

# Welcome – introduction to the targets of workshop

Finnish national event on the Covenant of  
Mayors

Decarbonisation and the future of Climate and  
Energy in Finland

Miira Riipinen,  
Manager for Environmental Affairs



# International cooperation of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

- Member of international local government organisations
  - » The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) - e.g. Climate Change and Energy Transition Expert Group, Waste/Circular economy Expert Group, Mobility Expert group
  - » The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Cooperation with sister organisations (Nordic countries, Russia, China, Baltic countries) -> e.g biannual Nordic environmental group meeting
- Acts as a secretariat for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Coordinates the EU/international affairs network of Finnish municipalities and regions
- Member of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Promotes town twinning

# Lobbying in the EU

- Acts as the secretariat for the Committee of the Regions' Finnish delegation
- The Brussels Office
  - » Gathers information on the EU on behalf of the Association, local authorities and regional councils
  - » Influences the EU's decision-making processes
  - » Promotes awareness of the Finnish system of local and regional government and welfare
  - » Cooperates with Finnish regional offices in Brussels, the CEMR and the European Local Authority Network (ELAN)
  - » Serves as a base for the Association's experts and the Finnish delegation of the EU Committee of the Regions in Brussels
  - » Arranges meetings and seminars.

# Finland's EU Presidency

## 1.7-31.12.2019



- The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities specifies its objectives for the Finnish EU Presidency in autumn 2018
  - » Climate change, circular economy, energy policy
- The objectives will be presented at various events arranged by the Association's Helsinki and Brussels offices
- The Committee of the Region's Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE), meeting in Espoo

- **Localfinland.fi**
  - » The Association's website presenting information about the Finnish local government sector.
- **Internationalforum.fi**
  - » The Association's website compiling news and up-to-date information on international and European issues relevant to local authorities. It offers content in three languages: English, Finnish and Swedish.
  - » Presents the range of international activities that local authorities and the entire local government sector engage in, featuring information on: international cooperation, organisations representing local authorities in the international field, decision-making influencing local authorities, and lobbying.

# The municipalities in Finland are bigger international climate actors than their size

- Ii won European Commission's RegioStars Awards category in Energy Union: climate change in 2017
- Lappeenranta a finalist among the best cities in the world in the WWF National Earth Hour City Challenge in 2014 and 2016
- Lahti has been successful at the EU's Green Capital competition and we wish victory for Lahti next year as well as to Lappeenranta on Green Leaf competition
- Espoo The Most Sustainable City in Europe (University of Tillburg research)
- City of Turku's energy transition representing Europe in CDP infographic of Cities action to tackle climate change

# Why Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities – Why Covenant of Mayors ?

- Finnish cities and municipalities in the international climate networks
  - » Some are very active; some would like to be; some haven't thought of it (yet)
- Messages from cities for FLRA:
  - » Support for international networking
- Covenant of Mayors is the biggest initiative of cities to tackle local climate and energy targets (>7000 local authorities joined)
- FLRA is a support organization for Covenant of Mayors
- FLRA wants to support cities and municipalities
  - » in international networking and benchmarking (especially on global issues)
  - » getting international visibility and contacts
  - » to be heard better in EU and UN level decision making



# The objectives of this workshop

- To showcase ambitious climate plans implemented by the Finnish cities;
- To present the Covenant of Mayors framework, its activities, and what it has to offer to Finnish local governments;
- To provide feedback to the national level.