

MAYORS IN ACTION
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Evaluations of SEAPs: strengths and weaknesses

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Outline

1. The role of the JRC in the Covenant of Mayors
2. The evaluation of SEAPs by the JRC
3. Some common weaknesses of SEAPs
4. CTCs and the grouped SEAP analysis

1. The role of the JRC in the Covenant of Mayors

JRC - Robust Science for Policy Making

As a Directorate-General of the European Commission, the JRC provides customer-driven scientific and technical support to Community policy making

Supporting citizen's security, health and environmental protection, safety of food and chemicals, alternative energies, nuclear safety, econometrics, prospective technologies...





Scientific-technical support to the development, implementation and monitoring of the CoM

- Development of the guidebook “How to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)”
- Monitoring the CoM implementation, including the development of a specific template & instructions for signatories
- Evaluation of submitted SEAPs, with feedback to Covenant cities
- Operation of the technical helpdesk service

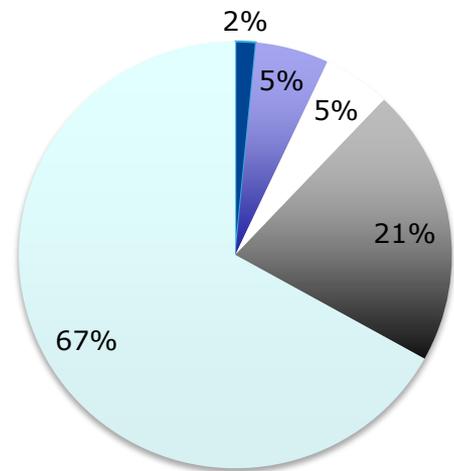
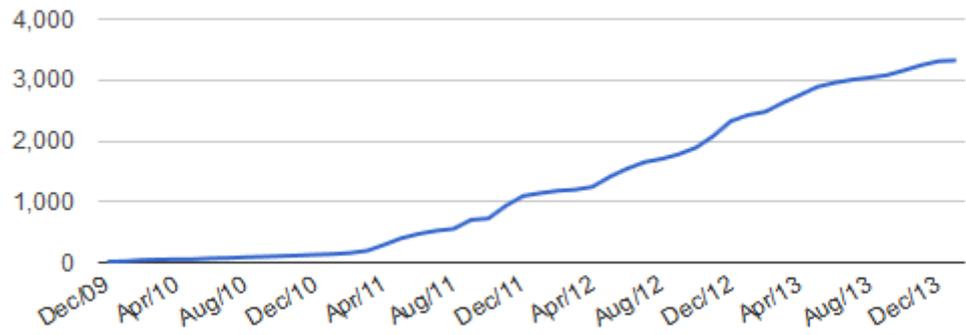
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NB: In addition, the CoM Office in Brussels is in charge of: general coordination, promotion (website etc), networking, administrative support, technical helpdesk (with JRC), etc.

Some figures on SEAPs submitted



SEAPs over time (EU and beyond)

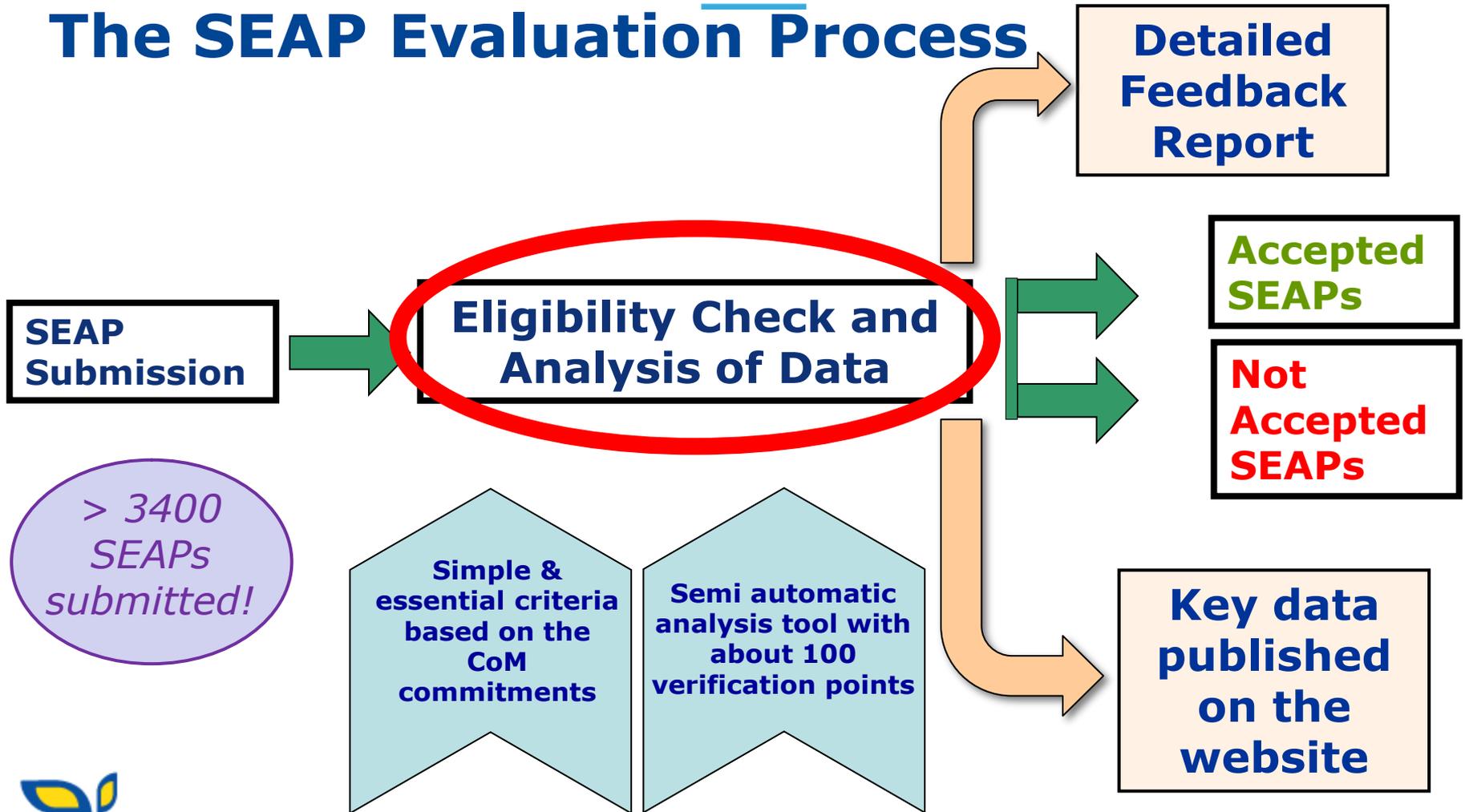


As of 26 th March 2014	
SEAPs	Inhabitants
3466	>144.4 million

Most of the SEAPs come from municipalities <5,000 inhabitants!

2. The evaluation of SEAPs by the JRC

The SEAP Evaluation Process



SEAP analysis criteria

Eligibility check

1. The SEAP must be **approved by the municipal council** or equivalent body
2. The SEAP must contain a clear reference to the **CO2 reduction objective by 2020** (20% as a min.)
3. The **results of BEI** must be provided
4. The SEAP must include a **set of actions in the key sectors** of activity
5. The SEAP **template** must be **correctly filled-in**
6. The **data** provided must be **coherent and complete**

Data coherence check

The SEAP template must reflect the content of the document officially approved by the Council

IMPORTANT: SEAPs that do not comply with all the above criteria cannot be accepted

More on criteria 3 and 4

Sectors / Fields of action	
Municipal	✓
Residential	✓
Tertiary	✓
Transport	✓
Local energy production	Recommended
Land use planning	Recommended
Public procurement	Recommended
Working with the citizens and stakeholders	Recommended
Industries (excl. ETS sector)	Optional
Other sectors	See SEAP guidebook

4 KEY SECTORS
whose inclusion is
highly
recommended

To be eligible, SEAPs must include:

✓ **BEI**, covering at least 3 out of 4 key sectors

✓ **A list of concrete measures**, covering at least the municipal sector and one or more other key sectors

Feedback report



FEEDBACK REPORT

Krakow (PL)

Foreword

The present document is the feedback report from the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) Technical Helpdesk after having completed the analysis of your Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

The analysis is essentially focusing on the compliance of the SEAP with the Covenant formal commitments and principles as well as on the evaluation of the completeness and consistency of the data inserted in the SEAP template. The latter is mainly based on a computer-assisted analysis performed on the data you inserted in the online SEAP template. The selection and definition of adequate actions aiming at achieving your emissions reduction objective are entirely left to your responsibility as they need to be tailor-made on your territorial circumstances.

The feedback report serves the purpose of informing the signatory on whether its SEAP fulfils the following criteria:

1. The SEAP must be approved by an official body (in principle the municipal council).
2. The SEAP must clearly specify what is your overall CO₂ reduction objective by 2020 (20% as a minimum).
3. The results of the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) must be provided and must cover the key sectors of activity.
4. The SEAP must include a set of actions in the key sectors of activity.
5. The SEAP template must be correctly filled-in.
6. The data inserted in the SEAP template must be coherent and complete.

The present report also provides observations and suggestions for improvement, which we recommend that you take into consideration as much as possible. Nevertheless, in some instances our remarks might just point out peculiarities which do not need to be addressed because they find their explanation to be in the particular circumstances occurring within your territory.

The Signatory will receive a Feedback Report, including the **results of the analysis** and **concrete recommendations and/or suggestions** on how to improve the SEAP.

3. Some common weaknesses of SEAPs



Lack of clarity on the commitment

- The SEAP does not set a firm target to 2020, but indicates that a certain emission reduction (even $>20\%$) can be achieved via the implementation of the actions.
- The SEAP relies to a great extent on the expected population growth to achieve a certain per capita reduction target. The increase in emissions that will occur due to the increase in population is not taken into account.

Recommendation:

- 20% is already an ambitious reduction target! Make sure that the actions that your local authority can implement are leading at least to -20% and are focusing on the key sectors of activity.
- If you estimate a population increase in 2020, try to assess first how the emissions levels will be in a scenario without SEAP.

Regarding the BEI



- The data collection and elaboration process is not well documented. Risk that future MEIs are not fully consistent with the BEI.
- Most of the data are collected via a top-down approach. The efforts done by the local authority cannot be fully captured by subsequent inventories.

Recommendation:

- Clearly describe the data collection and elaboration process to obtain the BEI (if not in the SEAP, at least in an annex).
- Make sure to use bottom up data at least for the most common energy carriers used in your territory.

Regarding the actions [1]



- SEAP measures are focussing mostly on energy production from RES
- Vague description of measures (e.g. 'energy efficiency in buildings' or 'modal shift')
- All the actions are related to citizens and stakeholders involvement
- A significant share of CO₂ reduction is expected in not energy-related sectors

Recommendation:

- Make sure that at least half of the CO₂ reduction in 2020 is associated with energy savings. For energy production, give priority to small domestic plants.
- Be specific, provide quantitative information on your measures.
- Include as many actions as possible whose impact can be measured.
- The reduction expected in other sectors can complement the reduction expected in CoM key sectors, but should indicatively represent not more than 1-2 percentage points of CO₂ reduction.

Regarding the actions [2]



- None of the actions in the SEAP are planned in details (responsibilities not assigned, costs are not assessed, possible financing sources are not well identified, progress indicators are not defined...)
- Most of the actions are to be implemented by private actors, without a clear involvement of the local administration.

Recommendation:

- Make sure that at least some actions to be implemented in the short term are planned in their details.
- Develop a long term strategy, where the vision of the city for the future is defined by the city itself (including the citizens and the local stakeholders).

4. CTCs and the grouped SEAP analysis

Some CTCs take over the responsibility to develop SEAPs for their signatories

- ❑ Emission inventories are based on the same data sources and common approach
- ❑ Priority areas of intervention are the same
- ❑ Impact estimates in 2020 are calculated in a similar way

The support offered by a CTC on SEAP drafting is very relevant for small signatories, which otherwise would not be able to fulfil the minimum CoM requirements.

The involvement of a CTC also allows including rural or mountain areas in sustainable energy planning.

A CTC-grouped SEAP analysis

The approach can be applied in the following cases:

1. The CTC has fully drafted the SEAPs for its signatories
2. The CTC has not directly developed the SEAPs, but confirms that they can be assessed via a grouped approach, since they have a similar structure

In the second case, the CTC performs first an eligibility check of each SEAP and informs the JRC on the outcome.

A CTC-grouped SEAP analysis

Instead of analysing all the submitted SEAPs, the JRC can analyse some reference SEAPs (per population range) and the common methodology.

The feedback provided on the common methodology and reference SEAPs will then be transmitted and applied by the CTC to all the other signatories.

Interested CTCs can get in touch with the JRC for more insight on this approach.



Thank you!

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