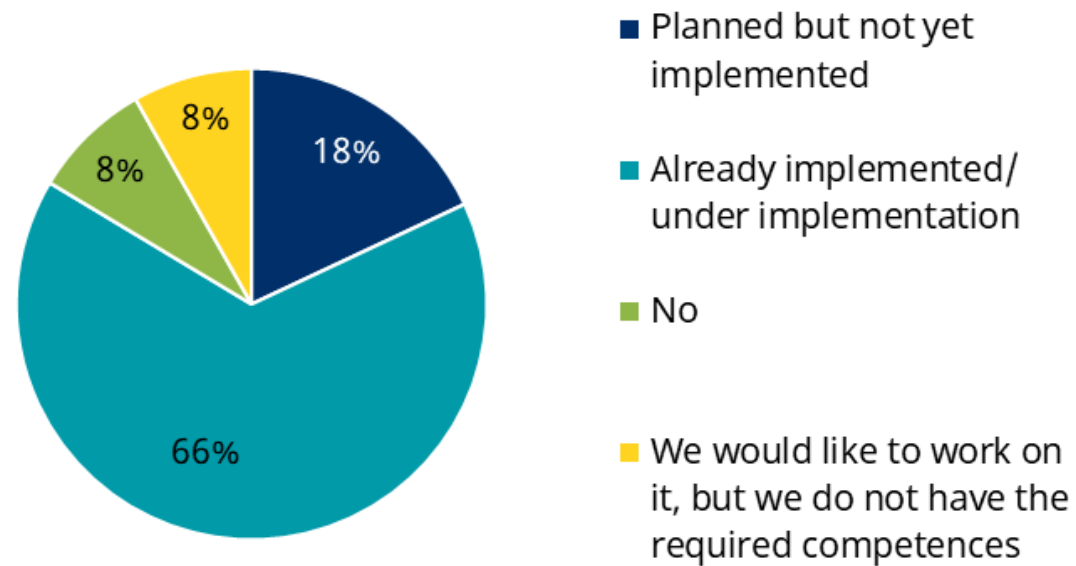
Get inspired by:

The **Province of Flemish Brabant (Belgium)** is implementing the strategic project 'Opgewekt Pajottenland' that has a central topic RES. Together with the municipalities, they determined possible locations for the development of renewable energy projects. They are now funding the project 'Aquathermal Optimization Model' whose goal is ensuring the use of river heat for heating buildings.

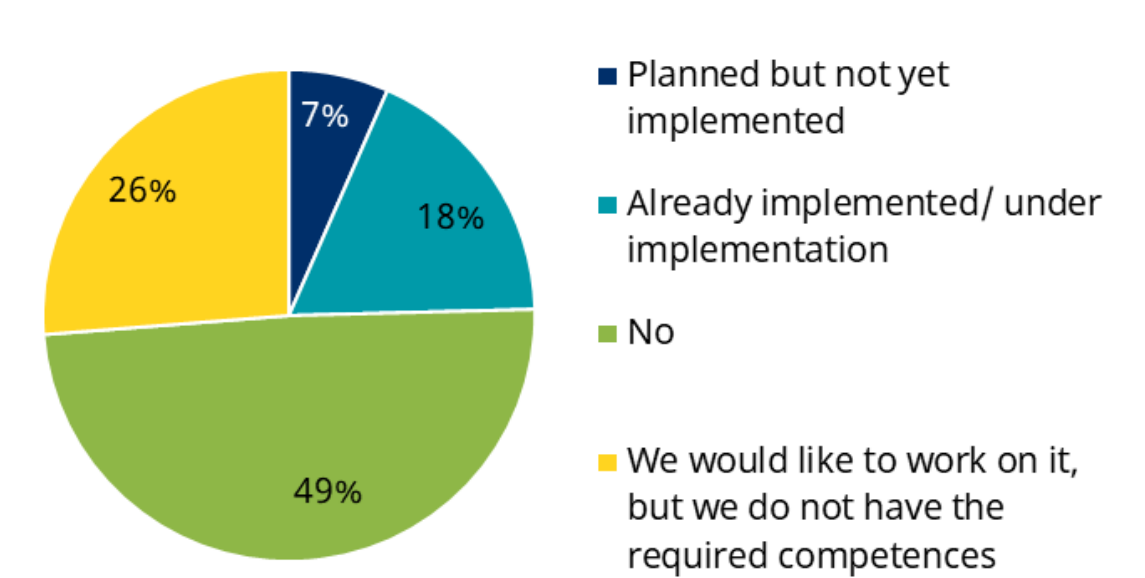
Additionally, the province funds the project 'Hydrogen Panel' where the electricity generated by a solar panel is used to convert the water vapor in the air into hydrogen gas through electrolysis.



Accelerating the retrofitting of public, private and/or commercial buildings



Agreements with RES energy producers to allow lower energy prices and other market actions



The **Regional Ministry of Environment, Territory and Housing, Government of Galicia (Spain)** is providing:

- Aid for housing rehabilitation in historic and non-historic areas, with the 25% energy efficiency improvement requirement
- Subsidies to SME and self-employed people for energy improvement projects in the service sector.
- Auditory and support for energy assessments, solar control elements, lighting efficiency and thermal conditioning improvements, and some more efficient energy management systems.

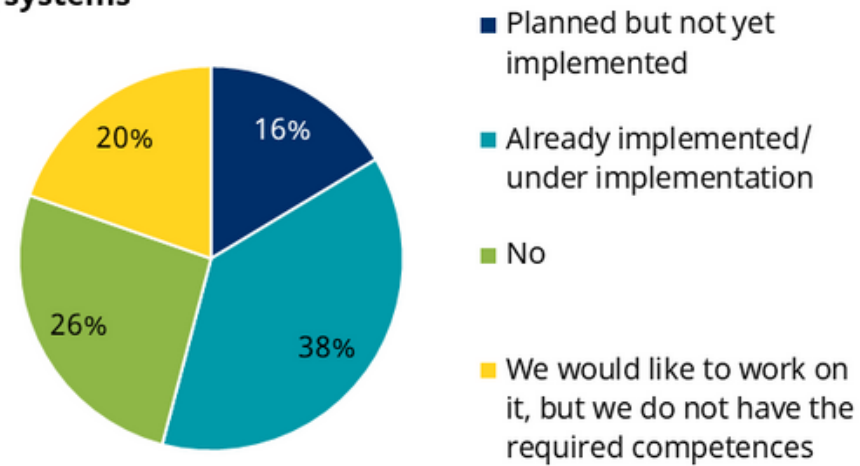
Additionally, all of the local authorities adhering to the Covenant of Mayors have begun to implement measures to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings they own.

In **Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (Poland)** purchasing clusters are used to jointly purchase electricity and gas for several hundred entities from the area of the metropolitan union.

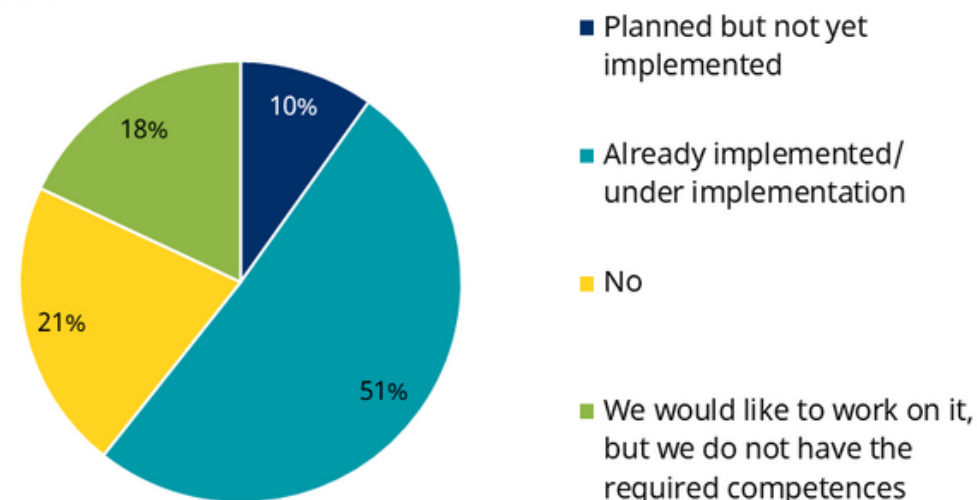
This allows to negotiate more favorable rates in order to get cheaper street lighting and power public utility buildings or educational institutions at a lower cost.



Accelerating the installation of district heating and cooling systems

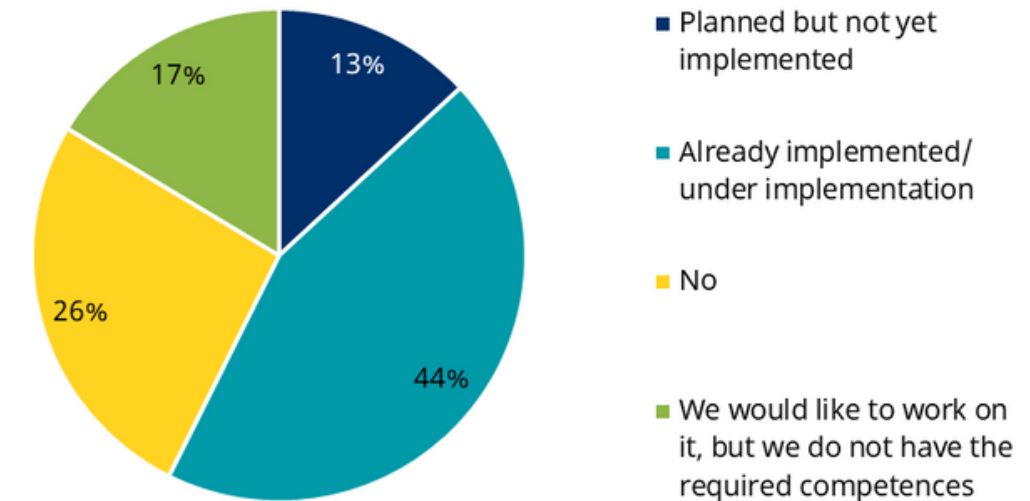


Supporting the installation of smart public lighting systems



The **Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic** plans to favour applicants who use dimming modes for new VO systems in the new LightPub subsidy call from the Modernization Fund. Ministry of Trade provides subsidies for the reconstruction of public lighting within the EFFECT III program (supplemented by funds from the National Recovery Plan). The reconstruction of public lighting in the territory of national parks is supported by the MoE as part of the National Environment Program.

Supporting the decarbonisation of industry

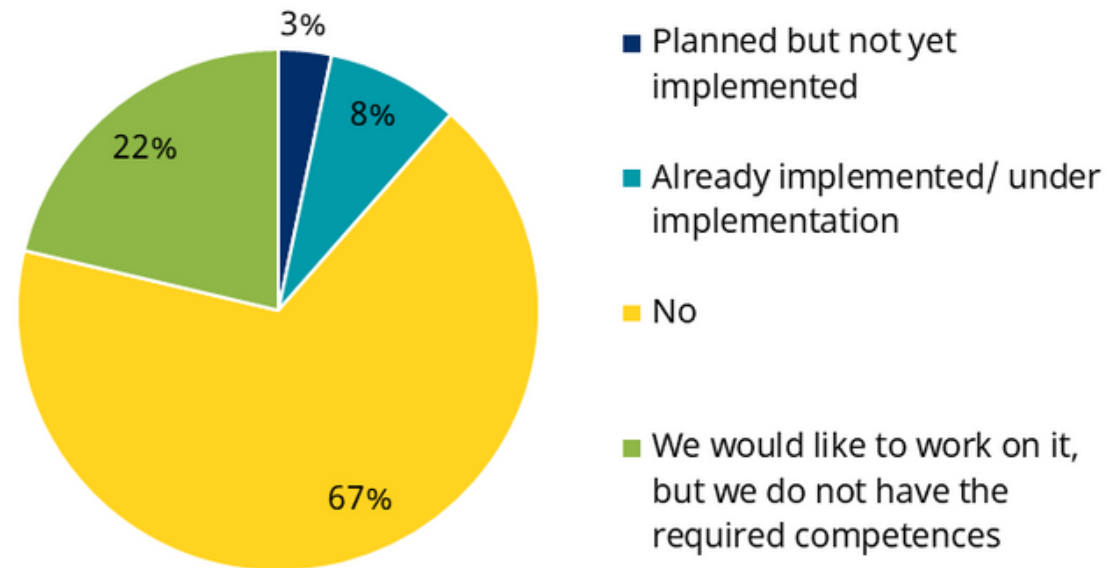


The **Flemish government (Department of Spatial Planning and Environment, Flemish Agency of Home Affairs, Flemish Energy & Climate Agency) (Belgium)** has adopted the following measures:

- Implement strengthened regulatory framework for non-energy intensive enterprises and organise call sector federation agreements: depending on their average energy consumption, companies are obliged to carry out an energy audit and implement cost-effective energy efficiency improvement measures (measures with an IRR of more than 13% after tax), or they are obliged to draw up an energy balance sheet and implement cost-effective no-regret measures (from a predefined list of 10 measures with a payback period of less than three years).
- Renew and broaden voluntary energy policy agreements with industry: The ambition level of the new energy policy agreements was raised, the target group of the energy policy agreements was broadened to all energy-intensive companies and the definition of cost-effective measures was tightened. Furthermore, new themes were added: heat demand and residual heat supply theme and climate theme.
- Decree regulation on transport of carbon dioxide
- Bilateral agreements for cross-border transport of carbon dioxide

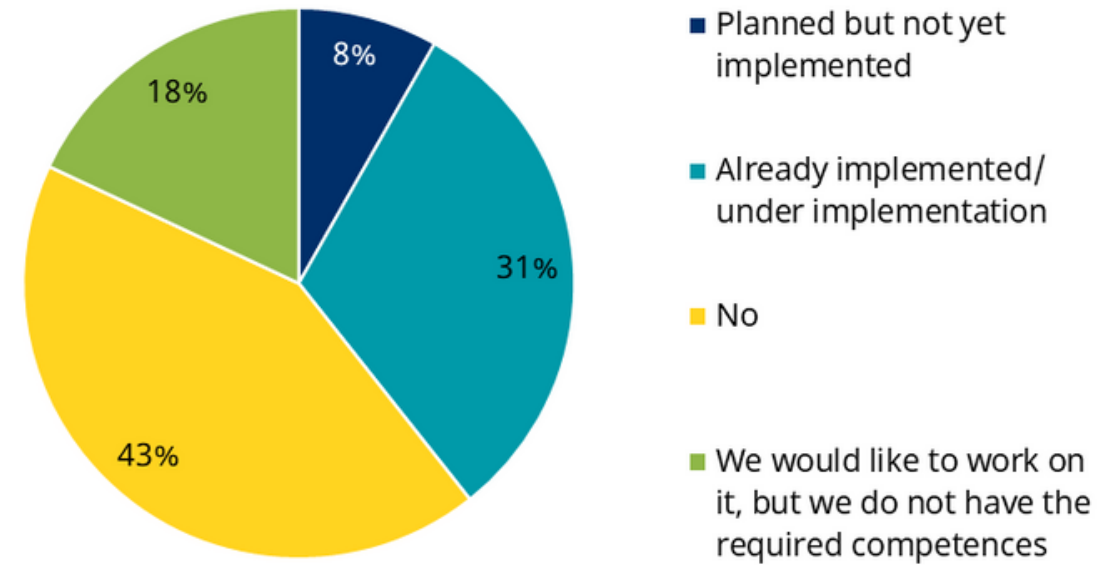


Tax measures to ease the pressure on household consumers



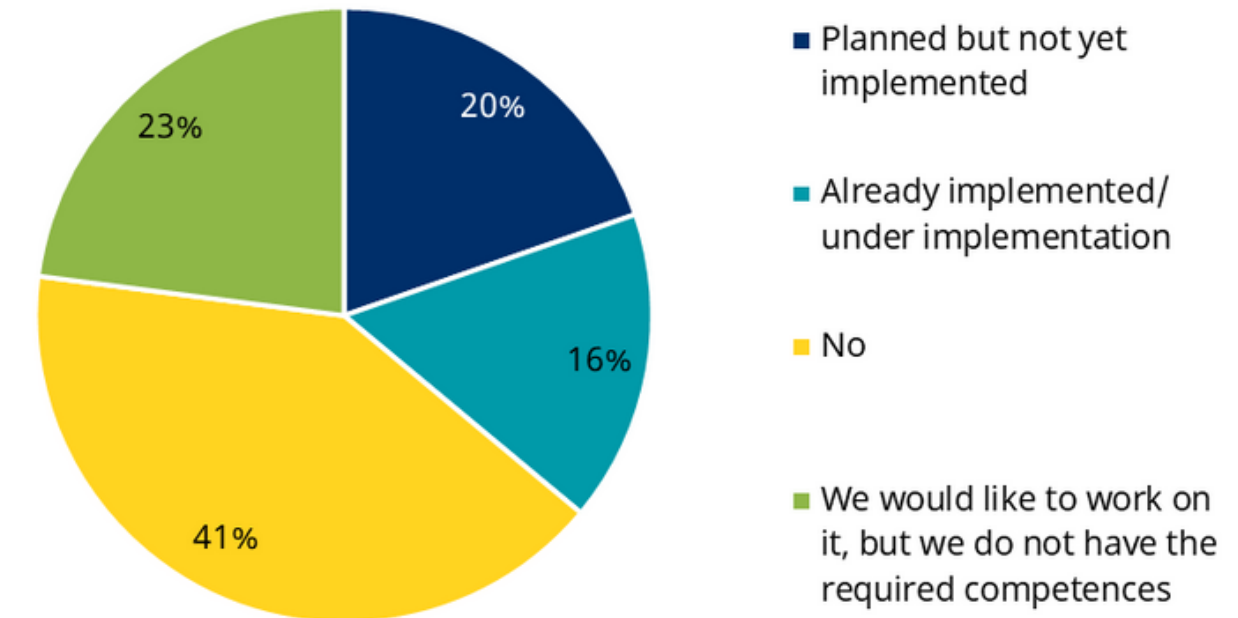
The **Consell Insular de Formentera (Spain)** applied a reduction in the property and real estate tax for owners who have installed electricity generation systems with solar panels, and a bonus in public parking for the use of electric vehicles.

Refilling gas storage and /or reducing the use of gas



The **Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic** has reported that in 2022, the Government of the approved a regulation that sets the rules for capping energy prices. The goal was to help consumers with high electricity and gas prices, not only households but also small and medium-sized businesses, government institutions, schools, health and social service providers, public transport operators, and other entities.

Accelerating the production of (green) hydrogen



The **Centre-Val de Loire region (France)** is planning to gather all regional actors each year during a Forum to structure the value chain and present calls for projects under European programmes to accelerate the production and use of green hydrogen within the region.



Difficulties in the implementation of these measures

Most of the respondents (65%) usually face difficulties in the implementation of their actions: **in involving relevant stakeholders in the action (21%), in recruiting and / or employing technical staff (21%) and in availability of financial resources (29%):**

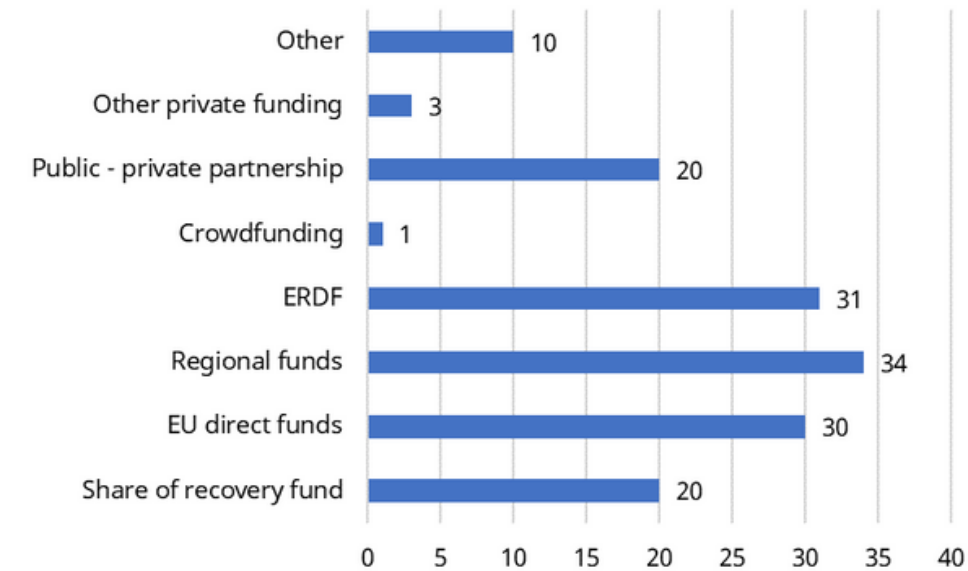
Challenges faced in the implementation of those measures



Financing these measures

The above measures are mostly financed through **regional funds (23%), followed by ERDF (21%) and EU direct funds (20%).**

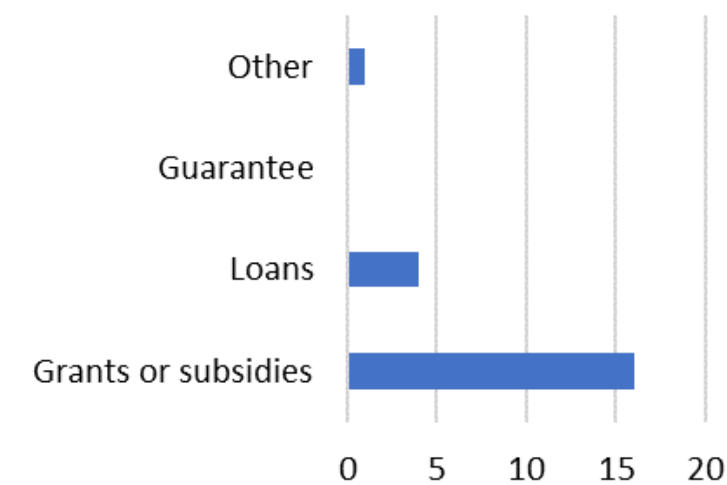
How are organisations financing the above actions?



34 coordinators out of 61 are using regional funds. Out of these 34, 16 coordinators (**53%**) are also allocating part of them to **financing the implementation of actions carried out by other public or private entities to face the energy emergency.**

All of these 16 coordinators are financing this actions in multiple ways: all of them (16) through grants or subsidies, 4 with loans, and only one through other methods.

How are coordinators financing these actions?

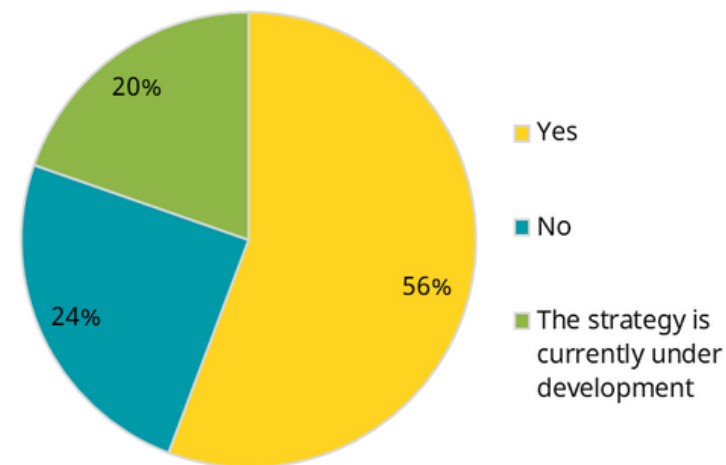


The main **target group (54%)** of these funds are **local authorities.**



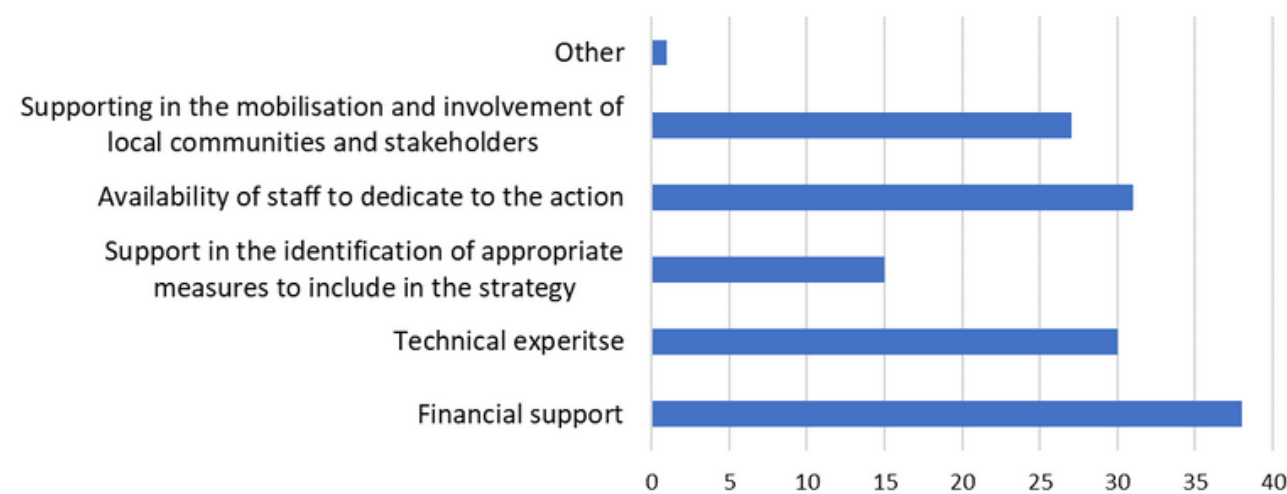
Regional climate and energy strategy

Most of the respondents (56%) have already developed a **Regional Climate and Energy Strategy for 2030 and beyond**:



The type of support most required by organisations for kicking-off/keeping implementing the regional strategy is **financial support (27%)**, followed by **availability of staff to dedicate to the action (22%)**, and **technical expertise (21%)**.

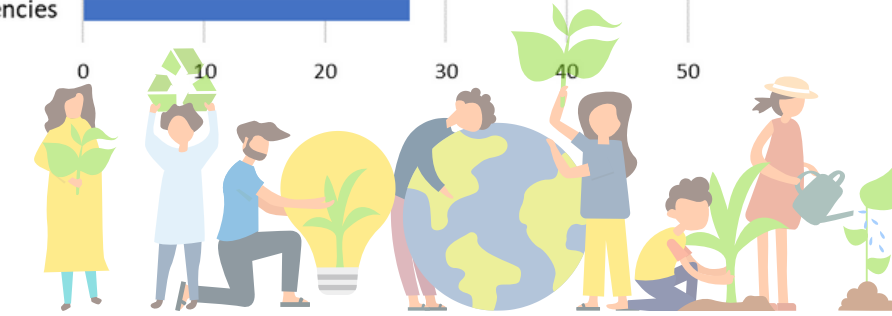
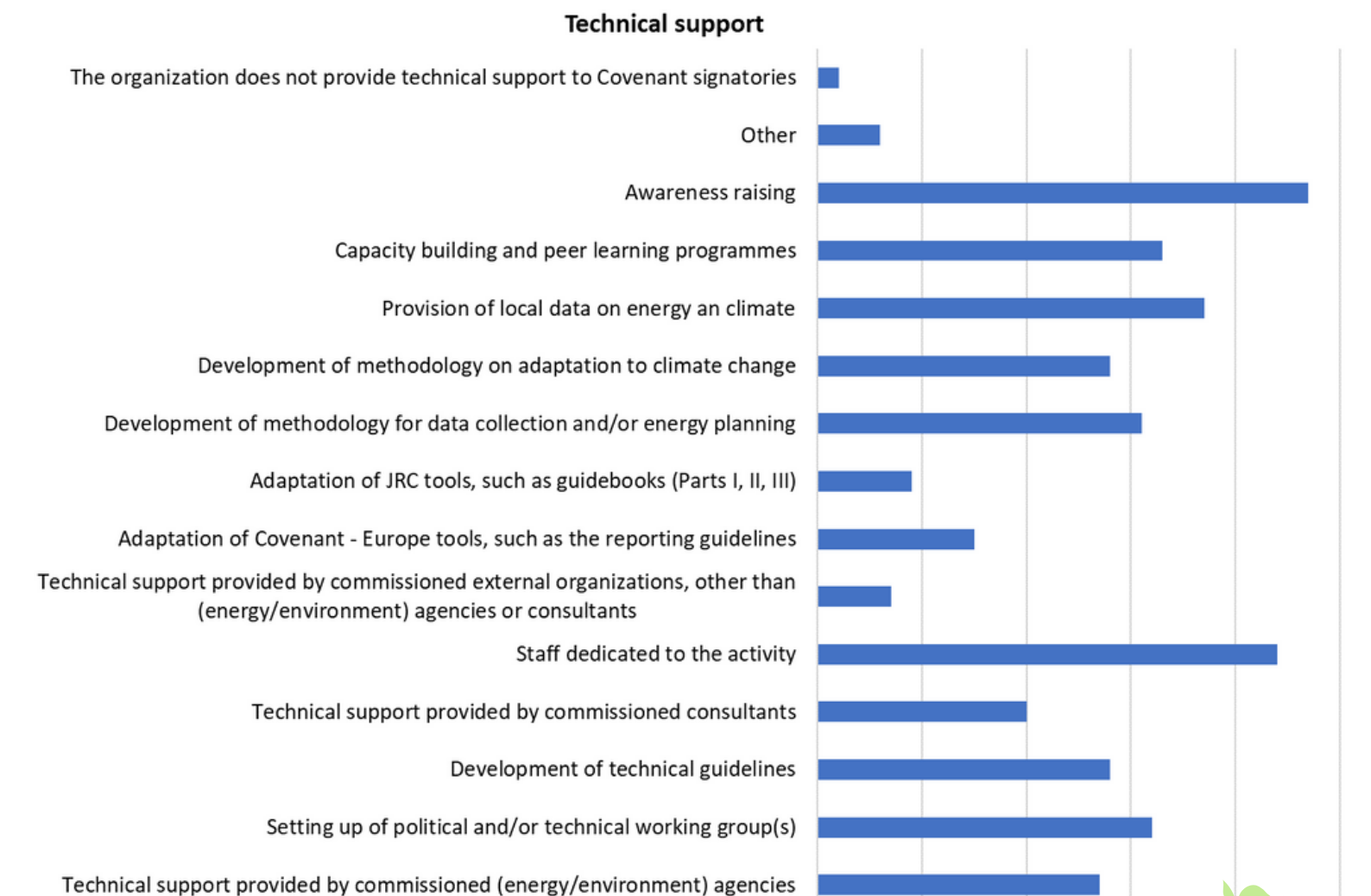
What type of support do organisations require for kicking-off / keeping implementing the regional strategy?

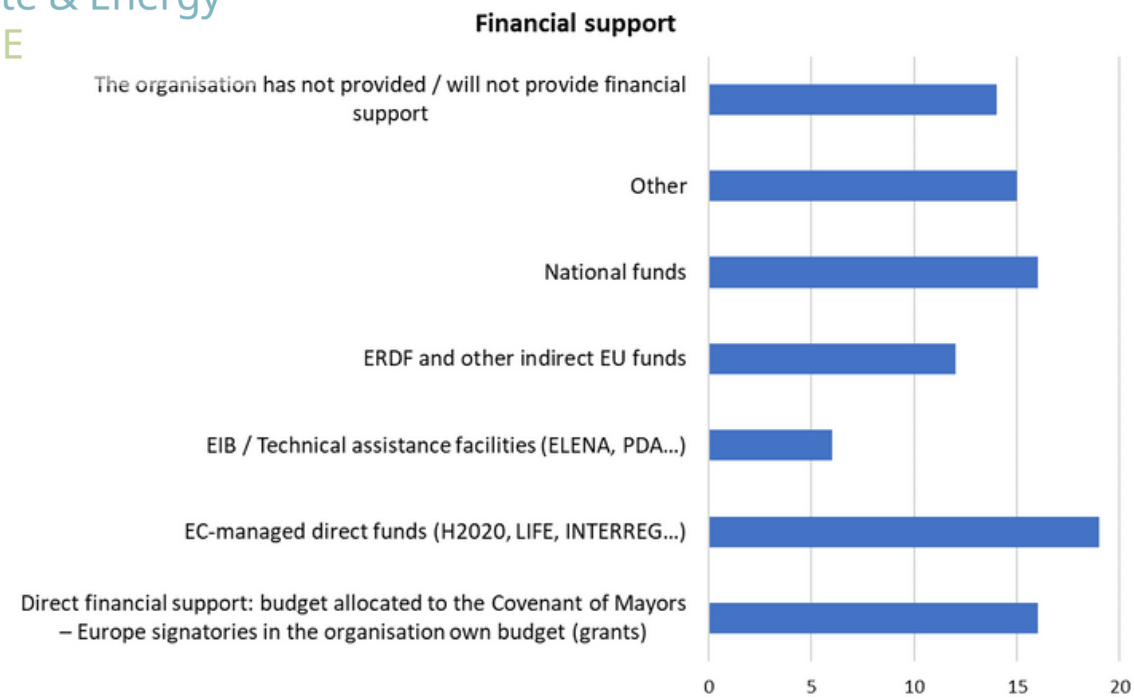


Technical and financial support for local plans' development/implementation

Covenant Coordinators are crucial to the success of the initiative, particularly in terms of technical and financial support provided to Covenant Signatories through technical and financial assistance for the development and the implementation of SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans).

The following chart shows the different **kinds of technical support that coordinators provide to signatories for the development and the implementation of their local climate and energy action plans**.





The chart above shows the types of **financing sources used by coordinators to provide financial support to signatories for the development and the implementation of their local action plans.**

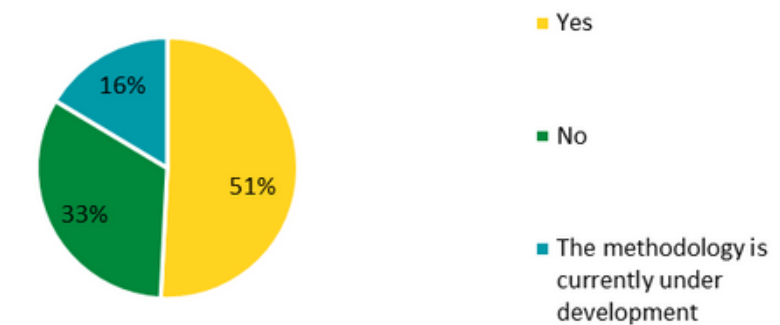
73% (11 out of 15) of the respondents who selected "Direct financial support" have stated that **the fund is connected to the Covenant of Mayors Europe.**

Among the main **requirements** that municipalities have to meet to access the grant/subsidy, **having joined the Covenant of Mayors Europe initiative, or having renewed commitments to it is the most selected (50%).**



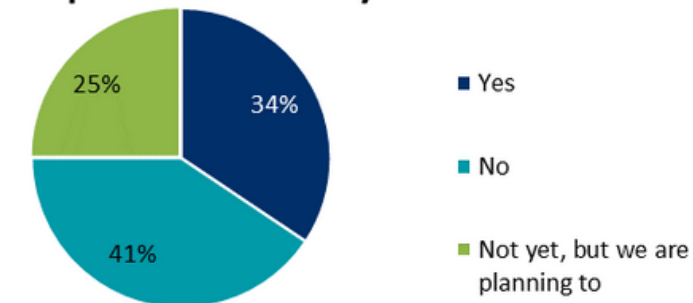
Regions and provinces have proven to be active and engaged in the development of methodologies and approaches for the development of **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)**. In fact, 51% of the organisations have already one, while 16% have their methodology under development.

Developed methodology or approach for the development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)

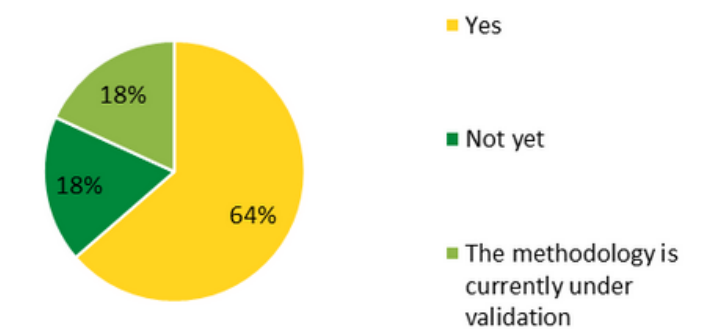


Within the organisations that have already developed a methodology or approach for the development of SECAP, **34% submitted the methodology to the Covenant Europe and the JRC within the framework of the Grouped SECAPs Analysis.** Of the 34%, **64% have already been approved by the JRC through the Grouped SECAPs Analysis approach.**

Methodology submitted to the Covenant Europe and the JRC within the framework of the Grouped SECAPs Analysis



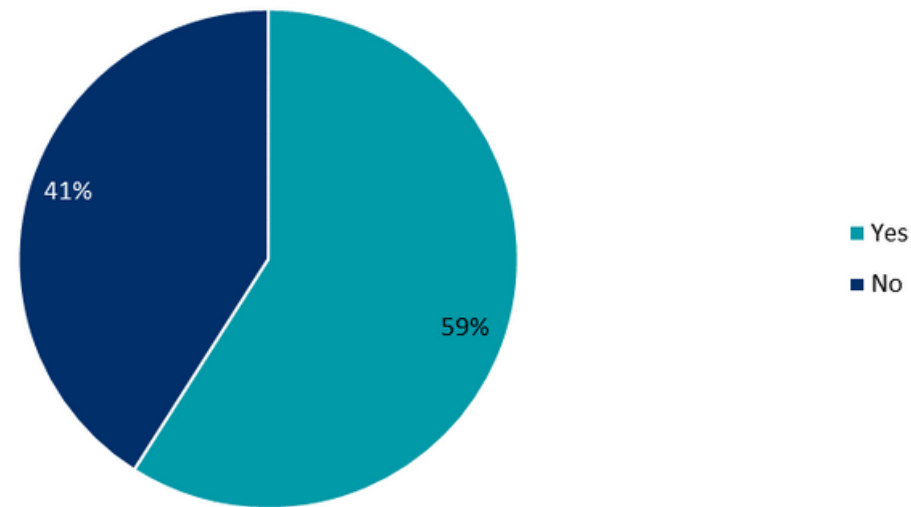
Methodology approved by the JRC through the Grouped SECAPs Analysis approach



Supporting multi-level governance

59% of the coordinators are supporting **multi-level governance (MLG) practices** in their territory.

Support of multi-level governance (MLG) practices



The **Flemish government (Department of Spatial Planning and Environment, Flemish Agency of Home Affairs, Flemish Energy & Climate Agency) (Belgium)** has applied the following measures:

- CoM-meeting with several entities of Flemish government, provinces, intercommunales, VVSG (the association of Flemish cities and municipalities)
- Steering group CO2 inventory (CoM) with several entities of Flemish government, provinces, cities, VVSG (the association of Flemish cities and municipalities)

The **Basque Environmental Agency: Ihobe (Spain)** currently has an integrated Life project (Urban Klima 2050) that brings together all levels of governance and pilots being carried out in this regard. Also, the Udalsarea 2030 network of sustainable Basque municipalities brings together not only municipalities but also supramunicipal entities to work towards territorial sustainability.

The **Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw (Poland)** provided the following examples:

1. The anti-smog procedure was carried out in two stages: the first stage consisted of giving opinions on the project by the executive bodies of the local government, while the second stage included the presentation and collection of public opinions;
2. During the proceeding of the Environmental Protection Programme for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, a Monitoring Committee was established, consisting of representatives of the Marshal Office in Warsaw from various fields related to environment, representatives of government administration and science. The tasks of the Committee included, among others, the analysis of the objectives, guidelines and directions of activities included in the draft program and ongoing supervision of the implementation of work on this program. The draft document has been subject to consultations – with interested central and local government administration units, institutions, organizations and individuals can present opinions, positions and proposals regarding the document.

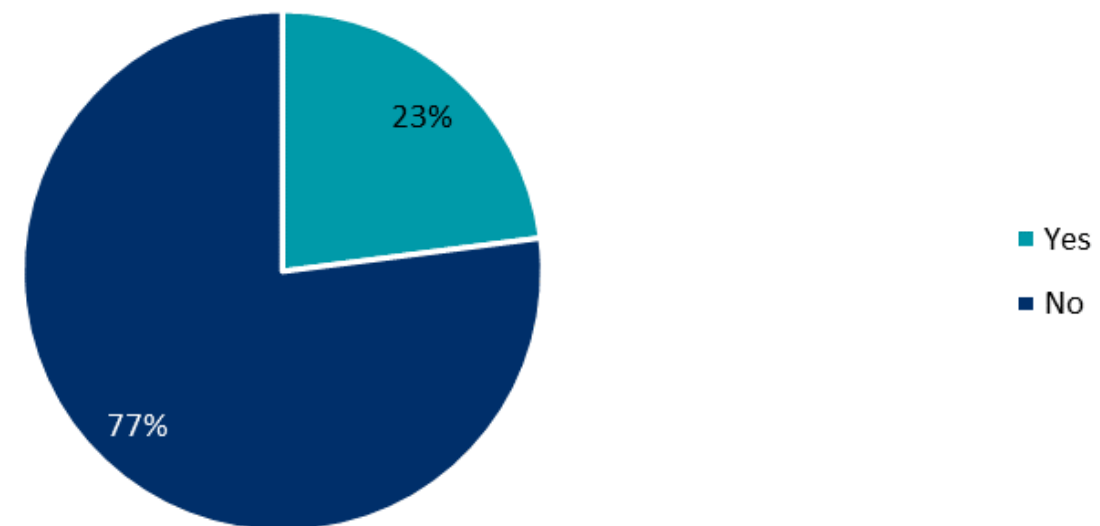
The Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office is responsible for the overall coordination of the initiative in Europe. It is composed of networks of local and regional authorities: Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, EUROCITIES, CEMR, FEDARENE and ICLEI Europe and by the ICT company Akaryon.

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77% of the coordinators are collaborating with national authorities in the **revision of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECAP)**.

Collaboration with the national authorities in the revision of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)



*The **Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw (Poland)**, contributed to the development of the national energy and climate plan (NECP) by sharing opinions on the document at the stage of submitting comments to the NECP.*

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