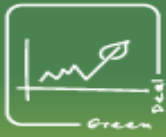




European Committee  
of the Regions



# Young Local Leaders for a climate neutral Europe



Young Elected  
Politicians

23/06/2021

Online Session

#EUGreenDeal

#Regions4Climate

#YoungLocalLeaders

## Event type

YEPs Info Session

## Date

23 June 2021

## Audience

Over 80 Young Elected Politicians (YEPs)

## Organisers

Young Elected Politicians Team and  
ENVE Commission of the European  
Committee of the Regions

## Themes

Renovation Wave Strategy: focus on buildings  
renovation



## Speakers

- **Rafał TRZASKOWSKI** (PL/EPP),  
President of the capital city of  
Warsaw, Member of the European  
Committee of the Regions;
- **Marta MANSANET CÁNOVAS**,  
Policy officer, Commission for the  
Environment, Climate change and  
Energy (ENVE), European  
Committee of the Regions;
- **Frédéric BOYER**, Head of the  
European Office, Covenant of  
Mayors;
- **Marcin Idczak**, Energy Engineer,  
JASPERS, European Investment  
Bank;
- **Céline TOUGERON**, Project  
Manager, Financing Energy  
Efficiency, European Climate,  
Infrastructure and Environment  
Executive Agency;
- **Francisco GONÇALVES**,  
coordinator of the European City  
Facility Initiative, Energy Cities



## Key messages

1. The Green Deal implementation requires an holistic approach between the different EU policies.
2. Local and regional authorities are responsible for implementing 70% of the EU legislation, 90% of climate adaptation measures and 70% of climate mitigation measures.
3. The challenge that Europe is facing is the renovation of the existing buildings to achieve energy efficiency.
4. The European Commission estimates there is the need to invest more than 281 billion euros each year to implement energy and climate projects to reach the goals of the Green Deal.
5. Direct financing for regions and cities is crucial for implementing the green transition on the ground.
6. The Renovation wave should be included in the Recovery and Resilience programme as well as in the European Structural and Investment Funds.
7. Creating synergies facilitate the implementation of the Green Deal objectives.
8. Rafał TRZASKOWSKI (PL/EPP): *"We need to decentralize! We (local and regional authorities) know how to take specific decisions. For example, it is completely different to implement the renovation in an historical area or in rural areas. We know how to do it!"*



## Press/Social media coverage

### Media coverage

[CoR web highlight](#)

[ANSA](#)

### Website

[CoR event page](#)

[YEPs Programme](#)

### Social Media

[#Eulocal](#)

[#YoungLocalLeaders](#)



## 1. The work of the CoR

The question of [renovation of buildings](#) is crucial for the future of the European citizens. The CoR has adopted the Opinion «[A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives](#)» that brings the voice of regions and cities in the framework of the Renovation Wave Strategy, a key pillar to deliver on the [European Green Deal](#). Decentralisation and [direct funds for cities and regions](#) are two key challenges on which the CoR is advocating, as mentioned by the [CoR Member Rafał TRZASKOWSKI](#), rapporteur of the [CoR Opinion on the climate pact](#). Creating synergies, learning from each other and replicate best practices is key for the implementation of the Renovation Wave. In addition, involving citizens is crucial to give them a say in the green transformation. The European Committee of the Regions is actively involved in the climate Pact. Different activities are currently in place thanks to the work of the [CoR ENVE Commission](#): [Green Deal Best Practices call](#), [Climate Pact Ambassadors call](#), [screening survey](#) for Members and YEPs to gather information on their participation in initiatives at local and regional level and promote best practices to be replicated all across Europe.

## 2. EU Covenant of Mayors

Mayors signing up the Covenant of Mayors are committing to climate neutrality by 2050. The Covenant has always worked on mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty. [The Committee of the Regions has appointed 27 Ambassadors of the Covenant](#), one per Member State, to shape the European and national political context. In order to understand the importance of the renovation of buildings, it is important to consider that 10% of European citizens are energy poor. This calls for a big renovation of the building stocks. What to do first? Local and regional authorities should focus on public buildings to ensure economic savings. In addition, raising awareness is another action to take at local and regional level. For example, the concept of a «OneStopShop» office for citizens is a key initiative to support European citizens understanding how to take action in regards of the renovation wave.

## 3. The European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)

In terms of lending, the European Investment Bank is a very important contributor for the renovation wave sector. However, technically assistance is equally important. Technical assistance means non investment assistance for beneficiaries, for example capacity building or consultative services. Different funds are available to support the Green Deal but it is important to know how to move around all the funds available. [JASPERS](#) is an example of technical assistance facility to help municipalities to receive advice on how to prepare and tap in the programmes available. [ELENA](#) is another example that can help to prepare the project and be ready to go bankable.

## 4. Funding the Clean Energy Transition

Two main initiatives have been highlighted: the «[Integrated Home Renovation Services](#)», initiative that supports home or flat owners who decide to go for the energy efficiency renovation of properties, and the «[Project Development Assistance](#)», an initiative that finances local authorities to transform ideas in concrete investments, by building legal and technical expertise, aggregating projects, mobilising finance etc. CINEA focuses on three big pillars: how to encourage effective use of public funds, aggregating and providing technical assistance, « derisking » the financial sector.

## 5. The European City Facility Initiative

The European City Facility supports cities and grouping of cities to accelerate the implementation of the energy actions and climate plans. It provides financial and technical support: cities can benefit from a 60.000 euros financial support for the development of an investment concept. The technical support is provided in two ways: 1. country experts help cities to access the financial support and guide them in the development of the project concept. 2. Offering a set of capacity building activities. The next call for application opens in October 2021.