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Accelerating the Transition of Local Authorities through Support and Training



VVSG

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Accelerating the **Transition** of Local Authorities through **Support** and **Training**

The production and use of energy account for more than 75% of the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions. **Decarbonising the EU's energy system is therefore critical to reaching the 2030 climate objectives** and the EU's long-term strategy of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as set in the EU Green Deal.

Cities are crucial actors in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This is particularly the case **in Europe**, where approximately **74% of the population lives in urban areas**. Cities can play a key role in developing and implementing climate change programmes because they are located at the interface of local action and national and international level climate change adaptation and mitigation commitments.

Accelerating the **Transition** of Local Authorities through **Support** and **Training**

Local authorities have reacted to the climate policies and targets set at the EU level by developing **climate plans**, often **under the umbrella of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Energy and Climate (CoM)**. The European Commission also developed a set of missions to support the uptake of these policies.

However, they mostly reach a small number of forerunners – normally cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants, and challenges remain. **Midsized and smaller cities find it more difficult to implement and follow up on Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP)**. Here is where AT LAST will play its role in building the capacities of local authorities.

About AT LAST

AT LAST is an EU-funded project **that supports European cities in realizing their climate ambitions.** The project aims to help smaller cities in Europe put into action Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP). The project focuses on bringing different sectors together and assisting local governments in planning, financing, and carrying out their strategies to establish climate-neutral and resilient cities.

AT LAST will build capacities in 25 local governments in four pilot networks **in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Sweden**, on how to plan and implement local energy and climate action strategies. Additionally, the project will extend **networking and support opportunities to a thousand municipalities through Communities of Practice (CoP)** across Europe, bolstering their capabilities for future cycles of planning and implementation.

Project partners

Where	Who	What
Italy	AESS	Non-profit agency promoting planning and use of renewable energy
Belgium	Transition Stories	Research and training company supporting local authorities in the field of energy transition
Belgium	VVSG	Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
Spain	REVOLVE	Communication agency with a focus on climate and sustainability
Sweden	Stockholm Environmental Institute	International research institute focussing on environmental sustainability
Netherlands	Klimaatverbond Nederland	Association of local and regional governments that supports policies on climate adaptation and mitigation

AT LAST in **Figures**

5

Countries

6

Partners

30

Months

1,5_(M€)

Budget

FAQs

What is the Covenant of Mayors?

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is an initiative supported by the European Commission to step up climate ambitions and commit to delivering action. It brings together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens. Since its launch in 2008, the initiative has mobilised over 10.000 local authorities in Europe, representing roughly one-third of the EU population.

What is a SECAP?

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) is the action plan that defines mitigation target(s) and adaptation goal(s) for signatories of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM). They serve as a basis for defining a comprehensive set of actions that signatories plan to undertake to reach their targets, as well as to alleviate energy poverty.

What is the Modena Declaration?

The Modena Declaration is a statement that harnesses the power of cities, making them places where democracy can flourish, where we can live in harmony with nature, and where we act in solidarity with one another and with future generations.

The declaration was presented at the international conference 'Grafting Cities' in Modena in October 2023 by two major city networks: Climate Alliance and Energy Cities. AT LAST is part of that declaration via its partners. The project also kicked off at the same moment in time as the declaration in Modena.

FAQs

What do we mean by energy transition?

Energy transition is a long-term structural change in energy systems aimed at developing a secure, affordable, and climate-friendly energy system better able to manage and balance dynamic patterns of supply and demand from a national and even European level right down to a local level.

What is climate mitigation?

Mitigation means making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere.

What is climate adaptation?

Climate adaptation can be understood as the process of adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change.

What is energy poverty?

The Social Climate Fund regulation and the revised Energy Efficiency directive define energy poverty as a household's lack of access to essential energy services, such as heating, hot water, cooling, lighting and energy to power appliances. Energy poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, considered to be caused by a combination of low income, high energy expenses, and poor energy efficiency in buildings.

FAQs

How will AT LAST build capabilities?

AT LAST will deliver a modular e-learning curriculum on local energy and climate planning and implementation. The course will be based on existing insights and best practices, sourced from across Europe and focus on financing, governance structures and cross-sectoral integration.

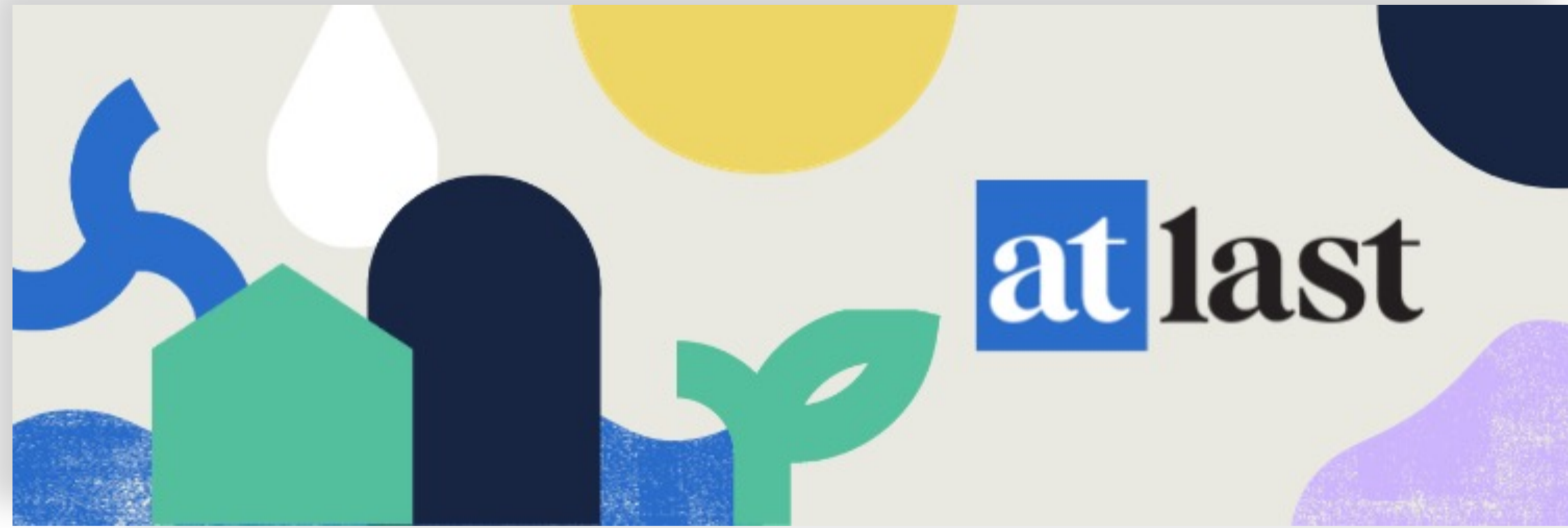
What is an energy community?

An energy community is a group of people, for instance, residents in a neighbourhood, who cooperate in energy actions such as generating, storing, consuming or selling the community's own energy.

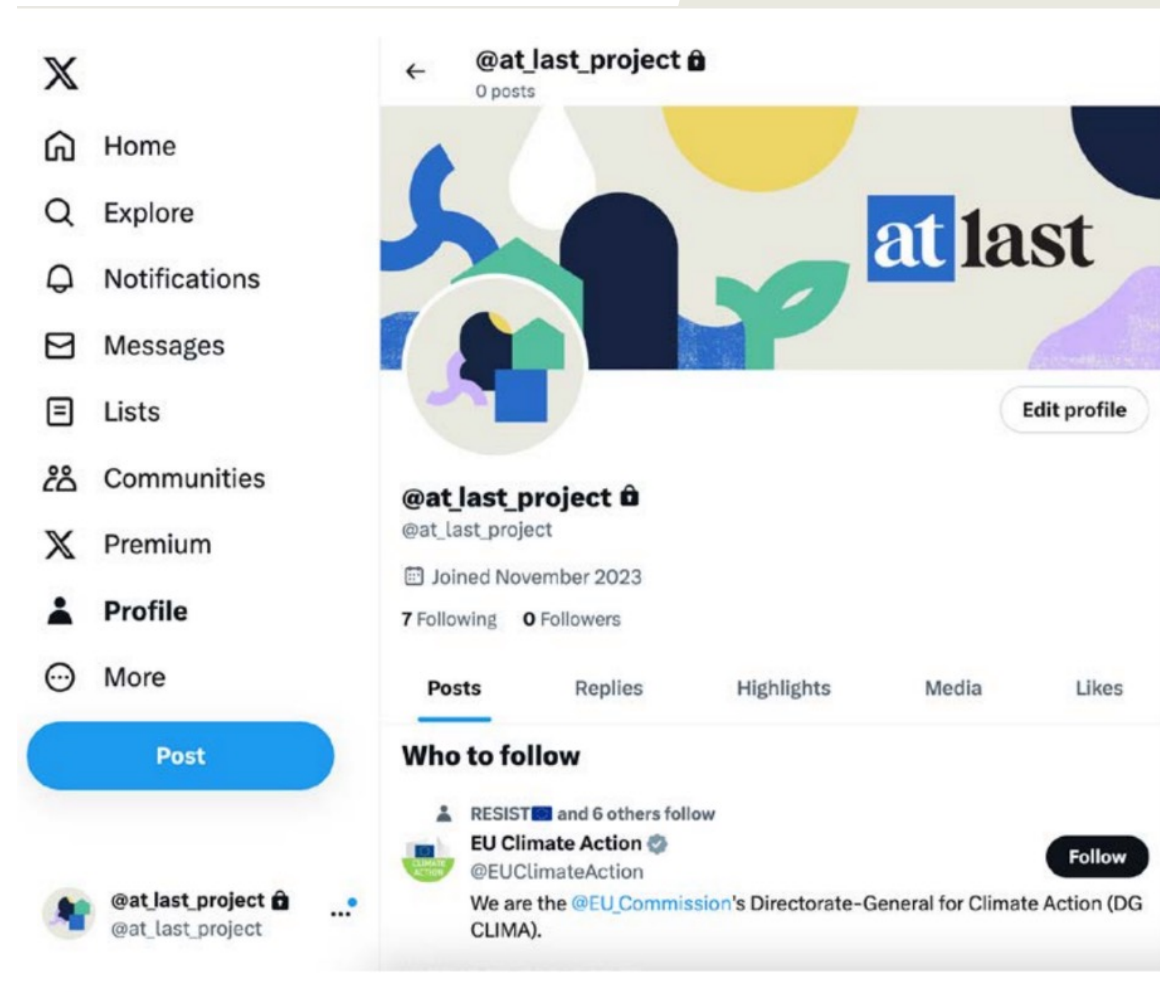
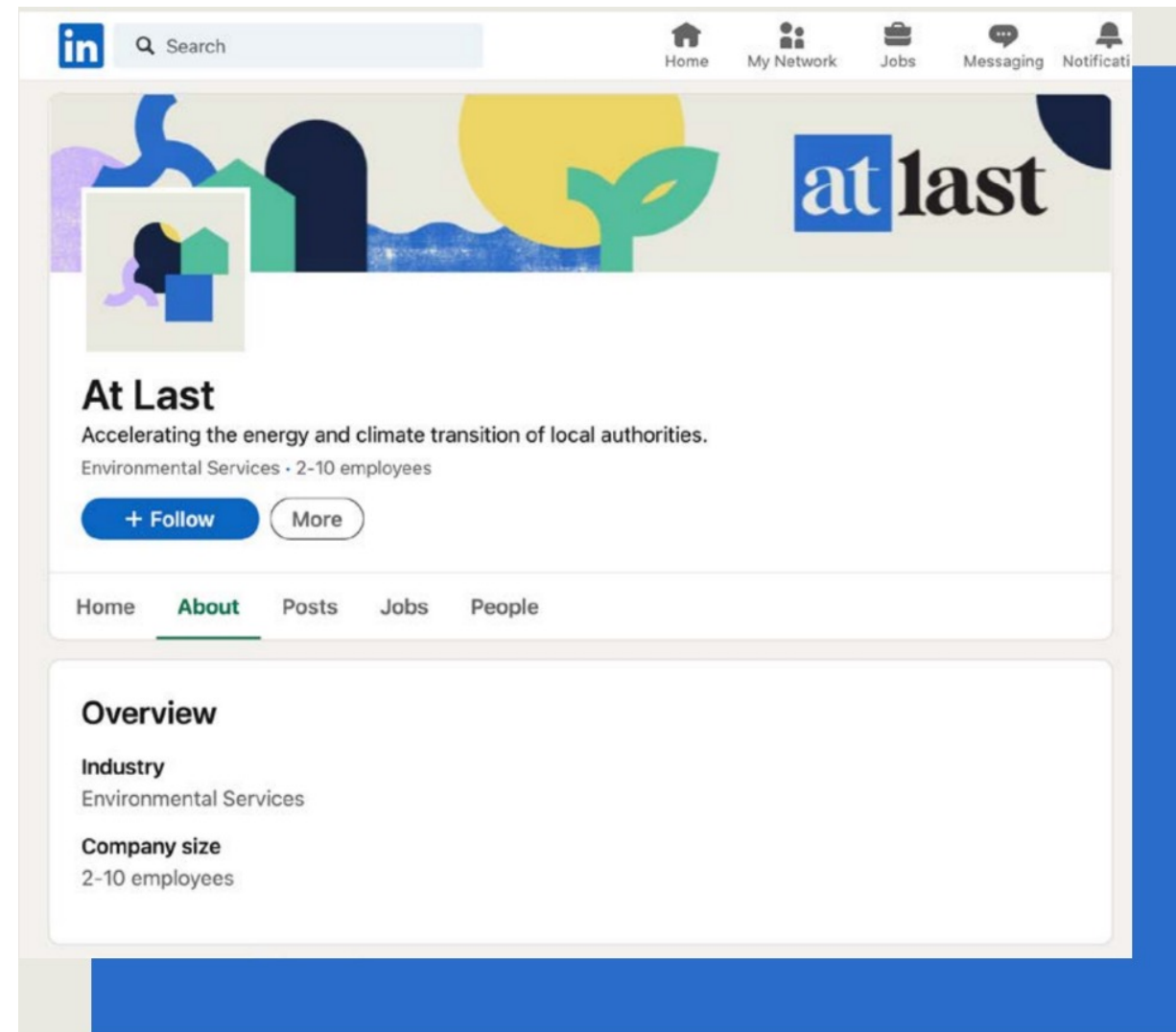
What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?

A CoP is a group of people who, on a regular basis, meet to exchange knowledge and experiences about a certain topic that they are concerned about. The AT LAST CoP will focus on climate mitigation, adaptation and energy transition and stimulate engagement with authorities that want to maintain an intensive level of interaction.

Social Media **Banners**



Social Media Hashtags and Handles



#LIFEprogramme

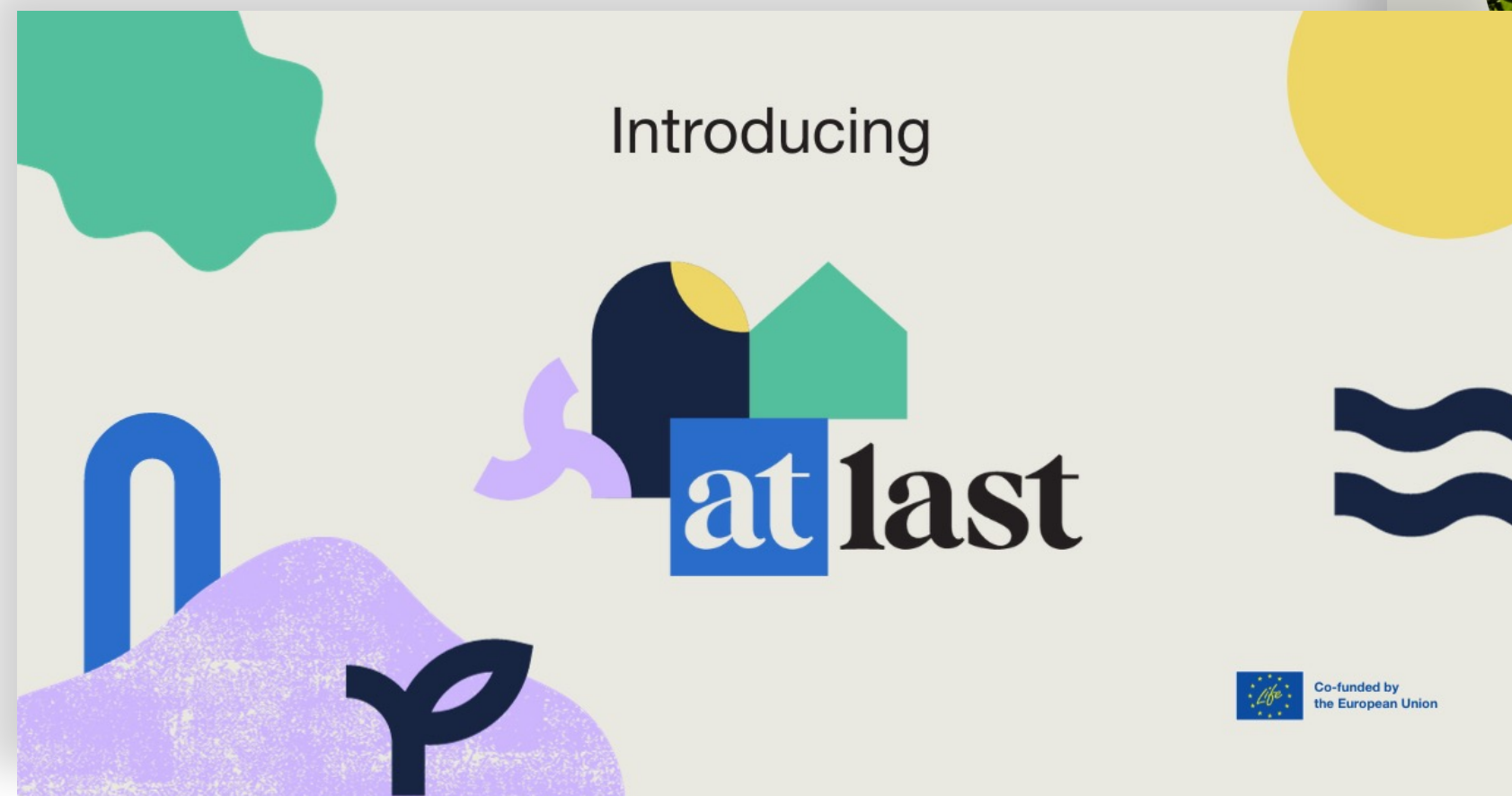
#EnergyTransition

#CleanEnergyEU

#LIFEprojects

#CINEA

Social Media Posts





Thank you!

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