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

**TÜRKİYE
MONTHLY BULLETIN**

- June 2024 -





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



June Focus

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

— Robert Swan

Energy Poverty:

Energy poverty affects more than one billion people worldwide, limiting access to basic energy services and exacerbating social and environmental challenges. As we face the urgent realities of climate change, tackling energy poverty is imperative.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) empowers local governments around the world to develop Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), which are essential to reducing CO2 emissions and improving energy resilience. We support these plans through our MLGP4Climate platform, which provides essential resources and guidance for local governments to rapidly implement effective strategies.

Action now is strongly important. By prioritizing sustainable energy solutions, we will not only improve lives and drive economic growth, but also mitigate the effects of climate change. Together, let's strive for a world where energy access is recognized as a fundamental right, not a privilege.





Congratulations on World Environment Day!

5th of June

🌐 **2024 Theme: "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience"**

🗣️ **Slogan: "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration"**

World Environment Day, established by the UN in 1972, is celebrated annually on June 5th to raise awareness and promote action for environmental protection. Observed in over 150 countries, it's a global platform for public outreach.



World Environment Day fosters collaboration among governments, businesses, NGOs, and individuals to address pressing environmental issues and promote sustainability. Efforts in land restoration and drought resilience are crucial for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Participate in local events, share knowledge, and take steps towards a greener future.

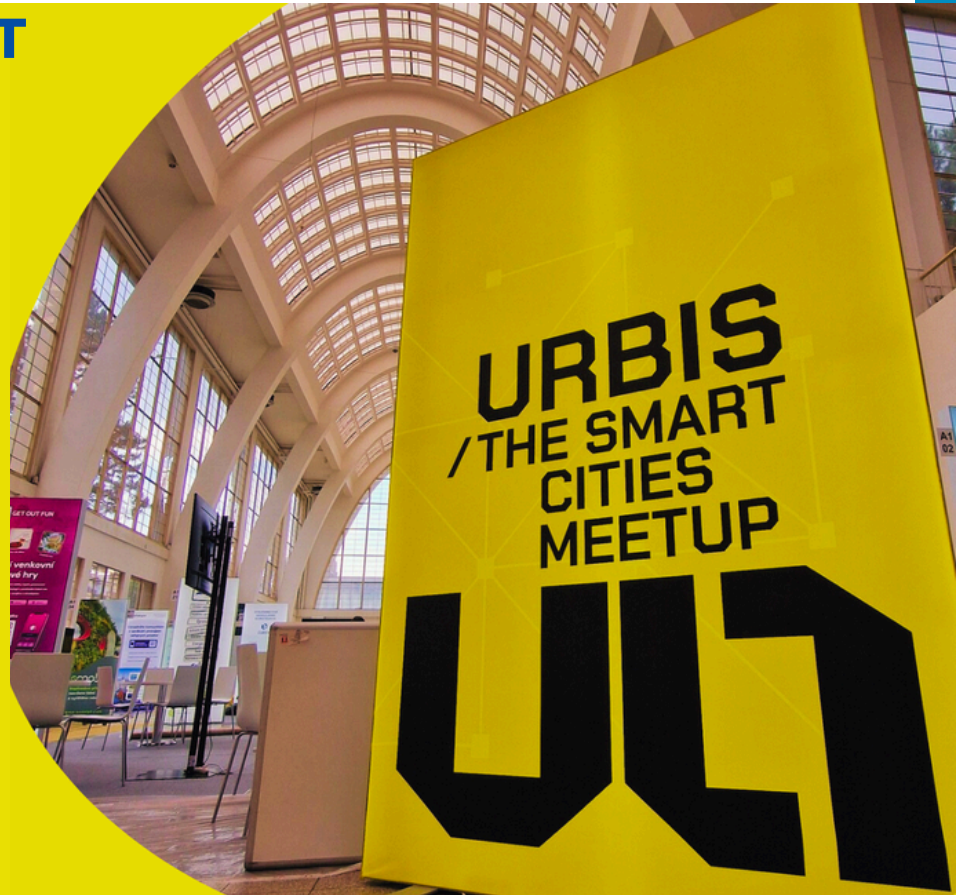


URBIS \ THE SMART CITIES MEETUP

4-6 June 2024

Brno, Czech Republic

Türkiye was proudly represented by the delegation consisting of CPMA and Bağcılar Municipality at URBIS-The Smart Cities Meetup!



The URBIS Smart Cities Meetup, held from June 4-6, 2024, at the Brno Exhibition Centre in the Czech Republic, brought together key stakeholders from the Western Balkans and Türkiye. This significant event, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, GIZ, Open Regional Fund for SEE Energy, Transport and Climate Protection, and the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA), fostered discussions on innovative solutions for smart city development.



The conference examined innovative approaches to urban development, smart technologies and sustainable urban planning at a global level.

- The event featured around 100 speakers and panellists, including mayors, technology leaders and policy makers.
- Over 80 companies presented themselves at the URBIS exhibition centre.
- More than 50 startups presented themselves in the exhibition centre.



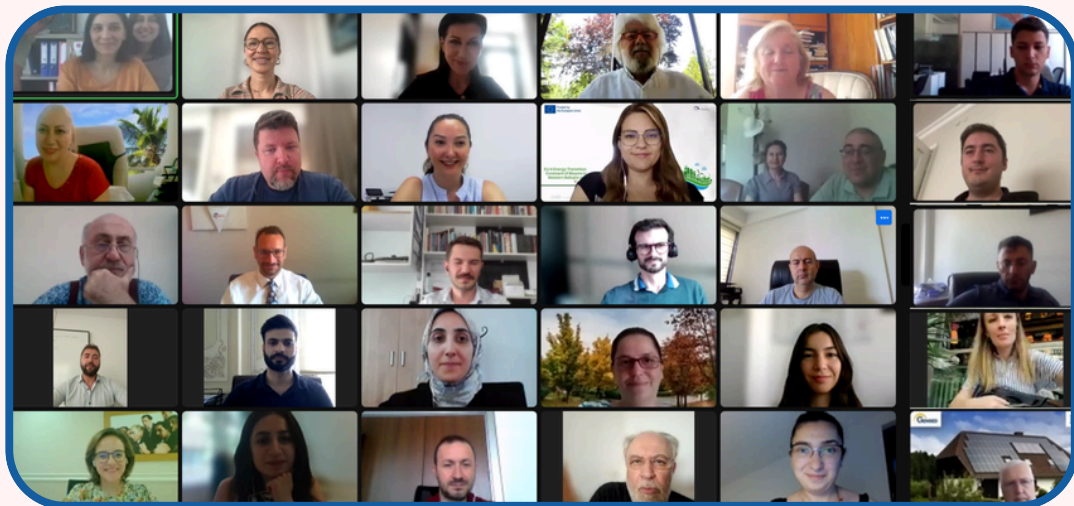


EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1

MEETING: SESSION 1

11 June 2024

The 1st session of the June meeting of the EU4ETTR Multi-Level Governance Platform (MLGP4Climate) Challenges and Solutions Working Group 1 was held with more than 70 participants!



The session focussed on a very important topic: **Energy access and energy poverty in the framework of SECAP**. A **SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan)** is a strategic plan developed by municipalities to address climate change and promote sustainable energy. It outlines actions to reduce CO2 emissions, increase energy efficiency, and enhance renewable energy use.



Mr. Marco Pittalis from the Joint Research Centre (JRC), presented in detail the approach and objectives of the **GCoM on the Energy Access and Energy Poverty pillar**. The **MLGP4Climate** is a key collaborator of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Türkiye, providing scientific support and capacity building for effective local climate action.



JRC

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1

MEETING: SESSION 1

11 June 2024

3 Pillars of The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Change and Energy:

1

Climate Change Mitigation

2

Climate Change Adaptation

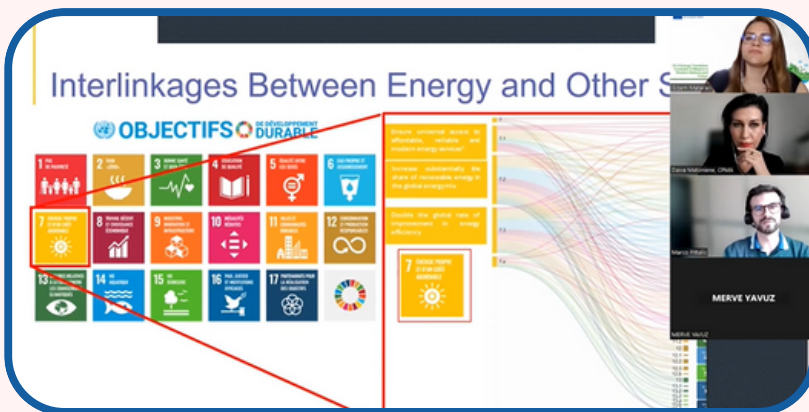
3

Energy Access and Poverty (EAP)



SDG >

EAP pillar allows citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.



“ Ensuring access to energy within the framework of the SDGs is crucial to the success of other goals. ”

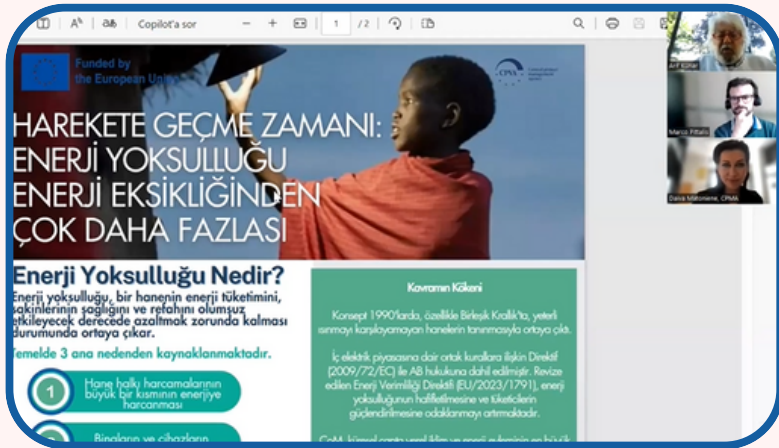


To Build Capacity and Knowledge on EAP Pillar:

- E-Learning Course of EU Academy: Cities Taking Action Against Climate Change
- Research Report: Unlocking Urban Energy Access and Poverty
- EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Atlas

EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1 MEETING: SESSION 1

11 June 2024



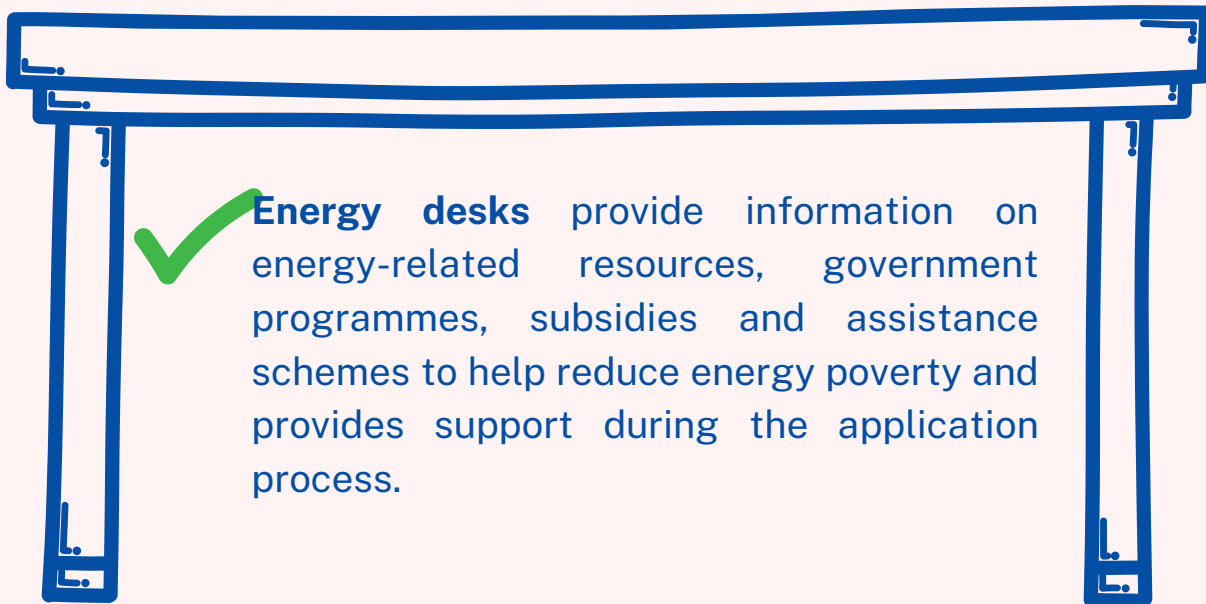
In his presentation, the national expert **Mr. Arif Künar** showed the concrete steps taken by **İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality**, in particular **the Energy Desk**, in cooperation with the **EU4ETTR MLGP4Climate**.



Energy poverty is a very important issue for Türkiye. 400 billion TL last year and 500 billion TL this year are given as subsidies for energy. However, the fact that the actual number of poor is much higher than the number of those receiving electricity subsidies makes energy poverty one of the most important problems of the country. Similar to other cities, energy costs in İstanbul can be a significant burden for low household incomes.



One of the Solutions to Energy Poverty is the
Energy Desk





EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1

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11 June 2024



İSTANBUL
BÜYÜKŞEHİR
BELEDİYESİ

İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) Energy Desk Project Consists of 3 Phases:

1

Short-Term Plan (3 Months)

The municipality's short-term plan focuses on strategizing, staff preparation and preparing a framework for future training. The deployment and training of staff is crucial for the effective functioning of the desk and this includes skills development and knowledge sharing.

2

Middle-Term Plan (1 Year)

The medium-term plan primarily includes the execution of a pilot test to understand the demand for the energy desk. In order to effectively address energy poverty in İstanbul, it is crucial to identify the demographic groups most affected by this problem and to define target groups for the energy desk.

3

Long-Term Plan (2-5 Years)

Energy desks will be established in various districts of İstanbul according to the results of the pilot energy desk application to be developed and tested in the medium-term plan. Municipal energy desks will be established on the European and Anatolian Sides in order to provide the necessary information-technical-project-control and monitoring services for the implementation and achievement of these actions.

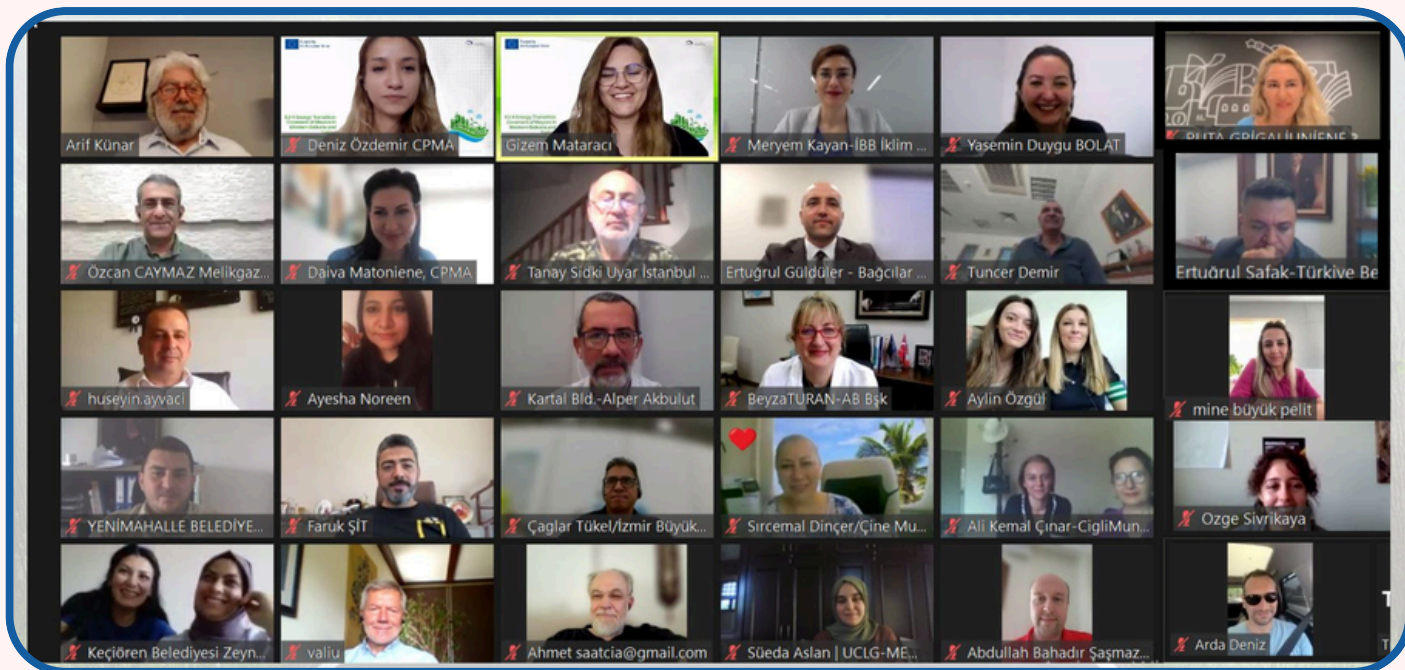




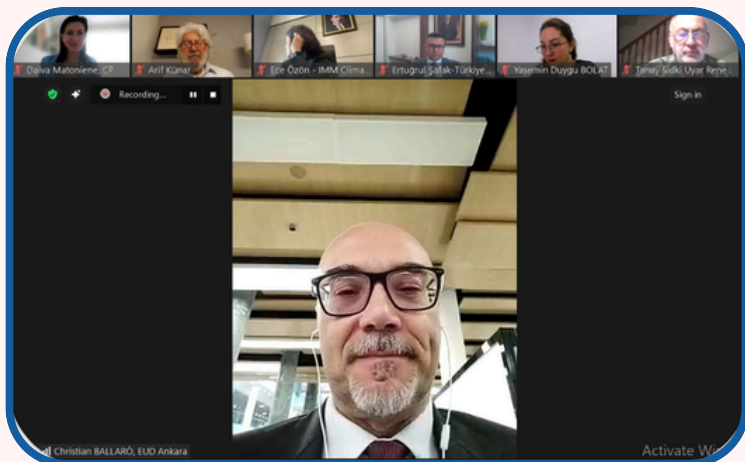
6TH LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF EU4ETTR

6 June 2024

The EU4 Energy Transition: Western Balkans and Türkiye Covenant of Mayors successfully held its 6th Local Steering Committee Meeting on 6 June 2024.



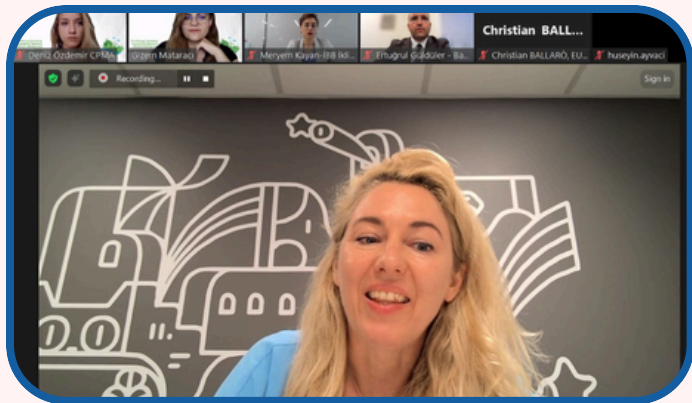
The 6th LSC Meeting was participated by more than 40 key stakeholders including municipalities across Türkiye, Ministry representatives, CPMA and EUD representatives, MMU and UMT representatives.



Mr. Christian Ballaro, Program Officer for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change EUD to Türkiye, emphasized the important of this project and role of municipalities in climate actions and energy transition activities, highlighting the importance of local authorities in reducing carbon footprints and fostering innovative solutions.



6TH LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF EU4ETTR 6 June 2024



Ms. Rūta Grigaliūnienė, Head of the International Development Cooperation Projects Division at CPMA, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their participation in climate actions and highlighted the honor of contributing to initiatives in the Western Balkans and Türkiye through the MLGP4Climate Platform.

Ms. Tuğba Dinçbaş, Deputy Director of Climate Change for Türkiye's Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, emphasized the country's commitment to a green economy and carbon transition, highlighting the upcoming Climate Strategy and draft climate law aimed at achieving net zero by 2053, and the importance of the MLGP4Climate Platform in guiding municipalities towards sustainable transformation.



TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ
ÇEVRE, ŞEHİRCİLİK VE
İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ BAKANLIĞI

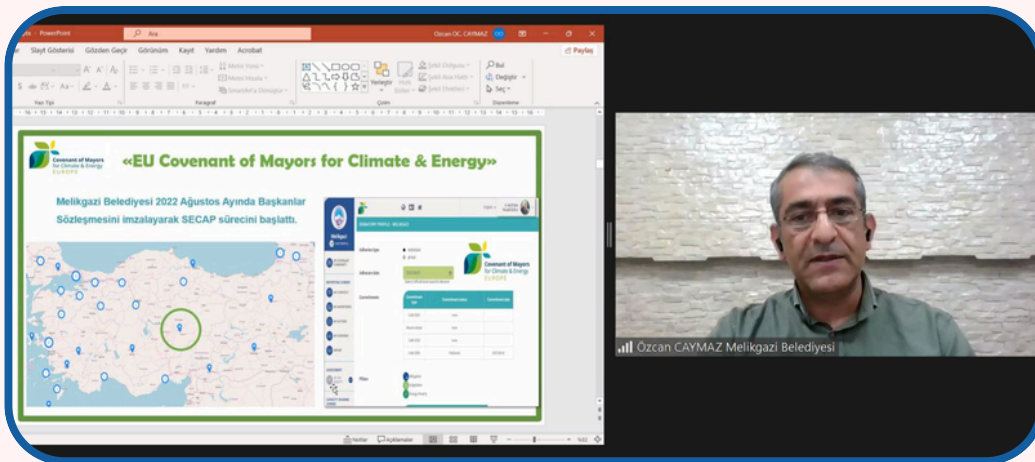


Ms. Ece Özön, Head of the Climate Change Department at IMM, highlighted the completion of their SECAP with the support of EU4Energy. It is published in English and Turkish and details their activities. It was also mentioned that IMM has received GCoM badges and is developing a digital monitoring tool. She highlighted initiatives on energy poverty, including the "Energy Desk" with training starting on 12 June 2024.

6TH LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF EU4ETTR 6 June 2024

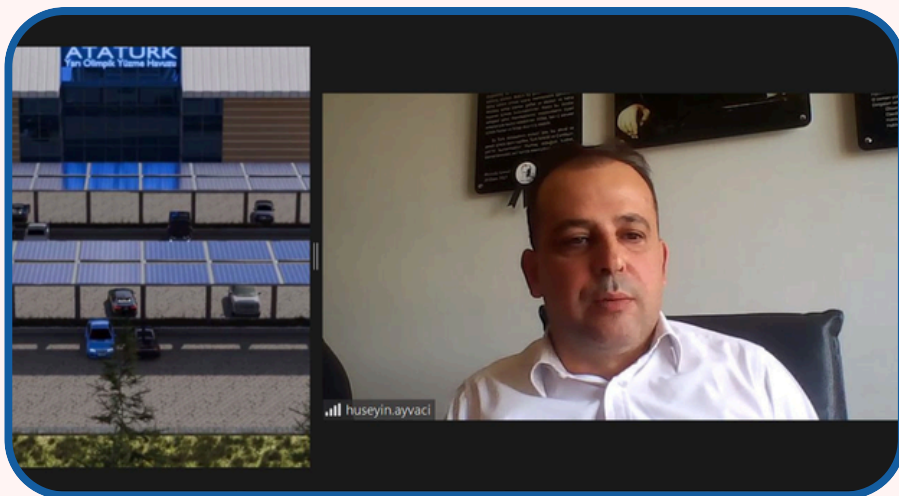


Mr. Ertuğrul Selçuk Güldüler, Vice Mayor of Bağcılar Municipality, highlighted Bağcılar's climate action efforts, including joining **GCoM**, getting its **SECAP** approved, securing a grant for an energy-based mitigation project, and emphasizing the importance of practical implementation of climate targets.

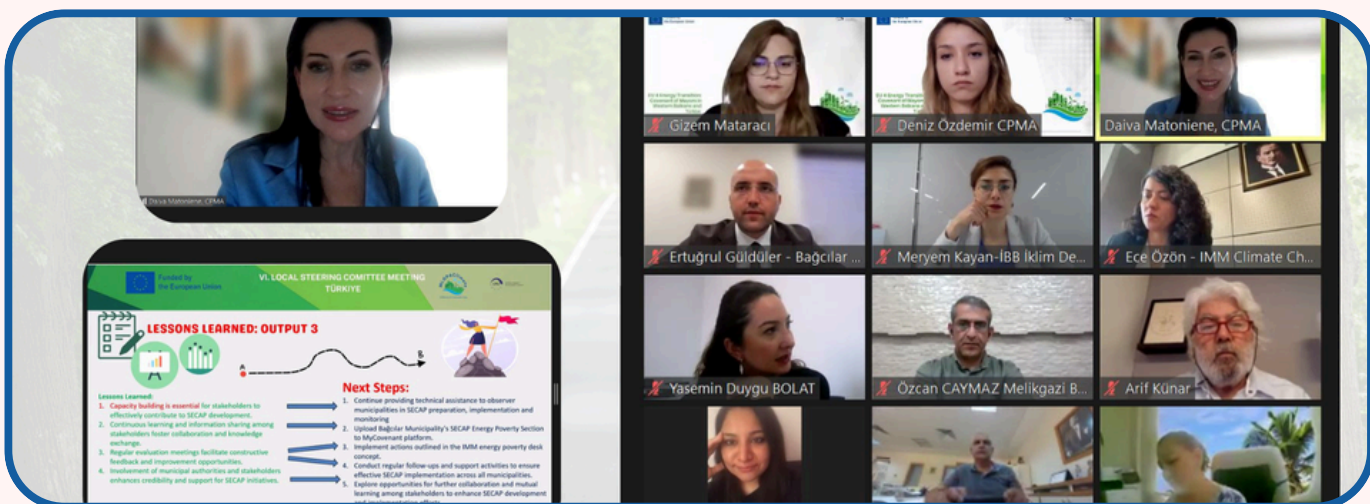


Mr. Özcan Caymaz, Foreign Relations Department Coordinator of Melikgazi Municipality, presented the **Solar City Project**, highlighting its various phases including solar power installations, electric vehicle charging stations, and electric waste collection vehicles. **The project aims to generate 234,696.12 kWh of electricity annually, prevent 100.92 tons of CO2 emissions per year, and reduce emissions by 6.13 tons through electric waste vehicles.** Emphasizing Anatolia's potential, Mr. Caymaz discussed collaboration with local utilities, visible solar panel models for citizens, and study visits to raise awareness about renewable energy. He also mentioned the **"DigiEdu"** project to reduce carbon emissions by digitalizing municipal services.

6TH LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF EU4ETTR 6 June 2024



Mr. Hüseyin Ayvacı from Çorlu Municipality introduced a new grant project supported by CPMA. The Car Port Project aims to enhance capacity and awareness on climate change, renewable energy, and efficiency. Located at the Mustafa Kemal Atatürk Semi-Olympic Swimming Pool's car park, **the project will install an 86 kWh solar power system, reducing carbon emissions by 107 tons.** Funding is 80% from the EU and 20% from municipal resources.



Ms. Daiva Matonienė reviewed project activities, highlighting strong participation and **growth with 27 new municipalities.** Successes included **Istanbul's SECAP approval, Bağcılar's energy project, and Melikgazi's solar innovative project implementation.** She emphasized the importance of strategic coordination and capacity building. Future goals include enhancing training, leveraging financial opportunities, and expanding the AI monitoring platform. She thanked participants, stressing collaboration and synergy.



IMM ENERGY POVERTY AND ENERGY DESKS: CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR EXPERTS

12 June 2024

On 12 June 2024, Capacity Building Training was given to İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality experts on Energy Poverty and energy efficiency.



✓ Energy Desk Concept and Test Study Approach



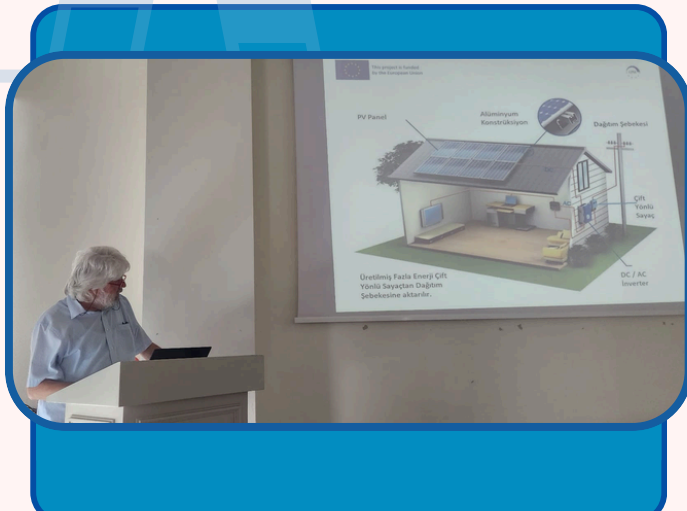
✓ Current Legislation on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



✓ Bill Literacy and Suitable Electricity Agreements

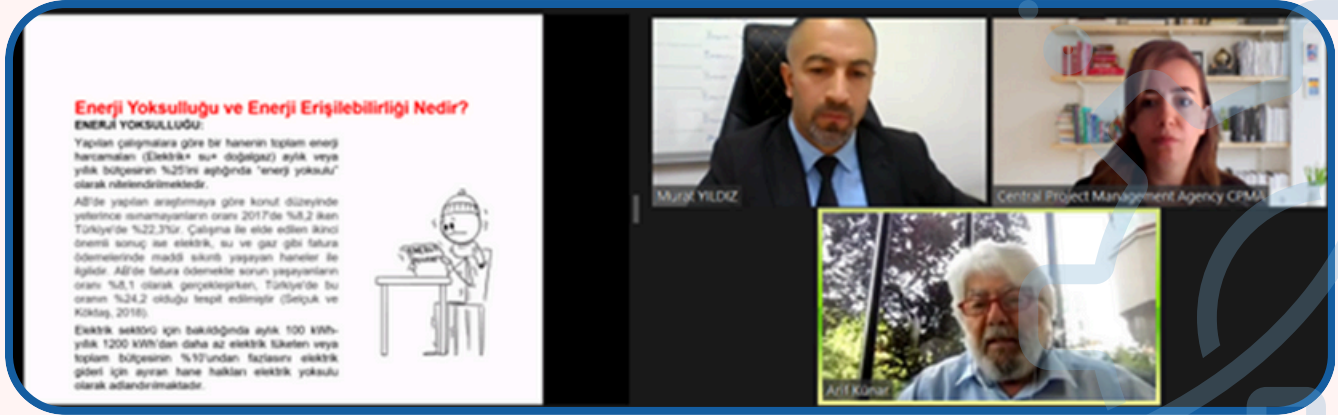


✓ Energy Efficiency and Savings



ARDAHAN MUNICIPALITY ENERGY POVERTY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

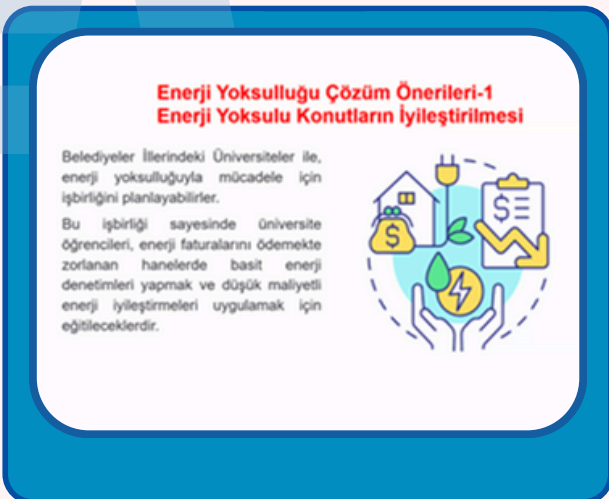
13 June 2024



Together with EU4Energy Transition Türkiye experts and Ardahan Municipality, a training session on Energy Poverty was organised on 13 June 2024, focusing on vital steps for strengthening the energy transition and SECAP implementation.

Energy Poverty is one of the 3 pillars of SECAP and it has become mandatory to include energy poverty actions in SECAP reports from the beginning of 2023. In the meeting:

- Energy poverty pillar of SECAP was introduced.
- Global and national examples of reducing energy poverty were given.
- Suggestions for actions to be included in SECAP were presented.





EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE PLATFORM CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1 MEETING: SESSION 2

25 June 2024



MLGP4
CLIMATE

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Announcements

MLGP Members

MLGP Activities

Help Desk

Bize Ulaşın >>

Multi-Level Governance Platform for Climate Actions

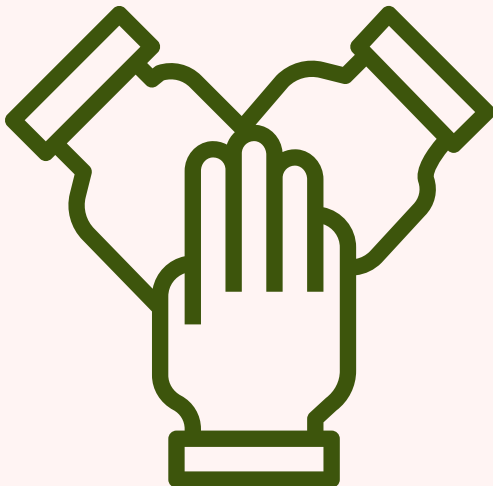
MLGP4Climate

Collaborate for Sustainable Future

Join Us Today >>



The 2nd session of the June meeting of the EU4ETTR Multi-Level Governance Platform (MLGP4Climate) Challenges and Solutions Working Group 1 was held with more than 80 participants!

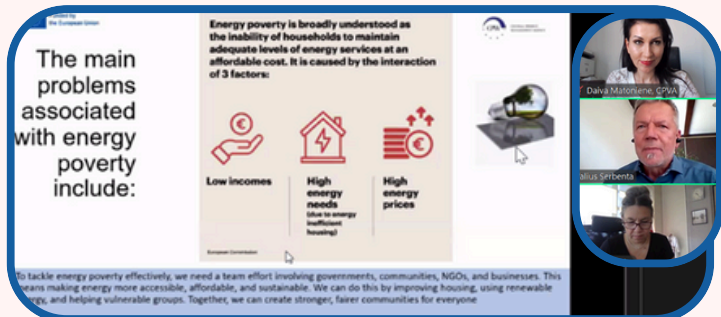


We realise that the more we cooperate, the stronger we will be. The presentation of national expert **Ms. Simay Keskin's on MLGP4Climate website** was very important in this respect:

- The purpose and target users of the platform were mentioned.
- Benefits for members such as enhanced co-operation, visibility, networking opportunities and access to resources were explained.
- The steps to become a member and a short tour of the website were given.

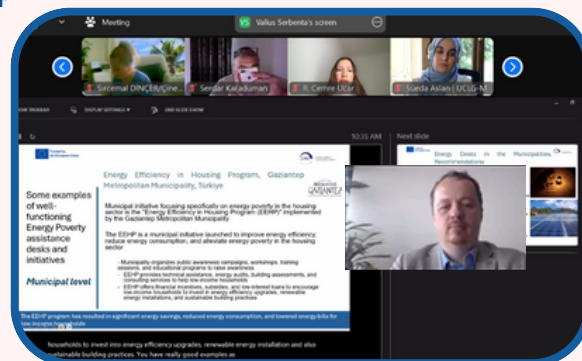
EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE PLATFORM CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1 MEETING: SESSION 2

25 June 2024



Mr. Valio Serbenta, international expert, shared international examples and practices on energy poverty:

- Issues related to energy poverty: low income, high energy demand and high energy prices were explained.
- Successful case studies and best practices from different countries were highlighted.
- The importance of a collaborative approach involving governments, communities, NGOs and businesses was emphasized.
- Strategies to reduce energy poverty were shared, such as increasing building efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy.

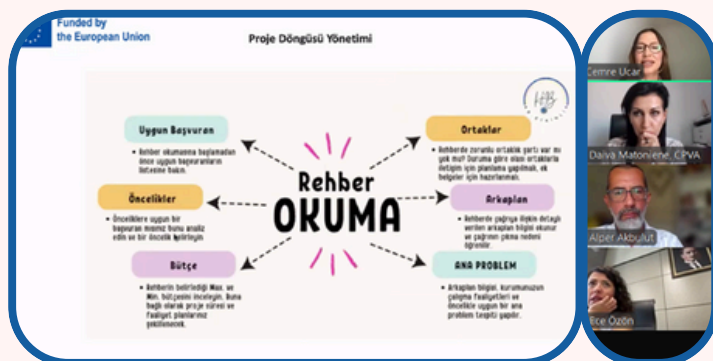


Mr. Justinas BUČYS, business area manager, discussed renewable energy initiatives:

- Provided insights from his community's experience with renewable energy projects.
- Presented data on the impact of these initiatives on local communities.
- Highlighted challenges and lessons learned in implementing renewable energy solutions.

The discussion session was moderated by national expert Ms. Cemre UÇAR:

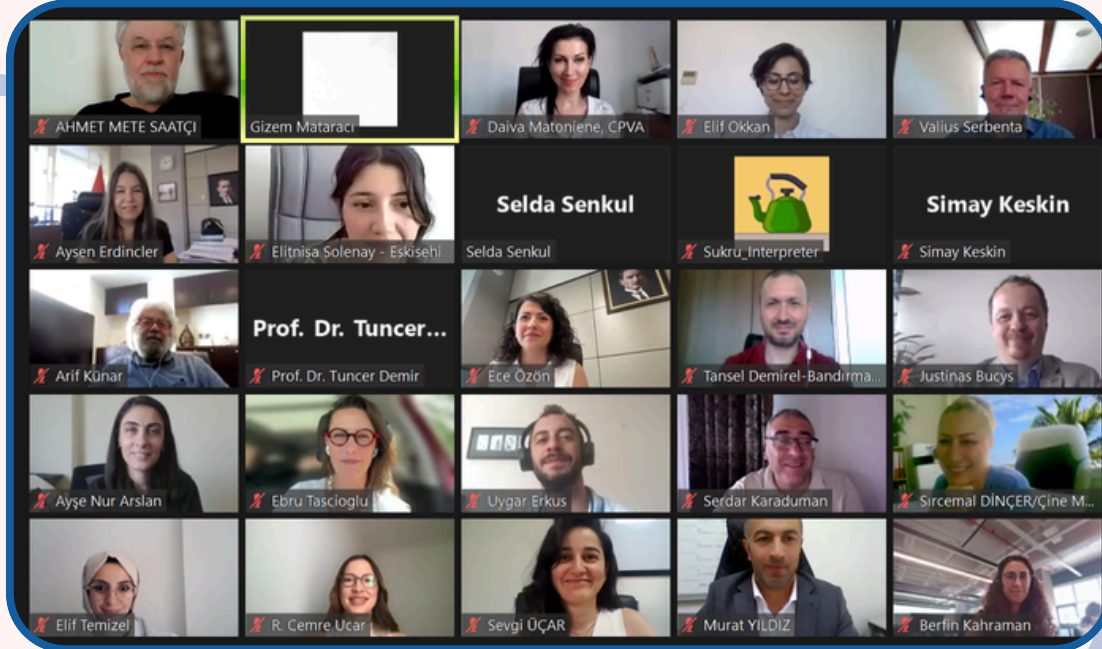
- An overview of the various financing options and mechanisms available for energy projects was provided.
- The role of municipal governments in facilitating access to finance was emphasised.
- Survey results, PCM system, potential consortium groups and the use of artificial intelligence were presented.
- A sample project proposal was shared.





EU4ETTR: MLGP4CLIMATE PLATFORM CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP 1 MEETING: SESSION 2

25 June 2024



In the fight against climate change, local governments have a key role to play. The adoption of mitigation and adaptation measures is possible by raising awareness of the issue. Every step towards a sustainable future is valuable and we thank you for choosing to be part of this process. A carbon-free future is possible through collaboration and the implementation of green practices. We celebrate our collaboration. Together we are stronger.



UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting

26-27th of June 2024

Karatay, KONYA

The UCLG-MEWA (United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia) Executive Bureau Meeting was successfully held on June 26-27, 2024, hosted by the Karatay Municipality of Konya. In addition to administrative meetings, high-level thematic sessions focused on culture and environment were organized.



With the Mayor of Safranbolu, Elif Köse (centre)

The event also brought together mayors and government representatives in the fields of urban planning, environmental policy and sustainable development, and included administrative meetings as well as thematic panels on culture and the environment.

Sessions

Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development: Economic Opportunities and Challenges

High-Level Dialogue: The Role of Local Governments in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

High-Level Dialogue Climate Change and Its Impact on Cities

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting

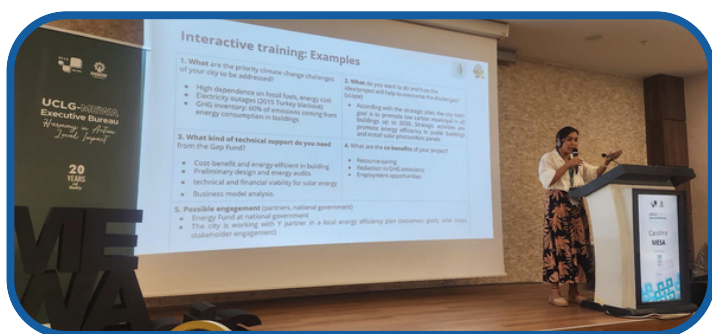
26-27th of June 2024
Karatay, KONYA

GCoM: Climate Session

On the second day of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting in the GCoM: Climate session, the **MLGP4Climate platform** was presented by the EU4ETTR project team leader, **Ms. Daiva Matonienė**.



- Participants were provided with comprehensive information about Türkiye MLGP4Climate Platform.
- In collaboration with the GAP Fund, training was organized to attract funding and brainstorm ideas.
- Networking opportunities were provided with those interested in participating in MLGP4Climate Platform.
- Dialogue and cooperation between local, national and international stakeholders were highlighted.



The Gap Fund was presented by the Global City Advisor, **Ms. Carolina Mesa**.



UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting

26-27th of June 2024

Karatay, KONYA

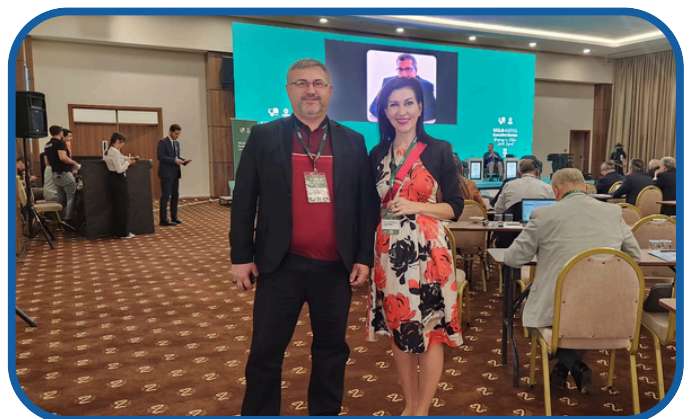
GCoM: Climate Session



We are delighted to have participated in this meeting to raise awareness about MLGP4Climate's role in supporting municipalities with their SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans) and CO2 mitigation efforts.



With the Mayor of Karatay, Hasan Kılca (on the left)





Congratulations to the Growing Network of Multi Level Governance Platform:



Konak Municipality, Kartal Municipality and Center for Spatial Justice are the new members of MLGP!

Welcome on board!



KONAK BELEDİYESİ

Konak, a central district in İzmir, is historically significant with landmarks like Konak Square, the İzmir Clock Tower, and Kemeraltı Bazaar. Home to about 350,000 people, it's a densely populated area with a vibrant mix of residential, commercial, and cultural spaces. A major transportation hub, Konak is well-connected by buses, ferries, and the İzmir Metro. It houses educational institutions like the İzmir University of Economics and is economically lively with numerous shops and businesses. **Konak also features green spaces such as Kültürpark, hosting the annual İzmir International Fair.**





Congratulations to the Growing Network of Multi Level Governance Platform:

Konak Municipality, Kartal Municipality and Center for
Spatial Justice are the new members of MLGP!
Welcome on board!



Kartal, which is home to approximately 470,000 people, is a district on the Anatolian side of İstanbul on the Marmara Sea coast. Kartal is well known for its green spaces and parks, which provide residents with areas of rest and relaxation. Notable green spaces in Kartal include **Aydos Forest**, one of İstanbul's largest urban forests, which offers walking trails, picnic areas and a lake for boating. **Yakacık Bayram Demirkol Park** is another popular spot with playgrounds, sports facilities and walking paths. In addition, **Dragos Hill** has become a favourite for nature lovers and photographers, offering panoramic views of the Marmara Sea and the Islands. **These green spaces contribute to the quality of life in Kartal and offer a respite from the urban environment.**



The Center for Spatial Justice, conducts research for more just, **democratic and ecological living spaces** and shares the information it obtains with the public through various publications and visual content.

Aiming to strengthen relations between local communities and civil society actors, the association carries out research and training activities on issues such as energy efficiency, urban policies and spatial justice.

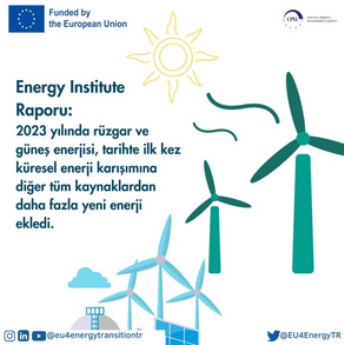
Visibility:

Important Days:

Climate Change and Climate Action News:



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.



Also, announcing new members of MLGP4Climate is one of our favourite types of content to share on social media. These announcements provide a great opportunity to celebrate the growth and diversification of our community.





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



Our Note:

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This month, as we focused on energy access and poverty, the MLGP4Climate Challenges and Solutions Working Group 1 held two meeting sessions with a total of over 150 participants. In these sessions, we discussed SECAP, explained the Energy Access and Poverty pillar and its methodology within the scope of GCoM, shared examples of Energy Desk practices from other countries, and provided insights into renewable energy initiatives. Supporting the implementation of the MLGP4Climate platform is an important step forward.

Through our discussions, we realized that there are always solutions. While the energy transition process is not easy, there is immense potential for a green and sustainable future.

We are inspired by all our project partners and proud to walk side by side with Turkish municipalities, ministries, NGOs, scientific organizations, and international partners in the fight against climate change. Together, we strive to create a bright and green future for our societies and our children.

EU4ETTR Project Team



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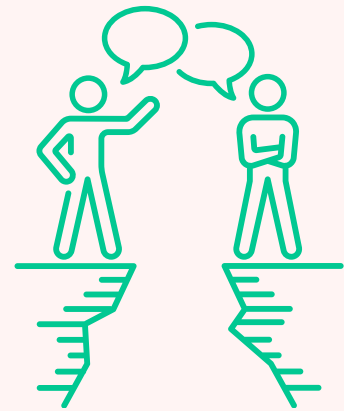


Announcements from EU4ETTR Side:

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Project Proposal Preparation Training -
Logical Framework**
2 July 2024



**Bilateral Calls with Municipalities in
Cooperation with GCoM GAP Fund**



**Study Visit - Green-Diplomacy: Türkiye-
Lithuania Collaboration on Sustainable
Policies**
21-24 July 2024

**MLGP4Climate
Cooperation, Project Development
and Finance WG 2 Meeting**
31 July 2024

International



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