



Young Elected Politicians Join the community

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Apply now!

Young Elected Politicians programme 2021 – Join the YEP community!

What are the YEP programme and the YEP community?

The Young Elected Politicians programme (YEP) is a network of politicians who are no older than 40 and hold a mandate at regional or local level in the EU. The YEP programme was established by the European Committee of the Regions in 2019, and more than 300 young politicians have joined it.

The YEP programme, and its online platform [YEPCommunity.eu](https://yepcommunity.eu), offers an opportunity to network, exchange best practices, obtain information on EU legislation and EU funding opportunities, contribute to the work of the CoR, and meet and debate with CoR members and other local, regional and European politicians.

Selected YEPs will have access to:

- [YEPcommunity.eu](https://yepcommunity.eu), the place for exchanging information and experience with fellow YEPs and YEP alumni;
- seminars, events and consultations upon invitation;
- online networking opportunities with members of the YEP community;
- training courses on EU topics.

In addition, selected YEPs will have the opportunity to participate in various communication activities related to the programme.

Why should you apply?

As a YEP, you will be able to:

- exchange best practices with other local and regional politicians;
- network with fellow YEPs from the EU and other politicians at local, national and European levels;
- understand and make the most of opportunities offered by the EU for local and regional areas;
- speak on behalf of EU regions and municipalities in the European legislative process;
- raise your profile in European circles.

What are you expected to do?

As a YEP, you are expected to be active in the community, to be willing to share your experiences and knowledge with your fellow YEPs and to contribute to the work of the CoR, for example by participating in consultations with the rapporteurs of opinions on specific subjects.

What are the topics of the 2021 YEP programme?

The YEP programme 2021 is structured around three topics:

1. Bringing Europe closer to its people

What is the link between the European Union and its citizens? How can we involve people in the debate on the future of the EU? How can we strengthen relations between the local level and the European level?

The YEP programme will help you to build bridges between your city and region and the EU, will give you inspiration on how to apply participatory democracy in your daily work, and will allow you to contribute to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

In this respect, you might also be proposed to be involved in local events and citizens' dialogues organised by CoR members.

2. Building resilient communities

How can regions and cities contribute to the green transition? How can local communities tackle issues such as waste, energy production and plastic pollution? What is the European Union doing to meet the goal of climate neutrality by 2050? Are there any good practices to be shared?

Under this topic, the YEP programme will allow you to gain a deeper insight into the European Green Deal, to inspire and be inspired by the projects of fellow YEPs, CoR members and other politicians, and ultimately to contribute to the discussions in the run-up to the COP 26 on climate change (November 2021).

3. Cohesion as a fundamental value

What is provided for in the range of EU funding instruments? What will be the priority areas for investment? How does the EU envisage support for economic recovery? What is the role of local and regional authorities?

The YEP programme will allow you to learn about funding for local and regional authorities, to understand how cohesion policy can help the development of your city and region, and to share best practices with other YEPs and politicians.

When is the programme taking place?

The 2021 YEP programme will last until the end of the year, with activities scheduled throughout the year. Some of the activities are mandatory. In the annex, you will find an indicative list of the activities which you will be invited to attend.

At the end of 2021, you will become an alumnus and you will be invited to selected events.

Where is the programme taking place?

All events will take place online. Depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic develops, the programme might be subject to change and events might be cancelled. Should physical participation in Brussels be possible, you will be informed in advance.

How do you apply?

To apply, you must fill in the following form:

[Application to join the YEP community](#)

To be selected you must:

- hold a democratic mandate as an elected politician at regional or local level in a Member State of the European Union;

- be born after 1 January 1981;
- not hold a mandate as a CoR member or alternate;
- have a good level of English (as events will take place in English only);
- complete this application form and submit it no later than **12 March 2021**.

In addition, you must put the three topics in your order of preference, and demonstrate motivation, knowledge of and direct commitment to at least your first choice. Relevant questions are included in the application form and are key in the selection process.

Candidates will be selected with an eye to ensuring balance in terms of gender, regional and local representation, political affiliation and nationality.

Can you receive an allowance for participating in the YEP programme?

Allowances are not granted for participation in online events and activities.

In case of events requiring physical presence in Brussels, should such events be possible, the CoR may:

- reimburse travel costs;
- pay a flat-rate subsistence allowance per stay, upon presentation of proof of an overnight stay in the place where the meeting is held.

The reimbursement of travel costs and the payment of the subsistence allowance depend on the budget available. If necessary, a first-come first-served system might be put in place.

What if I have questions?

For any questions you might have, please contact yep-programme@cor.europa.eu.

Indicative calendar of activities

- Monthly: digital networking session
- April: opening session of the YEP programme - **mandatory**
- April/May: info sessions on the three topics – **mandatory for your first choice**
- 31 May to 4 June 2021: [EU Green Week](#) (tbc)
- 30 June to 2 July: CoR plenary and [Cohesion alliance 2.0](#) Cross border forum (tbc);
- 11 to 14 October 2021: [EU Week of Regions and cities](#) - **mandatory**
- November 2020: [EuroPCom conference](#)

Additional activities such as training courses, events linked to the three topics, conferences and consultations, will be organised throughout the year. You will be informed in due course.