Young Elected Politicians - Apply for the 2020 programme

This year, the European Committee of the Regions is again launching its annual call to select motivated young elected politicians to join the YEP programme.

The YEP 2020 Programme is structured around 3 themes. You are invited to select the theme that you prefer, bearing in mind that you have to be available to travel to Brussels on the dates indicated for that theme. All members of the 2020 YEP Programme will participate in the European Week of Regions and Cities, which will take place in Brussels from 12 to 15 October 2020.

Apply to join the 2020 YEP Programme

1. Cohesion Policy

Please note: the application period for this theme has been extended to 31st March.

The Cohesion Policy was set up to ensure harmonious development for all EU regions and cities.

For the current programming period (2014-2020), the financial envelope for Cohesion Policy amounts to EUR 330.6 billion. The budget is allocated on a country-by-country basis under various European Structural and Investment Funds.

With the negotiations under way for the EU's 2021-2027 long term budget, over 12 000 entities, including regions and cities, have teamed up to sign the #CohesionAlliance to call for a strong EU Cohesion Policy: one that allocates at least a third of the EU's budget to projects and policies fostering economic, social and territorial development.

At its plenary session in March 2020, the European Committee of the Regions will continue its push for a robust MFF, inter alia by discussing the most recent proposal for a new Just Transition Fund with the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Ms Elisa Ferreira.
Would you like to discover what is planned for Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 budgetary period? Would you like to meet the people involved, so as to make the Cohesion Policy work for your region and city?

**If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on the following dates:**

- **24 to 26 March 2020** for the CoR plenary where the Cohesion Policy will be debated. *This event is postponed. New dates will be communicated shortly.*
- **12 to 15 October 2020** for the [EU Week of Regions and cities](#).

2. Green Deal

The Green Deal is the set of measures announced by the European Commission whereby all new EU policies will be screened to be as environmentally friendly as possible so that the EU can become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

The transition to climate neutrality will be complex, but will open up huge opportunities for development and will have a remarkable impact on quality of life for all Europeans.

This transition will happen locally. Each village, town or city will have to be on board. Every region will have to act accordingly and ensure that there are effective multilevel governance mechanisms in cooperation with national governments. To this end the European Commission will launch consultation on the Climate Pact, aimed at ensuring the involvement of all levels of government and stakeholders in the Green Deal.

This is why the CoR would like to hear your views and is proposing a dedicated event to boost implementation of the Green Deal through bottom-up initiatives and to feed into its activities on the Climate Pact.

Do you want the opportunity to share your experience on the ground with other European politicians?

**If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on the following dates:**

- **12 to 14 May 2020** for a dedicated event on the contribution of the local level to the Green Deal and for the CoR plenary
- **12 to 15 October 2020** for the [EU Week of Regions and cities](#).

3. Future of Europe

The new President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, announced a two-year Conference on the Future of the European Union.
The Conference is now in its early stages of implementation, and regions and cities have an important role to play, as they are the closest to the public.

The EuroPCom conference is the biggest European conference on public communications. It brings together communicators from the whole of Europe. This year, one of the pillar of EuroPCom will be the Conference on the Future of the EU.

Do you want to shape the future of Europe? Are you willing to bring the EU closer to the public in your region or city?

If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on the following dates:

- 29 June to 2 July 2020 for the EuroPCom conference and the CoR plenary
- 12 to 15 October 2020 for the EU Week of Regions and cities.

Why should you apply?

The Young Elected Politicians Programme (YEPPs) is a network of politicians who are no older than 40 and hold a mandate at regional or local level in the EU.

You will be able to:

- exchange best practice among local and regional politicians
- network with fellow young elected politicians from the EU and other politicians at local, national and European levels
- understand and seize opportunities offered by the European Union for local and regional areas
- speak for EU regions and municipalities in the European legislative process
- raise your profile in European circles.

Criteria:

You must:

- hold a democratic mandate as an elected politician at regional or local level in a Member State of the European Union
- be no more than 40 years old on the first day of the first event you will attend.
- not hold a mandate as CoR member or alternate
- have a good level of English (as some events will take place in English only)
• complete this application form and submit it no later than 5 March for those applying for the theme of Cohesion Policy, or 31 March for the other two topics.

Important Note: Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of and direct commitment to the subject area for which they apply.

Selected candidates will participate in tailor-made programmes and will have the opportunity to meet and network with other politicians at local, national and European level. The CoR will reimburse travel costs and pay a flat-rate subsistence allowance of €274. Candidates will be selected with an eye to ensuring balance in terms of gender, regional and local representation, political affiliation and nationality. They will be informed of the selection results in April (mid-March for those selecting the Cohesion Policy theme).

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