

## Cohesion policy: priority to local energy strategies!

About the EU regulation on the European Regional Development Fund - ERDF<sup>1</sup>

**Energy Cities calls for the future ERDF regulation to support local authorities voluntarily committed to the EU energy and climate objectives!** This Cohesion Policy funding instrument should give priority to cities having adopted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan under the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

Nearly 4,500 local authorities representing 170 million inhabitants voluntarily committed to achieving and going beyond the EU CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective by signing the [Covenant of Mayors](#). [Energy Cities](#) is a strong supporter of this mainstream movement and plays an essential part in its implementation as the co-ordinator of the Covenant of Mayors Office.

The EU has to show that it acknowledges the crucial role played by the Covenant of Mayors Signatories and supports them in reaching –and going beyond!– the European energy-climate objectives.

Indeed, it is essential that the ERDF encourages local actions contributing to the achievement of the EU energy and climate targets. Generating energy savings and local jobs, they thus optimise the use of the EU funds while maximising the leverage effect of public money. Especially in these times of budget cuts, support should be provided to projects that are integrated within broader, long-term strategies such as the Sustainable Energy Action Plans of the Covenant of Mayors. This would increase the number of local authorities opting for an integrated approach to local sustainable energy development. It would also be a very positive signal for those local authorities which have already prepared and implemented a Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

As the representative of more than 1,000 European municipalities embarked on the energy transition<sup>2</sup>, the Energy Cities network welcomes and promotes EU proposals supporting the implementation of sustainable energy actions at local level<sup>3</sup> and suggests improvement when needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006

<sup>2</sup> See "30 proposals for the energy transition of cities and towns" <http://www.energy-cities.eu/30proposals>

<sup>3</sup> See Energy Cities' position paper on the Cohesion policy: [http://www.energy-cities.eu/IMG/pdf/Cohesion\\_policy\\_legislation\\_background\\_paper\\_ENC\\_final\\_10-04-2012.pdf](http://www.energy-cities.eu/IMG/pdf/Cohesion_policy_legislation_background_paper_ENC_final_10-04-2012.pdf)