European Energy Network

A voluntary network of European energy agencies

EnR Report

Energy agencies and local climate action

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADEME	Agency for Ecological Transition, France
ADENE	Portuguese Energy Agency
AEA	Austrian Energy Agency
CCPCC	Climate Change Policy Coordination Commission, Spain (*Comisión de Coordinación de Políticas de Cambio Climático*)
CETP	Centre for Energy and Technology Policy
CNED	National Center for Sustainable Energy, Moldova
CoM	Covevant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Cities TCP	IEA's Technology Collaboration Programme devoted to Cities
CRES	Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, Greece
dena	German Energy Agency
EIHP	Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, Croatia
ENA	Lithuanian Energy Agency
ENEA	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development
EnR	European Energy Network
EST	Energy Saving Trust, United Kingdom
EU	European Union
IDAE	Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy, Spain
IEA	International Energy Agency
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LRAs	Local and Regional Authorities
LIECPs	Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans
MEKH	Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority
Motiva	Sustainable Development Company, Finland
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
RVO	Netherlands Enterprise Agency
SEA	Swedish Energy Agency
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SEDA	Sustainable Energy Development Agency, Bulgaria
PACES	Local Climate Action and Sustainable Energy Plan, Spain (*Plan de Acción por el Clima y la Energía Sostenible*)
PACL	Local Climate Action Plans, Spain (*Planes de Acción Climática Local*)
PMAC	Municipal Climate Action Plan, Portugal (*Plano Municipal de Ação Climática*)
UK	United Kingdom
UTM	Universal Technology Management

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About the study

This publication is an EnR study produced under the 2024 co-Presidency by ADENE, the Portuguese Energy Agency. It aims at providing the best available knowledge based on policy implementation across EnR member countries. The expressed conclusions do not imply policy positions of individual countries. The European Energy Network (EnR) or any person acting on behalf of EnR is not responsible for the use that might be made of this publication.

Contact information: EnR Regular Member: Luís Silva, Director of Cooperation and Institutional Relations (enr@adene.pt); Sofia Cordeiro, Coordinator of Local Climate Action (sofia.cordeiro@adene.pt); Maria Albuquerque, Technical Expert (maria.albuquerque@adene.pt).

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[1]ADENE – Portuguese Energy Agency

Report Lead		
ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency		

Surveys		
ADEME, Agency for Ecological Transition, France	ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency	AEA, Austrian Energy Agency
CNED, National Center for Sustainable Energy. Moldova	CRES, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, Greece	dena, German Energy Agency
EST, Energy Saving Trust, United Kingdom	EIHP, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, Croatia	ENEA, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development
Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy, Spain	Klima Agence, Luxembourg	ENA, Lithuanian Energy Agency
MEKH, Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority	Motiva, Sustainable Development Company, Finland	RVO, Netherlands Enterprise Agency
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	SEDA, Sustainable Energy Development Agency, Bulgaria	

Executive Summary

This report by the European Energy Network (EnR) looks at how different countries in Europe are planning and acting on local climate initiatives, with a focus on the role of national energy agencies.

EnR agencies play a crucial role in bridging national and local climate action, supporting the EU's Fit for 55 goal and the Paris Agreement targets. There is a large consensus regarding the critical role of local action to achieve these global targets and that initiatives like the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (CoM) and the EU Mission 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities (and Net Zero Cities) are pivotal in fostering local climate action. What role can EnR Agencies play in this context?

A survey conducted within EnR agencies provides insights into potential action for the network to better support local climate action. Main findings show that local climate action plans often lack integration with national policies, and that national policies and international initiatives influence and foster local action, but better coordination is needed.

Regarding support to Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs), national support programs are vital, with public authorities playing a key role. EnR Agencies currently provide technical support, tools, and training, while financing is often managed by other organizations. Although impactful in driving local action, there is a lack of coordination between various local climate support initiatives (such as CoM or NetZeroCities), leading to fragmented efforts, and there is a need for stronger multi-level governance and dialogue for coherent policies.

Taking EnR Agencies' roles and the gaps identified, we propose a set of recommendations for the various governance levels in which EnR can take part:

- Improve Multi-Level Coordination (formal dialogues, data sharing and financing incentives)
- Integrate Local Action Initiatives (coordinating bodies, collaborative platforms and knowledge exchange)
- Strengthen Regulatory Frameworks (regulatory support for integrated plans, financial incentives, technical assistance and capacity building)
- Integrated plans (cross sectoral planning, aligned with national and global targets, supported by technical assistance and capacity building)
- Coordination Across Europe (coordination and collaboration platform, promotion of intermunicipal collaboration)
- Amplify EnR Agencies' role in Local Climate Action (collaborate to provide better tools, assisting multilevel coordination, and harmonised toolkits, training and capacity building)

By focusing on these areas, EnR agencies can help build effective, sustainable climate action strategies across Europe.

1. Framework and Objectives

European Energy Agencies in the European Energy Network, EnR, are at the forefront of Europe's drive to improve energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy and mitigate the damaging effects of climate change by spearheading decarbonization efforts. Together, EnR agencies aim to achieve this vision by acting as a bridge between national activities and those of the European Union and other relevant international bodies.

Local climate action is critical to ensure that national emissions' targets are met and the EU's Fit for 55 goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 is achieved. EnR agencies' countries recognise this role for local climate action in keeping the Paris Agreement goals alive, achieving the 2050 climate neutrality commitment and, hopefully, being able to anticipate it.

Initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy[1] (CoM) have been pivotal in fostering action, providing a common framework which enables monitoring for policy assessment, promoting collaboration and accelerating local action. And pioneering cities such as the ones selected for the EU Mission 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities[2] are paving the way for faster and more ambitious local action.

EnR agencies are natural drivers of local climate action as they can connect the national energy efficiency planning and international collaboration to the projects and initiatives at a regional and local level, assisting Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) at different levels. This can occur in the scope of specific projects, or because of their roles in national and international initiatives in which EnR agencies take on the role of national coordination or key stakeholders. Several EnR agencies have specific responsibilities in the support of LRAs in climate action planning, providing information, tools, training and gathering data and indicators to monitor progress.

A recent 2023 report from the Committee of the Regions[3] identified 26 EU funded initiatives (supporting instruments) assisting LRAs in their targeting climate action efforts, including cooperation platforms, supporting services and organisations strengthening political representation and green awareness. The report recommended that supporting initiatives explore synergies and better coordinate between them, as well as that institutions restrict the

[1] https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/home
[2] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en
[3] European Committee of the Regions: Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy, Gasperini, M., Lundberg, P., Markowska, A. and Vroom, I., *The impact of EU climate and energy initiatives on cities' climate transition*, European Committee of the Regions, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2863/428101 [Accessed February 21st 2025]

number of similar initiatives, ensuring that they align and bring added value beyond existing ones. One of the most prominent conclusions was that monitoring and reporting schemes should be simplified and tailored to LRAs needs and context, such as size, competencies and level of commitments and progress in climate, energy and green transitions.

In a conference, organised in March 2024 by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union for local and regional leaders, that gathered more than 200 Mayors from across Europe in Brussels[4], a joint declaration[5] was proposed in which Mayors recognise the importance of the success of the implementation of the EU Green Deal for future generations and their role and motivation as key agents in achieving those common goals. In order to do that successfully, local leaders need capacity, through financial support, breaking policy silos by collaborating across organisations and initiatives and establishing structural dialogue. The joint declaration sets forth recommendations that can help cities and regions, which can be read in the full declaration. We highlight a few below which pertain to the supporting instruments (such as the Covenant of Mayors, Net Zero Cities and the remaining initiatives from the EU that support local climate action):

- Effective multilevel governance processes and a harmonised monitoring system within Energy Union governance, to provide visibility and integrate local and regional governments' efforts and contributions via systems that are coherent with national energy and climate plans and that respect national specificities;
- Provide capacity for LRAs and their stakeholders, improving the EU Green Deal implementation and monitoring;
- Provide more flexible and inclusive support, and improve accessibility and inclusivity of the supporting instruments and financing streams (e.g cohesion funds, recovery fund, just transition fund, social climate fund among others), building synergies between them to provide technical and financial support to LRAs in order to achieve greater impacts, overcome counterproductive policy silos, duplication and unnecessary administrative burdens;
- Promote enhanced cooperation via a Green Deal Going Local task force between the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions to serve as a central hub for engaging with local and regional governments, coordinate efforts among EU supporting instruments, and provide guidance on aligning EU Green Deal policies with local and regional capacities and needs.

[4] Translating the Eu Green Deal into Local Action https://abbflanders.be/greendeal [Accessed February 21st 2025]

[5] Full declaration can be read here https://abbflanders.be/greendeal/declaration [Accessed February 21st 2025]

In the spirit of this declaration, representing the needs and ambitions of Mayors across Europe, and the Green Deal Going Local Working Group[6] which was created between the Committee of Regions and the European Commission following the declaration, the present report will produce policy recommendations on how national energy agencies can assist the Green Deal Going Local Working Group and other relevant LRA led initiatives, by fostering collaboration between stakeholders at a national level and coordinating efforts at a European level via EnR.

The present report gathered information on the current status of local climate action in EnR countries, with information on legislation on climate action planning and details how EnR agencies are enabling local climate action, showcasing their activities, with good practice examples, in order to find synergies and collaboration opportunities between agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

The present report aims to reinforce the potential for EnR agencies as key coordinating actors to better articulate between international and national climate goals and the local and regional implementation levels.

The findings of the present report will contribute to:

- Develop knowledge on the status of local climate action across Europe and contribute to understanding the barriers to achieving common climate action targets and how to overcome them;
- Develop knowledge about good practices, the current role and contribution of EnR agencies in the context of local action and the link between local and national strategies;
- Propose actionable recommendations for EnR agencies, national governments and international supporting instruments and initiatives.

The discussion carried out within EnR about the topic can later evolve to work within its Working Groups or a dedicated Task Force on Local Climate Action, focusing on national and European initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

[6] https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/political-priorities/green-deal-going-local

2. Methodology & EnR Network Participation

In order to gather information on the current status of local climate action in EnR countries and how EnR agencies are enabling local climate action, a consultation was conducted with EnR agencies. A survey was made available online and sent to the 24 EnR agencies, to complete from September 23rd 2024 to December 11th 2024. It consisted of 29 questions, grouped into 7 sections, covering topics such as national climate policy, existing instruments for local climate action and the role of EnR agencies in this context, as well as the identification of European and national projects related to local climate action (full survey available in Annex I – Survey questions).

The survey aimed to gather information on:

- the type of policy instruments for local climate action in EnR agencies' countries (dedicated or mainstreamed plans, according to the typology defined by Reckien *et al.*, 2018 [7]);
- level of implementation (municipal or regional level);
- character of their implementation (voluntary or mandatory);
- availability and characterisation of specific national support (training, tools, dedicated financing, etc.);
- existence of national coordinating authority(ies) and their links with national energy agencies;
- role of transnational initiatives (e.g. Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, EU Missions, Net Zero Cities, European Green Capital, Green City Accord, European Capital of Innovation Awards, EU funded R&I projects, etc.);
- role of EnR agencies.

After analysing the results obtained, a discussion was held between the EnR agencies to review the main findings and provide recommendations for actions at different levels, particularly for national energy agencies, at the yearly Regular Meeting of the network in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by SEAI (February 27th 2025).

The report is available in the EnR website and will be promoted through EnR channels and each agencies' communication channels, targeting national and international decision makers to raise awareness about the critical role that coordinating organisations such as national energy agencies can have for successful local, national and EU climate policy implementation.

[7] For more details, please refer to Reckien *et al.*, 2018 How are cities planning to respond to climate change? Assessment of local climate plans from 885 cities in the EU-28, *Journal of Cleaner Production* 191 (2018) 207-219 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.03.220

3. Results and analysis

This section presents the results of the survey conducted with EnR Agencies to assess the state of local climate action across Europe and the role of EnR agencies. The aim was to identify barriers to achieve climate targets and to propose actionable recommendations for EnR agencies, national governments, and other relevant stakeholders.

The survey was sent out to the 24 European Energy Agencies within the EnR network, and a total of 17 responses were received, representing a response rate of 71%. The results are presented in five sub-sections:

- National Climate Action Planning Framework
- Types of local climate action plans and initiatives
- National Support for Local Action
- Role of Transnational Initiatives
- Coordination Between Organisations and Initiatives

3.1. National Climate Action Planning Framework

To assess the current state of local climate action in EnR countries and to gain a deeper understanding of how EnR agencies are facilitating local climate action, the initial section of the questionnaire is focused on characterising the National Climate Action Planning Framework across the various countries represented by these agencies.

When inquired about the territorial organisation of local climate action planning in their respective countries, most EnR agencies reported having simultaneous climate action plans at the municipal and regional levels, as well as national with local implications (e.g., National Energy and Climate Plans - NECPs).

However, in most of the various countries represented in the sample, there are more municipal climate action plans (31%) followed by national climate action plans with local implications (e.g. NECPs) (28%).

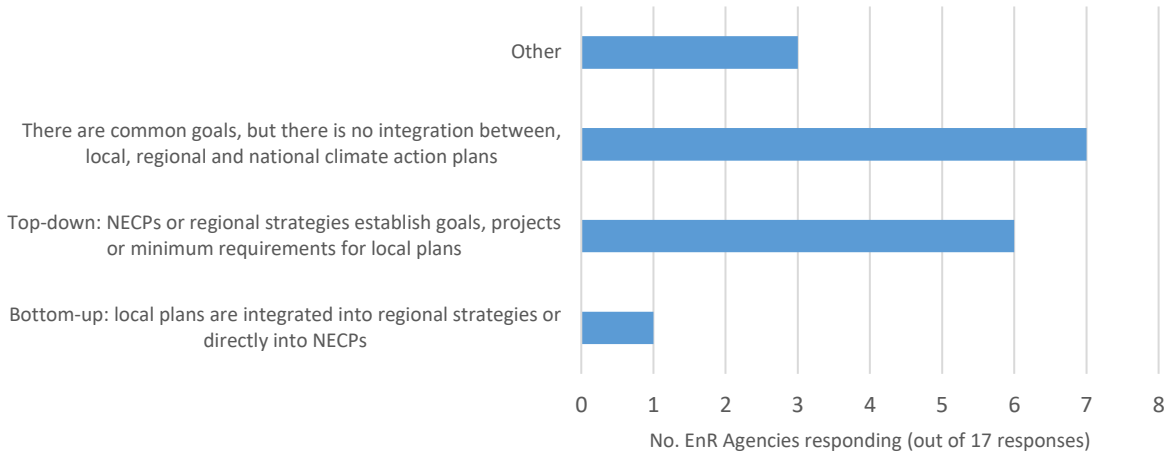

Figure 1 - Integration of national climate action plans with local action plans

To gain a deeper understanding of the national climate action planning framework, the survey inquired about the integration of national plans with local action plans.

As shown in Figure 1, the majority of EnR agencies indicated that in their countries, national plans, such as NECPs, may share common goals with local plans, but there is no multilevel dialogue for public policy integration (7 out of 17). Another subset of EnR agencies (6 out of 17) reported a top-down approach to integrating the plans and strategies, meaning that NECPs or regional strategies set goals, projects, or minimum requirements for local plans.

In certain cases, within this set of energy agencies, such as the situation in Spain, despite the NECP outlining the coordination and alignment with regional and local plans and strategies, including the Local Climate Action Plans (PACL), these plans are not always identical or fully integrated. Typically, local plans are more specific and tailored to the unique characteristics of the territory, with a particular focus on areas such as sustainable urban transportation, energy rehabilitation of buildings and waste management.

Together with IDAE (Spain), which indicated that there are different approaches at the same time in their country, the other agencies which detailed their country's situation as 'other' were the RVO (Netherlands) and ENA (Lithuania). The Netherlands reported that efforts are being made towards integration, although there are many local-level visions and strategies that are not necessarily integrated at the national level. RVO is currently working on improving cooperation between the different relevant ministries. In contrast, ENA highlighted a top-down approach in Lithuania with its NECP, alongside a National Climate Change Management Agenda that directly assigns responsibilities to municipalities, in particular the development and implementation of Adaptation to Climate Change Action Plans.

Regarding the National Climate Action Planning framework, the survey identified the countries where the development of local climate action plans is already mandatory, as well as those where this work is still voluntary.

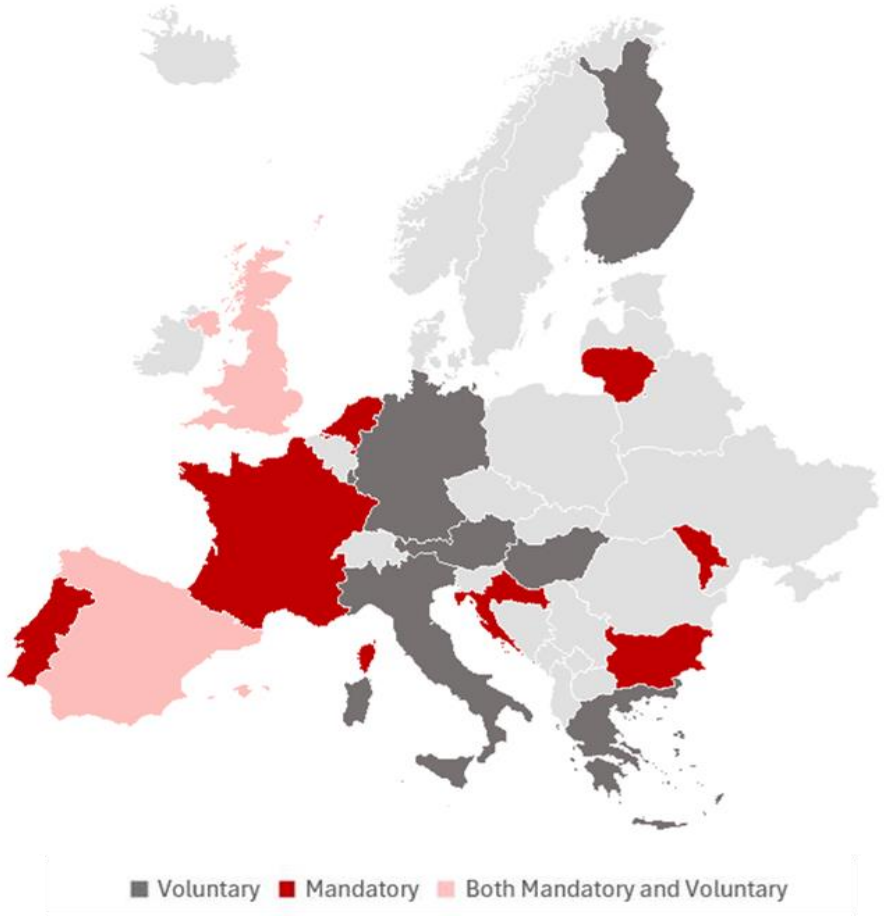

Figure 2 - Nature of local climate action planning (Voluntary/Mandatory)

As shown in Figure 2, the sample revealed that in the majority of countries surveyed, local climate action plans are mandatory , although the situation is not uniform in the countries that are part of the EnR network. The results indicate that 8 out of the 17 countries surveyed indicated that the plans are already mandatory, while in Spain there are both mandatory and voluntary plans, depending on the responsible regional administration. In the United Kingdom, local climate action plans are generally voluntary, except in Scotland, where they are mandatory. The survey responses also indicate that local climate action plans developed on a voluntary basis are significantly encouraged by a variety of national, European, and other international initiatives, networks, awards (such as the European Energy Award), and research projects that support the design and implementation of policies at local and regional level. The impact of these initiatives on the promotion of local climate action and the development of plans is explored in greater detail in Section 3.4.

However, there are some cases, such as Germany, where although climate action planning at the local level is voluntary, it must align with minimum requirements outlined in the national climate action framework, as established by the NECP. Consequently, while local governments have flexibility in their planning, they are still subject to overarching national policies and standards.

The plans developed on a mandatory basis are based on national legislation. For example, in the case of Portugal, the Portuguese National Climate Law (Law no. 98/2021, 31 December), introduced mandatory local and regional climate action plans. Municipalities are obliged to draw up Municipal Climate Action Plans (PMAC), which include both the dimensions of mitigation and adaptation. A very similar situation occurs in Moldova. Since the adoption of the Moldovan Energy Efficiency Law (Law No. 139/2018), local climate action planning is mandatory, which means that Local Public Administration Authorities are required to develop Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans (LIECPs) to contribute to national energy efficiency objectives and to promote energy efficiency at the local level. These authorities must also ensure that the LIECPs are updated every two years. In France, the implementation of Local Climate Plans is mandated by law for all municipalities exceeding 20,000 residents.

In Spain, while local climate action planning is not mandatory at a national level, it is strongly encouraged by central government, autonomous communities and European regulations. The Climate Change and Energy Transition Law (Law no. 7/2021) sets obligations mainly at the national and regional levels but emphasises the importance of local governments in addressing climate change. It also promotes the adoption of climate action plans at the local level, incorporating both mitigation and adaptation measures. Currently, eight of Spain's seventeen autonomous communities have enacted, or are in the process of enacting, climate laws that require municipalities to implement local climate and energy plans. Several other regions have developed climate strategies that encourage the creation of local plans, such as the Region of Murcia, which supports the development of local climate action plans (PACES).

Currently, there are no statutory net zero targets for local governments in the United Kingdom. However, EST indicates that there is significant enthusiasm for climate action at the local level, with many local authorities setting ambitious targets to achieve net zero emissions as early as 2030. The Scottish Government stands as an exception, as it mandates local authorities to develop, publish, and regularly update a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan.

In Sweden, SEA did not directly participate in the survey as there is no collected/compiled information regarding local climate action and various agencies and stakeholders have fragmented data. Nevertheless, SEA indicated that local climate plans are not mandatory and that here is currently no official link between the NECP and the local/regional plans.

Although local climate action planning is mandatory or promoted/fostered in most countries, and shares common goals with national plans, such as NECPs, there is no multilevel dialogue for policy integration.

3.2. Types of local climate action plans and initiatives

Climate action planning follows different strategies in different regions and cities. In each country, there are likely several examples in each category. Considering the foregoing, in the survey carried out, agencies were asked to indicate the frequency of each one, considering as reference the following sub types of plans, depending on character (autonomous or induced) and integration with/in other instruments, as defined by Reckien *et al.*[8]:

- **A1 | Comprehensive and stand-alone – Autonomous planning**. Cities/regions develop local climate plans by their own initiative, comprehensively (multiple sectors) addressing climate change. It does not rely on the support of international networks or funding agencies, and is a stand-alone document, including "Adaptation" and/or "Mitigation" in the title or identified in the preface/introduction as the main motivation.
- **A2 | Comprehensive and stand-alone - National regulation**. Cities/regions develop climate plans in response to requirements of national legislation and publish as stand-alone documents.
- **A3 | Comprehensive and stand-alone** - Internationally induced cities/regions develop climate plans under the auspices of international urban climate networks such as the EU Covenant of Mayors, C40, etc.
- **B | Mainstreamed and inclusive** - Climate change aspects included in another municipal plan, e.g. sustainability, development/masterplan, core strategy.
- **C | Partial stand-alone** - Local climate plan addressing partial aspects of climate change in stand-alone documents relating to particular sectors such as energy or particular impacts (heatwaves, flooding, etc.).
- **D | Operational stand-alone** - Local climate plan for parts of the municipal operations such as universities, schools, housing associations, hospitals, e.g. site - and operation-specific carbon management plans in the UK.
- **E | Related stand-alone** - Plan with relevance to the climate issue but without a clear focus and no single section dedicated to climate change, e.g. urban development plan, municipal emergency response plan, disaster risk reduction plan, civil protection plan
- **F | Areal stand-alone** - Local climate action for part of a city/urban area.

[8] Reckien et al., 2018 How are cities planning to respond to climate change? Assessment of local climate plans from 885 cities in the EU-28, *Journal of Cleaner Production* 191 (2018) 207-219 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.03.220

Agencies were inquired about the frequency of occurrence of Plans in relation to their type of:

- **Character** - these can be stand-alone plans, defined as plans specifically dedicated to climate action, as well as mainstreamed plans. The latter category encompasses masterplans, strategies, and regulations that address a range of topics but also incorporate sustainability criteria and objectives. Although climate change is not their primary focus, these mainstreamed plans include environmental considerations, which distinguishes them from stand-alone plans.
- **Scope** – Plans can be Comprehensive, i.e., covering Adaptation and/or Mitigation, incl. Energy Poverty; or Partial which corresponds to specific plans/strategies for partial aspects of climate change relating to particular sectors (such as energy, buildings, transport, industry, etc) or particular impacts (e.g heatwaves, flooding, etc).
- **Motivations** - Plans developed by an Autonomous Decision/strategy of local authorities; Plans induced by National Regulation/legislation or specific funding available; Plans induced by participation in International Initiatives (Covenant of Mayors, EU Missions, C40, etc).

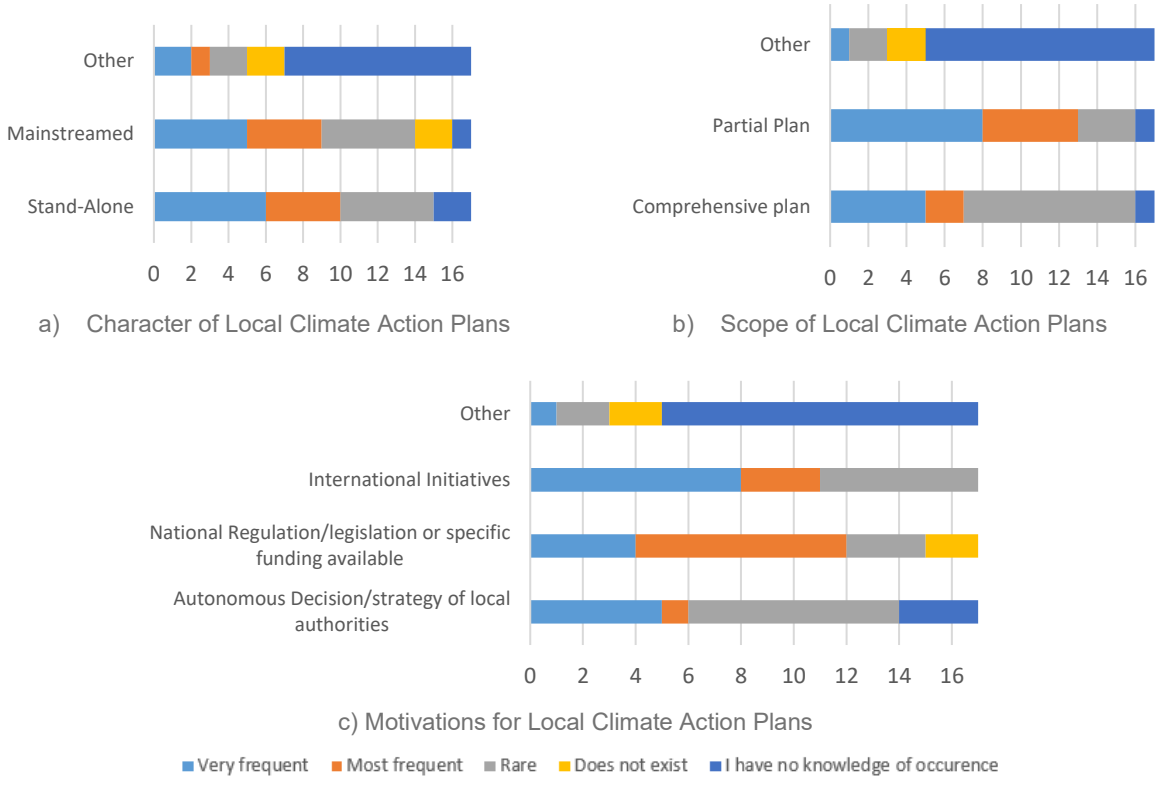

Figure 3 - Frequency of occurrence of Local Climate Action Plans in relation to Character (a), Scope (b) and Motivations (c) (Horizontal axis: No. EnR Agencies responding, out of 17 responses)

Regarding the typology of plans relative to their character, the results obtained (Figure 2.a) show that there are both stand-alone and mainstreamed plans simultaneously, with a slight predominance of stand-alone plans, but not significant. However, if we consider the scope (Figure 2.b), there is a greater occurrence of partial plans. It can be concluded that for the sample of agencies/countries surveyed, there is a majority of partial stand-alone plans (sub-type C), which means that most local climate plan address partial aspects of climate change in stand-alone documents related to specific sectors (such as energy, buildings, transports, etc) or particular impacts (heatwaves, flooding, etc).

However, some agencies particularly those in Italy, Spain, and Greece, highlighted that the influence of international climate networks, such as Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, has significantly contributed to the development of stand-alone local climate action plans encompassing both mitigation and adaptation dimensions (sub-type A3).

In Moldova, most local climate and energy plans are developed in response to national regulations – as is the case of the Moldovan Energy Efficiency Law (Law No. 139/2018), which made the development and implementation of Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans (LIECPs) mandatory - or as a condition for accessing specific funding mechanisms, which explains their higher frequency. For example, the development of local SECAPs is often linked to national and donor-supported programmes. In contrast, plans initiated independently by local public authorities remain rare, largely due to limited institutional capacity, lack of technical expertise, and financial constraints. Similarly, while Moldova participates in international initiatives like the Covenant of Mayors, actual plan development under these frameworks is not widespread and takes place sporadically, usually when external support is available. Additionally, Portugal and Spain noted that the mandatory development of municipal climate action plans has also led to an increase in the number of comprehensive and stand-alone climate action plans (sub-type A2). In Spain, this requirement applies to certain municipalities, whereas in Portugal, cities/regions develop climate plans in response to requirements of national legislation and approve them as stand-alone documents.

On the other hand, the survey results indicate that, in most cases, climate action related issues are also mainstreamed, i.e. addressed within several generic plans and strategies (Figure 2.a). That is, while these plans are not exclusively dedicated to climate action, they incorporate sustainability criteria and, as a result, address climate-related concerns within their broader scope.

In many instances, before the requirement and/or strong encouragement to develop climate action plans, or even in the absence of stand-alone strategies, climate-related issues were already incorporated into broader plans without a specific focus on climate change, but related in scope (e.g.: urban development plans, municipal emergency response plans, disaster risk

reduction strategies, and civil protection plans) (sub-type E). Alternatively, climate change considerations are also embedded within other municipal plans, such as sustainability frameworks, development/masterplans, or core strategies that featured a dedicated section on climate change (sub-type B).

This can be seen in the case of the Republic of Moldova, where mainstreamed plans currently represent the most prevalent approach to addressing energy and climate objectives. Moldovan authorities incorporate climate objectives into broader national strategies, such as the National Development Strategy and Environmental Strategy, both of which incorporate climate-related considerations into wider development frameworks.

It is also clear that, in Moldova, comprehensive local climate action plans remain rare, primarily due to limited institutional capacity and funding at the local level. Most of the existing initiatives take the form of partial plans, focusing on specific sectors like energy efficiency or infrastructure resilience, often developed within the framework of donor-funded projects. In some cases, local actions fall under the "Other" category, as they are integrated into broader development or emergency response plans without a clear climate-specific framework.

In some cases, as mentioned by Germany, partial planning/strategy is often necessary because certain aspects of local climate action (e.g. heat planning) is defined by law. Nevertheless, the integration of all partial planning strategies is not necessarily done.

For some countries, such as Lithuania and Portugal, the respective EnR agencies reported that climate action issues are frequently found in both dedicated plans for climate change and more broad plans or strategies. Even though the plans developed within the framework of local climate action focus on the dimensions of mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty, there are also various sectors and impact-specific plans and strategies that also address these issues.

The analysis of the results indicates that **local climate plans are predominantly partial, often consisting of separate instruments addressing specific aspects such as adaptation, mitigation, or just transition, without a cohesive or integrated approach to climate action. Furthermore, national regulations and transnational initiatives emerge as the primary driving forces behind the development of climate action plans.**

3.3. National Support for Local Action

In this section, EnR agencies were asked about the availability and scope of national support programmes aimed at facilitating local climate action within their respective countries.

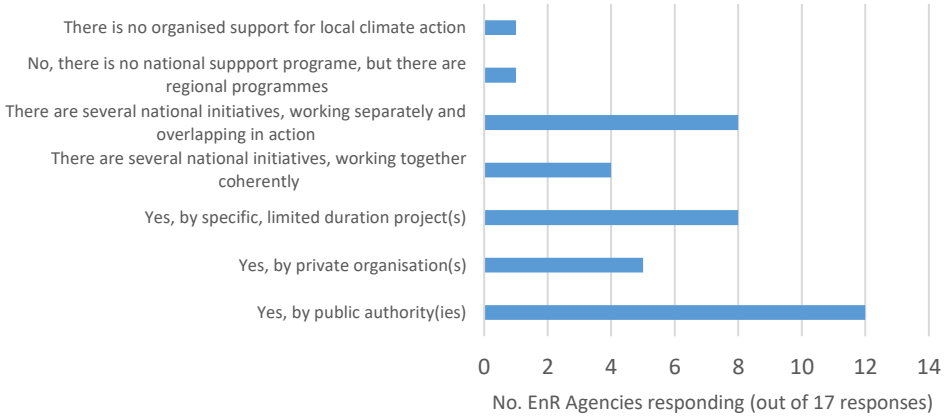

Figure 4 - National support programmes for local climate action

The analysis of the data presented in Figure 4 reveals that public authorities emerge as the primary supporters of national support programmes, underscoring the crucial role of governmental involvement in driving climate-related efforts at the local level. Additionally, it is evident that specific, time-limited projects also contribute to climate action, playing a role in complementing ongoing efforts.

Furthermore, the majority of responding EnR agencies report that there are multiple national initiatives in place. However, these initiatives often operate independently from one another, with some overlapping action.

EnR agencies are natural drivers of local climate action as they can connect the national energy efficiency planning and international collaboration to the projects and initiatives at a regional and local level, assisting Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) at different levels.

Having this in mind, EnR agencies were asked about their involvement in programmes to support local climate action. The results indicate that, in practice, most agencies are involved in supporting local climate action programs - with the exception of the national agencies of Hungary (MEKH) and Lithuania (ENA) - although their type of involvement is diverse. Notably, 36% of the agencies, which represent the majority, provide ad-hoc support, offering assistance on a case-by-case basis to local climate action planning. Additionally, 28% of the agencies are directly responsible for coordinating climate action programs at the local level, while another 29% engage in collaborative efforts, working alongside other entities to support these initiatives.

Several EnR agencies indicated that their engagement in local climate action within their countries is primarily linked to energy-related issues and decarbonisation efforts. For instance, Lithuania noted that the primary responsibility for climate action resides with the Environmental Protection Agency, highlighting that agency's central role in addressing environmental concerns at the national level.

Although not participating directly in the survey, the Swedish Energy Agency (SEA) indicated that local the energy agency does not have the information on how local climate action planning is done and does not have an intervention. On the other hand, ADEME (France), which could also not participate in the survey, has a comprehensive approach, from tools, training and capacity building and multilevel integration, through its "Territories in Transition" initiative (Territoires en Transitions), albeit disconnected from transnational initiatives such as the Covenant f Mayors, which could be mutually beneficial.

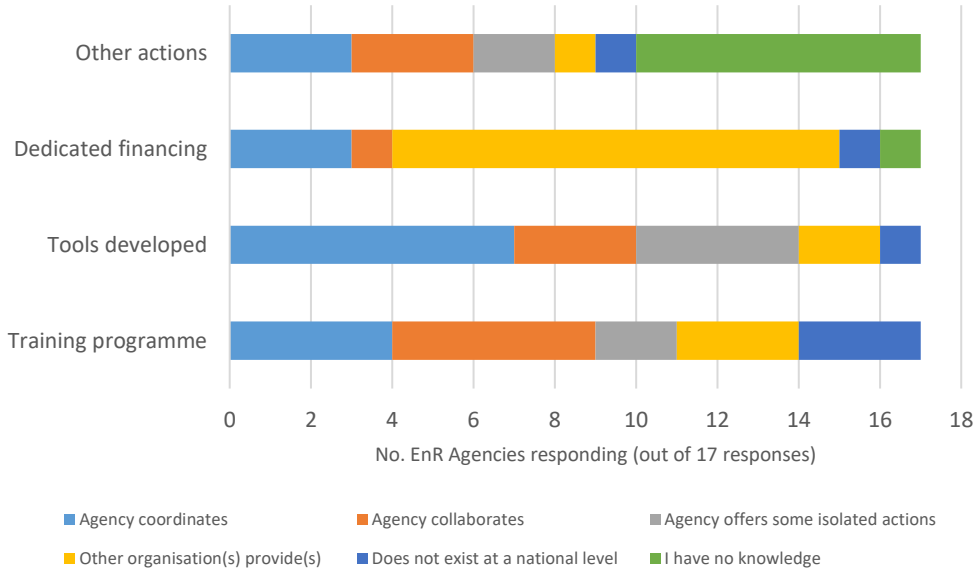

Figure 5 - Type of support provided for local climate action and the role of EnR agencies

Most EnR agencies reported that financing is primarily provided by distinct organisations, as evidenced in the Figure 5. Regarding the development of tools, the majority of EnR agencies indicated that they are responsible for coordinating these efforts. In contrast, when it comes to training programs, most agencies stated that they collaborate with other entities rather than directly leading initiatives.

Furthermore, the data suggests that agencies are most frequently engaged in the development of training and tools, with their involvement in financing being notably less frequent. This indicates that agencies are more involved in providing technical support and building capacity, while financial resources are primarily managed by external organisations.

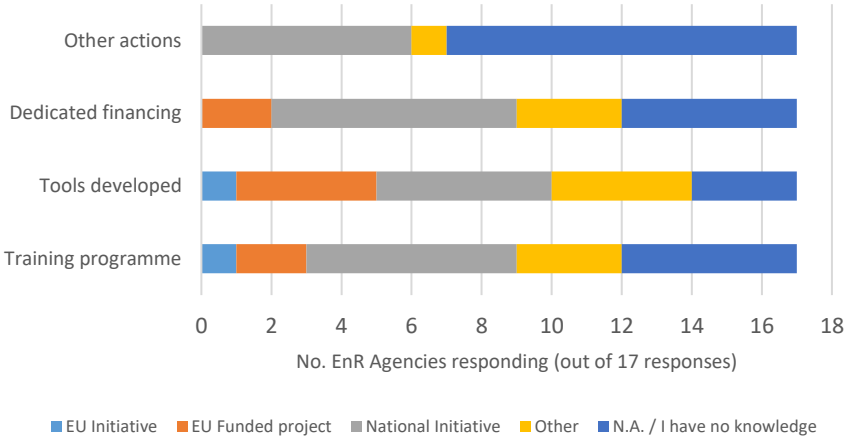

Figure 6 - Influence of specific initiatives on the type of support provided

It was also inquired whether the support provided by the agencies for local climate action falls within the scope of specific initiatives (Figure 6). Regarding tool development, national initiatives are the leading contributors, followed by as 'other', which correspond mostly to initiatives promoted by the agencies themselves, as well as EU-funded projects. For training programs, national initiatives are clearly the most important, with initiatives promoted within funded projects and "other" initiatives playing secondary roles. In terms of dedicated financing, national initiatives again take the lead. These findings suggest that **national initiatives are the dominant force in providing support across all areas, with "other", i.e., initiatives promoted by EnR agencies themselves and EU-funded projects complementing these efforts, particularly in tool development and training programmes.**

3.4. Role of transnational initiatives

This section examines the influence of various transnational initiatives on the promotion of local climate action across different countries. A recent 2023 report from the Committee of the Regions[9] identified 26 EU-funded initiatives (supporting instruments) designed to assist local

[9] Commission for the Environment, climate Change and Energy, Committee of the Regions (2023) *The impact of EU climate and energy initiatives on cities' climate transition*, available online at http://www.europa.eu and http://www.cor.europa.eu, Catalogue number: QG-09-23-211-EN-N, ISBN: 978-92-895-2666-1DOI: 10.2863/428101 https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/studies/Documents/The%20impact%20of%20EU.pdf [Accessed March 5th 2024]

and regional authorities in advancing their climate action efforts. In our questionnaire, we focused on assessing the impact of some of the most prominent initiatives, including the

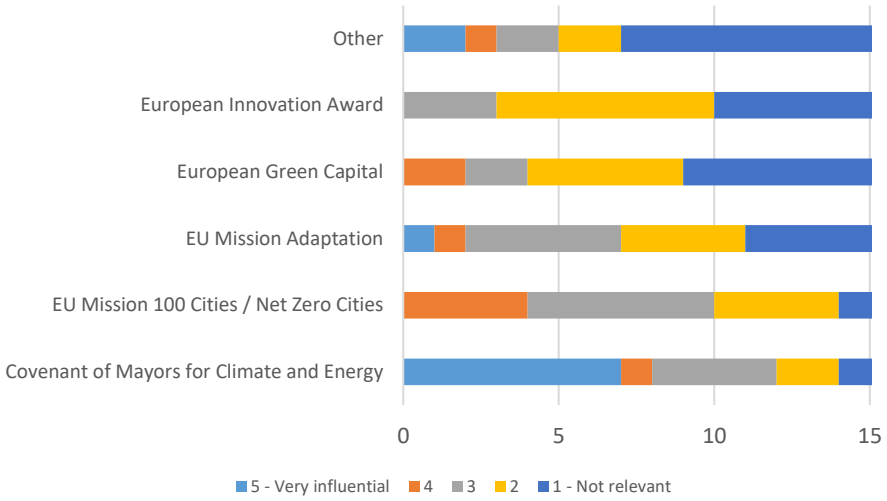

Figure 7 - Role of different transnational initiatives in the promotion of local climate action

Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, EU Mission 100 Cities / Net Zero Cities, EU Mission Adaptation, the European Green Capital, and the European Innovation Award, among others.

Based on the results obtained in Figure 7, it can be perceived that the impact of transnational initiatives on local climate action varies significantly, with certain initiatives being perceived as more influential than others. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy stands out as the most impactful, likely due to its long-standing, mainstreamed presence and evolving scope that began with a focus solely on sustainable energy and has progressively expanded to include broader climate action objectives over time. This broadening of focus may have contributed to its continued relevance and influence over time.

On the other hand, while the EU Mission 100 Cities/Net Zero Cities has gained importance, it appears to be at a more nascent stage compared to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, suggesting that its influence is still developing. In contrast, the EU Mission Adaptation seems to have had a more limited impact, potentially due to its more specific focus and the fact that it does not have a performance monitoring framework and is so far, more focused solely on a political commitment.

Additionally, the relatively low influence of the European Green Capital and European Innovation Award initiatives may indicate that, despite their prominence in certain sectors, they have not yet been fully integrated into local climate action strategies across a broader range of countries.

Some agencies highlighted the impact of other types of initiatives, such as Luxembourg for its involvement in the "European Energy Award" framework. Additionally, SEAI (Ireland) referenced the ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard as a key component for promotion of local climate action, as well as RVO (Netherlands) underscored its collaborative efforts within several international partnerships, including the CETP (Centre for Energy and Technology Policy), UTM (Universal Technology Management), and IEA (International Energy Agency), especially through its Technology Collaboration Programme devoted to cities (Cities TCP). CNED (Moldova) also emphasised the importance of initiatives such as EU4Climate, UNDP's National Adaptation Planning projects, among others, in strengthening Moldova's climate governance and supporting local climate planning. These programmes provide funding, technical assistance, and capacity building for sub-national actors.

EnR agencies were also asked about their involvement in implementing and promoting transnational initiatives (Figure 8).

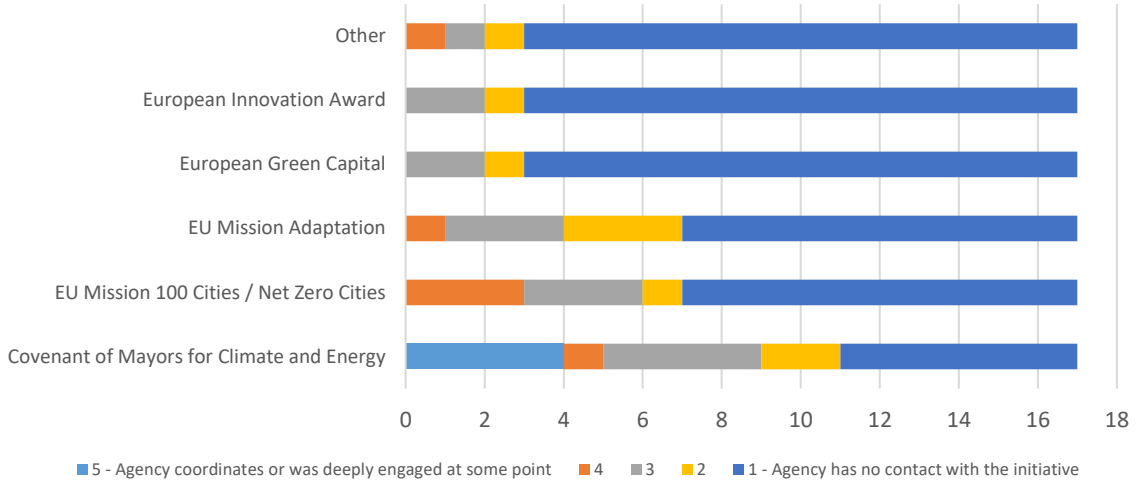

Figure 8 - EnR Agencies involvement in transnational initiatives

The analysis from Figure 8 reveals that a significant part of the surveyed agencies are not involved in certain transnational initiatives, notably the European Green Capital and the European Innovation Award. This lack of engagement is particularly notable in these two initiatives, which suggests a potential gap in participation among agencies in these specific domains. While not as pronounced as in the aforementioned initiatives, there is also limited involvement in the EU Mission Adaptation.

On the other hand, agencies show a greater level of participation in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and EU Mission 100 Cities/Net Zero Cities. Notably, within the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a number of EnR agencies reported their involvement as either coordinators (ADENE, Portugal; CRES, Greece; ENEA, Italy; CNED,

Republic of Moldova) of the initiative or in very close collaboration with it, suggesting a more active and central role in these initiatives.

Furthermore, SEAI (Ireland) and RVO (Netherlands) indicated strong engagement in concerted action across EU Energy policy developments, as well as significant collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Although transnational initiatives such as CoM or Net Zero Cities are regarded as impactful and as drivers for local climate action, EnR Agencies are still seldomly engaged with these, but recognise the common denominators in their scopes.

3.5. Coordination between organisations and initiatives

The survey results reveal that a substantial majority of responding EnR agencies (88%) report the existence of multiple initiatives supporting local climate action in their countries. This indicates a widespread engagement at the local level, with diverse efforts from governments, municipalities, and community-based organisations dedicated to addressing climate change and promoting sustainability. The high percentage suggests that local climate action is a priority across the EU, with numerous initiatives working toward collectively achieving the EU's broader climate goals.

However, when asked whether there is a coordinating platform, body, or organisation that connects these various initiatives, the responses show a more mixed picture. Approximately 50% of respondents indicated that no such coordinating entity exists, highlighting a significant gap in coordination across the initiatives. Only 31% confirmed the presence of a coordinating platform, while 19% expressed uncertainty about its existence.

This discrepancy between the high number of local climate initiatives and the lack of a coordinating body suggests that, despite the active engagement of local actors, the efforts may be fragmented and lack the organisational structure needed to maximise their collective impact. The absence of coordinating platforms could lead to inefficiencies, duplication of efforts, and missed opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration between countries and regions.

Furthermore, the uncertainty expressed by 19% of respondents underscores the potential lack of visibility or awareness of existing coordination structures, which could be limiting the full potential of local climate action. The relatively high proportion of respondents (19%) who are unsure about the existence of a coordinating platform could indicate that, even where such platforms do exist, they may not be well-known or effectively integrated into the local climate action efforts. This highlights a need for more robust communication and outreach efforts to

ensure that stakeholders across the EU are aware of existing coordination mechanisms in order to actively participate in them.

In conclusion, while the survey demonstrates a strong presence of local climate initiatives across Europe, it also highlights the need for greater coordination between these efforts. The creation or enhancement of coordinating platforms could significantly improve the effectiveness of local climate action by facilitating collaboration, resource sharing, and the dissemination of best practices across Europe (EU and beyond). Strengthening coordination would enable a more unified and impactful approach to addressing climate change at the local level.

In addition to the importance of coordinating the various existing initiatives aimed at promoting local climate action, there is a pressing need to foster multi-level dialogue to ensure the effectiveness and results of European and national policies' as they are implemented at a local level and not always take it into account. In this context, EnR agencies were also surveyed on this matter, specifically regarding whether they had **any recommendations for the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action**[10]. The Governance Regulation plays a crucial role in coordinating national and local climate action, serving as a tool to support the EU in achieving the 2030 climate and energy targets through planning, reporting, and monitoring mechanisms. Article 11 of the Regulation underscores the significance of multi-level governance, emphasising the inclusion of local authorities, civil society organisations, the business community, investors, and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the general public, in the discussion of integrated national energy and climate plans.

ENEA (Italy), for instance, proposed enhancing and promoting effective dialogue across various levels of governance, emphasising its role in coordinating a "control room" in collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors Office in Brussels to encourage multi-level cooperation.

While CNED (Moldova) does not yet have a single centralized coordinating body for all transnational climate initiatives, the combined efforts of the CNED, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment, the Municipal Development Cooperation Platform, and international partners effectively ensure alignment between local and national climate actions. The agency stated that these mechanisms help integrate local initiatives into broader strategic frameworks and enhance access to international support. The agency emphasised its role in promoting continuous dialogue among all levels of government (local, regional, and national) to ensure effective coordination between climate and energy plans and strategies, through the creation of national working groups, consultative councils, or other coordination platforms that bring

[10] Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1999/oj

together stakeholders to foster synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure alignment of actions across sectors and governance levels.

In a similar vein, CRES (Greece) and SEAI (Ireland) stressed the importance of revising the existing Regulation in response to the significant global and EU economic, political, and social changes since its introduction. They underlined that any updates should take into account the progress of NECPs and their integration, alongside the interactions between different governance levels involved in plan implementation. In this regard, ADENE (Portugal) also emphasised the importance of Incentivise energy and climate action planning bottom-up integration, adopting NECP revisions that take into account local action.

Building on this, RVO (Netherlands) recommended that the Regulation include tools and support to enable actors in multi-level governance to gather and share data, including financial plans, to enhance coordination and ensure effective policy delivery. Furthermore, the agency advocated for the incorporation of advisory mechanisms to assist in identifying funding opportunities.

ADENE (Portugal), in turn, emphasised the necessity for the Regulation to enforce continuous dialogue between the various levels of coordination (local, regional, national) in order to guarantee coordination between the plans and strategies of the different levels, through the creation of national Working Groups, Consulting Councils, or other structures which foster synergies and avoid parallel development of similar solutions.

Meanwhile, IDAE (Spain) elaborated on the role of the Climate Change Policy Coordination Commission (CCPCC), a body established to promote collaboration between the central government, autonomous communities, and other entities, which could be looked at as a model for other countries. The commission's objectives include fostering ongoing dialogue and ensuring policy coherence across mitigation and adaptation strategies, supported by two specialised groups, one for mitigation and another for adaptation, which convene regularly to advance these initiatives.

Local climate action is considered a priority and targeted in policy and implementation at various levels, but there is a lack of communication and collaboration between different initiatives and levels of government. Coordination efforts could therefore introduce more effective and efficient action, and EnR Agencies are uniquely positioned to do this.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

This report provides key insights into the dynamics of local climate action planning across various EnR countries as well as the involvement of EnR national energy agencies in this matter.

It is important to state that the results presented in the sections above represent the views and opinions of 17 national energy agencies within the 24 EnR members and may not reflect the entirety of the national local climate planning efforts, but rather each energy agency's level of engagement in it. Nevertheless, these results represent the level of participation of EnR national energy agencies in supporting local climate action and are therefore important insights as to the current and potential role of national energy agencies and how EnR can foster productive collaboration between its members towards local climate action efforts.

A major conclusion drawn is that, while climate action plans may exist simultaneously at municipal, regional, and national levels, a lack of effective communication between these governance layers prevents the seamless integration of policies, hindering overall climate action. In the context of the national climate action frameworks, it is important to consider the diversity across EU countries, as different multi-level governance strategies significantly influence the effectiveness of implementation. For instance, Germany operates within a federal system, in which the overarching framework is shaped by this governance structure. As a result, the addition of specific actions often requires legislative measures or consensus among the federal states. The same is valid for countries with high degree of autonomy of their regions, such as Spain and Italy, or for country unions such as the United Kingdom.

In terms of local climate action planning, the analysis revealed that such plans are often partial, addressing specific aspects like mitigation, adaptation, or just transition in a compartmentalised manner, without a holistic or integrated approach. This lack of cohesion impedes the development of comprehensive strategies that are essential to tackle the complex climate emergency challenges.

National climate policies and international initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, are considered by national energy agencies to be significant in shaping local climate action. However, the independent and occasionally overlapping nature of these initiatives creates inefficiencies, putting unnecessary pressure on already short staffed municipal technical teams. This underscores the need for better coordination to optimise the collective impact from multiple and valid initiatives, especially if promoted under the auspices of the same institution, such as the multiple European Union led efforts (Covenant of Mayors, EU Missions and Net Zero Cities, European Green Capital and the Green City Accord, etc.).

Local climate action plans, generally mandatory, benefit from substantial support from national, European, and international initiatives and networks. These external frameworks are crucial in motivating local governments to adopt and implement climate policies, as they provide support, good practice sharing and often provide financial support. However, for these efforts to be more impactful, enhanced coordination across governance levels is critical to avoid duplication and improve overall efficiency.

Regarding the involvement of EnR national energy agencies, the survey revealed that most agencies play a supportive role in local climate action. Agencies primarily offer ad-hoc assistance, providing technical support, tools, and training, while other national organisations lead in financing. National initiatives remain the primary contributors to climate action, with initiatives promoted by the agencies themselves and EU-funded projects complement their efforts, especially in areas like tool development and training programmes.

The study also highlighted the prominent involvement of EnR agencies in key supporting initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the EU Mission 100 Cities/Net Zero Cities. Several agencies reported playing central roles in these initiatives, either as national coordinators, partners or supporters, highlighting an important inducing role played by international collaboration.

Despite the widespread presence of local climate action initiatives, the current survey found a significant lack of coordination between them. About 50% of responding agencies indicated the absence of a central coordinating platform, which contributes to the fragmentation of efforts and may undermine their effectiveness. Additionally, survey results point out the absence of strong multi-level governance and dialogue between European, national, regional, and local levels, which leads to policy gaps and inefficiencies. Although the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action[i] specifically requires Member States to establish multilevel dialogues to engage on climate and energy policy discussion, namely regarding the NECPs, according the EnR agencies, further efforts are necessary to enhance policy coherence and integration.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of local climate action hinges not only on better coordination among supporting initiatives but also on fostering stronger multilevel dialogue across governance layers. This is essential to ensure that climate policies are coherent, integrated, and able to address the scale and complexity of the climate crisis effectively.

In conclusion, while significant progress has been made in local climate action planning, these findings and a previous report and conclusions from the Committee of the Regions[11] highlight

[11] European Committee of the Regions: Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy, Gasperini, M., Lundberg, P., Markowska, A. and Vroom, I., *The impact of EU climate and energy initiatives on cities'*

the critical need for stronger coordination and integration across all governance levels and across supporting initiatives. The involvement of EnR agencies in the support of national, European, and international initiatives are pivotal in driving local efforts, but a more cohesive and collaborative approach is essential to enhance their effectiveness. Bridging the gaps between fragmented local plans, ensuring better multi-level governance, and fostering continuous dialogue between national, regional, and local authorities will be key to addressing the urgent and complex climate challenges ahead. EnR agencies hold unique positions in the energy (and therefore climate action) ecosystems in their countries, which grants them with the opportunity to play these connection goals. Only through these collective efforts can we hope to build resilient, sustainable, and coherent climate action strategies that have a meaningful impact.

Taken together, the present survey results, knowledge of local needs and Mayors' pleas for concerted action and the vision and mission of EnR agencies and the network, we propose a set of 6 main axis for action at different levels in the Recommendations below, detailed in a few proposed initiatives within each. The aim of these is to discuss possible avenues for EnR joint action in the near future.

Recommendation #1: Promoting Multi-Level Coordination and Transparency for Effective Climate Action

To improve the effectiveness of climate policies, it is essential to enhance coordination across municipal, regional, and national governance levels. This can be achieved through the following concrete actions:

1.1. Establish Multi-Level Dialogue Mechanisms: Develop formal dialogue platforms at local, regional, and national levels to align climate goals, share good practices, and coordinate climate action. These platforms should be institutionalised through regular meetings and communication protocols. Results should be incorporated into policies at different levels to guarantee effectiveness and to maintain stakeholder engagement.

1.2. Implement Governance Tools for Data Sharing: Create and promote tools that facilitate data exchange, such as climate action databases, tracking platforms and regular progress reports. These tools allow various levels of government to monitor progress, align policies, and identify gaps in implementation at early stages, which allows for continued adaptation/evolution of policies to meet changing needs add challenges.

climate transition, European Committee of the Regions, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2863/428101 [Accessed February 21st 2025]

1.3. Facilitate Funding and Financing Opportunities: Develop centralised platforms that highlight available funding and financing sources for climate action, making it easier for local governments to access national and European programs. Connect funding and financing conditions to criteria related to local planning and monitoring actions, to promote the adoption of integrated climate action plans, which will assist with national and European progress tracking.

Recommendation #2: Integrating Local Climate Action Initiatives through Coordinating Bodies

To reduce redundancy and enhance collaboration, it is recommended to establish or strengthen coordinating bodies to link various local climate initiatives in the country. The following actions could be considered:

2.1. Establish Coordinating Bodies: Create or strengthen bodies tasked with linking local climate actin support initiatives. These bodies should serve as hubs for information, collaboration, and resource allocation, ensuring alignment between local projects and national/international frameworks. These can take shape through city associations or platforms, networks of climate and energy agencies, national plan monitoring committees, etc.

2.2 Develop Collaborative Platforms: Build online platforms that connect local governments, agencies, and stakeholders working on climate action. These platforms would facilitate coordination, exchange of resources, and joint project development. These can and should make use of existing tools, such as the ones developed under transnational initiatives.

2.3 Promote Knowledge Exchange: Organise regular workshops, webinars, and conferences to encourage dialogue and share lessons learned from local climate initiatives. These events could be hosted by coordinating bodies to strengthen networks and collaboration across regions and countries.

Recommendation #3: Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks for Local Climate Action

To ensure better integration of local climate actions with national policies, the following concrete actions could be implemented:

3.1. Enhance Regulatory Support for Local Plans: Strengthen national regulations to support local climate plans. This could involve introducing incentives for municipalities to adopt integrated climate action plans, such as preferable access to grants or higher funding rates.

3.2. Provide Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: Offer technical support to local governments to develop and implement climate action plans. This could include training programs, expert consultancy, and access to toolkits to ensure that local plans are effective and aligned with national and European priorities.

Recommendation #4: Developing Integrated Local Climate Action Plans

Encouraging the creation of comprehensive local climate action plans can be supported by the following actions:

4.1. Promote Cross-Sectoral Planning: Encourage local governments to develop integrated climate action plans that address both mitigation, adaptation and just transition, across various sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, and urban development. These plans need to be developed through multi-stakeholder engagement, as they depend on several ministries and tutelages, and on different economic sectors.

4.2. Align Local Plans with National and International Goals: Ensure that local climate action plans are aligned with national and international climate targets by providing guidelines and frameworks for integration.

4.3. Offer Support for Plan Development: Provide funding and technical assistance to local authorities to develop and implement comprehensive climate action plans. This could involve the establishment of local climate advisory bodies or partnerships with universities and research institutions (connects with Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2).

Recommendation #5: Improving Coordination of Local Climate Action Initiatives Across Europe

To enhance the effectiveness of local climate actions across Europe, it is essential to strengthen coordination among different country stakeholders developing similar work. The following concrete actions are recommended:

5.1 Develop a European Coordination Platform: Establish a platform for local governments across Europe to share resources, tools, and best practices. This platform could also allow networking for joint project proposals, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on funding opportunities. Such platform could and should make use of existing initiatives in place, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or the European Urban Initiative.

5.2 **Promote Inter-Municipal Collaboration**: Encourage local governments to form networks for collaborative climate action. This could be facilitated by the European platform and could include joint climate action projects, leveraging opportunities for smaller municipalities, regional climate adaptation strategies, and shared research.

Recommendation #6: Amplifying the Role of EnR Agencies for Effective Local Climate Action

EnR agencies play a pivotal role in supporting local climate action. To enhance their impact, the following concrete actions could be taken:

6.1 **Strengthen EnR Agencies' Involvement in Local Climate Action**: Promote EnR agencies' active involvement in supporting local climate action programs by providing technical assistance, funding, and project management expertise. EnR agencies could facilitate coordination between local governments, national authorities, and international stakeholders, as they have done in other areas successfully. EnR agencies have the technical knowledge and expertise, and have the networks in place to more actively and successfully intervene in local climate action.

6.2 **Develop Specialised Tools and Resources**: EnR agencies could develop or adapt tools to assist local governments in implementing climate action, such as climate action planning guidelines, harmonised methodologies and tools to facilitate greenhouse gas emission inventories, equipment and facilities' management support tools to measure and track resource use (energy, water and materials' use), therefore supporting decarbonisation plans, funding and financing application support, etc.

6.3 **Foster Multi-Level Collaboration**: EnR agencies could act as intermediaries to facilitate dialogue between local, regional, and national levels. This could involve organising workshops, conferences, and roundtable discussions to align policies, share insights, and foster collaboration.