1. The Network of Regional and Local Councillors

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is proud to invite locally and regionally elected representatives all across the European Union to join the “European Network of regional and local EU Councillors”.

The European network of local and regional councillors is an initiative launched by the EU Institutions and addressed to local or regional politicians having a political mandate at regional or local level in one of the EU Member States.

Since its launch in 2021, the network has already gathered over 2500 elected representatives in regional or municipal assemblies in all EU Member States with the aim to bring Europe closer to local communities, building a direct dialogue with Members of the European Committee of the Regions and exchanging information and networking with other local and regional councillors across Europe also in view of the next EP elections.

The project is developed in close cooperation with other EU Institutions, in particular with the European Commission (BELC network), European Parliament and partners at national and EU level (EP Liaison Offices, EC Representations, National associations of local and regional authorities, Regional offices based in Brussels, EU Associations).

2. The goals

The network is designed to:

- **bring Europe closer to local communities** through the work of the 1.2 million local and regional representatives across the EU

- **act as platform for local and regional councillors** to meet, discuss and network with other councillors and the members of the European Committee of the Regions

- **encourage local and regional councillors** to take part in different events and communication activities ahead of the next European Parliament elections
3. What the CoR can offer

The CoR offers the members of the Network access to a series of interactive and multilingual products and services including:

- Information modules on concrete EU opportunities for your territory
- Webinars, meetings, forums, networking sessions with CoR members and EU experts
- Invitations to CoR flagship events, political debates and meetings at EU, national and local level (physical/online)
- A weekly info flash and monthly newsletter
- A Facebook group
- An online platform (Futurium) for networking, information on EU policies, CoR legislative initiatives and exchanging of best practices, social media group
- Training on social media tools and channels, as well as digital Masterclasses and coaching
- Surveys to bring their own ideas and proposals on how to develop the network further

4. How to work with the CoR

Members of the EU Councillors Network can actively contribute to CoR activities by:

- getting in touch with CoR members in their city and region to discuss the issues that matter to them
- promoting local debate about EU topics ahead of the European Parliament elections together with CoR members and other EU institutions
- participating in open consultations and key events - such as the European Week of Regions and Cities or the European Summits of the CoR

5. Recruitment

The network is open to regional and local politicians who are elected representatives in a government, parliament or assembly of a region, city, town, province, municipality or village. All elected members of local or regional councils can apply.

The recruitment process

Candidates are invited to complete the online form, available in all EU languages and so apply for membership of the #EUCouncillor network (open call for applications). They are requested to provide proof of their elected mandate, as well as information about their political affiliation at national and EU level, their linguistic preferences and geographical data.

The CoR Administration collects new applications and data (in line with GDPR requirements) and prepares a list of candidates (also detailing the political affiliation). Priority is given to candidates from regions not represented by CoR members.

Once their application has been approved, candidates will be sent confirmation of their membership begin to benefit from the range of products and services available to all members of the #EUCouncillors network.
6. Joint events with partners

The CoR welcomes the organization of events (online and/or physical) built in close cooperation with CoR Political Groups, CoR internal services and partners of the CoR at EU and national, regional level (National and EU Associations of local and regional authorities, regional offices based in Brussels, EU Institutions including EP Liaison Offices, EC Representations, EDICs) and addressed to EU Councillors across Europe.

The CoR Administration can provide with communication, technical support and promotional materials, covering the participation of the CoR members. No financial contribution is foreseen.

Two are the format of joint events:

1. Webinar (followed by Q&A)
   - Duration: max 60 minutes (30 min of interventions + 30 min Q&A).
   - Max 3 speakers and 1 moderator
   - Main goal: share clear and specific information on EU policies and programmes

2. Political debates
   - Duration: max 90 minutes (including at least 30 min for debating with participants).
   - Maximum 6 speakers and 1 moderator
   - Goal: sharing political views and facilitating cooperation and networking
   - Every effort should be made to ensure political and gender-balanced contributions.

7. Contact points & Info

In order to facilitate the validation and coordination process as well as the exchange of information, it would be useful for the Administration to have a Councillors contact point within each political group and commission.

Info

➢ EU Councillors network at CoR – secretariat (Directorate for communication)

EU Councillors@cor.europa.eu