Fit for Europe

Local communities
active in Europe - active for Europe!

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No Citizenship without ownership

• What strategies can encourage people to perceive the European Union as

  – a positive space that serves their interest,
  – a system of governance that welcomes their participation and empowers them,
  – a commonwealth whose benefits they can witness in their immediate vicinity?
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396 municipalities on the territory of NRW to

• learn how EU politics concerns them and how they can participate in European debates and EU decision-making processes,

• take better advantage of the benefits the European Union has to offer on the local level,

• pass on these benefits to their citizens and encourage them, in turn, to take ownership of the unified space and the numerous possibilities Europe has to offer them.
Components

• Support for on-the-job-training in European affairs for municipal employees carried out by municipalities
• Permanent dialogue between government and municipalities on EU affairs
• Enhanced cooperation with civil society organisations promoting Europe to support for networking and information exchange between municipalities on European topics of mutual interest
Annual Award „Europaaktive Kommune in Nordrhein-Westfalen“

- centrepiece of the initiative
- honours municipalities who excel in bringing Europe and its benefits closer to their citizens
- objective: to improve networking amongst municipalities with respect to European affairs
- developed by the Minister of European Affairs of North Rhine Westphalia, Dr. Angelica Schwall-Düren, in partnership with the Regional Representation of the European Commission in Bonn as well as the Bertelsmann Foundation
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• allowing the frontrunners in this process to reap the benefits of their activities through the public interest engendered by the award
• encourage other municipalities to follow the example given by the award-winners by exchanging best-practice
• explicitely targeted are smaller municipalities still trying to find their place in Europe’s multi-level system of governance
Let’s do it now:
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