



European Committee  
of the Regions



# Green deal - Building resilient communities



#EUlocal



## Event type

Local debate

## Date

10.06.21

## Initialising member

Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk,  
Mayor of Częstochowa,  
CoR member (PES/PL)

## Audience

Local authorities, NGOs, Polish stakeholders, experts

## Organiser

Gazeta Prawna

European Commission

CoR

## Partners

Związek Gmin i Powiatów  
Subregionu Centralnego  
Województwa Śląskiego



## Themes

Green deal, Conference on the Future of Europe



## Speakers

**Witold Naturski**, Acting Director of the Polish political party P.O, EC

**Patrycja Otto-Duszczyk**, editor of Polish newspaper Dziennik Gazeta Prawna

**Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk**, Mayor of Częstochowa, CoR member (PES/PL)

**Katarzyna Szumielewicz**, (DG REGIO);  
**Mirosław Dybowski**, (DG REGIO);  
**Andrzej Urbanik**, (DG REGIO)

**Karolina Jaszczyk**, Director of the Office of the Union of Communes and Poviats of the Central Subregion of the Silesian Voivodeship

**Paweł Silbert**, Mayor of Jaworzno;  
Pszczyna county: **Barbara Bandała**; City of Sosnowiec: **Anna Jedynek**; City of Ruda Śląska: **Michał Pierończyk**; City of Gliwice and Aeroklub of Gliwice: **Katarzyna Kobierska**; City of Katowice: **Małgorzata Domagalska**



## Key messages

### Positive aspects

- The Silesian Voivodeship works actively towards green projects to develop its region and cities' urban environment.
- The Green Deal is crucial to local governments to transform future cities and achieve EU's climate goals.
- The pandemic has been an eye-opener towards the region's environment and the implementation of new and more climate-friendly infrastructures.
- The new EU funding for the 2021-2027 perspective opens up the light to new development projects and reinforces the collaboration between local governments and institutions.

### Negative aspects

- Poland still needs to move quickly from fossil energy and transition towards more sustainable alternatives.
- Despite previous allocated funds, the country struggles to improve its air: 33 out of 50 Polish cities are the most polluted in Europe. In fact, 44000 people die from those consequences with a cost of 100 billion USD/year.



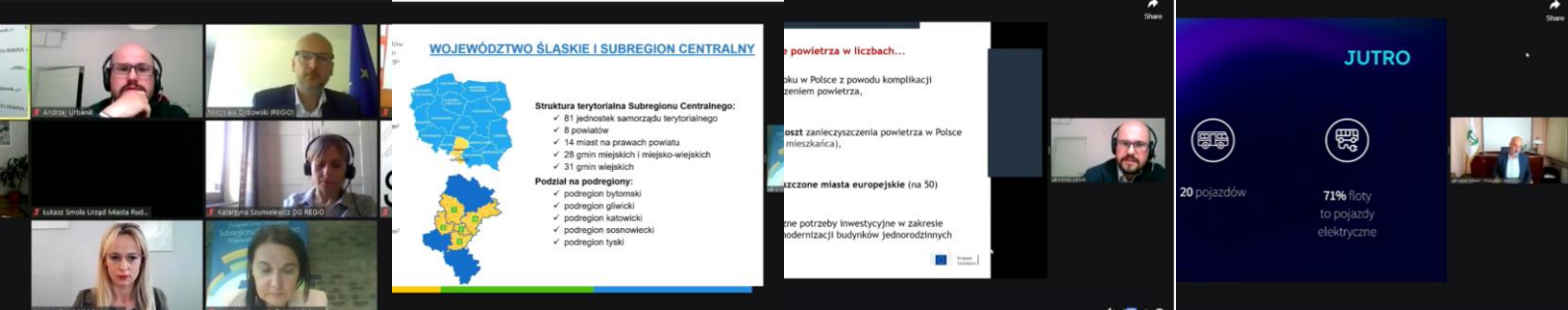
## Press/Social media coverage

Website

[FutureofEurope](#)

Social Media

[#EU\\_CoR](#)



## The future is green: transitioning to sustainable solutions

The 10 June event was presented by the Silesian Voivodeship featuring local and regional speakers, a CoR member, P.O. political party director and EC experts. The event's purpose was to enable Polish local and regional authorities, experts and interested Green Deal stakeholders to discuss urban policy in the new EU financial perspective, especially in the context of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI). The debate highlighted the manner governments work to tackle environmental changes in the Green Deal framework and achieve their goals locally in terms of finances, green energy, zero-emission transportation and a more sustainable city landscape.

### Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, Mayor of Częstochowa, CoR member

Together with Witold Naturski, K. Matyjaszczyk welcomed panelists and participants to the webinar. The debate began with an introductory note on the current stage of work on the new EU perspective, the need to maintain the ITI/RIT and the division of funds between national and regional operational programs in the 2021-2027 perspective. The Silesian Voivodeship received over 2 billion euros: 30% of investments concern air pollution reduction while other funds are devoted to green projects in the region (transport, carbon neutrality by 2050). Poland needs to further improve its air situation and its transition from the use of coal to much greener alternatives. Still, cities and regions face a range of economic, social and climate challenges which requires a common and optimal use of the budget. Increasing financial resources (from national and external investors) for territorial development is urgently needed.

### Urban policy and the EU Green Deal: a European Commission's perspective

The institutions need to be close to their citizens. Reinforcing urban policy in the new EU financial perspective goes in hand with effective collaboration between local regions and the institutions. Most cities are changing and demography is increasing. The issue of air pollution, traffic congestion, single cars and poor public transport possibilities remains a challenge for future developments.

Poland has two months to comply with the directive for air pollution reduction in the EU. Despite previous allocated funds, the country struggles to improve its air. Still, 44 000 people die from those consequences with a cost of 100 billion USD/year.

A way to solve the issues is to look deeper at public transportation as a means of green transition and sustainable development. Finances are helping but urban policy is key. A set of reforms could be helpful such as attracting not only public but private investments; getting the entire poviats/regions support for green changes; helping poorer cities and citizens to implement cleaner projects. That's why a thorough collaboration is needed to deliver meaningful results.

### Urban policy and the EU Green Deal - the perspective of local government units

The local governments of the Silesian Voivodeship demonstrated different projects that were already implemented (or ongoing). Thanks to substantial support from EU funding and the national government, the cities involved in the debate showed the improvements that were done in terms of social and urban developments. Most projects implied sustainable transportation (electric buses, hydrogen cars), greener housing transition, creation of bicycle paths, airport routes and roads, urban lighting.