Network of Regional Hubs for EU Policy Implementation Review

Who is who

Draft version for the Second RegHub Workshop
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<td>(in collaboration with province of Gelderland, province of Zuid-Holland, province of Overijssel, city of Tilburg) - The Netherlands</td>
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<td>33 Upper Austria</td>
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<td>(current presidency of the joint country expert conference “Subsidiarity monitoring”) – Austria</td>
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<td>34 Voralberg</td>
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<td>(Leading The International Lake Constance Conference, in collaboration with Baden-Württemberg and Bayern) – Austria</td>
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Foreword

On 15 March 2019 the Committee of the Region’s Network of Regional Hubs for EU Policy Implementation Review was officially launched during the 8th Summit of regions and cities.

It is a concrete follow-up measure drawn from the Subsidiarity Task Force chaired by the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans and it is an important step in putting the ‘active subsidiarity’ concept into practice. Thus, the regional hubs network aims to give Europe’s regions and cities a stronger voice in the EU’s better regulation agenda and increase the proximity with European citizens. Through regularly organised consultations of the hubs on relevant EU policies, its goal is to integrate that experience in EU policy making.

The network, currently in its pilot phase, will be a tool to gather timely and systematic feedback from regions and cities, based on the unique and valuable experience they have in implementing EU policies. This feedback will come directly from their relevant stakeholders such as public authorities, NGOs, business associations and others. This proximity with the people actually dealing with EU legislation on the ground will be the real added value of this network.

The first steps of the network have been very promising, with an application process that attracted an important interest throughout the EU. The network is already on tracks and has already engaged its members with representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament. These key institutions have confirmed they look forward to taking the network’s feedback on board.

I very much look forward to the results of the first network’s consultations and the reports that will issue from them and I am confident that the network’s implementation reports will have real impact on the EU’s policymaking.

I warmly invite you to read this booklet and discover the hubs and their contact points. They cover a wide variety of EU territories and they always count on the political endorsement of political representatives.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz
President of the European Committee of the Regions

Brussels, June 2019
How is the Network organised?

**Political governance**
Subsidiarity Steering Group (SSG) of
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**Dr Michael Schneider**, chair of the SSG

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Regional Hubs Network website:

#RegHub
#EfficientEU
#Subsidiarity
What exactly is a hub?

Similar to an airport hub from which many services operate and connecting journeys can be made, a regional hub acts as a contact point which is able to contact, involve, partner up and maintain close contact with various stakeholders involved in EU policy implementation.

Being located in a subnational administration, the contact point will act as an intermediary between the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and local and regional authorities, and it will provide timely feedback on EU legislative efficiency. It is expected to gradually develop the function of information point for all questions related to the better regulation agenda of the EU.

A regional hub can be understood in a broader sense as any territorial authority below the member state level that implements EU policy. It can therefore include communities, departments, Länder, provinces, counties, metropolitan areas, large cities or groups of smaller ones, large local authorities or groups of smaller ones, cross-border territories such as EGTCs and Euroregions.
How do we work?

A three step approach

1. The CoR will invite the regional hubs to a workshop in Brussels to review the latest consultation and technical implementation report, follow-up on the interinstitutional impact of the network, exchange good practices or discuss challenges, and cover the next policy area for consultation.

2. For each of the selected EU policy fields, the network secretariat will send a questionnaire to the regional hubs with key questions which the EU institutions and the CoR consider as needing an answer during the process. The regional hubs will in turn provide a comprehensive reply to the questionnaire after having contacted and interviewed the key actors and agencies involved at implementing this EU policy local/regional level.

3. The results of the questionnaire will be compiled by the network secretariat in a technical implementation report, which will be provided to the CoR commission in charge of the policy as well as to the other EU institutions. The report will also be published on a dedicated CoR webpage. During the pilot phase, the network will organise approximately three workshops and consultations per year to test its work method and feedback mechanism.
Who are the Regional Hubs?

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Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU’s assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU’s decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.