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CENTRAL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

EU4 ENERGY TRANSITION: COVENANT OF MAYORS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKİYE

TÜRKİYE MONTHLY BULLETIN

- July 2024 -



EU4 ENERGY TRANSITION: COVENANT OF MAYORS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKİYE



July Focus

Adaptation

*"The future depends on what you do
today."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

Adapting to climate change is crucial as the world faces rising temperatures, altered precipitation, and extreme weather. Without immediate action, communities are at risk of severe disruption and damage.

Urban areas, densely populated and highly vulnerable, must prioritize adaptation. Municipalities are key players, implementing green infrastructure, enhancing stormwater systems, and making buildings energy-efficient. These changes are vital for protecting urban populations and maintaining livable cities.

Municipalities must also engage communities and stakeholders, ensuring adaptation strategies are inclusive and effective. Inaction is not an option; cities must lead the charge to build resilient, adaptive environments ready for the harsh realities of climate change.



IMM MONTHLY MEETING: SECAP IT TOOL

01 July 2024



The monthly meeting between **EU4ETTR** and **İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM)** clarified the concept of the **IT tool** and the requirements for effective monitoring.

The development of an IT tool for the monitoring of **SECAP** (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan) actions of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality is underway.

	ACTION TITLE	ACTION DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVE	ACTION TYPE	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE AFFILIATE/SUBSIDIA
1	Heating and cooling systems revision	Renewing the Heating Cooling Ventilation systems of all facilities within İSTAÇ and replacing them with high efficiency systems	Mitigation	Energy Efficiency	İSTAÇ
2	Permeable pavements	Construction of permeable pavements in Bağlılar, Esenyurt, Güngören, Bahçelievler, Gaziosmanpaşa	Adaptation	Others	IMM
3	Initiating field applications for energy efficiency and less energy use in residences and providing technical support	100 Faculty of Engineering students, energy efficiency and energy training on management issues and then working in 1000 houses ensuring measurement, monitoring and implementation	Energy Poverty	Public Awareness	IMM
4					
5					



Effective, accurate, and regular monitoring of SECAP actions ensures a clear understanding of the steps needed to achieve the climate goals.



**MLGP4
CLIMATE**

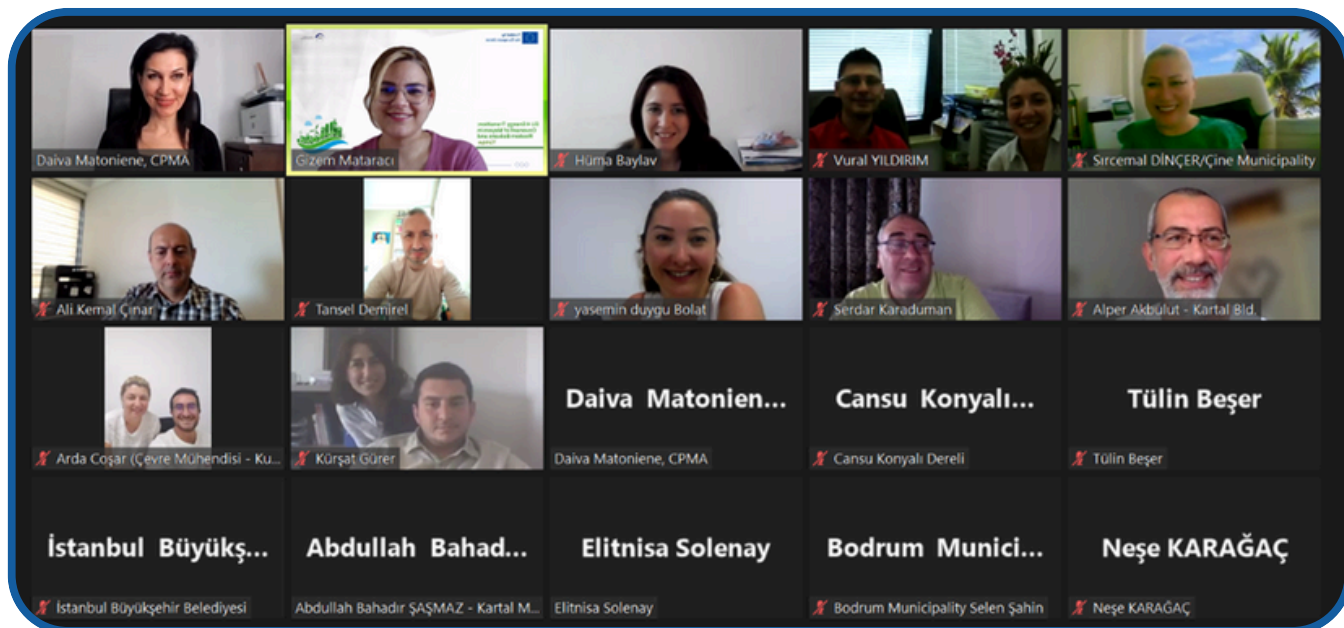
The studies initiated with IMM will shed light on the monitoring studies of other municipalities that are members of the **MLG (Multi-Level Governance) platform** in the future.



EU4ETTR PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK TRAINING: PART 2

02 July 2024

Project Logical Framework for Municipalities Part: 2 Training Session was given on 2 July 2024 by EU4ETTR Project Team Leader Ms. Daiva Matoniene and moderated by Expert Ms. Gizem Mataracı.



A logical framework (or logframe) is a management tool that assists in project design by clearly stating the key components, how the project is expected to work and how success will be measured. It can be prepared as from Top to Bottom or Bottom to Top approach.

Ms. Matoniene explained the concept of being SMART when writing a project, highlighting characteristics of a SMART person such as adaptability, curiosity, open-mindedness, and self-control. Ms. Matoniene engage in a detailed discussion about the SMART criteria, highlighting the need for specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals in project planning.

EU4ETTR PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK TRAINING: PART 2

02 July 2024

The most common mistakes when preparing logical frameworks:

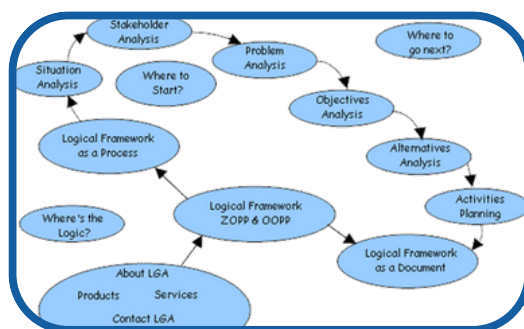
1 Not evaluating and identifying call

2 Not clear defining the problem

3 Not setting SMART objectives

4 Not writing clearly and concisely

5 Not following the guidelines and format



Ms. Matonienė stressed the importance of innovation and clear partner responsibilities in project proposals, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions and the clear definition of each partner's role. Ms. Matonienė highlighted the need for clear and concrete definitions of their all-partners' work.

Tips and Recommendations:

1. Follow instructions carefully
2. Use clear and concise language
3. Be specific about your objective
4. Conduct thorough research
5. Develop a realistic timeline and detailed budget
6. Be clear about what impact you hope to make with your project
7. Developing a clear monitoring plan, data collection
8. Be open to feedback





BANDIRMA MUNICIPALITY MEETING

04 July 2024

EU4ETTR organised online and face-to-face meetings with the Bandırma Municipality, a strong partner of MLGP4Climate (Multi-Level Governance Platform for Climate Actions), which signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2023.



Project Team Leader Ms. Daiva Matoniene had a meeting with the Mayor of Bandırma, Mr. Dursun Mirza.

Meeting 90% of its energy needs from its 1 MW solar power plant, Bandırma defines itself as an energy community and is very eager to take a more active role in climate action. With a highly inspiring team and potential, our meetings with Bandırma Municipality focused on the following topics:

- The support provided by the EU4ETTR's MLG platform for municipalities in preparing SECAPs.
- The status and next steps in Bandırma Municipality's SECAP preparation.
- Energy poverty desk initiatives.
- Steps to attract financial resources.





BAĞCILAR MUNICIPALITY MONTHLY MEETING

05 July 2024

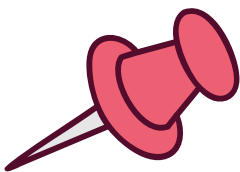


EU4ETTR held a monthly meeting with **Bağcılar Municipality** to discuss developments regarding the successful implementation of the grant project in the municipality, the steps taken to monitor SECAP actions and the revision of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan with the addition of the Energy Poverty section.



The meeting was attended by Ms. Daiva Matonienė, Ms. Gizem Mataraci, Mr. Arif Künar and Mr. Valius Serbenta from EU4ETTR team and Ms. Betül Tombul Yelkenci and Mr. Faruk Şit from Bağcılar Municipality.

In the meeting;



- Monitoring of small grant projects,
- The need for regular data submission,
- The importance of CO2 reduction evaluation,
- The responsibility for the common monitoring report,
- The feasibility of establishing energy desks and
- The energy poverty topic were highlighted.



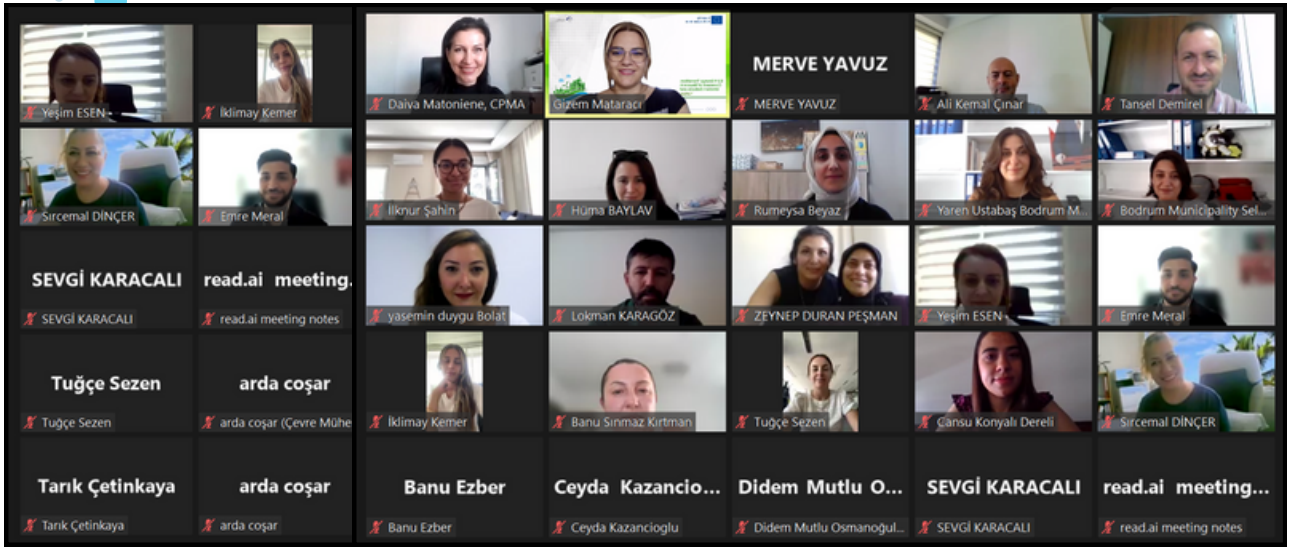
The project of Bağcılar Municipality generated more energy than expected!

CLIMAAX 2. OPEN CALL INFORMATION SEMINAR

18 July 2024

EU4ETTR organised an information seminar with 49 participants from 24 municipalities in the framework of the 2nd Open Call of Climaax.

In the framework of the first Climaax Open Call, 4 applications from Türkiye were accepted and EU4ETTR is proud to have supported 3 of them!



The training given by Ms. İklim Şahin, EU4ETTR expert, was very productive and covered several topics;

- the importance and benefits of the call,
- priorities of the call,
- beneficiaries and application method.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Carefully review the CLIMAAX Guidelines for Applicants.
2. Complete the Application Form with all the required information.
3. Submit your application by 15 October.
4. The proposals will be evaluated by a committee of experts.
5. Selected projects will be informed and funded.



LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



EU4ETTR organised a study visit to Lithuania between 21-24 July, bringing together representatives from the Covenant of Mayors Municipalities from Türkiye, the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, the Marmara Municipalities Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Türkiye and their counterparts in Lithuania.



The visit, which witnessed valuable exchange of experiences and networking, aimed to strengthen dialogue, pave the way for Lithuanian-Turkish cooperation and promote Türkiye's sustainable energy and climate agenda.



LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



The first day of the meetings started with the opening speeches of **Mr. Ambassador Ričardas Degutis** and **Ms. Deputy Director Rasa Suraučienė (CPMA)**. **Ms. Daniele Zubrickaitė**, Senior Project Manager (CPMA), introduced CPMA and discussed financial programmes and potential cooperation in SECAP implementation.





LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



The Study Visit continued at the **Environmental Project Management Agency (APVA)**, where **Ms. Laura Masiliauskaitė**, Chancellor of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania, and **Mr. Vytautas Vrubliauskas**, APVA Deputy Director, talked about sustainable environmental solutions Dialogue in the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania.



The first day meetings ended with a speech by **Ms. Agnė BAGOČIŪTĖ**, Lithuanian Energy Agency (LEA) Director, on RES initiatives and potential Turkish-Lithuanian cooperation.





LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



The 2nd day of EU4ETTR's study visit started with the conference on 'Green-Diplomacy: Türkiye-Lithuania Collaboration on Sustainable Policies' moderated by Project Team Leader **Ms. Daiva Matoniene**.

The conference opened with the welcoming speech of **Ms. Roma Žakaitienė**, Director of Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (ALAL). Afterwards, **Ms. Gabriela Kuštan** gave a speech on the role of the Lithuanian Local Authorities Association for climate action.



The Mayor of Švenčionys, **Mr. Rimantas Klipčius**, spoke about improving energy efficiency in urban areas, mentioning the practices and plans of the Municipality of Švenčionys.



Mr. Edvardas Citvaras, Deputy Mayor of Birštonas, then spoke about the energy efficiency programme and the successful implementation of SECAP in the Municipality of Birštonas with a resort area.





LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



Mr. Vural Yıldırım from the Climate Change and Energy Management Branch Directorate of Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality spoke about the SECAP of Eskişehir and the role of MLGP4Climate in the preparation of the plan.

Ms. Elif Temizel and **Ms. Hüma Baylav** from the Climate Change and Zero Waste Department of Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality gave a presentation on the SECAP preparation of their municipality and the place of MLGP4Climate in this process.



Ms. Agnė Skaistytė, Head of the Development Cooperation Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, gave a speech on Bilateral and other cooperation programmes for the development of sustainable and smart cities.

The final presentation was given by CPMA expert **Mr. Gediminas Česonis** on examples of cooperation between national and local authorities for sustainable and smart cities.



The conference closed with a networking and discussion session.





LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT

21-24 July 2024



Dr. Arda Deniz Aksular, Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Türkiye and Lithuania share similarities rooted in history. Although the two countries are geographically distant and differ in population size, they share strong ties dating back to the Ottoman Empire. **Türkiye was one of the first countries to recognise Lithuania's independence** in 1991 and supported Lithuania's NATO membership. **Lithuania also supports Türkiye's full membership of the EU.**

The two countries share the same time zone, cooperate in NATO missions, are united in their EU aspirations, share common problems, implement many joint projects and develop friendly relations. However, cooperation with Lithuania falls far short of its potential. **There are opportunities for Türkiye and Lithuania to cooperate in many fields, especially in areas such as green energy, green transformation, waste management and multi-level governance projects.**

At this meeting, I found that both the Lithuanian central authorities and the municipalities have a very positive approach to cooperation on various issues. I would also like to emphasise that all the promotional and visibility materials that were distributed as part of the meeting were environmentally friendly.



Mr. Vural Yıldırım, Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality: We had discussions on potential areas of cooperation between Türkiye and Lithuania, public-private partnerships and the role of international cooperation programmes. We familiarized ourselves with the history and culture of the cities through field visits.

For example, we shared the achievements of Eskişehir, Sakarya, Birštonas and Švenčionys municipalities with their sustainable energy and climate action plans and discussed how these projects can be harmonised with other cities.



REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT LITHUANIA STUDY VISIT



Ms. Cemresu Banar, Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality: Our study visit to Lithuania was a truly unique experience. This visit gave us the opportunity to see Lithuania's sustainable energy policies and practices in action. The information we gained was inspiring and **gave us new ideas on how to develop similar policies in Eskişehir.**

Our meetings with experts in Lithuania once again demonstrated the **importance of our international cooperation.** In addition, the information we received on the transition to sustainable energy systems in local governments gave us a great advantage in accelerating this process. This visit not only broadened our knowledge, but **also will enables us to make more informed and effective decisions in Eskişehir's strategic planning.**



Mr. Mustafa Özkul, Marmara Municipality Union: Climate action in Lithuania is developing in a planned manner, both in terms of overall plans and policies at the central level, and in terms of municipal efforts at the local level. The institutional and legal framework allows the country to develop clean energy investments in a harmonious way.

It was fascinating to see the improvement in the use of renewable energy - especially the offshore wind project in the Baltic Sea - the increased municipal capacity of solar power plants, and the efforts of the Birštonas Municipality to modernise its buildings and plan for the use of renewable resources and a citizen-friendly city.

Local governments in Lithuania and Türkiye can continue their close cooperation with projects that will be a continuation of the EU4ETTR project. The mutual learning process will have a positive impact on both sides.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORKSHOP

26 July 2024

A successful workshop on climate change adaptation was held with **45 participants** from local authorities. EU4ETTR short term expert **Mr. Tuncer Demir** gave a presentation on identifying adaptation measures in urban areas.



Failure to take adaptation measures in systems such as roads and bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, buildings in urban areas can lead to loss of life, damage to infrastructure and increased repair costs.

HOW IS TÜRKİYE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS?

Forest Fires:

- Devastating forest fires in 2021, especially in the Mediterranean region.
- Large areas of forest, homes, and livelihoods destroyed.

High Temperatures:

- Record-breaking heatwaves.
- Increased health risks like heat strokes and cardiovascular issues.

Floods:

- Severe floods in cities like Istanbul and Izmir.
- Significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and businesses.
- Economic losses and daily life disruption.

Urgency and Future Projections:

- Increased frequency and intensity of climate hazards without urgent action.
- More extreme weather events, greater water scarcity, and heightened risks to public health and safety.

Long-term Risks:

- Irreversible environmental damage and loss of biodiversity.
- Higher economic costs for future adaptation and mitigation efforts.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORKSHOP

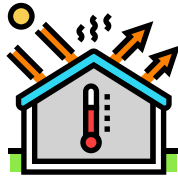
26 July 2024

Individual Solution Recommendations for Climate Change Hazards

Solution Recommendations for Climate Change Hazards to Municipalities

Heat Waves:

- Use fans, stay hydrated, avoid peak heat.
- Install reflective materials on roofs.



Heat Waves:

- Develop heat action plans.
- Increase green spaces.

Floods:

- Elevate electrical appliances.
- Prepare an emergency kit.

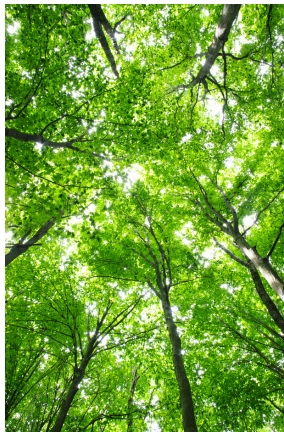
Floods:

- Upgrade storm-water systems.
- Enforce floodplain regulations.



Forest Fires:

- Create defensible space around your home.
- Use fire-resistant materials.



Forest Fires:

- Implement controlled burns.
- Enforce fire-safe codes.



Water Scarcity:

- Take shorter showers.
- Install water-efficient appliances.



Water Scarcity:

- Promote xeriscaping.
- Invest in desalination plants.





CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORKSHOP

26 July 2024

Sectoral Solution Recommendations

Public Health:

- Stay informed about health advisories.
- Join community health programs.
- Upgrade healthcare infrastructure.
- Enhance disease surveillance.



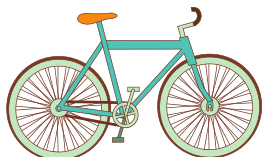
Buildings:

- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Insulate your home.
- Implement green building codes.
- Incentivize sustainable construction.



Transportation:

- Walk or bike for short trips.
- Carpool to reduce emissions.
- Expand public transportation networks.
- Support electric vehicle infrastructure.



Education & Awareness:

- Stay informed about climate issues.
- Share knowledge with your community.
- Launch public education campaigns.
- Support climate change education in schools.

Tourism:

- Choose eco-friendly activities.
- Respect local environments.
- Develop sustainable tourism policies.
- Protect natural heritage sites.

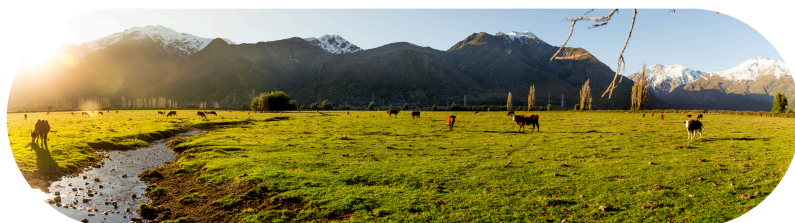


Energy:

- Install solar panels.
- Practice energy-saving habits.
- Invest in renewable energy projects.
- Improve energy grid resilience.

Agriculture & Forestry:

- Support local, sustainable farmers.
- Join tree-planting events.
- Promote urban agriculture.
- Implement reforestation policies.



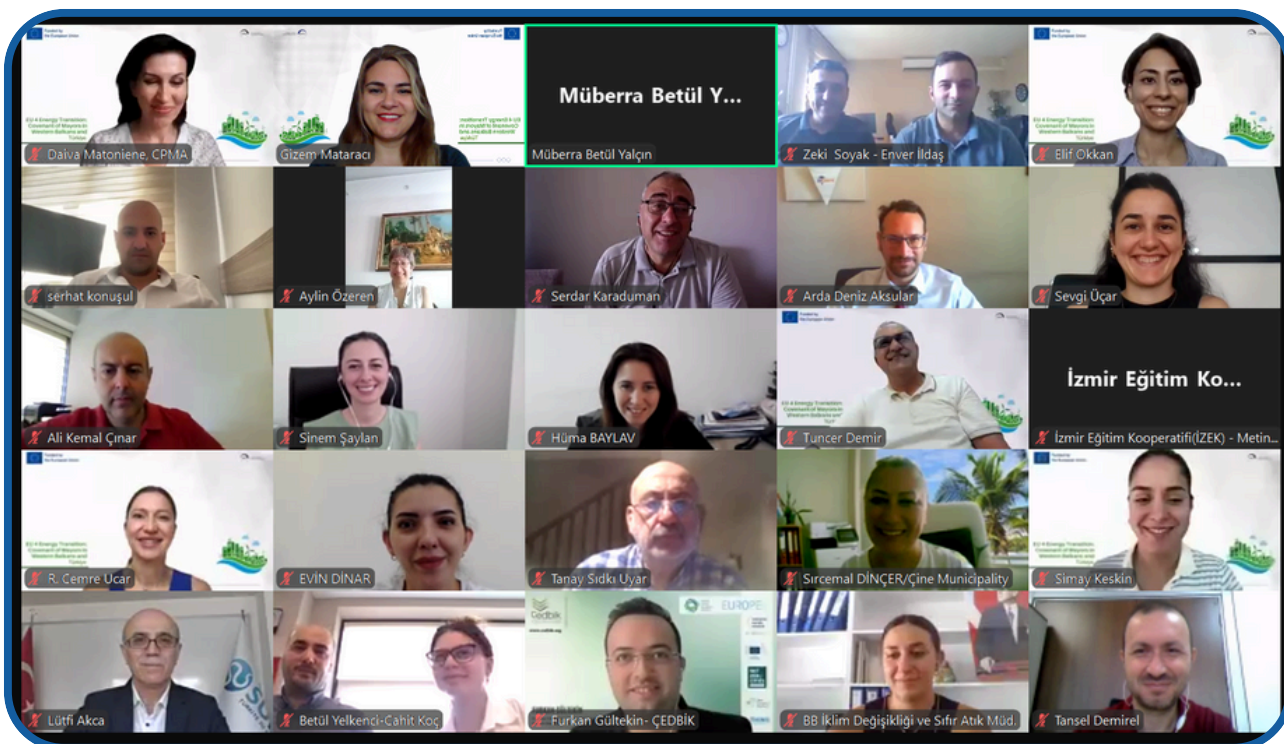




MLGP4CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING WORKING GROUP-2 MEEETING

30 July 2024

EU4ETTR MLGP4Climate Working Group-2 meeting was successfully held with 100 participants brainstorming on innovative ideas!

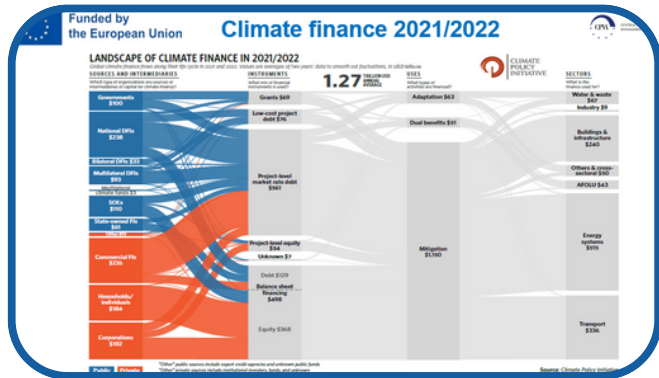


The meeting started with the opening speech and presentation of EU4ETTR Project Team Leader **Ms. Daiva Matoniene**. Ms. Matoniene emphasised that the meeting is important for exchanging ideas and taking action on financing issues.

T Ms. Matoniene underlined the importance of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and stated that the multi-level governance platform is implemented within the scope of the project and the purpose of the meeting is to exchange ideas for financing.

MLGP4CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING WORKING GROUP-2 MEEETING

30 July 2024



Stating that financing for climate actions is a growing issue and the largest financing comes to mitigation actions, Ms. Matoniene stated that the most financing by sector is allocated to transport and energy, while agriculture needs to be further improved. She said that globally, climate finance has reached 1.3 trillion dollars and the private sector has made a great contribution to this finance.



Finally, Ms. Matoniene emphasised on exemplary financing instruments and models and gave examples of soft loans from Spain, public-private partnerships from France, grant programmes such as Horizon Europe and LIFE programmes and energy cooperatives from Germany.



Mr. Lutfi Akça, President of Water Institute of Türkiye, gave a presentation on 'Flood, Heavy Precipitation, Drought and Water: The Case of Türkiye' on the effects of climate change on water resources.

Mr. Akça stated that the **Mediterranean region is one of the most affected regions** due to the decrease in precipitation, change in the character of precipitation and prolongation of periods without precipitation.



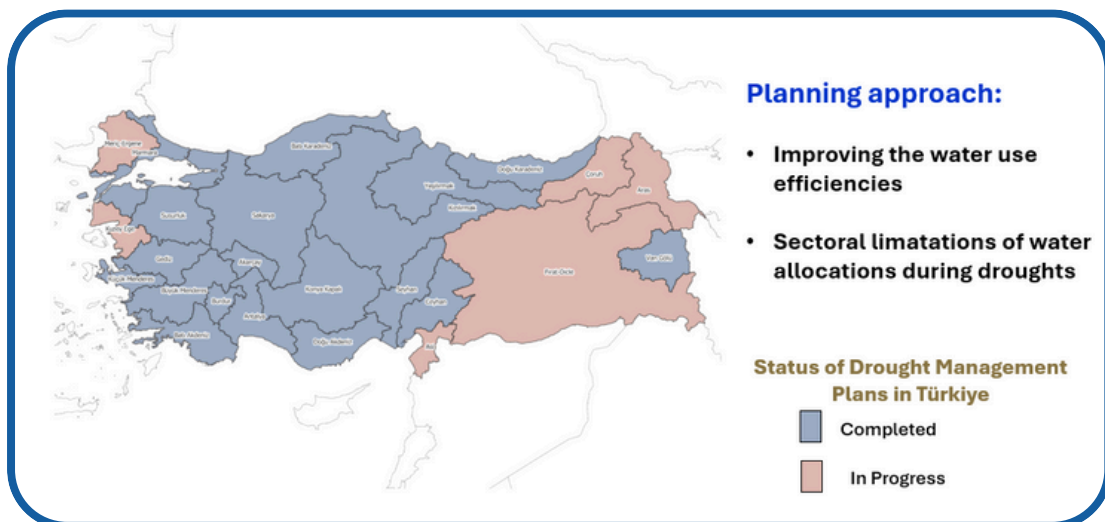
MLGP4CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING WORKING GROUP-2 MEEETING

30 July 2024

“
Climate change should be taken seriously, as the number of disasters caused by meteorological events increased to 1000 by 2021.



Mr. Akça stressed the importance of flood risk management plans and said that efficient use of water, early warning systems and water storage were crucial in drought management. Mr. Akça stated that groundwater resources should be protected and that the main cause of sinkholes in Konya was excessive groundwater consumption. Mr. Akça concluded his presentation by saying that water resources, drought and groundwater management should be at the centre of climate change adaptation plans.



“
RETAIN RAIN WHERE IT FALLS,
NOT WHERE IT OVERFLOWS!
”

MLGP4CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING WORKING GROUP-2 MEEETING

30 July 2024

The MLGP4Climate International Cooperation, Project Development and Financing Working Group-2 meeting moderated by **Ms. Gizem Mataracı** featured valuable presentations and an innovative brainstorming session that was conducted interactively with the participants using the Miro application.



Organised in 3 separate zoom rooms, the brainstorming workshop focused on 3 topics:

Coastal Flooding and Heavy
Precipitation

Heatwaves, Droughts, and
Water Scarcity

Extreme Weather Conditions and
Wildfires





MLGP4CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING WORKING GROUP-2 MEEETING

30 July 2024



Tallinn- European Green Capital 2023

Ms. Krista Kampus, Head of the EU and International Relations Department at the City of Tallinn's Strategic Management Office gave a presentation on **International Case Study: Tallinn Municipality**.



Ms. Kampus shared insights and experiences of implementing climate action plans in Tallinn within the scope of European Green Capital 2023 program which detailed the program's achievements, including the extensive range of activities and projects undertaken, as well as the long-term flagship and legacy initiatives aimed at promoting urban biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainability governance.

Ms. Kampus also covered waste management and circular economy initiatives, sustainable urban mobility, renewable energy projects, and citizen engagement initiatives.





EU4ETTR BILATERAL CALLS WITH GAP FUND

11 July 2024

EDİRNE MUNICIPALITY

The meeting focused on the application of the Municipality of Edirne for the Balkan Eco Park, with the aim of advancing the preparation of the Expression of Interest.

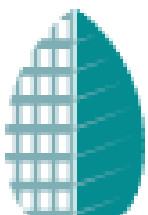
The meeting addressed improving the clarity of the city's proposal narrative, aligning the city park project with national policies, and identifying environmental, social and economic benefits in the proposal. The potential replication of the park transformation project in other areas of the city and neighbouring municipalities and the strategic approach required for the Gap Fund proposal were also discussed.



KARTAL MUNICIPALITY

The meeting provided detailed information on Kartal Municipality's energy management strategies, focusing on monitoring energy consumption in municipal buildings and implementing performance controls.

Kartal Municipality has taken steps to increase staff capacity and introduce additional criteria for buildings that exceed national standards. The meeting highlighted the importance of an audit mechanism, stronger regulations and policies for energy efficiency.



City Climate
Finance Gap Fund

The City Climate Finance Gap Fund provides early-stage technical assistance to cities aiming to develop low-carbon and climate-resilient urbanization strategies and projects.



EU4ETTR STRENGTHENS CITIES AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE WITH MLGP4CLIMATE PLATFORM WITH INTERGRATED GCOM TÜRKİYE HELP DESK ACITIVITIES!



We are delighted to announce that as the Türkiye Help Desk of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), we have started providing support to local governments via MLGPClimate platform



**MLGP4
CLIMATE**



**GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY**

Supported by the European Union, GCoM brings local governments together to combat climate change, adopt sustainable energy policies, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Participating cities develop and implement action plans to achieve the set targets.

In Türkiye, 75 municipalities have joined this international network as GCoM signatories. We continue provide technical counsultancy and support to Turkish municipalities.

Contact us via this email to get support for your municipality to learn more about Covenant of Mayor initiative:
TRhelpdesk@globalcovenantofmayors.eu.

The MLGP4Climate portal is launching, so you will also be able to contact us through the help desk on the platform.

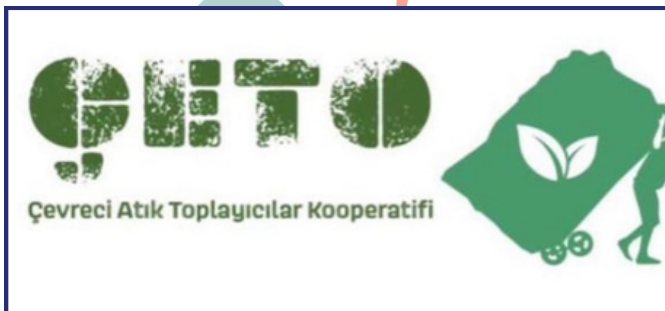


Congratulations to new comers Network of Multi Level Governance Platform:



Karatay Municipality, Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, BisiKoop, İZEK and ÇeToKoop are the new members of MLGP!

Welcome on board!



Visibility:

Announcing the success of our MLGP4Climate members in the Climaax 1st Open Call was one of our favorite posts last month. We are proud to have supported 3 out of the 4 applications from Türkiye that received positive feedback in this call. Congratulations to İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Antalya Metropolitan Municipality and Aydın Province Cattle Breeders Association!



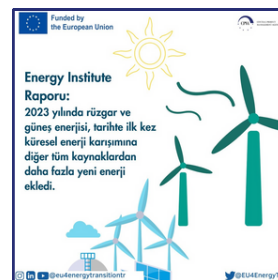
Climate Change and Climate Action News:



Important Days:



The project has actively disseminated valuable knowledge through various channels, including news, announcements, and guidebooks. With significant contributions from both national and international partners such as the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), and other resources, we have successfully shared essential information and updates widely.





EU4 ENERGY TRANSITION: COVENANT OF MAYORS

IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
AND TÜRKİYE



Our Note:

“This month, as we focused on adaptation, the MLGP4Climate International Cooperation, Project Development and Finance Working Group 2 held an amazing meeting with 100 participants. Collaboration and action are recurring themes in the fight against climate change, and we are honoured to have so many inspiring people attending and brainstorming at our event. Seeing MLGP4Climate grow with so many valuable partners and meeting each and every one of you was truly a blessing.

Let's continue to strive for a sustainable future together.



EU4ETTR Project Team



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Announcements from EU4ETTR Side:



UPCOMING EVENTS



KONAK BELEDİYESİ

Climate Summit

22- 23 August 2024

Konak Municipality will held
Climate Summit and
MLGP4Climate platform will be
presented and network
extention will be discussed.

MLGP4Climate Advisory and Steering Committe Meeting

28 August 2024

EU4ETTR will organise the MLG
Platform Advisory and Steering
Committee meeting with the
participation of high-level
representatives.

Help-desk activities will be
performed via MLGP4Climate
portal for CoM municipalities.



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