

COTER BULLETIN NO. 4

News from the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget



Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES), Chair of the COTER commission, Vice-President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council

The Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) at the European Committee of the Regions prepares regular bulletins on policy areas within its remit, reflecting on discussions and measures in order to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in Europe. It also provides some insights into the recent policy developments at EU level and on COTER activities in general, such as the activities of our COTER members.

Dear COTER members and other readers,

We had hoped that we could meet again in person after the summer. However, the pandemic and the uncertainties that go with it remain with us and recovery is still in its early stages. Consequently, we must continue working together remotely, still with the same enthusiasm and ambition as before!

Following the historical agreement reached in the Council on 21 July regarding the EU long term budget, several files are moving ahead: trilogues between the Council, the European Parliament and Commission could finally start on the 27th of August regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework. After months of suspension, trilogues will restart this month on the cohesion policy legislative package. We hope to have an agreement on those two files before the end of the year! Discussions are continuing on the REACT-EU package, which offers immediate support to the COVID crisis. With regards to urban policy, COTER is contributing to discussions on the renewal of the Leipzig Charter. Cross-border cooperation is among the CoR's current priorities, with the President starting the debate at our July plenary on the future of cross-border cooperation, which will feed into the CoR's contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

This bulletin provides you with more detailed information on those files as well as on other on-going COTER activities, such as the on-going COTER opinions and their amendment deadlines as well as upcoming COTER or other relevant events.

Please continue to share your comments and ideas and keep us informed of the situation on the ground using our email address: coter@cor.europa.eu

The COTER secretariat

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1. [Cohesion Policy](#)

1.1 [REACT EU package: REGI report and discussion in COTER](#)

The European Parliament's committee on regional development (REGI) adopted its report on the REACT EU legislative proposal on 7 September.

REGI members voted to allow EU countries to use the additional resources also in 2023 and 2024, beyond the Commission 2022 deadline. MEP's insisted on ensuring the resources reach the most affected regions and people, and that investments focus on health and social services, tourism and culture sectors, youth employment, and disadvantaged groups. They also underlined the need to maintain the level of REACT-EU financial resources tabled by the Commission, i.e. EUR 55 billion, despite the fact the European Council proposed budget cuts and that expenditure for operations covered should be eligible as of 1 February 2020.

The CoR draft opinion:

On 24 September, the COTER commission held a general exploratory debate on this issue. The opinion is planned for adoption in the CoR on 12/14 October 2020 and the draft opinion is already available online: <https://cor.europa.eu/EN/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opId=CDR-3318-2020>.

The draft opinion, drafted by rapporteur-general Mr Mieczysław Struk (PL/EPP) provides recommendations for legislative amendments and policy recommendations and is generally in line with the report of the Parliament's REGI committee. The draft opinion aims, for example, to make the proposed legislative package more flexible and to align it with the conclusions of the July European Council on the MFF, as well as to promote the application of the principles of partnership and multi-level governance. It also calls for striking the right balance between the fast disbursement of newly available resources, effective and efficient investing, and the need to avoid excessive irregularities, systemic errors, or fraud.

The deadline for members' amendments is 28 September, 15pm.



The REACT EU instrument, proposed by the European Commission in May 2020, offers support to mitigate immediate effects of the COVID-19 crisis, by mobilising additional investment and offering great flexibility for Member States to address the immediate effects of the crisis. It extends the two investment initiatives, CRII and CRII+. The COTER commission is preparing an opinion on this instrument and appointed Mr Mieczysław STRUK (PL/EPP) as rapporteur general on 10 July.

More Information:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200904IPR86420/react-eu-eu-support-to-mitigate-immediate-effects-of-the-covid-19-crisis>



1.2 Negotiations on the new cohesion policy legislative package (CPR, ERDF, EFS+ and ETC Regulations): Towards an agreement between the Council and the Parliament by the end of 2020?



Following the agreement on the MFF at its special meeting of the European Council on 17-21 July, the trilogue meetings on the Cohesion policy legislative proposals are expected to restart at the end of September. These aim to find a political agreement between the Parliament and the Council by the end of the year, so that the new Regulations can be published and enter into force in early 2021.

On 17-21 July 2020, the European Council (European Heads of State or Government) adopted its position on several elements of the Cohesion policy legislative package (the legislative proposals for the revision of the Common Provisions, European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund Plus + and European Territorial Cooperation Regulations, published by the European Commission in May 2018¹). These proposals have been discussed in the separate “negotiating box” outside the inter-institutional negotiations.

The Council of the EU (EU ministers) is now expected to update its position on the different regulations. It is envisaged that an agreement will be reached in COREPER on the full political mandate on the Cohesion Policy regulations by the end of September and to hold the trilogue negotiations with the Parliament from the end of September until the end of November.

The European Parliament would need to vote on the agreements reached during the trilogues at its last Plenary in December in order to achieve the objective of a political agreement between the Council and the Parliament by the end of the year.

In this context, the official publication of the new regulations in the Official Journal would most likely take place in early 2021.

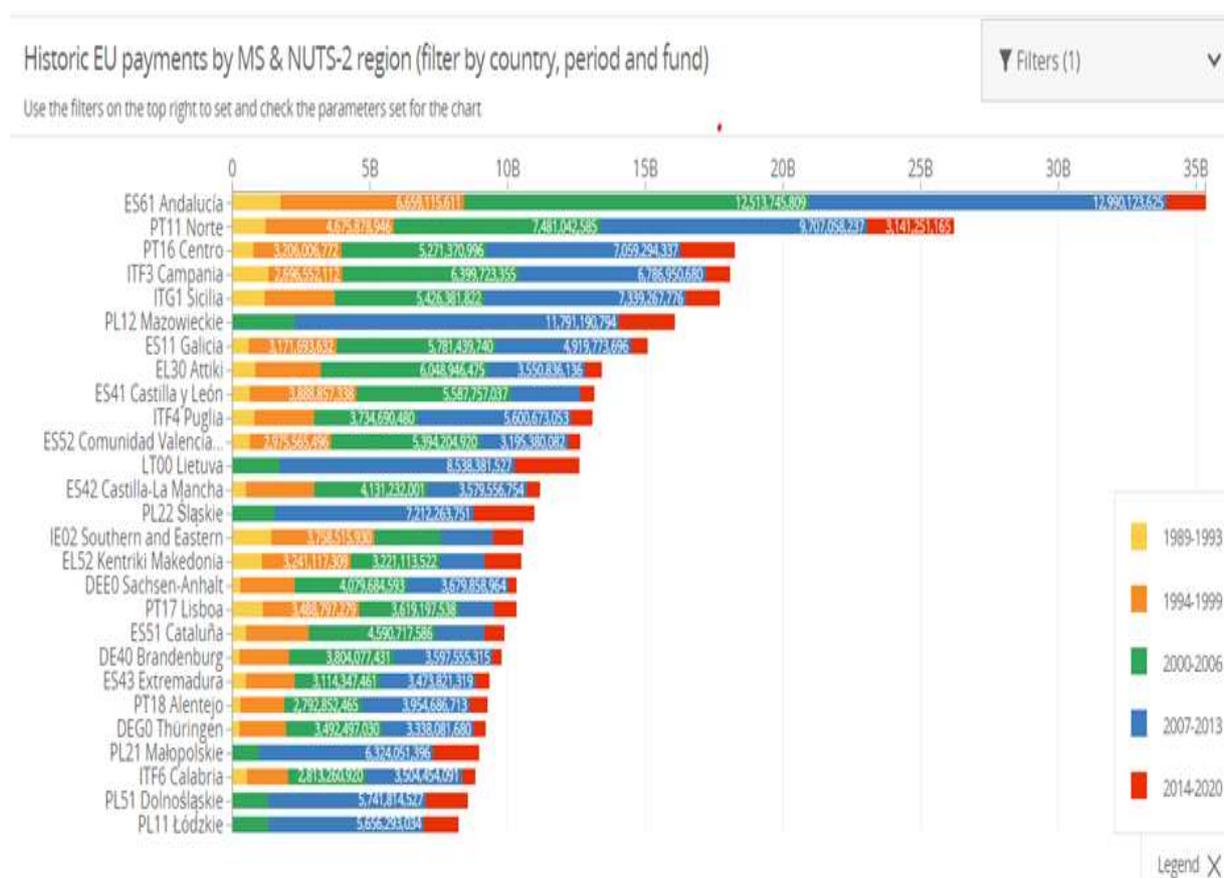


The CoR adopted the following opinions on the European Commission's legislative proposals of May 2018, which set its proposals for a new cohesion policy 2021-2027:

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/regional-development-and-cohesion_en

- *Common Provisions Regulation* – Co-rapporteurs: Michael Schneider (DE/EPP) and Catuscia Marini (IT/PES). (COTER VI/045): <https://cor.europa.eu/FR/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opld=CDR-3593-2018>
- *European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund* – rapporteur Michiel RIJSBERMAN (NL/ALDE): <https://cor.europa.eu/EN/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opld=CDR-3594-2018>
- *European Territorial Cooperation* – rapporteur: Marie-Antoinette MAUPERTUIS (FR/EA) (COTER-VI/048): <https://cor.europa.eu/FR/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opld=CDR-3595-2018>
- *European Social Fund Plus* – rapporteur: Susana DÍAZ PACHECO (ES/PES) (COTER VI/49): <https://cor.europa.eu/FR/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opld=CDR-3597-2018>

1.3 Publication of the historic pattern of EU investments in your region since 1988



Source: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/Historic-EU-payments-by-region-1988-2018/47md-x4ng>

The Commission has published the historic record of EU budget payment data from multiple programme periods and multiple funds, and regionalised it annually to the NUTS2 level. Data on EU payments of over EUR 900 billion are available in this data set for the open use of researchers.

The Commission first published in April 2018 a comprehensive historic record of EU budget payments from the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund to the Member States and NUTS-2 regions. 2018 marked the 30th anniversary of delivering EU regional policy using a programming approach based on "shared management", it was an important shift from project-based financing to programming with a stronger role for national and regional authorities.

In May 2020, the 2018 data set (archived here) was updated with the following main changes:

- The EU payment data for the 2007–2013 period were supplemented with the addition of full payment histories for the years 2016–2018; and a more accurate NUTS2 regionalisation of EAFRD payments was made in particular in the case of payments to DE and FR;
- The complete EU payments for the period 2014–2020, for all ESI Funds, were added for the years 2014–2018.

2. Budget and Finance

[2.1 Trilateral negotiations on the long term budget \(Multiannual financial framework \(MFF\)\) have started!](#)



Negotiations between the Parliament and the Council finally started after EU leaders found a common position on the long-term EU budget and recovery fund on 21 July.

The first trilogue between the Council, the Parliament and the European Commission took place on 27 August. Two other trilogues took place on 7 and 11 September.

On 27 August, the delegations from the Council and the Parliament sat together for the first time for trilateral talks at a political level, including the Commission, with the aim of reaching an agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework EU financing for 2021–2027.

View a full interview with the Parliament's chief negotiator and Chair of the BUDG committee, Mr Van Overtveldt and footage of the first trilogue meeting: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/mff-negotiations-state-of-play-statement-van-overtveldt_1194201-V_y

The third round of talks took place on 11 September. There was progress on the principle of a binding roadmap for the three institutions on new sources of EU revenue (Own Resources) and on reinforcements of future-oriented EU programmes. The Parliament insists on real increases and that new Own Resources need to be sufficient in order to repay the Next Generation EU recovery plan. The Parliament has scaled down its request for top-ups to EU programmes from 40+ programmes to 15 flagship programmes. With the Council conclusions as they stand, EU flagship programmes such as Horizon for research, or Erasmus+, will see a drop in funding, meaning that many research projects will go unfinanced and millions of young people will be unable to benefit from such life-changing opportunities and subsequent better employment. To give another example with regards to health, with the envelope decided by the European Council, lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic would be in vain, as the EU4Health programme has been reduced to less than a fifth of its envelope as proposed by the Commission.

On 15 September in plenary, the Parliament adopted its consultative opinion on the Own Resources Decision, which will enable the EU to borrow €750 billion for the “Next Generation EU” recovery plan. The vote will allow the Council to proceed with an immediate approval of this decision and start the ratification procedure in the member states.



As the current long-term EU budget is running out on 31 December 2020, the EU needs a new budgetary planning horizon for the next seven years. The EU Commission has thus presented plans for the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 in May 2018. The European Parliament adopted its position in November 2018, and re-confirmed it in October 2019 and July 2020. The European Council reached a political compromise on 21 July 2020. Trilateral negotiations between Parliament, Council and Commission started on 27 August.

Before the Council can formally adopt the MFF (Multiannual Financial Framework) regulation, Parliament must give its consent under Article 312(2) TFEU. The Parliament has welcomed the Recovery Instrument but considers that several improvements are needed, especially by reinforcing specific programmes, introducing a basket of new Own Resources (EU revenue), completing the legislators' work on the rule of law, and ensuring parliamentary involvement in the Recovery Instrument. MEP Johan Van Overtveld is the chair of the parliament's budget committee and chief negotiator.



Further Reading

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/652014/EPRS_BRI\(2020\)652014_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/652014/EPRS_BRI(2020)652014_EN.pdf)



2.2 Negotiations on the Annual budget for 2021

On 22 September 2020, the general rapporteur for the EU's 2020 budget, Mr Pierre Larrouturou (S&D, FR), will present to the Committee on Budgets a Working Document on the Council's position on the 2021 budget. Council's position was approved by EU ambassadors on 7 September and is expected to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 28 September.



On 24 June, the European Commission presented a draft EU annual budget for 2021, closely linked to the new proposal for the next MFF and the European stimulus instrument. The Commission proposed to focus the EU support on Member States via the REACT-EU mechanism, the European Fund for Resilience and Recovery (ERRF), as well as via strengthening programmes such as Horizon, InvestEU, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and humanitarian aid. The draft budget relies heavily on the next MFF, putting additional pressure on the Council and the European Parliament to reach an agreement before the end of the year.

3. Urban Policy and Territorial Development

[3.1 COTER contribution to the discussions on the renewal of the Leipzig charter: EU German Presidency's High-level conference: "Europe's cities fit for future". 18 September 2020](#)

Mr Kieran McCarthy (IE/EA), Cork city councillor and former rapporteur for the opinion on the "Implementation assessment of the Urban Agenda for the EU" participated in the high-level web conference "EUROPE'S CITIES FIT FOR FUTURE" on 18 September 2020. This event was organised by the German EU Presidency of the council of the EU within the framework of the discussions on the renewal of the Leipzig charter and the Urban Agenda for the EU, which will be adopted by the end of the year. The CoR, through its member Kieran McCarthy, has been very active in the whole discussion on the renewal of the Leipzig charter, which also covers the future Urban Agenda for the EU.



European Ministers responsible for urban matters will adopt the new Leipzig Charter on sustainable urban development by the end of 2020 in Leipzig. 2020 is an extraordinary year for towns, cities and regions in Europe. On the one hand, the COVID-19 pandemic turned most local development strategies upside down in a drastic and challenging way. On the other hand, the current year still holds the

opportunity to influence an important strategic course in the field of European urban development policy and thereby to react immediately and resolutely to the painful experienced shortcomings.

More information: <https://eveeno.com/Cities-Fit-For-Future>

4. EGTG and Territorial Cooperation

4.1 [Debate on the future of cross-border cooperation](#)

Following the July Plenary and the commitment of the President to start the debate on the future of cross-border cooperation, the COTER commission secretariat started preparations that will feed into the CoR's contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe on this matter².

COTER members have the opportunity to take part in the discussion at the September COTER commission meeting, under the agenda item on "reflection on the future of cross-border cooperation in the European Union".

4.2 [European Cross-border Citizens' Alliance](#)



Three European Associations (MOT, AEBR and CESCI) have launched a European Cross-border Citizens' Alliance earlier this year, to draw the attention of the European and national authorities to the importance of cross-border cohesion as the foundation of the European Union.

² A conference on the Future of Europe is an initiative of the President of the European Commission, Ms Van Der Leyen, to provide the public, civil society, experts, and EU institutions with a suitable forum to discuss the future of Europe. It will be co-run by the EU member states and the EU institutions (the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European Commission). EU Germany's Presidency will endeavour to secure agreement between the various institutions on a format and timetable so that the Conference on the Future of Europe can begin as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic permits.

4.3 [Upcoming event: The First Borders forum and the 10th EGTC Platform](#)

On 9 and 10 November 2020, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) is hosting the first edition of the BORDERS FORUM and the 10th Annual meeting of the EGTC Platform in cooperation with the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission in Paris.

The event will gather high representatives from the local, regional, national and European level including Commissioner Elisa Ferreira, CoR President Apostolos Tzitzikostas and ministers from France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Luxembourg and Poland. The event is organised under the high patronage of the President of France, Mr Emmanuel Macron.

This event comes at a time when Europe is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its Interregional cooperation programmes, the 10 years of the EGTC Platform, and the implementation of the Aachen Treaty, a bilateral agreement between France and Germany on closer cooperation and integration. At the same time, we will be presenting the winner of the 2020 EGTC Awards.

The registrations are now open and available on the web site of the event; www.bordersforum.eu, where you will be able to find all the necessary information.

4.4 [Contacts and relevant legislation for EGTCs now available on internet](#)

Contacts of national/regional authorities in charge of EGTC's and the relevant national/regional legislation is now available on the EGTC Platform website:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/about/Pages/national-dispositions.aspx>

Over the past few months, and with the kind cooperation of national and regional authorities in charge of the EGTC registration, we collected contact information and relevant legislation which can now be seen and downloaded at the EGTC Platform web site.

We invite you to visit this new section, which we are sure will be of good use for local and regional authorities that wish to register an EGTC, or for EGTCs that are declaring modifications.

4.5 [Article on the impact of COVID-19 on European cross-border areas: "Covidfencing effects on cross-border de-territorialism: the case of Europe"](#)

(Journal of Planning European Studies, Authors: Eduardo Medeiros, Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Gyula Ocskay, Jean Peyrony)

Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09654313.2020.1818185>

This article presents some of the main impacts of the covidfencing process –the systematic closure of national borders across the world in the European cross-border (CB) areas. Social related components like the sharing of health facilities and the need to work across borders show the existence of a high



degree of de-territorialism in several parts of Europe. Covidfencing has highlighted the need for improving cross-border cooperation (CBC) with a view to mitigating persistent CB barriers and European integration processes.

5. What's Going on in Europe: 2020 State of the Union Address

2020 State of the Union address

The president of the European Commission delivered her state of the Union speech on 16 September in front of the European Parliament, focusing on the recovery from the corona crisis, updated green targets and outlining a path towards a “digital decade” for Europe.

Read the full speech:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_1655

CoR response to the State of the Union speech and the CoR State of the EU's regions and cities

The CoR President, Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, responded on 18 September stressing that the European Union cannot succeed without regions and cities. It is local and regional authorities that are bringing the EU through the COVID-19 pandemic. It is cohesion between regions that is at the heart of European solidarity. It is the engagement by regional and local politicians that will deliver more ambitious targets for climate change.

Because we can never understand the state of the EU, without understanding the state of its people and the territories in which they live, the CoR will publish the State of the EU's regions and cities next month, a new Annual Regional and Local Barometer, and will also welcome President Von der Leyen at its October plenary.

To reiterate, we cannot begin to comprehend the state of the EU, without understanding the state of its people and territories. The European Union is not just a union of Member States, it is also a union of regions and cities. That is why next month we will publish a new Annual Regional and Local Barometer.

CoR President's response to the State of the Union speech:

<https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Response-to-the-State-of-the-Union-speech-by-President-Ursula-von-der-Leyen.aspx>

Background:

Every year in September, the President of the European Commission delivers the State of the Union address before the European Parliament, taking stock of various achievements over the past year and presenting priorities for the year ahead.

6. COTER at Work

6.1 COTER opinion and amendment's deadlines

On-going COTER opinions	Adoption timing Next Steps	Deadline for Member's Amendments
1. The Renewal of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities Rapporteur: Juan ESPADAS CEJAS (ES/PES)	Plenary: 12/14 October	25 September 15pm
2. Equitable standards of living as a joint challenge for all levels of government in Europe Bernd LANGE (DE/EPP)	Plenary: 12/14 October	25 September 15pm
3. The European Year of Rail 2021 Rapporteur: Jarosław Piotr STAWIARSKI (PL/ECR)	Plenary: 12-14 October.	25 September 15pm
4. The REACT-EU package Rapporteur: Mr Mieczysław STRUK (PL/EPP)	COTER: 24 September (general exploratory debate) Plenary: 12/14 October:	28 September 15pm
5. The role of the EU's cohesion policy with respect to intelligent and innovative economic change in the regions against the backdrop of the coronavirus crisis Rapporteur: Mr Michiel RIJSBERMAN (NL/RE)	COTER: 24 September Plenary: 12/14 October	1 ^{er} October 15pm
6. Cross-border public services (CPS) in Europe Rapporteur: Pavel BRANDA (CZ/ECR)	COTER: 26 November	13 November 15pm

<p>7. The Challenges for public transport in cities and metropolitan regions. Rapporteur: Adam STRUZIK (PL/EPP)</p>	<p>COTER: 24 September Plenary: 9/10 December</p>	<p>24 November 15pm</p>
<p>8. The European Commission report on the implementation the renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions 9. Rapporteur: Angel Victor TORRES PEREZ (ES/PES)</p>	<p>COTER: 24 September Plenary: 9/10 December</p>	<p>24 November 15pm</p>

6.2 [Next COTER meetings](#)

<p><u>24 September 2020</u></p>	<p>Opinions discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REACT-EU package (M. Struk): general exploratory debate 2. Challenges for public transport in cities and metropolitan regions (A.Struzik): first discussion and adoption 3. European Commission report on the implementation of the renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (V. Torres Perez): first discussion and adoption 4. The role of the EU's cohesion policy with respect to intelligent and innovative economic change in the regions against the backdrop of the coronavirus crisis (M.Rijsberman): first discussion and adoption 5. Cross-border public services (CPS) in Europe (P. Branda): exchange of views
<p><u>26 November 2020</u> [to be confirmed]</p>	<p>Opinion to be discussed: - Cross-border public services (CPS) in Europe (P. Branda): first discussion and adoption</p>
<p><u>2021</u> [dates to be confirmed]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 26 February - 28 April - 22 June - 28 October - 10 December 	

6.3 Upcoming Events

29/30 September (on line)	<p>High-level Conference of the German Presidency on Cohesion: The role of EU cohesion policy in times of the coronavirus crisis</p> <p>Participation of Mr Michiel RIJSBERMAN (NL/RE), COTER rapporteur on the opinion on <i>The role of the EU's cohesion policy against the backdrop of the coronavirus crisis</i>.</p>
13 October 9:30 - 10:00 (Online)	<p>European Week of the Regions and Cities: EU talks on A renewed Leipzig Charter with Juan Espadas Cejas, Alcalde, Ayuntamiento de Sevilla, Spain.</p> <p><i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1047_en</i></p>
13 October 11:30 - 13:00 (Online)	<p>European Week of the Regions and Cities: workshop on Cross-Border Cooperation & COVID19. Co-organised by DG REGIO and the CoR.</p> <p>Discussion on the shortages of national health systems during the COVID crisis, the strong interdependencies characterising in cross-border regions and the need for better coordination.</p> <p><i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1234_en</i></p>
13 October 14:00 - 17:00 (Online. Zoom)	<p>The Urban agenda for the EU partnerships in the spotlight, side event of the EWRC organised by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and EUKN.</p> <p><i>Registration: https://eveeno.com/UAEU-Partnerships</i></p>
14 October 9:30 - 11:00 (Online)	<p>European Week of the Regions and Cities: workshop on Co-creating the restart of Europe at the local level - how to use community-led local development in the recovery work and building resilience</p> <p><i>Co-organised with the CoR.</i></p> <p><i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1015_en</i></p>
14 October 14:30 - 16:00 (Online)	<p>European Week of the Regions and Cities' workshop on EGTCs boosting Cross Border Cooperation: New approaches. Co-organised by DG REGIO and the CoR.</p> <p>Presentation of the unique approach to cross-border cooperation of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and EGTC Euregio Senza Confini, which can act with the legislative powers of six regions to solve administrative or legal obstacles, to improving the quality of life in these regions.</p> <p><i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1011_en</i></p>

<p>14 October 14:30-16:00 (Online)</p>	<p><u>European Week of the Regions and Cities'</u> workshop on Automotive Regions' "Green Transformation Summit". Co organised by DG MOVE and the CoR. Active participation of various COTER members from regions with automotive industries. <i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1648_en</i></p>
<p>15 October 09:30 - 11:00 (Online)</p>	<p><u>European Week of the Regions and Cities'</u> workshop on Territorial Impact Assessments. Making European Legislation more territorially aware <i>Co-organised by DG REGIO and the CoR.</i> <i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1629_en</i></p>
<p>20 October 9:30 - 11:00 (Online)</p>	<p><u>European Week of the Regions and Cities'</u> workshop on "Smart Regional Rail for EU Green Recovery». Co-organised by DG MOVE and the CoR. <i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1432_en</i></p>
<p>21 October 16:30 - 18:00 (Online)</p>	<p><u>European Week of the Regions and Cities'</u> workshop on "Cohesion Policy for sustainable mobility". Co-organised by DG REGIO and UITP. <i>Registration until 27 September: https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1286_en</i></p>
<p>9-10 November (Paris. To be confirmed)</p>	<p>10th EGTC Platform meeting and first Borders' forum Event co-organised by the CoR, the European Commission and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) (host). <i>Registrations until 30 October. www.bordersforum.eu</i></p>

7. [Useful Links](#)

Specific COVID related information:

Timeline of EU response to the COVID crisis: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action_en

Overview of the European Commission's response to coronavirus: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en#healthmeasures

Updated figures about the scale of outbreaks and number of deaths around the world.

Financial Times: <https://www.ft.com/coronavirus-latest>

OECD data and policy responses to coronavirus: <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/>

ESPON programme:

<https://www.espon.eu/collecting-experiences-and-evidence-local-and-regional-responses-covid19>

Eurocities: <https://covidnews.eurocities.eu/>

EC learning resources (during the coronavirus crisis):

https://ec.europa.eu/education/resources-and-tools/coronavirus-online-learning-resources_en

Notre Europe (Paris): <https://institutdelors.eu/en/tag/covid-19-en/>

EURACTIV: <https://www.euractiv.com/sections/coronavirus/>

EU observer (coronavirus news): <https://euobserver.com/coronavirus/>

POLITICO.eu: <https://www.politico.eu/coronavirus-in-europe/>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/coronavirus-live-updates-latest-news-blog/>

More general information:

Updates on EU regional policy: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/

European Parliament news: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room>

EU Legislative observatory (state of play on EU legislative procedure):

<https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/search/search.do?searchTab=y>

EPRS and other EP publications: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

EU local news: <https://www.themayor.eu/en>

European Policy Centre: <http://www.epc.eu/en> (various policy analyses)

Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/subjects/euro-zone>

CEPS: <https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-news/> (various EU policies, incl. coronavirus news)

CEMR: <https://www.ccre.org/en/actualites/view/3994>

Regional Studies Association (RSA):

<https://www.regionalstudies.org/about/pandemics-cities-regions-industry/>

