



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The Secretary General

Brussels, *date of the official registration*
SGCab-D-181-2022

Let's shape the future of Europe together!
Increased cooperation opportunities with the European Committee of the Regions

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you know, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) represents the voice of a million regionally and locally elected politicians, 300 regions and 90 000 municipalities across Europe. Since the regional and local partners ensure a crucial link between citizens and the European decision-making bodies, the involvement of the CoR in the European decision-making process as well as in the Conference on the Future of Europe is of capital importance.

In his introductory speech delivered at the inaugural session of the Plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe, CoR President Tzitzikostas stressed the importance of organising local dialogues, which will benefit every EU region, city and village and bring their voice into the EU decision-making processes.

Opportunities for secondment of national experts to discover the work of the CoR from the inside and to enhance cross-cooperation between local and regional authorities and the CoR

In order to build up synergies and promote exchanges of best practice, the CoR is launching a call for interest aimed at fostering the secondment of national experts and encouraging time-limited study visits for government officials. Applying for such a position will allow you and your colleagues to learn how an EU consultative body works from the inside. You will actively contribute to the EU decision-making process from a different point of view while at the same time increasing the cooperation between the local and regional authorities and the CoR.

The CoR is offering three types of secondment (foreign national experts, national experts with Belgian citizenship and cost-free secondment) in addition to short-term study visits (ideal for government officials already established in Brussels).

During a secondment to the CoR, you will have the opportunity:

- to benefit from a tailor-made programme adapted to both your needs/expectations and those of the CoR;
- to have a fully equipped working environment including access to our networks, working tools and training programmes;
- to work on a time-limited assignment beneficial for both the CoR and your formal employer;
- to be actively involved in the main activities of the institution;

- to attend CoR plenary sessions;
- to see how our opinions are drawn up;
- to discover any other aspects of our work.

In return, the CoR would like your assistance in organising local dialogues in your region together with members and alternates from your region and or home country. This will allow your regional concerns and your voice to be properly heard when discussing the future of Europe so that its shape and direction also reflects the needs and expectations of the European regions.

As the possibilities for secondments involving the payment of daily allowances are limited, we also encourage local, regional and national governments to consider cost-free secondments (without payment, by the CoR, of any additional allowance to the national expert). Even during a cost-free secondment, the CoR will provide you with an office space, a work station/appropriate working tools, training possibilities, networking opportunities as well as a dedicated mentor to make this stay a fruitful and useful experience for you and your region.

Secondments are limited in time (minimum 6 months and maximum 2 years, renewable up to 4 years in total).

You will find in Annex 3 the profiles in which we are particularly interested in order to meet our political and administrative priorities over the upcoming few years.

If you are interested in a secondment to the CoR, please feel free to express your interest by sending us your motivation letter stating the reasons for your application, and a CV, via the application form available on [our website](#). You can choose up to three profiles / areas of interest in which you would like to work (by order of priority). Please see the specific conditions to be met in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to this call for interest or consult [our Jobs page](#) to find the Decision on the rules applicable to national experts seconded to the European Committee of the Regions.

Please note that, for 2022, only profiles registered by 14 March 2022 will be taken into account; however, applications registered after this deadline might be considered at any point in time at a later stage based on future service needs. When registering their applications, potential candidates are asked to specify whether they are prepared to accept a cost-free secondment.

I look forward to welcoming you and your region to the CoR and to increasing our cooperation in this project of great importance for our common future. **Let's shape our future together!**



Petr Blížkovský