



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

# Second CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020

December 2011



The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives



## Second CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020

December 2011

Executive Summary available in all languages at:  
[www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020](http://www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020)



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### **Main conclusions of the Second CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020**

- 1) In spite of some progress, **Europe 2020 is still hindered by a "partnership gap"**: in most cases, local and regional authorities were merely consulted, but not involved as partners, in the design and implementation of the National Reform Programmes.
- 2) **A huge effort by EU cities and regions is under way** in virtually all policy fields related to Europe 2020.
- 3) **Multilevel governance** approaches, including **territorial pacts**, are, however, applied or planned in **only a few cases** as yet. Their broad adoption would also help to increase **ownership of Europe 2020** by European citizens.
- 4) The **Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives are seen as being potentially helpful by local and regional authorities across the EU**. Indeed, the more EU cities and regions grow familiar with the Flagship Initiatives, the more they appreciate them.
- 5) In the light of this monitoring report, the CoR confirms that the next **Multiannual Financial Framework** will have to provide adequate resources in order to be able to fund the Europe 2020 and cohesion priorities properly.
- 6) With respect to the draft regulation on the **Common Strategic Framework** for cohesion policy, the CoR strongly backs the proposal for a **Partnership Contract** between the Commission and each Member State, which would tailor the use of cohesion and other EU policy instruments to the Europe 2020 and cohesion objectives.
- 7) The **2012 European Semester** is seen by the CoR as an opportunity to **root local and regional authorities more firmly in the new strengthened EU economic governance framework**. With its **consultative, political and monitoring activities**, the **CoR** will contribute to all **stages of the Europe 2020 policy cycle**, from the Annual Growth Survey to the adoption of new National Reform Programmes in April-May and country-specific recommendations in June 2012.

This document honours the commitment made by the CoR Bureau in October 2010<sup>1</sup>, to present an annual assessment to the other EU institutions of how the implementation of Europe 2020 is seen by local and regional authorities in the EU and whether the principle of partnership between all tiers of government is being adopted in the design and implementation of the new strategy by means of multilevel governance tools, such as Territorial Pacts. As provided for by the Bureau in September 2011<sup>2</sup>, this document will feed into the preparations for the 2012 European Semester and, in particular, the European Commission's Annual Growth Survey for 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> R/CdR 218/2010

<sup>2</sup> R/CDR 235/2011

## **1. PREFACE**

### **1.1 The CoR's contribution to Europe 2020**

The CoR annual Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 is part of the CoR's political commitment to make the voice of local and regional authorities heard across the whole policy cycle of Europe 2020 and to promote its approach of Territorial Pacts and multilevel governance. It is being published in December, just ahead of the European Commission's 2012 Annual Growth Survey, thus in a phase of the policy cycle devoted to assessing both strands of EU economic governance. This same commitment is reflected in the main initiatives on Europe 2020 undertaken by the CoR in 2011, with the support of its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform: the Territorial Dialogue (February 2011), a Bureau Declaration and a meeting between CoR president Mercedes Bresso and the Member States' Permanent Representatives to promote Territorial Pacts ahead of the 2011 Spring European Council (March 2011) and the meetings between president Bresso and Commission president José Manuel Barroso (June 2011), and Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council (July 2011) ahead of the adoption by the European Council of country-specific recommendations at the end of the first European Semester. Shortly after the beginning of the second semester - which focuses on implementation at national level – the CoR president addressed a letter to the 27 EU heads of state and government encouraging them to adopt the approach of Territorial Pacts for Europe 2020<sup>3</sup>.

At its plenary session in October, 2011, at the request of the Polish presidency of the Council of the European Union, the CoR adopted an opinion on "The role of local and regional authorities in achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy"<sup>4</sup>, whose key recommendations are (a) implementing Territorial Pacts as the right solution to ensure multilevel ownership of the strategy, (b) bridging the gap between research findings and real life practice, (c) stressing the importance of building regional innovation capacity and (d) indicating the Triple Helix concept for cooperation among business, universities and local and regional authorities as a model for the cohesive development of regions and cities.

### **1.2 A year of key economic and political challenges – and more is coming**

The first half of 2011 coincided with the first European Semester, which was adopted as a tool to achieve greater economic policy coordination within the EU and the euro area. In addition to legislative measures to strengthen fiscal discipline and financial regulation, the European Semester aims at strengthening the "economic leg" of the EMU. Euro area countries have already given even stricter commitments to growth-enhancing structural measures under the Europlus pact.

This process, which aims at boosting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, gives some degree of meaning to the present fiscal hardships: the EU is working to build a better future, which, in the present situation, implies the need for tough choices today.

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<sup>3</sup> More detailed information on the above activities can be found on the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform website: [www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020](http://www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020). For the summary of activities see: Progress Report on the implementation of the Rolling Programme (October 2010-August 2011), R/CdR 235/2011 item 8b), 09.09.2011, available at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/UpdateoRollingProgramme.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> Rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) (CdR 72/2011)

Within this framework, the European Commission issued its first Annual Growth Survey (January 2011), the Spring Council adopted Integrated Guidelines (March 2011) and Member States submitted in parallel their Stability and Convergence Programmes and their Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes (April 2011). The first European Semester ended with the European Council (June 2011) issuing country specific recommendations, after which it is up to all levels of government to give their contribution to the EU stability and growth goals, according to their areas of responsibility and resources.

As this report is being finalised, the European Union is facing the crucial, urgent challenges of tackling the sovereign debt crisis, strengthening economic policy coordination and accelerating the pace of structural reforms – while at the same time increasing economic, social and territorial cohesion.

This makes it all the more urgent that actual progress is made with respect to both Europe 2020 and in the ongoing negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework and the new regulations for cohesion policy.

Moreover, progress on these two key policy strands must be achieved *in parallel* in order to give Europe 2020 the requisite financial means for meeting its goals and to focus the budget proposed by the European Commission on the Europe 2020 objectives and the need for greater cohesion. In fact, the next MFF should (a) make available the funds needed to implement Europe 2020 at EU level while strengthening cohesion, and (b) make it possible to use the funds in a simpler, more effective and more coordinated and integrated way.

In this respect, crucial features of the Commission's proposals include the Common Strategic Framework (coordinating the intervention of the ERDF, the ESF, the CF, the EAFRD and the EMFF) and the Partnership Contract between the Commission and each Member State, designed to coordinate cohesion policy expenditure, as well as other relevant EU policies and instruments, at EU and national level with a view to achieving the Europe 2020 objective. The Commission's draft regulation<sup>5</sup> states that (i) "Member States should organise a partnership with a series of partners", first of all local and regional authorities, with a view to preparing for Partnership Contracts and that (ii) "the purpose of such a partnership is to respect the principle of multi-level governance, ensure the ownership of planned interventions by stakeholders and build on the experience and know-how of relevant actors"; the Commission "should be empowered to adopt delegated acts providing for a code of conduct in order to ensure that partners are involved ... in a consistent manner". This is a welcome development, very much in line with the CoR approach, which, with a view to achieving the Europe 2020 goals and targets, has proposed that, in all EU countries, Partnership Contracts should be prepared and implemented in cooperation with all tiers of government on the basis of Territorial Pacts.

### **1.3 Methodological note**

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Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, COM(2011) 615 final, 6.10.2011.

This report, the second of a series of annual issues<sup>6</sup>, summarises the outcome of the monitoring activities undertaken by the Committee of the Regions in the last twelve months, on (i) how Europe 2020 is being implemented on the ground, (ii) how, and to what extent, the local and regional authorities are being involved in its design and implementation, and (iii) whether the CoR proposal of Territorial Pacts<sup>7</sup> - and its underlying approach of partnership between different layers of government and multilevel governance - is gaining ground.

The report is based on input from the CoR's Europe 2020 surveys launched by the Committee's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform<sup>8</sup>, as well as on the main CoR opinions, related to Europe 2020, which were adopted in the same timeframe (October 2010-October 2011). The report also reflects discussions held during the 6th Territorial Dialogue (February 2011), the annual workshop of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform (June 2011) and the Open Days week (October 2011).

Monitoring results reviewed in this report would have not been obtained without the cooperation of hundreds of members of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform and representatives of other local and regional authorities (all contributions are acknowledged in the appendix), who have answered questionnaires and participated in meetings<sup>9</sup>. Thanks to them, the CoR once again has the opportunity to convey the viewpoint of the local and regional authorities in the EU political debate and action.

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<sup>6</sup> The first CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020, 30.11.2010, R/CdR 322/2010 item 5a) and item 5b), available at: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/2010/1stCoRMonitoringReport.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup> Territorial Pacts and Monitoring Europe 2020 on the ground, 4.10.2010, R/CdR 218/2010 item 7a), available at: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/2010/CoROctoberBureau2010.aspx>.

<sup>8</sup> This platform includes more than 150 regions, cities and other territorial public authorities from all EU Member States, who help the CoR monitoring the implementation of Europe 2020 on the ground and getting fresh views from the LRAs on the main developments of the strategy. CoR members Christine Chapman (PES/UK) and Nichi Vendola (PES/IT) are the political coordinators of the platform and report once a year to the Bureau on the state of play, proposing updates of the Platform's Rolling Programme. To learn more about the Platform and to become its member visit the website: [www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020](http://www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020).

<sup>9</sup> In 2011, a total of 210 questionnaires were submitted to the four surveys organised by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform (see Annex to the full report for details).



## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2.1 Summary assessment and key political conclusions

#### *The "partnership gap" is still there ...*

The main monitoring results for Europe 2020 in 2011 can be summarised as follows:

1. The LRAs are very actively working to pursue Europe 2020. Their ongoing or planned programmes and/or actions cover the strategy's three pillars of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. On top of this, many local and regional authorities introduce their own overarching growth and strategies. They often come in parallel to the implementation of Europe 2020 and the adoption of National Reform Programmes and rely on financial support from the EU Structural Funds. The survey carried out for this report has provided a good deal of examples.
2. Apart from a few instances where multilevel governance and territorial pacts are beginning to emerge, the partnership approach has found quite limited application.
3. In particular, the preparation of the National Reform Programmes has been a missed opportunity in most cases. This seems to have taken a toll on their quality, in terms of both (i) adequacy of country targets and indicators adopted and (ii) opportunities they provide to the LRAs to develop more ambitious and dynamic policies. On a more general note, this *partnership gap* certainly does not help to increase ownership of Europe 2020 by the European citizens. The gap would be greatly reduced if the public administrations closest to them were more involved in the strategy's design and implementation.

***... and should be bridged to make the most of Europe 2020, and to grasp the opportunity of the new EU budget post-2013.***

All Europe 2020 institutional players should draw some conclusions from these results.

1. **National governments** of the EU Member States should share their country's objectives, targets, policy programmes and timelines with the local and regional authorities, by:
  - a) **implementing their respective National Reform Programmes** in **partnership** with the local and regional authorities,
  - b) organising **round tables**, to be seen as the starting point for **territorial pacts** between the country's different layers of government,
  - c) taking these round tables - or other ways of involving local and regional authorities, in keeping with national constitutional arrangements and traditions and giving due regard to the subsidiarity and proportionality principles - as the starting point of a process that, through a Territorial Pact with the country's local and regional authorities, will set the stage to negotiate **the country's Partnership Contract** with the European Commission (as set in the draft regulation on common provisions for cohesion policy funds after 2013<sup>10</sup>). The latter should regulate both cohesion policy instruments and possibly also

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<sup>10</sup> COM(2011) 615 final, 6.10.2011

the main other EU funding channels that it will become possible to coordinate within the new EU's Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020<sup>11</sup>.

2. The **EU** should redouble its efforts to **support Europe 2020** by
  - a) completing the legislative packages implementing the **Flagship Initiatives** as well as the cross-sectoral actions needed (**Single Market Act, Better Regulation**),
  - b) adopting the key provisions in the European Commission's proposals for the next **Multiannual Financial Framework** on (i) a **Common Strategic Framework** regulating cohesion policy funds as well as "other relevant Union policies and instruments", and on (ii) **Partnership Contracts** between the Commission and each Member state, to be seen as complementary to Territorial Pacts,
  - c) urging Member States **to be more ambitious in their moves to work together** with their local and regional authorities through Territorial Pacts. The 2012 Annual Growth Survey will provide the opportunity to review how Europe 2020 is doing a few months after the publication of the NRPs.
3. The **local and regional authorities** should
  - a) keep up and enhance the present **momentum** by taking every opportunity afforded under the Flagship Initiatives and their National Reform Programmes,
  - b) urge their national governments, in a constructive manner, to recognise the need for **partnership** between all government tiers in order to make sure Europe 2020 is able to deliver,
  - c) actively engage in a **learning process** by exchanging experiences with other LRAs – and learning from them.
4. Additional efforts should be made, by **all players**, to **raise awareness of Europe 2020**, as this would bring clear dividends in terms of appreciation and ownership. In fact, a survey conducted by the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform has shown that, the more the Flagship Initiatives are known by local and regional authorities, the more they are appreciated. Europe 2020 should be presented as the other side of the coin of the fiscally restrictive policies being implemented in several countries – somehow putting present hardship into the context of a broader, positive project.

## 2.2 Next steps for the CoR

In 2012, the **CoR** will continue to

- a) **take part in the Europe 2020 political cycle**, within the framework of the European Semester, and work tirelessly to promote the partnership approach and Territorial Pacts for Europe 2020 as this is necessary for the NRPs to meet their goals. In the framework of the national semester, the CoR is ready to contribute to round tables preparing territorial pacts and partnership contracts on Europe 2020.
- b) **monitor** implementation of Europe 2020 on the ground. It will also support exchanges of experiences and mutual learning among local and regional authorities, and encourage them to play an ever more active role in pursuit of the Europe 2020 goals. To this end, the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform has recently adopted an ambitious working

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

plan for the months to come<sup>12</sup>. In particular, in the run-up to the 3rd CoR Monitoring Report, the platform will focus on monitoring how national governments involve LRAs in following up NRPs, and how Europe 2020 is being implemented on the ground, against the backdrop of ongoing budget constraints. The next report will set out how selected cases included in the current edition have moved forward in the course of 2012.

- c) The Committee of the Regions, in cooperation with the European Commission, is currently working on the Europe 2020 **handbook** for local and regional authorities. The handbook will inform representatives of local and regional authorities about Europe 2020 and provide an overview of how LRAs can be involved in the Europe 2020 process, and how and with what means they can contribute to achieving Europe 2020 targets.

### 2.3 Europe 2020 governance still fails to involve the local and regional authorities as partners

#### *The Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: the more they are known, the more they are seen as an opportunity*

A large majority of EU local and regional authorities seem to be aware of Europe 2020's Flagship Initiatives (FIs) and see them as an opportunity. This is what emerges from the survey on *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* carried out by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform between July and October 2011<sup>13</sup>.

In fact, as far as the Europe 2020 FIs are concerned, survey results show that:

- respondents who declared 'full' or 'substantial' knowledge of the FIs generally ranged from over half to three-quarters of total responses;
- respondents who think that the FIs provide an opportunity for them to "establish more ambitious policy goals/actions" range between 40% and 50% *of the total*.

It is, however, very interesting to see that

- the share of those respondents who see the FIs as an opportunity but *having declared "full" or 'substantial' knowledge of them* is higher.

In other words, the more the FIs are known, the more they are seen as an opportunity – which also implies that, the less a FI is known, the more important it is to raise awareness.

Concerning the utility of the FIs in providing an opportunity for regions and cities to implement the relevant policy actions more effectively, the majority of respondents answered positively. For most respondents, the FIs help to establish a general reference framework for the measures planned as well as a starting point for discussions on policy options and benchmarking opportunities. Moreover,

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<sup>12</sup> Update of the Rolling Programme (September 2011-August 2012) and key guidelines for future political actions, R/CdR 235/2011 item 8a), 09.09.2011, available at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/UpdateoRollingProgramme.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> In total 91 representatives of local and regional authorities submitted their questionnaires to the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*. Submissions came from 22 Member States, with over 40 % coming from Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform members. <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/Europe2020whatshappeningontheground.aspx>

according to other LRAs, the FIs contribute to more effective implementation of the specific policy actions and help boost local development and prioritise policy objectives.

***Overall, local and regional authorities were not seen as full partners in the preparation of the National Reform Programmes***

To evaluate the involvement of local and regional authorities in drafting Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes, the CoR asked its **national delegations** to respond to a tailor-made questionnaire. This **survey** was carried out in May and June 2011. **Twenty-two heads of delegation** submitted their answers, while further information on all 27 Member States was collected through a thorough analysis of the NRPs themselves. Overall, results show that:

- in most cases, one-off meetings and/or submission of documents by LRAs took place at an intermediary stage in the preparation of the NRP, in a way that is quite similar to the old Lisbon Strategy and with a rather limited impact on the final version of the NRP;
- on the whole, this consultation largely concerned issues regularly found in the relationships between central governments and their LRAs (Structural Funds) though, sometimes, more specific Europe-2020-related issues were tackled as well (targets, policy measures).

On a more encouraging note, some delegations said that some of the planned developments were in line with the CoR's territorial pact approach. Many others would like to have this approach incorporated into the national implementation of Europe 2020 and to have a stronger partnership with their respective national governments.

***Views on the adequacy of country targets are mixed***

When it comes to assessing the adequacy of their countries' targets, the respondents' answers are mixed. In fact:

- while around 70 % of respondents said that they had 'full' or 'substantial' knowledge of their NRPs, country targets contributing to the EU headline targets for Europe 2020 are seen as adequate to the needs of the respondents' territories in only slightly more than 50 % of cases;
- according to respondents, the appropriateness of targets differed slightly from one issue to another, with the level of support ranging from 40% (R&D as a percentage of GDP and reduction of population at risk of poverty) to over 60% (renewable energy, reduction of early school-leaving). In the case of employment and R&D targets, at least one out of five respondents found their national commitment too ambitious. On the other hand, over 20% of respondents deemed three targets not ambitious enough (i.e. CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets, reduction of the rate of early school-leavers and reduction of the population at risk of poverty).

Overall, it can be argued that a broader involvement of the LRAs *as partners* in the preparation of the NRPs would have improved their judgement on the adequacy of country targets.

***NRPs are seen as providing limited opportunities to make LRA policies more ambitious.***

Asked whether their National Reform Programmes encouraged them to establish more ambitious policy goals/actions, a majority of respondents said that their NRP had already – or is going to have – some impact. However:

- for around half of respondents this was true only 'to a limited extent';
- for only one out of ten respondents, the NRP had a 'substantial' relevance in pushing them to establish more ambitious policy goals /actions;
- one quarter said their NRP had 'no impact at all' on their goals and actions.

When asked whether they had made, or would be making, changes in their local and regional programming *as a consequence* of their NRP, 38% of respondents said that they either have modified or are planning to modify their local/regional policies as consequence of the new policy actions set out in NRPs, while 35% said they were *not* planning to make any such change and 27% could not answer. Obviously, as underlined by several respondents, this is due, at least in part, to the fact that only a few months had passed from the submission of the NRPs to the time this survey was carried out.

***Multilevel partnerships are frequent, mostly in specific areas and/or to manage the Structural Funds ...***

Around three-quarters of respondents indicated they had or would have opportunities to design and/or implement Europe 2020 policies in partnership with their national governments and/or other levels of territorial administration.

- In some cases, this had been left over from the Lisbon Strategy and/or is a result of how areas of responsibility are distributed in federal states.
- Most cases of multilevel governance have a thematic approach (i.e. covering one policy field).
- Several respondents notified that this is mainly due to normal management of the EU Structural Funds or to 'horizontal' networking at the sub-national level, rather than to multilevel governance agreements involving national governments.

Overall, existing partnership are important, but still fall short of the broader scope suggested by the Committee of the Regions' Territorial Pacts proposal.

***... but more ambitious multilevel governance experiences are in view.***

Against all prevailing trends, in some Member States, multilevel governance arrangements are being drafted or planned in a bid to achieve Europe 2020 goals (e.g. territorial contracts in Poland, territorial pacts in Romania).

Regions and cities indicated several thematic areas (innovation policy, the digital agenda, climate change, social inclusion) whereby they either currently work or are about to start working in cooperation with their national government.

***Territorially disaggregated indicators, and additional ones, are seen as necessary***

Many respondents call for a stronger statistical support to Europe 2020, in terms of both (a) making available existing indicators at the territorial level, and (b) providing additional indicators to describe the specific situation of a territory – taking into account its specificities, for instance natural handicaps, the specific nature of the area (urban/rural), access to resources - and its particular needs.

- Overall, four out of ten respondents suggest that other indicators should be used to reflect the specific situation of their territory.

- At least a dozen representatives of local and regional authorities called for sub-national targets (e.g. employment rate, investment in R&D).

### ***Funding Europe 2020: coordination is no less important than funding***

Local and regional authorities in the EU are funding policies related to Europe 2020 through a varying mix of European, national, regional and local sources. In some cases, public-private partnerships (PPPs) also bring some private funding into play.

The only funding channels which are present in virtually all situations are the EU Structural Funds, which confirms their crucial role in funding the new strategy.

As the economic, financial and debt crisis cuts heavily into local and regional budgets - sometimes involving difficult trade-offs between priorities linked to specific situations and Europe 2020 objectives - coordination between EU, national and territorial policies, and related funding, is seen as more important than ever.

Against this background - and given that the main programming documents involved (NRPs, cohesion policy programmes, EU programmes funding research, development, innovation and the SMEs) refer to different timeframes – the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) set by the European Commission in its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, aimed at coordinating cohesion policy and other EU policy instruments, is all the more important. Moreover, Territorial Pacts preparing for the Partnership Contracts which will translate the CSF into the reality of EU Member states seem all the more necessary in order to coordinate, rationalise and simplify the Europe 2020 legislative environment.

## **2.4 Working in partnership for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth: CoR opinions and key findings from Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform surveys**

The Committee of the Regions, in its role as a consultative body, has been scrutinising thematic proposals relating to Europe 2020. While a few dozen **CoR opinions** related to Europe 2020 have been adopted as of October 2011, the summary below focuses on those that address Flagship Initiatives proposals. More CoR documents are summarised in Chapter 4 and the list of all Europe 2020-related opinions can be found on the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform website<sup>14</sup>.

Furthermore, through its surveys, the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform collected a plethora of **views and practices** covering all Europe 2020 policy fields. The case-studies show how local and regional authorities, often in partnership with other stakeholders, are contributing to achieving Europe 2020 targets and the opportunities Europe 2020 provides for them. Key messages from these examples are presented below while the case-studies are included in Chapter 4 of the full report.

In general, respondents to the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground* feel informed about the policy content of the Flagship Initiatives. There are slight disparities when it comes to the **knowledge about the flagships** – with *Resource efficient Europe* being the most known Flagship

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<sup>14</sup>

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/CoREurope2020RelatedOpinions.aspx>.

Initiative (three-quarters of respondents being fully or substantially aware of this policy proposal) and the *Industrial policy for the globalisation era* the least known (slightly more than half).

When asked about the **relevance of these Flagship Initiatives** to their local and regional actions, over half of the respondents found the *Innovation Union* and *An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs* substantial. One in four held the same view of the initiative *An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era*.

### **Smart Growth**

The Committee of the Regions, in its **opinion on A Digital Agenda for Europe**<sup>15</sup>, notes that as local and regional authorities are the main recipients of the agenda's recommendations, they can play a key role in its implementation. The opinion on the **Innovation Union Flagship**<sup>16</sup> reiterates the CoR's support for reaching the targets on competitiveness and innovation by 2020 and recognises that in order to achieve these targets, investment in education and training needs to be maintained. The opinion also notes that it is absolutely vital for all jobs skills to be upgraded and matched to labour market requirements, so that innovation does not lead to net job losses. As for **Youth on the Move**<sup>17</sup> the CoR fully supports the objective of improving young people's knowledge, skills and experience to facilitate their entry into the labour market and exploit their potential to the full, thereby enabling the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy to be attained. Nonetheless the CoR points out that education is not only about improving employability but should also have the broader goal of developing the person as a whole. The CoR also endorses Member States' and local and regional authorities' flexible use of the European Social Fund to assist young people. This is particularly relevant to the attainment of the Europe 2020 objectives.

Answering the Platform's call to present Europe 2020-related initiatives, regions and cities provided information about their 'smart initiatives'. They focus on providing broadband access to all (with the special focus on rural areas and small towns) and on creating innovation centres, often established in full cooperation with business and educational institutions. Local and regional authorities are aware that the goal of an innovative and competitive economy requires fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of young people. Respondents value the partnership principle and refer to Europe 2020 as a benchmark for their endeavours.

### **Sustainable Growth**

In two **opinions** related to the two flagships **A Resource Efficient Europe**<sup>18</sup> and **An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era**<sup>19</sup>, the CoR stress that the success of the Europe 2020 strategy will depend largely on decisions taken at local and regional level. It advocates a reference in

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<sup>15</sup> Digital Agenda for Europe (CdR 104/2010) Rapporteur: Markku Markkula (FI/ EPP)

<sup>16</sup> Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - Innovation Union (research and innovation plan) (CdR 373/2010), Rapporteur: Roger Knox (UK/EA)

<sup>17</sup> Youth on the Move (CDR292/2010), Rapporteur: Marc Schaefer (LU/PES)

<sup>18</sup> A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative of the EU 2020 Strategy, Rapporteur Michel Lebrun (BE/EPP) (CdR 140/2011)

<sup>19</sup> An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era – Putting Competitiveness and Sustainability at Centre Stage, (CdR 374/2010), Rapporteur: Patxi López (ES/PES).

the NRPs to creating territorial pacts for Europe 2020 in the form of multilevel partnerships between EU, national, regional and local authorities. The CoR opinions support the European Commission's commitment to the development of a strong, competitive and sustainable industry throughout Europe in order to achieve a full economic recovery from the current crisis, as well as fulfilling the Europe 2020 objectives of establishing smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The CoR stresses the importance placed on integration and sustainability, which gives an equal role to both the economic and social aspects, and the environmental variables of an industrial policy. It also supports the territorial pact between regions and Member States, which allows for coordinated approaches to tackling common problems. The CoR calls for the 2020 strategy's seven flagships to be further integrated and coordinated in order to achieve their potential.

Through **surveys** carried out by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, several examples were collected of policies pursuing goals and targets for sustainable growth. As shown in this report, most of them focus on the 20-20-20 targets (cutting emissions, reducing energy consumption and increasing use of renewable energy). Several others aim at providing new indicators that could help guide regional and local communities towards increasing growth and jobs in a low-carbon environment, including calculating a community's carbon footprint. Many respondents were cities with membership of the Covenant of Mayors that were drafting or implementing their sustainable energy action plans. In the field of industrial policy, some initiatives aim at improving the business environment providing business services geared towards achieving green growth. Other actions deal with water management, for instance in order to protect coastal areas from flooding and also to provide fresh water, including from rainwater.

In a **survey on the role of regional and local authorities in promoting a sustainable water policy**<sup>20</sup> carried out in the first half of 2011 by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, it emerged that there is no one-size-fits-all multilevel governance model for water management. Subsidiarity and multilevel governance are considered to be key principles of EU water policy. Joint action is required, as well as a shared vision and a joint commitment to meeting objectives. While some decisions need to be taken at higher governance levels to overcome regional or local interests that may potentially jeopardise the long-term interest of communities and future generations, it always needs to be recognised that knowledge of the local situation and local needs is primarily available locally.

### ***Inclusive Growth***

The two **opinions** on two inclusive-growth-related **Flagship Initiatives - Agenda for New Skills and Jobs**<sup>21</sup> and **The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: a European framework for social and territorial cohesion**<sup>22</sup> - take as a starting point the dire socio-economic conditions that have resulted from the crisis. The first opinion focuses on flexicurity, improving the quality of working conditions and facilitating worker mobility. It stresses the role of NRPs in delivering Europe 2020 and the need for multilevel governance arrangements in employment policies.

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<sup>20</sup> Report from the survey on Sustainable Water Policy available here: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/SustainableWaterPolicySurvey.aspx>; Opinion on The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water management - Nichi Vendola (IT/PES) (CdR 5/2011).

<sup>21</sup> Agenda for New Skills and Jobs (CdR 401/2010) Rapporteur Henk Kool (NL/PES).

<sup>22</sup> The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion ([CdR 402/2010](#)) Rapporteur: Christine Chapman (PES/UK)



The opinion on poverty and social exclusion stresses the need for further commitment to combating child poverty and calls on the Commission to strengthen the Social Open Method for Coordination and establish EU-wide guidelines on achieving Europe 2020 poverty targets.

Case-studies presented by respondents to the **surveys** carried out by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform focused on strengthening social service structures, measures aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion among vulnerable groups, assisting the disadvantaged to enter the labour market or awareness-raising campaigns. They describe projects implemented in partnership with other tiers of governments in various policy fields such as integration of immigrants, social inclusion<sup>23</sup>. Local and regional authorities are carrying out projects aimed at getting unemployed people (frequently long-term) back into work, often using innovative solutions. Initiatives aimed at boosting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g. children from an immigrant background) adopt a holistic approach (e.g. focusing on all spheres of their life and engaging all institutional actors).

## 2.5 Horizontal actions, economic policy coordination, the EU budget and cohesion policy

In 2011, the Committee of the Regions issued **opinions** covering some key horizontal topics related to Europe 2020. On the **single market**<sup>24</sup>, the CoR:

- called on the European Commission to review the Single Market Act to bring balance between its three pillars and to fully implement all the social advances established in the Lisbon Treaty;
- stressed the importance of services of general economic interest, calling for due regard for the subsidiarity and proportionality principles when it comes to State aid rules for such services;
- called for improved access for SMEs to public procurement through a sort of EU-wide procurement passport proving that their declarations and documentations are correct;
- stressed the importance of European and international mobility for local and regional authority staff, to help strengthen European identity and cohesion within the EU by circulating innovative and creative approaches.

On **cohesion policy**, the CoR stressed<sup>25</sup> that an independent cohesion policy is based on the Treaty and should be maintained, as it contributes to Europe 2020 through appropriate coordination mechanisms. The ESF should remain a structural fund and its territorial dimension should be strengthened. The Common Strategic Framework announced in the 5th Cohesion Report is the best means of ensuring unity of purpose. Re-nationalisation of cohesion policies, or their sectoral concentration, would clash with the multilevel governance principle.

About the **EU budget and new economic governance**, the CoR's main conclusions are:

- the impact of budget cuts should be minimised so that they do not affect key mechanisms that could help achieve the 2020 objectives<sup>26</sup>;

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<sup>23</sup> Final Report from the Quick Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" available here:  
<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/SurveyEuropeanPlatformAgainstPoverty.aspx>

<sup>24</sup> Towards a single market act ([CdR 330-2010](#)), Rapporteur Jean-Luis Destans (FR/PES)

<sup>25</sup> The future of the European Social Fund after 2013 ([CdR 370/2010](#)), Rapporteur Catiuscia Marini, President of the Umbria Region (IT/PES).

<sup>26</sup> Reinforcing economic policy coordination (CDR224/2010), Rapporteur: Konstantinos Tatsis (EL/EPP)

- Europe 2020 should not lead to a downgrading of other objectives laid down by the Treaties, particularly economic, social and territorial cohesion<sup>27</sup>;
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are important to Europe 2020, but they are not suitable to every context and decisions must be taken on a case-by-case basis. At least in the short-term, the Commission should also refrain from regulating on service concessions<sup>28</sup>.

In spring 2011, the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform launched a **survey on Anti-Crisis Policies in Regions and Cities two years on: public authorities working in partnership**<sup>29</sup>. Generally, respondents reported that the effects of the economic crisis, coupled with public debt reduction policies, were still being strongly felt at regional and local levels. The measure most frequently implemented was financial support for SMEs, followed by investment in R&D, support for industrial competitiveness, and measures to support the most vulnerable.

As this report is being finalised, the CoR is also drawing up opinions on legislative proposals for a new Multiannual Financial Framework and the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

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<sup>27</sup> The EU Budget Review (CdR 318/2010), Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (IT/PES) and Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (ES/EPP)

<sup>28</sup> Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships (CdR 21/2010) Rapporteur: Catarina Segersten Larsson (SE/EPP)

<sup>29</sup> Final Report from the Survey on Anti-Crisis Policies in Regions & Cities Two Years On: public authorities working in partnership available here: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/AntiCrisisPoliciesinRegionsCities.aspx>.

### 3. EUROPE 2020 GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

#### 3.1 The involvement of local and regional authorities in drafting the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes

In the view of the Committee of the Regions, **National Reform Programmes** should have been developed, drafted and implemented in cooperation with all tiers of government, if possible via the Territorial Pacts. Back in 2010, the European Commission, in its guidance to Member States on the implementation of the strategy and more specifically on its governance, tools and policy cycle, stated that local and regional authorities should be involved "in defining and implementing the National Reform Programmes". In March 2011, the Spring European Council agreed that the full involvement of the regions was needed to implement Europe 2020. Against this backdrop, Member States submitted their final National Reform Programmes in April 2011.

To evaluate the involvement of local and regional authorities in drafting the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes, the CoR asked its **national delegations** to respond to a tailor-made questionnaire<sup>30</sup>. This **survey** was carried out in May and June 2011. **22 heads of delegation** submitted their answers (Belgium submitted a written contribution without filling in a questionnaire)<sup>31</sup>, while further information on all 27 Member States was collected by means of an in-depth analysis of the NRPs themselves. Overall, results show that:

- a. in most cases, one-off meetings and/or submission of documents by LRAs took place at an intermediary stage in the preparation of the NRPs, which is largely what happened with regard to the old Lisbon Strategy, and had a rather limited impact on the final version of the NRPs;
- b. on the whole, this consultation mainly concerned issues that are quite traditional in the relationships between central governments and their LRAs (the Structural Funds, for example) although, sometimes, more specific Europe 2020-related issues were tackled as well (such as targets and policy measures);
- c. on a more encouraging note, however, some of the delegations stated that a number of the developments provided for reflected the CoR's territorial pact approach. Many others would like to have this approach incorporated into the national implementation of Europe 2020 and to have a closer partnership with their respective central governments.

#### *Regions and cities submitted contributions to their governments in preparation for the National Reform Programmes ...*

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<sup>30</sup> The First CoR Monitoring Report (published in December 2010) summarised the results of a survey conducted among CoR national delegations on the involvement of regions and cities in the preparation of draft National Reform Programmes (submitted in November 2010). Overall, information showed that work on the National Reform Programmes had started, but that much remained to be done to ensure that this work was carried out in partnership between all government levels. More information can be found at: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/2010/1stCoRMonitoringReport.aspx>, pp. 16 – 19.

<sup>31</sup> The CoR National Delegations from the following countries did not submit the questionnaire: Denmark, Spain, Hungary, Portugal and the UK (a questionnaire was submitted by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)). The desk-analysis of National Reform Programmes indicated the following: in Denmark and Spain, LRAs were involved in drafting programmes via associations: Local Government Denmark, which participated in a contact committee and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces; in Hungary, Portugal and the UK, some individual sub-national authorities participated in discussions and/or consultations: In all of these five Member States, some forms of opportunity to implement Europe 2020 in partnership were indicated. Please note that the above information comes from official national documents submitted in April 2011 to the European Commission and as such has not been verified and confirmed by representatives of local and regional authorities.

In 18 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), LRAs were involved through one or more associations representing them vis-à-vis their national government; in nearly half of the respondent countries, LRAs submitted individual contributions in parallel.

In **Austria**, ÖROK (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning) represents all tiers of government in the field of Regional Policy, while the Österreichischer Gemeindebund (Austrian Association of Municipalities) and the Österreichischer Städtebund (Austrian Association of Cities and Towns) represent the local level. The regional authorities (Länder) participated in the entire process themselves and through joint experts nominated by the Länder for specific areas. Also, several towns such as Bregenz, Linz, Wels, and Graz, were involved in drafting the NRP by submitting their contribution.

In **Ireland**, the main association of regional authorities involved was the Association of Irish Regions, representing the two (NUTS II) Regional Assemblies in Ireland: the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly and the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly. Moreover, the Irish Delegation to the CoR was identified as a regional stakeholder by the Irish Government and made specific contributions in cooperation with other regional stakeholders.

In **Slovenia**, local authorities were represented by the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia. Furthermore, as some parliament members are also mayors, regional players were also involved in drafting the NRP. One meeting was also held with the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia.

In **France**, the government's Secretariat-General for EU Affairs had proposed that regular meetings be held with the associations of local and regional authorities to discuss European issues having a direct impact on their activities. Such meetings were consequently held on the NRP, including one with European Commission representatives. The associations of cities and regions were consulted on some parts of the NRP, but some of them felt that the timeframe was too short.

In **Belgium**, Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region submitted their Reform Programmes, while the German-speaking community submitted contributions based on extracts from the government's General Policy Declaration for the German-speaking Community.

Desk research into the National Reform Programmes reveals that in **Portugal**, the Regional Governments of Madeira and the Azores presented Madeira 2020 and Azores 2020 respectively, while the Regional Coordination Committees of Lisbon and the Tagus Valley and the North drafted their own contribution: Lisbon 2020 and North 2020. In the **UK**, the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales submitted their contributions to the government in London.

*Source: Survey of CoR National Delegations on Contribution by the local and regional authorities to the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes.*

*... either in a written form or at one-off meetings at an administrative level.*

In 17 countries (Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia and Slovakia) this involvement took the form of a consultation. In 10 of these countries (Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania and Sweden), this consultation was based on political will alone and was not a legal obligation; in four cases (Cyprus, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia), it was a legal obligation only; in three cases (Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany) it was based on both a

legal obligation and political will. Last but not least, in three cases, negotiations took place on some aspects of the NRP (in Austria, e.g. on social issues and energy efficiency, Italy and Latvia).

Most frequently, these consultations took place at an intermediary stage in the preparation of the NRP and in around three out of four of cases, they took the form of submitting written texts (Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Slovenia) or participation in occasional meetings (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania and Sweden), mostly at an *administrative* level. Only occasionally were meetings held between *political* leaders (Cyprus, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden). In the case of five Member States (Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Latvia), representatives of local and regional authorities participated in permanent technical working groups.

In the **Netherlands**, the local and regional authorities produced a joint document, which the national government appended to its NRP.

In **Austria**, local authorities were involved in drafting the NRP by providing examples of best practice that had already been adopted and started up by the Länder and/or municipalities in order to contribute to the 2020 Strategy and to national targets.

In **Poland**, the players representing local authorities provided written documents (comments and/or proposals) - some voivodeships (provinces) separately, and - through the Convention of Marshals, jointly - on their own initiative. They also participated in round tables and other meetings between representatives from the administrative level, at the initiative of the Ministry of the Economy, which is responsible for implementing the Europe 2020 strategy.

In **Malta**, the Local Councils Association (LCA) attended a public meeting with other associations and, a few days later and at its behest, with the officials responsible for drafting the Europe 2020 strategy reform programme. After the meeting, the LCA sent a document in which it gave clear examples of the ways in which the regions and local councils could help implement the programme.

In **Ireland**, the one-off workshop was initiated by the regional stakeholders, inviting officials from key national ministries for a briefing and an exchange of views with regional politicians and officials, on the NRP process and the issues that needed to be addressed.

In **Austria**, representatives of the Länder asked to be actively involved in the process of drafting the preliminary NRP. During the procedure of drafting the final NRP, the Länder, the associations of local authorities and the social partners were invited to take part in coordination meetings and asked to send examples of best practice.

In **Belgium**, the regional authorities drew up their own regional reform programmes, which can be found in the NRP.

*Source: Survey of CoR National Delegations on Contribution by the local and regional authorities to the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes.*

***A broad series of topics was discussed, but in the end, only limited account was taken of the voices of regions and cities.***

12 heads of CoR national delegations (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia) stated that the LRA viewpoint was taken into account "to a limited extent", three of them (Estonia, France, Slovenia) "not at all", two (Luxembourg, Poland - only in the case of a proposal by some of the voivodeships) "substantially" and

one (Austria) "fully". Ultimately, the perception of a limited acceptance of the LRA viewpoint prevails (15 out of 18 answers).

The main topics raised during these consultations concerned the role of the Structural Funds (ten cases: Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland), the identification of tangible implementation measures (eight cases: Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland) and setting country-specific objectives in addition to the European ones (eight cases: Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland). In only seven Member States did consultation with local and regional authorities concern setting national targets contributing to the EU headline targets (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Malta, Poland).

In only four cases (Austria, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Poland) did joint documents summarise commitments given at all administrative levels. Joint monitoring of NRPs was provided for in 13 cases (Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia), without translating that into written agreements, however (with the sole exception of Malta).

In **Latvia**, procedural rules regarding the national development plan are currently being drawn up. These will define the structures that will ensure follow-up, as well as principles for coordinating the plan. The intention is to merge the NRP with the national development plan. The debate on these issues is still ongoing.

The **Irish** Delegation and other stakeholders are approaching the government (at the political and administrative level) to discuss what form the monitoring process will take and how the local/regional levels will play their part in the process.

*Source: Survey of CoR National Delegations on Contribution by the local and regional authorities to the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes.*

***Overall, no progress on governance compared to the Lisbon Strategy ...***

No significant differences were highlighted with the Lisbon Strategy process, with a couple of exceptions.

In **Austria**, during the procedure of drafting the final NRP the Länder (regions), the associations of local authorities and the social partners were invited to take part in coordination meetings and asked to send examples of best practice. Most of the Länder responded positively to this spirit of cooperation, which did not exist for the Lisbon (2000) or Growth and Jobs (2005) Agendas. Now the federal authorities are themselves extremely interested in holding a permanent dialogue with the local and regional authorities in order to develop the "European Semesters" jointly in future.

In **Finland**, when the Europe 2020 was drafted, a more extensive dialogue took place within a smaller circle of players.

In **Ireland**, the Permanent Representation adopted a more open approach and acted as a conduit for regional views and comments in the drafting process. Nevertheless, there is no commitment to a "permanent dialogue" with regional/local interests or to the multi-level governance of key economic policies.

In **Lithuania**, the role of local authorities has been provided for in the implementation of Europe 2020 and in funding from 2014-2020 Structural Funds. This is a very different approach to the one adopted for the Lisbon strategy, when local authorities were excluded from both the drafting process and implementation.

*Source: Survey of CoR National Delegations on Contribution by the local and regional authorities to the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes.*

***... however, a few Members States introduced some promising policy measures leading to the implementation of Europe 2020 in partnership.***

Last but not least: six heads of CoR delegations (Austria, Finland, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Romania) stated that some developments provided for by the NRPs did adhere to the CoR's territorial pact approach.

**Austria** has established experience in practical cooperation between the different tiers of government in the field of labour market policies. "Territoriale Beschäftigungspakte" (Territorial Employment Pacts or TEP) provide a setting that allows for better coordination between different sectoral policies (such as education, economic development, etc.) and empowers regional stakeholders to contribute. Different contracts for each of the nine Länder and also subregional arrangements are the outcome of cooperative negotiations with the federal level. TEPs help to formulate joint programmes and measures that address local needs. Although the establishment of efficient multi-level-governance procedures and routines took some time, the results of the TEPs prove their effectiveness. To keep on track with new developments, contracts are reshaped and updated on a regular basis.

In **Luxembourg**, the "State-Municipality climate pact" (drawn up and presented, but not yet implemented) was planned as part of the national environment and climate partnership. It is intended to provide municipalities with a legislative, technical and financial framework for their targeted action to combat climate change.

The **Polish** counterpart of territorial pacts will be territorial contracts, in which the issue of coherence between regional, national and European policies, including the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, will be discussed. According to a representative of the Polish government participating in an Open Days debate (October 2011), 16 territorial contracts in Poland will lead to greater cohesion, complementarity and synergies in regional development. They will be financed from both national and local budgets, as well as EU funds. The main steps towards territorial contracts' implementation are the analysis of the planned activities, the identification of thematic areas to be supported within

territorial contracts – topics currently under discussion – and of specific projects to achieve the set objectives, and the negotiations between the government and the regional authorities<sup>32</sup>.

In **Romania**, the draft NRP for 2011-2013 refers to territorial pacts promoted by the CoR. A consultation meeting with the relevant central institutions was held at the beginning of May (Department for European Affairs at the Ministry of Administration and the Interior and the National Authority for the Coordination of Structural Funds). The results of the consultation showed that, due to the complexity of concluding territorial pacts at the national level, one possible solution might be to pilot territorial pacts with certain local administrations particularly keen on contributing to national EU 2020 targets. The discussion has continued in the second half of 2011.

*Source: Survey of CoR National Delegations on Contribution by the local and regional authorities to the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes.*

### **3.2 Europe 2020 governance: results of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform's survey: Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground**

#### **3.2.1 Knowledge of National Reform Programmes and opinions on the Europe 2020 targets**

##### **Knowledge of National Reform Programmes among respondents is relatively high**

With around seven out of ten of respondents being "fully" or "substantially" aware of their respective NRPs, local and regional administrations participating in the platform's survey seem to be relatively well informed about how their national governments plan to move ahead with Europe 2020. Less than 5% of respondents were completely unaware of their NRPs.

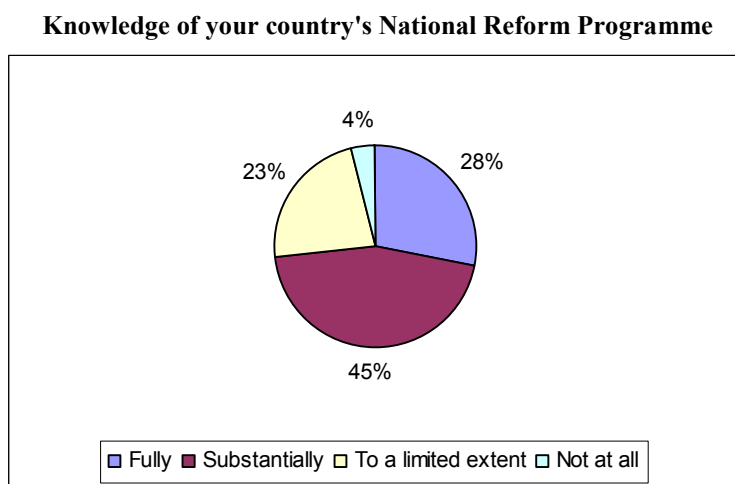


Chart 3.1: Knowledge of your country's National Reform Programme: In general, to what extent are you familiar with your country's NRP plans to achieve the Europe 2020 goals? n= 91

##### **... and the majority of respondents find their national targets appropriate.**

When aggregated (i.e. combining answers concerning all eight targets), in slightly more than half of the cases, respondents found the quantitative national targets appropriate for their territories. In

<sup>32</sup>

For more information visit, <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/OpenDays2011.aspx>.



general, respondents were more likely to see the targets as not ambitious enough (18%) than as too ambitious (13%).

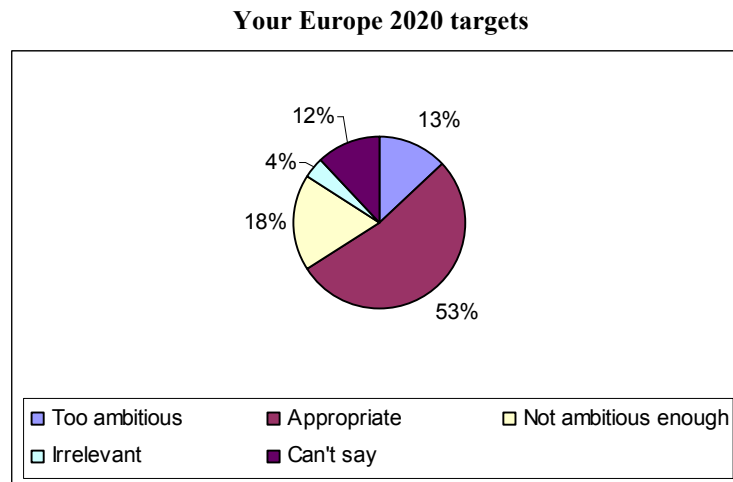


Chart 3.2: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority? n=658, (numbers aggregated from questions about all 8 targets)

Nearly one out ten respondents saw *all* eight quantitative targets as appropriate for their local situation<sup>33</sup>. Around half of the respondents found *at least half* of targets to be appropriate. Again, nearly one out of ten respondents found *none* of the national targets to be appropriate.

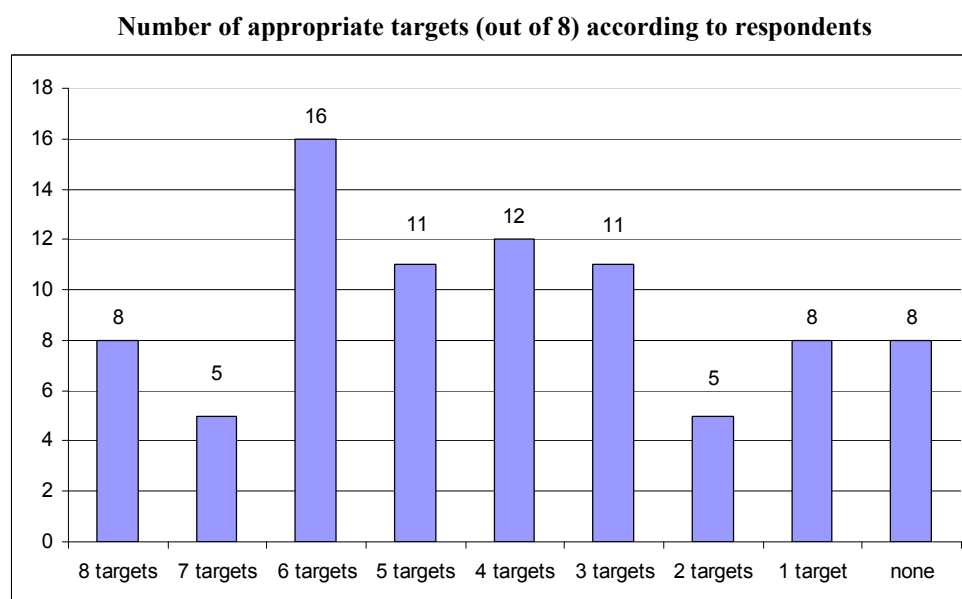


Chart 3.3: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority? Number of respondents replying "appropriate", n=84

According to respondents, the appropriateness of targets differed slightly from area to area, with the level of support ranging from 40% (R&D in % of GDP and reduction of the population at risk of poverty) to over 60% (renewable energy, reduction of early school-leaving). In the case of employment and R&D targets, at least one out of five respondents found their national commitment

<sup>33</sup>

Some respondents highlighted that their view should be considered against the backdrop of limited administrative responsibility for measures aimed at achieving these goals. In these cases, they tended to answer "irrelevant" or "can't say".

too ambitious. On the other hand, over 20% of respondents deemed three targets to be not ambitious enough (i.e. CO<sup>2</sup> emission reduction targets, reduction of the rate of early school-leaving and reduction of the population at risk of poverty).

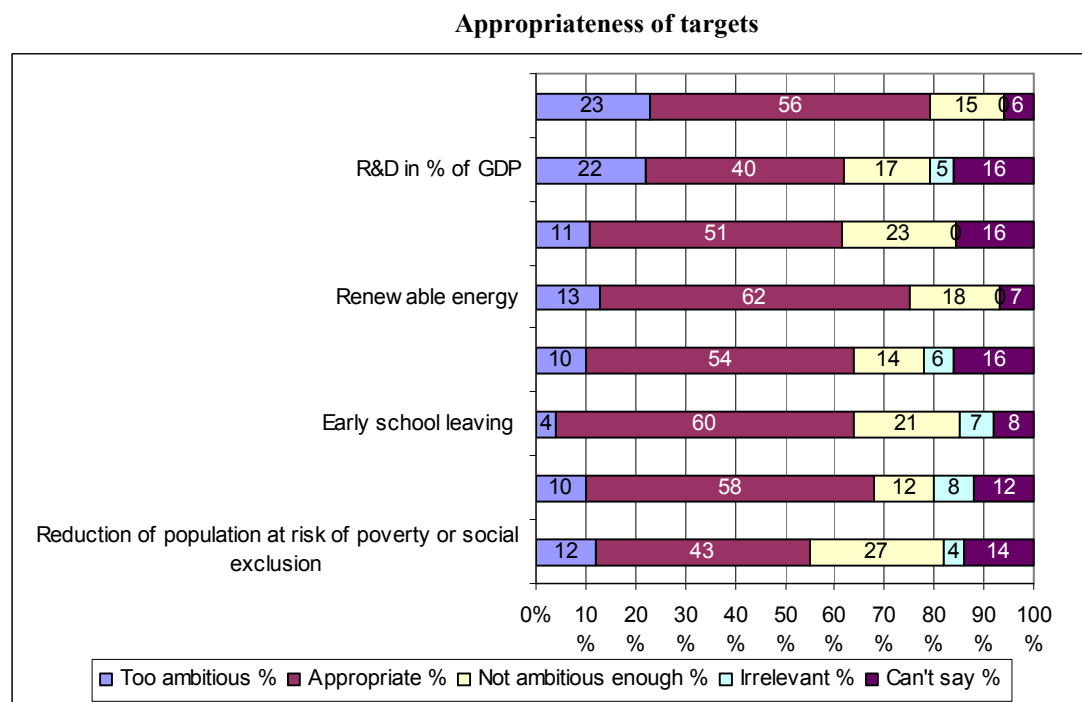


Chart 3.4: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority? n=82-84

More results concerning the respondents' views on policy targets are included in Chapter 4.

### 3.2.2 Targets and indicators relevant to Europe 2020

The respondents call for indicators presenting a more accurate sub-national snap-shot, measuring the genuine impact of measures and emphasising other policy areas. Over four out of ten respondents suggest that other indicators should be used to reflect the specific situation of their territory.

Many respondents highlight the urgent need for indicators that take into account specific territorial characteristics, e.g. natural handicaps, the specific nature of the area (urban/rural) and access to resources. At least a dozen representatives of local and regional authorities call for sub-national targets (e.g. for the employment rate, investment in R&D, etc.).

**Flanders** has prepared its own Flemish Reform Programme Europe 2020, which was approved by the Flemish Government on 1 April 2011. The Flemish Reform Programme outlines its own ambitious targets, which are underpinned by Flemish measures. The Flemish targets have also been incorporated into Belgium's National Reform Programme. Specifically, the Flemish Government is committed to achieving the following by 2020:

- securing an employment rate of 76% for the 20-65 age group;
- investing 3% of GDP in Research and Development;
- giving priority to reducing the percentage of early school-leavers to 5.2% and to raising the percentage of 30-34 year olds with a higher education qualification to 47.8%;
- contributing to the 20-20-20 targets outlined in the EU Climate and Energy Package.

Flanders has signed up to the intra-Belgium agreement in this area. In terms of energy use, Flanders aims to achieve a 9% reduction in energy use by 2016 compared with the 2001-2005 base period. In addition, Flanders has also set its own target (13%) for the share of renewable energy in the electricity supply by 2020.

- striving to achieve a 30% reduction in poverty and to halve child poverty.

Flanders has paid closer attention to certain issues and drawn up more ambitious (sub)targets in a number of different areas. Accordingly, Flanders plans to halve child poverty and has also targeted specific groups under the target for the employment level. *Source: Flemish Region (BE), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**Eskilstuna Municipality (SE)** has developed its own strategic targets with measurable indicators, on the basis of Europe 2020 strategy:

Higher education - 40% of young people completing higher education, the number of students with degrees, in 16 subjects - 85%, average grade points for students who leave high school, the proportion of inhabitants aged 20 with access to university – 65%, percentage passing the national tests in a given study year, children per staff in pre-school, children's assessment of how much fun it is in pre-school, assessed safety.

Ecological sustainability - per capita CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, per capita electricity consumption, proportion of newly built low-energy houses, proportion of journeys to work and school; on foot, by bicycle, public transport; proportion of environmentally-certified schools, the proportion of organically-farmed land, the amount of waste for incineration, energy consumption per employee, energy for missions by car, the proportion of ecological food - 40%, the proportion of environmentally certified work-places -100%.

More jobs - employment rate - 75%, unemployment - 5.7%, wages and salary per employed person, the proportion of young people with summer jobs while growing up, urban planned area, the number of jobs in new businesses, the number of households receiving income support for more than 3 months, the percentage who have received employment education and training and have a job after 6 months. *Source: Eskilstuna Municipality (SE), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

In general, the lack of sub-national statistics may either hinder policy planning or work at the local/regional level. For instance, as one of the respondents wrote: "(...) if targets are considered only when aggregated, many of the challenges faced by regions will be hidden by the figures for the larger cities."

Indicators should measure outcomes, and not only outputs. Higher employment rates will not guarantee quality jobs for everybody (including the disadvantaged), higher investment in G&D will not ensure that it is targeted at the most desirable areas (e.g. sustainable growth) and that there is strong link between innovative products and patents on the one hand and industrial production chains on the other, and the increased number of graduates will translate automatically into better labour market performance.

Respondents also proposed other indicators. As some cities or regions are more severely affected by demographic change than others, this phenomenon should be properly reflected in statistics. Many

respondents call for "beyond GDP" indicators<sup>34</sup> (e.g. well-being), with questionnaires listing some further indicators necessary to reflect reality: the Gini coefficient (the inequality of distribution of income or wealth), access to healthcare, culture, biodiversity, socio-spatial segregation, entrepreneurship, the number of SMEs per 10 000 inhabitants. In particular in cross-border regions, migratory movements have a major impact on the socio-economic situation.

On the other hand, several respondents highlighted that any other targets should be considered as complementary to the selected number of EU headline targets – the latter should not be expanded, to ensure that the political focus remains on commonly agreed priorities.

**Umbria Region** has developed a multidimensional indicator which makes it possible to evaluate, according to the latest available data, the activities and scenarios concerning innovation, development, welfare, social cohesion and environmental quality in Umbria. The multidimensional indicator comprises more than 40 indicators, divided into 7 areas: the economic production system, the labour market, the environment, social cohesion and security, education and training, innovation and research and health. Umbria considers that it would be useful to develop a similar indicator for each Europe 2020 target in order to evaluate their success. This idea was presented at the conference entitled *New indicators: measuring progresses in the cohesion policy* organised in April 2011 by the CoR's Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER) and Umbria Region<sup>35</sup>. *Source: Umbria Region (IT), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### **The local and regional approach to National Reform Programmes**

According to the majority of respondents, National Reform Programmes have either already had or will soon have some impact on their local and regional activities. Around half of the respondents, however, describe the impact of NRPs as only "to a limited extent". Only for one out of ten among those who responded to the survey, have NRPs been substantially relevant to establishing more ambitious policy goals and actions. For one quarter of respondents, NRPs have not been at all relevant to their goals and actions.

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<sup>34</sup> In 2010, the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform produced a thematic survey entitled "GDP and beyond", a summary of contributions is available at: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/BeyondGDP.aspx>

<sup>35</sup> For more information, visit the CoR website: [http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/CommissionDetailTemplate\\_COTER.aspx?view=folder&id=45122b9c-fd9f-467f-9bc4-36709614d72c&sm=45122b9c-fd9f-467f-9bc4-36709614d72c](http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/CommissionDetailTemplate_COTER.aspx?view=folder&id=45122b9c-fd9f-467f-9bc4-36709614d72c&sm=45122b9c-fd9f-467f-9bc4-36709614d72c)

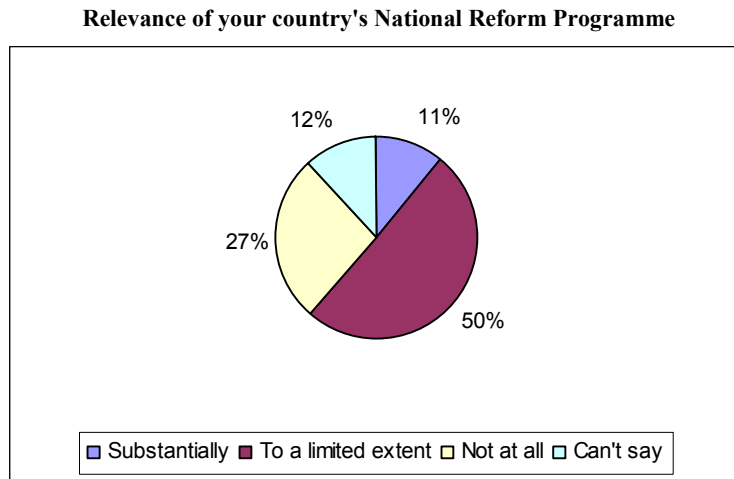


Chart 3.5: Relevance of your country's National Reform Programme: To what extent has your country's National Reform Programme encouraged your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions? n=85

When asked about policy changes in their local and regional programming, only around one-third of respondents said that they either have modified or are planning to modify their local/regional policies as a consequence of the new policy actions set out in the NRP.

**Modification of your local/regional policy following the adoption of a National Reform Programme**

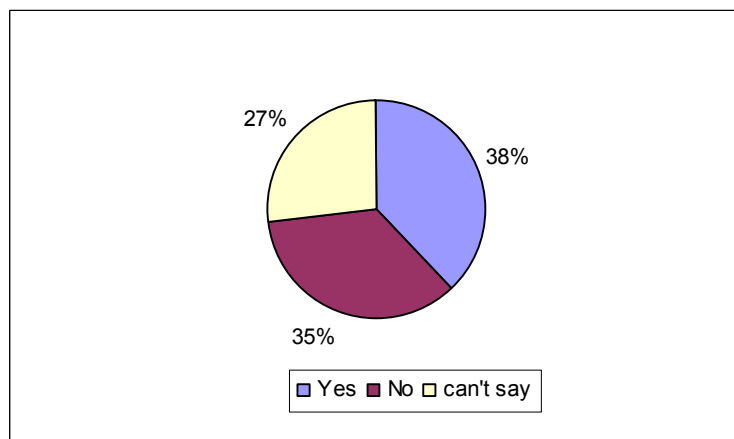


Chart 3.6: Have you modified or are you planning to modify your local/regional policies as a consequence of the new policy actions set out in your country's National Reform Programme? n=86

**Respondents highlight some constructive effects that their NRP may have on their actions on the ground ...**

When asked to provide more details, regions and cities gave the following evidence of the link between the NRP and their local and regional actions:

- The NRP identifies the main macroeconomic challenges and accurately reflects the current domestic socio-economic situation in the EU and globally.
- The NRP has led to the modification of some regional policies aimed at achieving the main Europe 2020 goals (e.g. regional innovation strategies, regional development strategies and regional competitiveness strategies). Local and regional authorities take their own objective as a starting point and analyse new EU initiatives through this prism, e.g. the potential of flagship initiatives and of NRPs is carefully studied in view of

possible adaptation of local projects. On the other hand, some respondents found Europe 2020 itself to be more relevant to their actions on the ground than the NRP drawn up by their government.

- Regions and cities set their own goals in line with national targets.
- Both Europe 2020 and NRPs are considered to be sources of policy inspiration for local programming currently under development.
- Having been inspired by their NRPs, some regions and cities will try to ensure maximum coordination in areas shared between different tiers of government.
- There is a significant level of commitment among some regions and cities to ensure that their local and regional actions aim to reach both the EU headline and national targets. A few respondents explicitly acknowledged being already strongly committed to closely monitoring the progress made on gearing their regional policies towards national targets.
- In countries such as Belgium, the NRP was drawn up in coordination with federal bodies, and incorporated reforms and actions laid down at the national, regional and community levels.

**Aligning the city budget and action plan with the Europe 2020 strategy in Solna, Sweden**

The City of Solna works towards the vision of a “Sustainable Solna”, a city combining strong economic growth with respect for the environment and sound social development. The city’s operational control model is based on four components: vision, prioritised areas, orientation objectives and outcome objectives. The prioritised areas are supporting components of the concept of sustainability; economic growth, living environment, security, safety and care, knowledge and lifelong learning. Within the prioritised target areas, 10 orientation and 56 outcome objectives have been drawn up. The overall vision and the prioritised target areas are very much in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and the Municipal Executive Board, on behalf of the City Council, have decided that the strategy will be integrated into the city’s budget and action plan. When the board, committees, offices and units draw up their objectives, they should align them with the Europe 2020 strategy and the Swedish national reform programme, which provide an important framework for the implementation of local policy. The flagship initiatives should be given careful consideration. Work has just started and will be developed during the coming years, hopefully in cooperation with other administrative levels and in a European context. Funding is so far within the city budget.

*Source: City of Solna (Sweden), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**... although many representatives of local and regional authorities did not see much added value in their NRP.**

Respondents holding sceptical views on their National Reform Programmes gave the following comments:

- In some countries, the NRP is not considered to be a strategic document but rather a follow-up document for the Commission – in this context, it cannot be applied by LRAs.
- The timing of the NRP does not fit in with territorial planning - some regions and cities might have already approved their long-term local and regional strategies and the national guidance comes too late. As one respondent put it, "the new policy actions set out in the NRP will only be taken into account once the regional development strategy is modified".

- Some LRAs that consider initiating the process at the local level face limited access to information and the lack of support from the national level.
- A number of respondents were not satisfied with the way in which their NRP had been drawn up or with how actions are to be implemented, and consequently did not feel committed. They also referred to the low degree of "ownership". Furthermore, as one representative of a local authority stated: "(...) although the town council agrees with some of the objectives which have been set, it essentially disagrees with the way indicated for achieving them".

### 3.2.3 Europe 2020 implementation in partnership

Around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of respondents are optimistic about the opportunities for designing and/or implementing Europe 2020 policies in partnership with their national governments and/or other levels of territorial administration. There is considerable ambition among LRAs and they stress their strong and continuous commitment to working with their national government on Europe 2020. Each level should contribute, proportionally - both politically and financially – to achieving the targets.

As always, however, the devil lies in the detail, and greater effort is needed to ensure joint coordination of actions at all tiers of government. In some cases, cooperation among all levels of government has been inherited from the Lisbon Strategy era and might be the result of a country's administrative set-up (as in Belgium and Germany, for example).

Most cases of multi-level governance have a thematic approach (i.e. covering one policy field) and not a comprehensive scope (as suggested by the Committee of the Regions in its proposal on Territorial Pacts).

Several respondents stated that the partnership approach is mainly due to the traditional way in which the EU Structural Funds have been managed or to "horizontal" networking between public authorities at the sub-national level, rather than to multi-level governance agreements involving national governments.

In some cases, local and regional representatives' high degree of motivation has not been met with a constructive attitude on the part of central government.

According to the **Trencín Self-governing Region (SK)**, Slovakia's autonomous regions wish to discuss with the government the possibility of concluding a Territorial Pact. To date, however, the government has not involved these regions in preparing the country's draft framework position for the EU's 2014–2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. Until now, only the ministries have drafted this document, with neither the autonomous regions nor the government's socio-economic partners having any involvement. *Source: Trencín Self-governing Region (SK), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

On the more progressive side, in several Member States, the national level has already initiated the process of drafting multi-level governance arrangements with a view to achieving the Europe 2020 goals.

Several respondents from **Poland** acknowledged the potential for territorial contracts aimed at achieving the more coordinated implementation of policies designed to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives (more information on territorial contracts can be found in Chapter 1.1)

As the Romanian government has only recently started its work on territorial pacts (see Chapter 1.1 for more details), no respondent from **Romania** provided detailed comments on this partnership-based approach to implementing Europe 2020.

Regions and cities referred to several thematic areas (including innovation policy, the digital agenda, climate change and social inclusion) in which they either currently work or are about to start working in cooperation with their national government.

**Flanders, (BE)** was fully involved in the drafting of Belgium's National Reform Programme, along with the federal government and other communities and regions. Flanders also presented its own regional Flemish Reform Programme, with the ambitious EU 2020 targets and concrete measures to achieve these objectives. Belgium has, since the Lisbon Strategy, had a tradition of cooperation on drafting the national reform programme.

On the basis of a cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of the Economy, **Riga City Council (LV)**, is now working closely with the Ministry on implementing the energy efficiency campaign.

*Source: survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

There have already been dozens of opportunities for LRAs to work at the sub-regional level (cities from one region cooperating among themselves), the regional level (a regional authority cooperating with its cities and provinces), and at the supra-regional and cross-regional levels. Respondents also stressed the importance of working with private stakeholders.

**Innova Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency (HU)**, is planning to work together with local and regional governments on S3 strategies.

**Belfast City Council, (UK)**, is currently developing a Digital Belfast strategy, which will be aligned with the Digital Europe flagship initiative.

At present, the regional authorities of five voivodeships (Western Pomerania, Lubuskie, Lower Silesia, Wielkopolskie and Opolskie) are working on the **Strategy for Western Poland 2020**. The agreement of 26 August 2010, signed with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development, provides for the adoption of common, strategic (for the whole macroregion), supra-regional projects in the areas of communication, the information society, science and its cooperation with industry, energy security, flood defences, spatial planning and urban development, and tourism.

Žilina Self-governing Region (SK), the Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ), the Silesian Region (PL) and Opole Region (PL) joined together, at their own initiative, in a new, higher-level cross-border cooperation arrangement, drafting a joint cross-border strategy document covering selected areas and goals compatible with those Europe 2020 strategy objectives common to all four regions. To achieve these goals, the regional authorities are also setting up the **TRITIA European Group for Territorial Cooperation**, a legal entity whose role will be to coordinate implementation of the cross-border strategy that has been drawn up.

The aim of the **Galicia-Northern Portugal European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation** is to promote cross-border cooperation between Galicia and Northern Portugal



on a series of strategic approaches and projects based on the Europe 2020 strategy. All of its projects have been carried out in partnership with public and private bodies and institutions, municipal authorities and mayors from the Galicia-Northern Portugal Euro-region. The policy areas of joint initiatives cover innovation (e.g. cooperation with research institutes), sport (e.g. support for joint sporting activities in the Euro-Region), resource efficiency (e.g. joint management of cross-border installations), entrepreneurship, skills and mobility (e.g. a study on “Labour mobility in the Galicia-Northern Portugal region”).

*Source: survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

More examples of thematic projects implemented in partnership are provided in Chapter 4.

### **3.2.4 The multilevel coordination needed to fund Europe 2020**

Local and regional authorities in the EU are funding policies related to Europe 2020 through a varied mix of European, national, regional and local sources. In some cases, public-private partnerships (PPPs) also bring some private funding.

All of these sources are based on policy programmes whose starting point and duration may be very different from one another (e.g., cohesion policy programmes; other EU programmes, covering research and development, innovation, SMEs, amongst other things; National Reform Programmes; regional and local programming documents).

The only funding channels which are present in virtually all situations are the EU Structural Funds, which confirms their crucial role in funding the new strategy.

Sometimes, as the economic, financial and debt crisis cuts heavily into local and regional budgets, LRAs have to face difficult trade-offs between priorities linked to specific situations and Europe 2020 objectives. Therefore, some respondents stressed that the excessive thematic concentration of Structural Funds expenditure has to be viewed with caution.

Overall, the survey seems to show that coordination between EU, national and territorial policies - and related funding - is now deemed to be more important than ever. Therefore, respondents welcome proposals such as Partnership Contracts and Common Strategic Frameworks for R&D and the Structural Funds.

Against this background - and given that the main programming documents involved (NRPs, cohesion policy programmes and EU programmes funding research, development, innovation and SMEs) refer to different time spans - Territorial Pacts paving the way for Partnership Contracts seem all the more necessary to coordinate, rationalise and simplify the Europe 2020 legislative environment.

#### **4. REGIONS AND CITIES CONTRIBUTING TO SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

##### **4.1 Smart growth – developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.**

The purpose of the smart growth priority is to strengthen knowledge and innovation as drivers of our future growth. Targets for smart growth include:

1. combined public and private investment levels to reach 3% of EU GDP as well as better conditions for R&D and Innovation
2. A 75% employment rate for women and men aged 20-64 by 2020 – achieved by getting more people into work, especially women, the young, older and low-skilled people and legal migrants
3. better educational attainment, in particular by bringing school drop-out rates down to below 10% and ensuring at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds have tertiary-level education (or equivalent).

To boost sustainable growth, these targets have been translated into three flagship initiatives: *A Digital Agenda for Europe*, *Innovation Union* and *Youth on the Move*.

In 2011, the Committee of the Regions adopted several opinions on the priority of smart growth.

##### **The point of view of LRAs, outcomes of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?***

The results of the MP survey on *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that more than half of respondents find their NRP's target for smart growth appropriate. 22% of respondents believe that the targets for R&D and Employment rate are too ambitious and 20% believe that the target for early school-leaving is not ambitious enough.

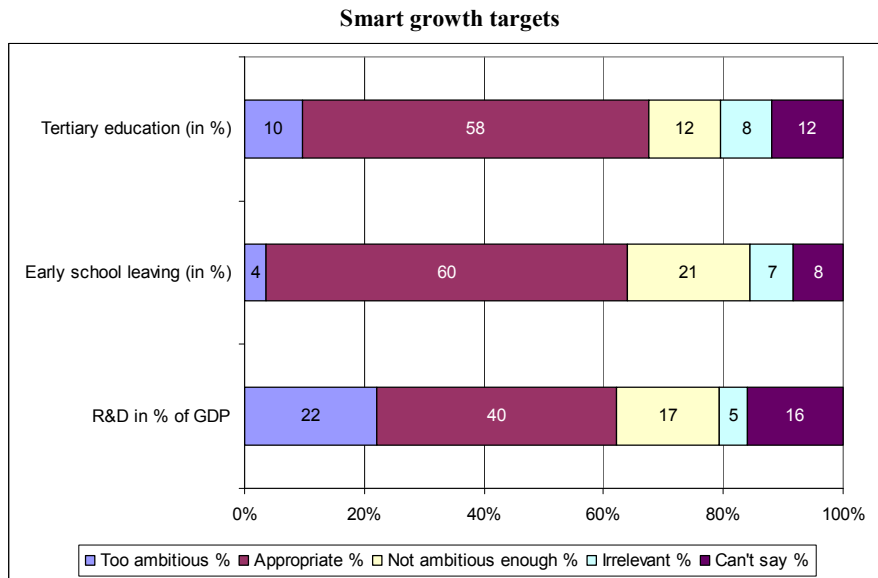


Chart 4.1: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets (as stated in the NRP: you can consult them [here](#)<sup>36</sup>) appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority?

Some examples of local and regional contributions to achieving the above-mentioned targets.

#### ***Emprender en mi Escuela (EME) (Starting a business at my school)***

EME is an educational programme aimed at primary school children, in which boys and girls set up and manage a cooperative during the school year, manufacturing products which are sold once a year in the local market. EME encourages the development of skills associated with communication, analysis of the physical environment, creativity, cooperation and citizenship and the acquisition of digital skills. The general objective of EME is to disseminate a culture of entrepreneurship among children, promoting conduct and attitudes conducive to cooperation, coordination, conflict-resolution, problem-solving and the taking of responsibility. This project is coordinated jointly by the Department for Universities, Business and Research and the Department for Education, Training and Employment. The programme is in keeping with the 2020 strategy, since it talks about smart growth and the need to ensure "that innovative ideas can be turned into new products and services that create growth and quality jobs and help address European and global societal challenges". It adds that "to succeed, this must be combined with entrepreneurship, finance, and a focus on user needs and market opportunities". *Source: Murcia Region (ES); survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Productive learning**

The aim is to reduce the number of early school-leavers and those leaving school with no qualifications. The project is geared towards school pupils who are willing to pursue their learning path individually and independently as part of learning an everyday social profession. The main target group is school pupils for whom the usual curriculum offers fewer opportunities for fostering and developing their skills, thereby jeopardising their school-leaving qualifications. The curriculum is flexible, to allow for the award of vocational qualifications (the basic "Berufsreife", the more specialised "Berufsreife mit Leistungsfeststellung" (vocational training certificate offering the possibility of further training) and the intermediate school leaving certificate ("Mittlere Reife") after schooling of between two and four years. The costs of promoting this in the 2005-2013 period are in the region of EUR 10 million (ESF and Land funding). After 2013, the requisite funding will be

<sup>36</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf).

provided by the Land. *Source: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (DE); survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Sustainable City Learning Centre**

The aim is to provide the public with an organisation, infrastructure and tools dedicated to the subject of sustainable cities (bringing these together in one place for the first time), to optimise access to knowledge, promote the circulation of ideas, share knowledge and stimulate exchange. Work was due to begin in October 2011 and will take two years. The creation of the Sustainable City Learning Centre supports the Europe 2020 strategy, as it promotes growth which is smart (learning about sustainable cities), sustainable (promotion of sustainable development) and inclusive (all audiences are welcome). However, this forum for sustainable cities relates particularly to the implementation of three flagship initiatives: a) the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs (lifelong learning on sustainable cities); b) Innovation Union (fostering innovation in the field of sustainable cities) and c) A Digital Agenda for Europe (the Learning Centre offers not only books but also sound recordings, photos and films in digital format). The documentation centre will also be networked with other facilities and offer remote access to documents. The implementation of the policy in the Dunkirk region is the fruit of joint consultation between the authorities of the Nord-Pas de Calais Region and the Urban Community of Dunkirk, with a view to carrying out the national Plan Campus policy. The creation of the Sustainable Development Learning Centre brings into play several of the guidelines of the French National Reform Programme (to support research and development and the knowledge triangle, promote education and lifelong learning and foster a more efficient use of resources) and helps achieve the objectives set by the French government. *Source: Dunkirk Urban Community, (FR), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **4.1.1 Flagship initiative: A Digital Agenda for Europe**

A Digital Agenda for Europe<sup>37</sup> was the first flagship initiative to be published, with the final version appearing in August 2010.

The overall aim of the Digital Agenda is to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultra-fast Internet and interoperable applications.

In autumn 2010, the European Commission carried out what was known as the *Going Local exercise*<sup>38</sup>, right after the publication of the Digital Agenda. The overall objective of the DAE Going Local exercise was to target the main stakeholders in each Member State in order to (1) raise awareness about the DAE, and (2) generate support for DAE actions.

#### **Opinion on the Flagship Initiative - A Digital Agenda for Europe**

<sup>37</sup>

European Commission, A digital agenda for Europe, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions; COM(2010) 245 final/2, Brussels, 26.8.2010

<sup>38</sup>

The overall objective of the DAE Going Local exercise was to target the main stakeholders in each Member State in order to (1) raise awareness about the DAE, and (2) generate support for DAE actions. [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm)

The CoR welcomes this flagship initiative<sup>39</sup>, stressing its overall aim of delivering sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultra-fast Internet and interoperable applications. It notes that, as the main recipients of the agenda's recommendations, local and regional authorities can play a key role in its implementation. The CoR stressed that implementation of the Digital Agenda for Europe cannot be separated from the development of lifelong learning and human capital and the measures needed to promote them.

The results of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that the large majority of respondents are fully or substantially aware of this Flagship Initiative.

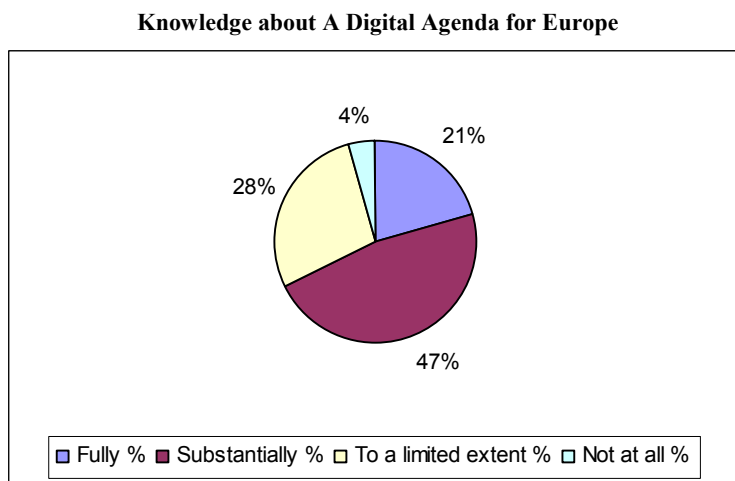


Chart 4.2: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the following Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Regarding the relevance of the flagship initiatives, 42.5% of respondents found that the flagship initiative A Digital Agenda for Europe provides an opportunity for their local and regional authorities.

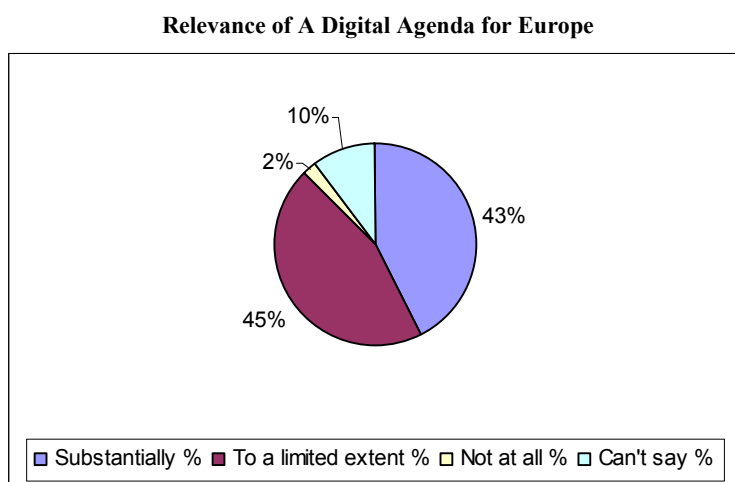


Chart 4.3: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

The survey's respondents detailed a number of cases related to the initiative.

<sup>39</sup>

Digital Agenda for Europe, CdR 104/2010 fin, Rapporteur. Markku Markkula (FI/ EPP)

### **Introduction of eGovernment in the Vysočina region**

The project's goal is to implement various forms of eGovernment in the Vysočina region through funding from the integrated operational programme. The aim is to reform public administration in an innovative way by taking the following action: a regional technology centre and network infrastructure, a digital plan for the regional public administration, digitisation and data storage, the internal integration of the region's ICT and the development of the region's data storage. Target groups include the regional government, local authorities and organisations set up by the region and the local authorities and, indirectly, civil organisations and the business sector, as a result of improved public action. All measures will be implemented by 2014, and information on this action can be found on the region's website. [www.kr-vysocina.cz/it](http://www.kr-vysocina.cz/it) Since 2009, this action has been the subject of planning and coordination at both national level (the Interior Ministry of the Czech Republic) and at local level (local authorities and regional organisations). Regular coordination has taken place at regional level through a working group comprising ICT specialists in the region. The regional authorities are kept fully informed about the group's activities and approve its key measures, including projects, documents and strategies. *Source: Vysočina Region (Krajský úřad Kraje Vysočina), (CZ), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### **Development of ultra-fast broadband**

As the first region in Europe to achieve 100% high speed broadband coverage, Auvergne has won the first round in the fight against the digital divide. A first hurdle was overcome by everyone living in the region in March 2009. The region's digital development is therefore underway, through the state-backed deployment of ultra-fast broadband networks under the digital strand of the French "grand emprunt" [major loan] funding scheme and as part of the recently adopted "schéma directeur d'aménagement numérique" (SDTAN) digital action plan. The president of the Auvergne region, René Souchon, compares the advent of ultra-fast broadband to the arrival of the railway in the 19th Century, describing it as the only way to give all regions equal development opportunities, since fibre-optic cable is set to replace telephone copper wire and provide the unlimited high-speed exchange of information. But this requires new infrastructure and heavy investment. Rural and urban areas are not competing on a level playing field. The challenge is to deploy fibre-optic cable fairly throughout the region, with the aim consequently being to allow the region's population to benefit from this increase in broadband speed. Deploying ultra-fast broadband networks means providing everyone with unlimited access to knowledge, education, health services and public services and to entertainment and leisure activities. *Source: Auvergne Region (FR), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### **Information Society Infrastructure**

This policy action aims to increase internet access and the use of IT technologies in the economy, in the public sector and in the social sphere. Although the action is being rolled out across the whole region, priority is given to projects carried out in rural areas and small towns. The main beneficiaries of this action are local government bodies, higher education centres and businesses. Approximately 6% of programme funds have been allocated for this purpose, out of a total of EUR 62 192 522. This action was selected and planned in collaboration with other public bodies such as the Ministry for Regional Development and the European Commission (in line with the rules for the preparation of operational programmes for the years 2007-2013). Moreover, a working group was set up at regional level to help draft the Warmia and Mazury Regional Operational Programme for the years 2007-2013, which brought together representatives of local government, NGOs and experts from the academic and business world. Website: [www.rpo.warmia.mazury.pl](http://www.rpo.warmia.mazury.pl)

*Source: Marshal's Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Olsztyn, (PL) Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### ***Opinion on Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth and a public-private partnership on the future internet***

The CoR opinion<sup>40</sup> welcomes the Commission's communications on *Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits*<sup>41</sup> and *economic growth* and on *A public-private partnership on the Future Internet*<sup>42</sup>, given that utilising the digital dividend and developing the Future Internet can make a major contribution to bridging the digital divide and achieving the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy, while meeting some of the key social, cultural and economic needs of the people of Europe. It also reiterates that e-inclusion is of crucial importance to achieving the goals of the i2010 initiative – aimed at *A European information society for growth and employment* – and thus the Lisbon goals on socio-economic development.

The CoR stresses the importance of local and regional authorities – as recognised in the i2010 strategy for a European information society – as they are the driving force of economic growth at the local level and generate, use and own many digital information products and services; in certain Member States, they are also the competent authorities in this field and should thus be fully and effectively involved in the governance of the information society.

#### **4.1.2 Flagship initiative: *Innovation Union***

Innovation is a cornerstone of the Europe 2020 strategy, and is defined by the European Commission as “the successful production, assimilation and exploitation of novelty in the economic and social spheres.”<sup>43</sup> The European Commission’s ultimate aim is to extend its strategic approach to innovation across all of its policy areas. The Innovation Union flagship is considered to be the key communication for achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. It aims to improve conditions and access to finance for research and innovation in Europe, to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.

The Innovation Union focuses on major areas of concern to citizens, such as climate change, energy efficiency and healthy living. It pursues a broad, balanced concept of innovation, both technological innovation leading to efficiency gains in production processes and the improved performance of products and innovation in business models, design, branding and services that add value for users. It

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<sup>40</sup> Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth and a public-private partnership on the future internet, (CdR 14/2010), Rapporteur: Jean-François Istasse (BE/PES)

<sup>41</sup> European Commission, Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions, COM(2009) 586 final, Brussels, 28.10.2009

<sup>42</sup> European Commission, A public-private partnership on the Future Internet, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions COM(2009)479 final, Brussels, 28.10.2009

<sup>43</sup> European Commission, Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions, COM(2010) 546 final, Brussels, 6.10.2010

includes public sector and social innovation as well as commercial innovation. It aims to involve all players and all regions in the innovation cycle.

The results of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that with regard to the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, more than half of the respondents stated that they have a substantial or full knowledge of it.

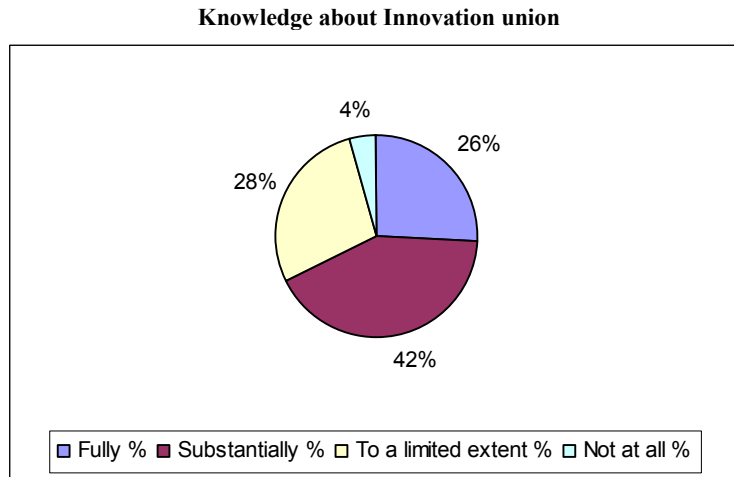


Chart 4.4: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the following Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Regarding the relevance of the flagships, the majority of respondents found that the flagship provides an opportunity for their local and regional authorities.

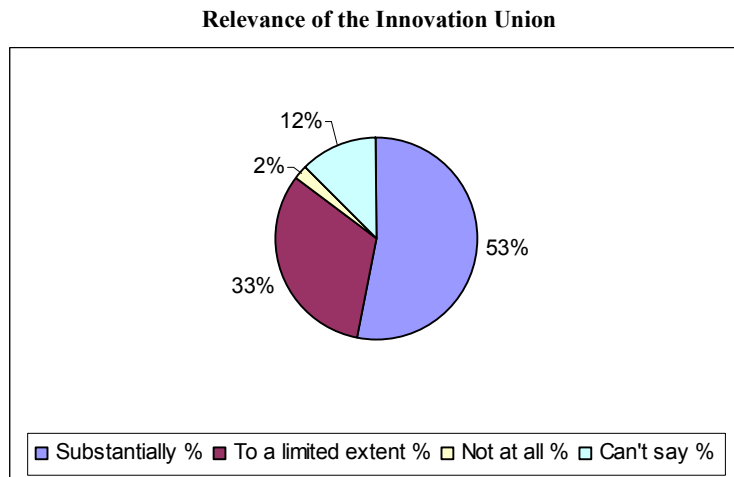


Chart 4.5: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

Local and regional authorities provided examples related to this flagship initiative.

#### **Regional Innovation Committee of Crete (PSKK)**

The Regional Innovation Committee of Crete (PSKK) is a new body set up by a decision of the Regional Governor of Crete in January 2011 to provide advice to the regional authorities. The purpose of the PSKK is to draw up, propose and coordinate measures to promote innovation and strengthen competitiveness, serving as think-tank for the region of Crete. The PSKK can set up ad hoc working groups tasked with suggesting matters to be addressed. These matters are either recommended for



discussion or selected for discussion by the Committee based on the priorities and strategy of the region. The Committee comprises representatives of organisations or an individual nominated by them, and is an open forum. The PSKK is expected to make a significant contribution to bringing to fruition the Crete region's vision, which is to create a strong and constantly-evolving knowledge economy based on technological innovation. The aim is to enhance Cretans' quality of life and promote sustainable development, while ensuring respect for the environment and local culture in line with the more general strategy of Europe 2020. The Committee's proposals for implementation by the end of 2011 include: setting up a Business and Innovation Network (DEKA) that will provide information and support to business and form a network of existing stakeholders; announcing "innovation awards" for businesses and students in the region; collecting studies and systematically distributing them to interested parties. The Europe 2020 flagship initiatives to promote smart growth, in particular the *Digital Agenda* and *Innovation Union*, are among the strategies that prompted the setting-up of the PSKK. Effective coordination and ongoing support from national and European instruments under these initiatives will enable the region of Crete to make better use of available funding and to promote local and regional development that will be planned with the cooperation of local stakeholders on the basis of local priorities. *Source: Crete Region (EL), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Innovation Örebro**

Innovation Örebro is a smart initiative for innovation clusters in the Örebro region (Sweden), where smart cooperation between the public and private sectors and the university supports hospitality projects (Grythyttan) and blasting technology (Karlskoga). The aim is to make Örebro a world leader in these two spheres by getting all regional operators to focus jointly on these two areas of innovation. *Source: Regional development council of Örebro (SE), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Clustering of specific scientific topics: Clean Tech, Medical Delta**

This project's aim is to cluster specific scientific strongholds that are relevant to universities, research institutes, local and regional authorities in Delft, Rotterdam, Leiden (and to a certain extent The Hague) (The Netherlands). In the field of clean environment and medical research, the parties concerned work together much more closely than they did before the EU 2020 Strategy. Combining forces fosters the creation of strong and specialised regional clusters. Both will be part of the post-2013 programming period. Medical Delta has led to the creation of the European Health Ties network initiative and stimulated further European cooperation that benefits Delft and the region. Both Clean Tech and Medical Delta fit in perfectly with the Innovation Union flagship. Those actions have been planned and implemented in partnership between municipalities, provinces, universities, research institutes, medical centres and private companies. The Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide a framework that can be referred to, whenever opportune in political or policy-related terms. They provide starting points and offer benchmarking opportunities. They also go some way towards achieving the challenges to be met by 2020. *Source: City of Delft (NL), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Transfer of knowledge in the region through the development of cooperation networks**

The main aim of this action is to boost cooperation between academia and business to promote the growth of R&D institutions in the Western Pomeranian voivodeship (Poland). Specific goals include: the creation of institutional infrastructure to serve cooperative ventures between science and industry; higher quality of service with regard to knowledge transfer between academia and industry; the creation of information infrastructure enabling cooperation between academia and industry and adapting employment to make it easier to reconcile working life and family. These objectives are to be

achieved over the life of the project. Support will be available for individuals from the following institutions: business institutions (especially technology transfer centres, science, technology and industry parks, technology incubators and companies, regional and local development agencies etc). The action has been planned and implemented in cooperation with business and higher educational bodies. *Source: West Pomerania (PL), Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**Regional innovation partnership (Call for proposals launched in the framework of the ERDF Operational Programme for the Puglia Region 2007-2013)**

The initiative is geared towards two main objectives: supporting business innovation activity and strengthening links between the different actors of the regional innovation system. It therefore promotes the creation of technological public-private partnership for the regional research & innovation agenda and contributes to the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives. Beneficiaries of this project are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and also research centres, which must fund between 10% and 50% of the project's costs. For research institutions, at least 10% of the staff costs must be used for hiring researchers aged under 35, while for SMEs the staff cost could be used to second senior researchers (with a minimum of 5 years professional experience in R&D) who have been employed for at least two years in the industry or research centre. These members of staff must not replace ordinary staff. Financial support is divided into two categories: projects corresponding to the industrial development and experimental development priorities identified by the "Regional Productive Clusters" and other projects. *Source: Puglia Region (IT); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**Opinion on the *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - Innovation Union (research and innovation plan)***

The CoR opinion on the Innovation Union Flagship<sup>44</sup> reiterates the CoR's support for reaching the targets on competitiveness and innovation by 2020 and recognises that in order to achieve these targets, continued investment in education and training needs to be provided. The opinion recognises the importance of balancing technological, social and public sector innovation, and of thinking creatively about how to bring previously disparate disciplines together to see if new ideas can emerge. It also underscores the role that university partnerships must play in bringing research results to the market through the integration of higher education, research and business and notes in this regard the importance of a supportive local and regional environment. In its opinion, the CoR values the key role of research infrastructure in knowledge-based innovation systems and welcomes in this respect the new concept of Regional Partner Facilities.

The opinion also notes that it is absolutely vital for all job skills to be upgraded and matched to labour market requirements, so that innovation does not lead to net job losses. Defining smart specialisation in a given area depends not only on an appreciation of a region's own strengths and weaknesses, but also on an appreciation of threats and opportunities in other regions and continents.

The opinion underscores the potential role of schemes such as EGTCs and territorial pacts; it stresses the importance of close cooperation between those responsible for the Innovation Union and the Committee of the Regions. One way of increasing cooperation between different regions is to

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Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - Innovation Union (research and innovation plan) (CdR 373/2010), Rapporteur: Roger Knox (UK/EA)

introduce procedures whereby less-developed regions can access and use relevant research knowledge and applications from different parts of Europe, with support from the Structural Funds, for example.

#### **Technology Valorisation Programme**

The Technology Valorisation Programme was developed to bridge the gap between the results from basic R&D and the implementation of the results of this research in industry or on the market. Over the last decade, the quality and quantity of research in Catalonia has grown exponentially, generating considerable knowledge with a high potential for application in the industrial sector, but instead of reaching the market, this technology stayed in the labs uncommercialised. ACCIÓ (Catalan business competitiveness support agency) decided to boost the technology transfer activity of the universities and public research centres in order to make the Catalan market more competitive. The Technology Valorisation Programme was developed as an action to respond to a problem faced by the Catalan Innovation System. There was a large increment in the scientific knowledge production that had no real impact, either on the industrial field or on the economy. After three to four years of the programme, the results and success stories are remarkable, in terms of more companies licensing technology arising from public research. New technology-based companies are also being created, most of which are growing and receiving private investment. These aspects have had a positive impact on the objective of achieving the 3% of GDP required by the EU. *Source: ACCIÓ - (the Catalan Agency for Innovation and Internationalisation (ES), survey: Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Opinion on the Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding**

This Green paper aims to launch a broad public debate and receive feedback on the key issues for the future EU research and innovation funding programmes.

The CoR opinion points out that industrial, social and environmental innovation, together with innovation in services, is crucial for leveraging European competitiveness, which will help strengthen territorial cohesion.

The opinion also calls for local and regional authorities to be closely involved in the preparation of legal frameworks and funding programmes related to public procurement and notes the potential role of the EGTC. The requirement proposed in the Innovation Union for Member States and regions to set aside dedicated budgets for innovation-related public procurement could have far-reaching impacts on municipalities and regions; the upcoming follow-up should include a careful assessment of the possible financial and administrative burden on local and regional authorities, as well as the social effects and other benefits. Public-sector funding has a role in boosting private investment; robust and transparent risk management are essential when both public and private funds are involved.

The opinion stresses that the current Community research budget, which is only 4% of that of publicly funded research in Europe, is inadequate. It is vital, on the one hand, to increase the Community research budget and, on the other, to better integrate national programmes and the European Research Framework Programme. A real challenge for the Commission and the regions is to create synergies between different funding instruments in order to be able to implement the Europe 2020 strategy.

#### **Opinion on Simplifying the implementation of the research framework programmes**

This opinion<sup>45</sup> highlights the direct link between the rules and procedures that apply to the 7th EU research framework programme, its attractiveness to prospective participants and the quality of the research performed. Complexity is itself a major source of error or anomaly, and there is a need for rules to be applied in a uniform manner and for controls and audits to be coordinated.

The opinion welcomes the intention of the European Commission to provide more unique IT tools for EU research, education and innovation programmes. It acknowledges the importance of distinguishing between error and fraud, and of fostering a culture of integrity and trust. Effectiveness should be judged not just on the achievement of excellence in research activities, but also on the building of research capacities and absorption potential across all EU territories, in line with the principle of territorial cohesion.

The opinion supports on-going efforts at coordination between the Structural Funds and Framework Programmes, but notes the need to better develop consistent rules, procedures and practices, and to coordinate calls for proposals. This should also include the option of using Structural Funds resources to co-finance projects supported with funds from the research framework programme. Structural Funding could be used to support projects that have met all of the excellence criteria in the FP evaluations. Such pathways between programmes could be two-way, with projects developed under the Territorial Co-operation programme, for example, having easier access to FP programmes.

### **Opinion on *Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries***

In this opinion,<sup>46</sup> the CoR welcomes the fact that with the Green Paper on "Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries" the Commission has launched a European debate on the conditions needed to improve the creative and innovative environment in Europe in order to stimulate the potential of cultural and creative industries, which are generators of growth and employment. It points out that creative and cultural industries can play an important role in meeting economic social objectives at local and regional level in Europe. The CoR emphasises that, in the post-crisis economy, culture can play a role in creatively meeting social policy objectives by fostering innovation as a way to achieve social outcomes.

Culture and art can trigger behavioural changes and have the power to create new social relationships to motivate people to use their abilities to be creative. The Committee observes that in most Member States, local and regional authorities are responsible for the sectors mentioned in the context of cultural and creative industries, especially culture, research, education, tourism and employment. The CoR stresses that successful implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy's flagship initiatives– the Digital Agenda and others – requires a bold, innovative approach, and here the role of the creative industries is, in particular, to generate multidisciplinary and multicultural solutions. For this, Europe needs open-minded, pioneering players at local and regional level to create social innovations and the global business activity they help to engender.

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<sup>45</sup> Simplifying the implementation of the research framework programmes (CdR 230/2010), Rapporteur: Fiona O'Loughlin (IE/ALDE)

<sup>46</sup> Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries (CdR 181/2010), Rapporteur: Ursula Männle (DE/EPP)

#### 4.1.3 Flagship initiative: *Youth on the Move*

Youth on the Move (YotM)<sup>47</sup>, which is one of the 7 flagship initiatives forming part of the Europe 2020 strategy, was launched on 15 September 2010. YotM aims at helping young people to gain the skills they need to secure their first job.

Specifically, Youth on the Move proposes 28 key actions designed to make education and training more relevant to young people's needs and to encourage more of them to take advantage of EU grants to study or train in another country. These are all intended to increase young people's employability and access to the labour market.

The impetus behind these action lines is the Europe 2020 strategy, whose headline targets include the following goals:

- the share of early school leavers should be reduced to under 10% by 2020;
- at least 40% of the population aged 30-34 should have completed tertiary or equivalent education by 2020; and
- 75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed by 2020.

Youth on the Move embodies the recognition that Europe's future prosperity depends on its young people, and acknowledges that quality education and training, successful labour market integration and greater mobility among young people are fundamental to achieving the 'Europe 2020' objectives.

The results of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that, where the YotM Flagship Initiative is concerned, half of the respondents claim to have a substantial knowledge of it.

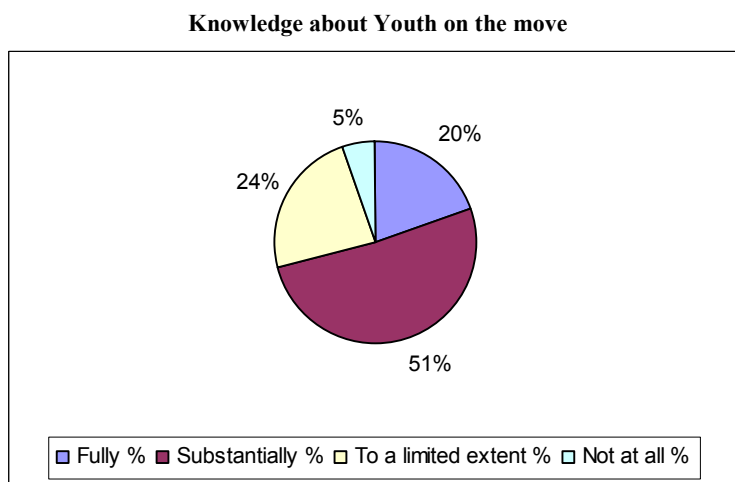


Chart 4.6: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the following Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Regarding the relevance of the flagships, 43% of respondents found that the flagship provides an opportunity for their local and regional authorities.

<sup>47</sup>

European Commission, Youth on the Move. An initiative to unleash the potential of young people to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions, COM(2010) 477 final, Brussels, 15.9.2010

**Relevance of Youth on the move**

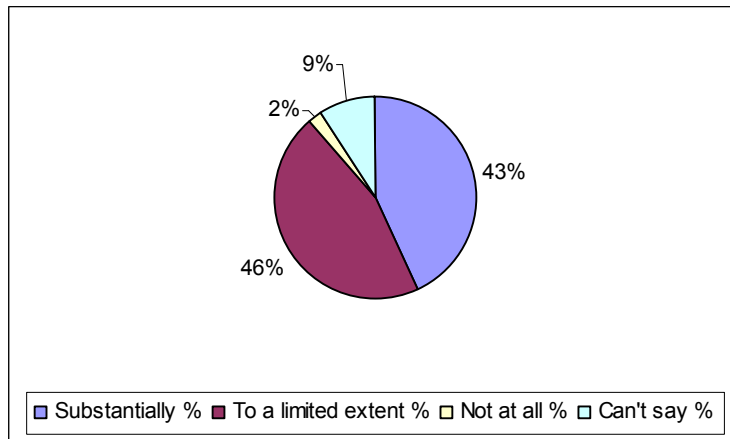


Chart 4.7: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

Local and Regional authorities provide case studies related to this flagship initiative.

#### ***Pack jeune adulte (young adult pack)***

This strong commitment is now being put into practice after months of work, during which the region's young people (16-30 age group) were consulted on their key expectations (Autumn 2010) before the young adult pack was jointly developed with all youth stakeholders in Auvergne and particularly, the local authorities concerned (Winter-Spring 2011). *Source: Auvergne Region (FR), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Opinion on *Youth on the Move***

In this opinion<sup>48</sup> the CoR fully supports the objective of improving young people's knowledge, skills and experience to facilitate their entry into the labour market and exploit their potential to the full, thereby making it possible to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Committee points out, however, that education is about more than simply improving employability, and should have the broader goal of developing the person as a whole. The CoR also highlights the close link between poor achievement at school and socio-economic disadvantage, which are key determinants for the number of young people neither employed nor in education or training. Breaking this cycle is a challenge for local and regional authorities across Europe and must be seen as a priority within this initiative.

The CoR also endorses Member States' and local and regional authorities' flexible use of the European Social Fund to assist young people. This is particularly relevant to achieving the Europe 2020 objectives.

#### **Uusimaa as a European Entrepreneurial Region 2012 (Finland)**

The aim here is to promote entrepreneurial skills amongst young people. The target groups are Uusimaa's young entrepreneurs and businesses. The expected outcome is that young people's interest

<sup>48</sup>

Youth on the Move (CDR292/2010), Rapporteur: Marc Schaefer (LU/PES)

in entrepreneurship will have increased. The measure will be implemented over the course of 2012. The budget is EUR 1.1 million (ESF 75%) plus development funds from the regional level of EUR 0.6 million for EER projects. In addition to Uusimaa Region, the EER working party includes Aalto University, Laurea – University of Applied Sciences, Culminatum Innovation Oy Ltd and entrepreneurs in the Uusimaa region. The EER board, made up of representatives from the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the region's municipalities, universities and business associations, will create, monitor and guide implementation of the year's activities. this cooperation between universities, educational institutes and business associations involves regional agreement characteristics. Both the Innovation Union and Youth on the Move projects provide strong support for implementing EER measures in the Uusimaa region. *Source: Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (FI), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?, [www.EER2012.fi](http://www.EER2012.fi)*

#### **4.2 Sustainable growth - promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy**

The purpose of the sustainable growth priority is to make Europe one of the greenest economies in the world. Targets for sustainable growth include:

1. reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels by 2020. The EU is prepared to go further and achieve a 30% reduction if other developed countries make similar commitments and developing countries contribute according to their abilities, as part of a comprehensive global agreement
2. increasing the share of renewables in final energy consumption to 20%
3. moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency

To boost sustainable growth, those targets are translated into two flagship initiatives: *An industrial policy for the globalisation era* and *A Resource Efficient Europe*.

In 2011, the Committee of the Regions adopted a number of opinions and a Resolution on sustainable growth as a priority.

The CoR Resolution on the Durban climate change talks<sup>49</sup> was adopted on 12 October 2011. In this resolution, local and regional authorities express their strong commitment to mitigate and adapt to climate change, stressing that sub-national authorities now need "equal recognition in the post-Kyoto Protocol agreement" and to be "empowered and equipped with resources and given access to funding" to help them continue to turn the rhetoric into practical advances on the ground.

#### **The point of view of LRAs, outcomes of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?***

The results for the MP survey on *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that more than one-half of the respondents find their NRP target on sustainable growth appropriate. It is interesting to note that one-fifth of them believe that these targets are not ambitious enough.

#### **Your sustainable growth targets**

<sup>49</sup>

Resolution of the Committee of the Regions on The Road to Durban: Towards the 17th United Nations Conference on Climate Change, adopted on 12 October 2011 (CDR269-2011)

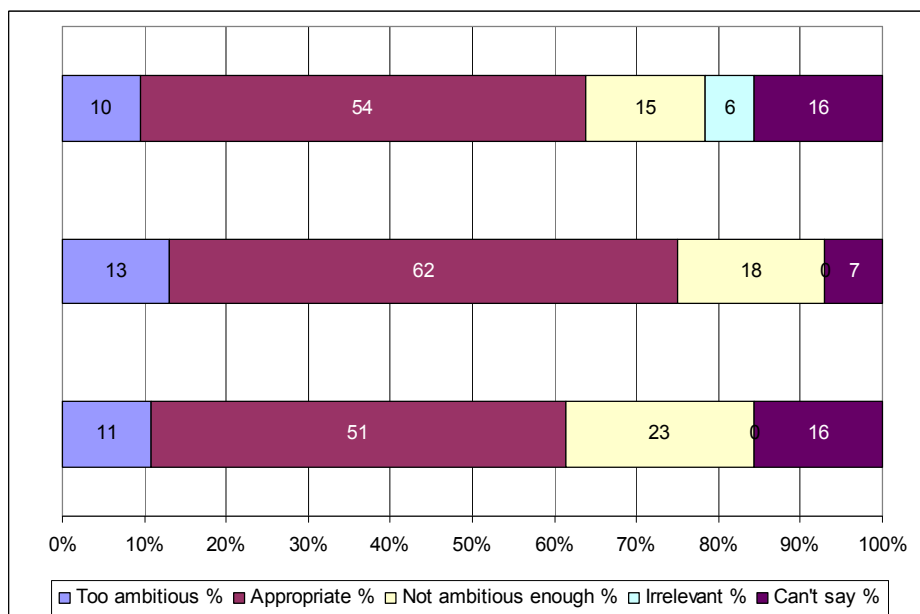


Chart 4.8: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets (as stated in the NRP: you can consult them <sup>50</sup> [here](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf) ) appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority?

This might apply to local and regional authorities that are ready to commit themselves to overcoming their national targets as shown in some of the following examples.

#### A zero emission region: the Hohenlohe-Odenwald-Tauber (H-O-T) Bio-Energy Region, Germany

The Hohenlohe-Odenwald-Tauber (H-O-T) Bio-Energy Region is a joint project of the three counties of Hohenlohe, Neckar-Odenwald and Main-Tauber. The region is one of only 25 in Germany designated 'bio-energy model regions' by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). The overarching goal is to make the whole area a zero-emissions region. Efficiency and sufficiency measures have been linked and – as well as bio-energy – due consideration is being given to the integration of other forms of renewable energy. The H-O-T Bio-Energy Region wants to move ahead with expanding use of renewable energies. Sustained support by the three counties and the new spirit of cooperation between them (the comprehensive material flow management concept) offers the best opportunities for H-O-T to create regional jobs, bring in measures to protect the climate, boost added value in the region and provide security for a future-oriented energy supply structure. H-O-T is working with network partners to implement individual projects and all regional players are involved in a comprehensive network. Website: [www.bioenergie-hot.de](http://www.bioenergie-hot.de). Source: *Landratsamt Hohenlohekreis (Baden-Württemberg); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### Skåne Region, Sweden

CO2 emission reduction targets (Skåne's target is a 30% reduction by 2020. The target for Sweden is a 40% reduction by 2020, so for us the target is appropriate). Renewable energy - We do not have an equivalent target in Skåne, however, given that only around 13% of the electricity used in Skåne is generated here, with the rest being imported, and that the mix for the electricity we import is therefore dependent on Norway's electricity mix. 50% is an ambitious target that we will have difficulty

<sup>50</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf)



achieving in Skåne). Energy efficiency - Skåne's target relates to energy use, but corresponds to around a 33% reduction in energy intensity, compared with a target of 20% for Sweden as a whole. i.e. a higher target in Skåne, which is why we believe the national target is not ambitious enough); *Source: Region Skåne; survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Harghita County Council, Romania**

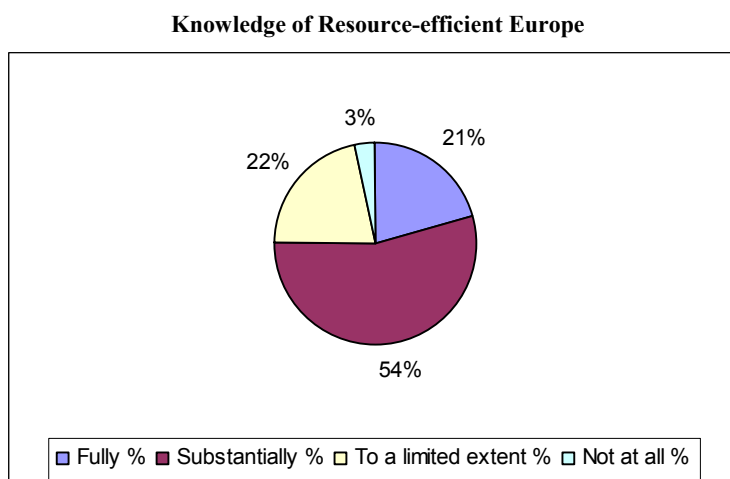
To reflect the specific situation of our territory, other indicators should be used, such as indicators on the quality of natural landscapes, which are one of Harghita county's main assets. Such indicators could include the ratio of natural and forested areas, biodiversity and other environmental indicators. Indicators on public health would also be useful. *Harghita County Council; survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### **4.2.1 The Flagship Initiative: *A Resource Efficient Europe***

Under the Europe 2020 strategy, the flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe points the way towards sustainable growth and supports a shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy. The flagship initiative<sup>51</sup> was published on 26 January 2011. The initiative provides a long-term framework for action, supporting policy development in relevant areas such as agriculture, climate change, environment, energy, transport, industry, fisheries, and regional development, with the aim of ensuring that the concept will be mainstreamed into all the other sectoral policies.

One of the building blocks of this initiative is the European Commission's Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe,<sup>52</sup> a Communication adopted on 20 September 2011.

The results of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative, in spite of being one of the last initiatives published, has ultimately become one of the best-known, with 75% of the respondents claiming to have a full or substantial knowledge of it.



<sup>51</sup> European Commission, A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 strategy, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions; COM(2011) 21 Brussels, 26.1.2011

<sup>52</sup> European Commission, Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of The Regions, COM(2011) 571, Brussels, 20.9.2011

Chart 4.9: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the following Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Regarding the relevance of the flagships, almost half of the respondents felt that the Resource Efficient Europe initiative provides an opportunity for their local and regional authorities.

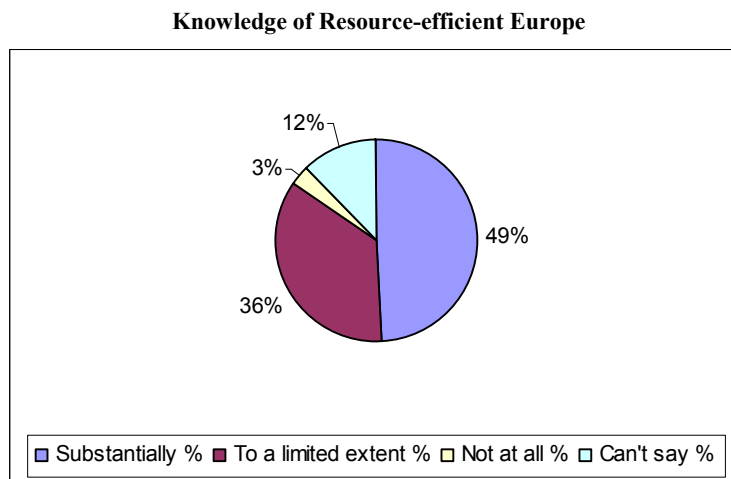


Chart 4.10: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

### Opinion on A resource-efficient Europe – A Flagship initiative of the EU 2020 Strategy

In its opinion on Resource Efficiency,<sup>53</sup> The CoR affirms that local and regional authorities will lead the way in driving the sustainable agenda of Europe 2020 and expresses its alarm "that the European Union is currently engaged in a course of risky and non-viable development, production and consumption; as noted by the Commission in its flagship initiative, "Continuing our current patterns of resource use is not an option".

This opinion issues both recommendations on the involvement of the CoR and local and regional authorities in the future governance of the relevant Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative, and comments on the European Commission's Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe. The opinion points out that the success of the Europe 2020 strategy will depend largely on decisions taken at local and regional level; The CoR has previously said in this regard that it advocates including a reference in the NRPs to creating territorial pacts for Europe 2020 in the form of multi-level partnerships between EU, national, regional and local authorities.

The CoR calls for the timeframe of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe to be tightened and advocates adopting the indicators as early as 2012. The European Commission should consider adopting a "basket" of the four main resource-use indicators: the land footprint, the use of raw materials (biodiversity, biological and mineral resources), the water footprint and the greenhouse-gas footprint.

<sup>53</sup>

A resource efficient Europe – Flagship initiative of the EU 2020 Strategy - Rapporteur Michel Lebrun (BE/EPP) (CdR 140/2011)

In particular, the European Commission should make these indicators an integral part of the national reporting system for Europe 2020 and its related Flagship Initiative, so that they guide the national reform programmes and budget preparations.

The following are practical examples of local and regional authorities committed to measuring progress and developing indicators for resource efficiency that can fit local circumstances.

#### **Indicators of Local Transition to a Low Carbon Economy in the Benelux countries**

This project aims to establish key indicators for an area-based transition to a low carbon economy in Benelux. The objective is to establish measurable indicators for Benelux and its component countries that can provide information over time on the transition to low-carbon economic and industrial activities dealing with two elements: job-creation and economic development in specific areas of growth and sustainable development. The project creates an international network of labour market areas where robust development strategies for the transition to a greener economy are taking place. The project will be carried out under the auspices of the OECD LEED Programme. The Benelux Working Group on Regional Economic Policy (including 3 countries and regional authorities) will function as an overall supervisory platform for the Benelux partners regarding the project's realisation. Under this Working Group, a committee of experts, including national representatives, OECD delegates and local experts, will monitor the project at an operational level. The OECD, Benelux Union and Benelux partners are joining forces to try to increase the level of basic knowledge on this topic through a Benelux project within the framework of the LEED programme. The project will focus in depth on two cross-border areas along the borders of the Benelux countries: The "bio-based economy" cross-border cluster (in the provinces of West Flanders (BE), East Flanders (BE), Antwerp (BE), Zeeland (NL) and North Brabant (NL) and the border area of the Pôle Européen de Développement-Longwy/Belval [Longwy/Belval European Development Pole]. The total budget for the project will be provided by the Secretariat-General of the Benelux Union. *Source: Benelux; survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Calculating the carbon footprint of Kavala Municipality**

The objective of this project is to improve energy efficiency in the region governed by Kavala Municipality and to promote a sustainable low-carbon model. The action was launched following the decision of Kavala's mayor, Konstantinos Simitsis, to actively involve the municipality in the Covenant of Mayors. When the study is completed in spring 2012, we believe that on the one hand both municipal stakeholders and the citizens of Kavala more generally will be better informed about the practical measures required and the real prospects opening up in the sphere of sustainable development, and that on the other the conditions will have been met and foundation laid for fair access to funding that is sufficient to support the implementation of projects that will change the development of the municipality. The action in question was designed and is being implemented in cooperation with the main knowledge stakeholder in the region, the Democritus University of Thrace, and aims to use local human resources. In so far as the NRP places greater emphasis on sustainable development, such actions are now extremely useful for any municipality that is interested.

*Source: Municipality of Kavala (Δήμος Καβάλας); survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

The opinion points out that, "as with Europe 2020, the work of local and regional authorities in driving the resource-efficiency agenda on the ground cannot be ignored, and expanding successful networks of sub-national authorities such as the Covenant of Mayors to include all resources should be a priority."

Moreover, the CoR regrets the roadmap's failure to mention the possibility of involving the Covenant of Mayors in efforts to achieve resource efficiency and proposes to consider, jointly with the European Commission, specific ways of extending the Covenant to include key areas of the *Resource Efficient Europe* Flagship Initiative, such as biodiversity and land use, waste and water management or air pollution.

**The Sustainable Development Pact (Le Pacte de développement durable) of the Seine-Maritime Department (France)**

The Sustainable Development Pact is an agreement concluded by the Department of Seine-Maritime with a number of communities for the implementation of actions, operations, policies, experimental and/or exemplary good practices through the prism of sustainable development issues. The agreement is at once a programme of political and operational action at local and county level, a tool for strategic management and integration, a county-level commitment and a multi-annual funding priority. Awareness sessions and training on sustainable development were organised for local politicians throughout the first half of 2009 to help them understand the real issues of Sustainable Development. From the second half of 2009 onwards, with coaching, they have been able to get involved in "building sustainable" selected local projects. *Source: VI Territorial Dialogue*

**Marshall Plan 2.Green (Plan Marshall 2.Vert) for Wallonia**

Extension of the Marshall Plan, Marshall Plan 2.Green mobilises the Walloons to redeploy their economic space in an approach based on sustainable development under the Europe2020 strategy. Hundreds of actions are being carried out in six main areas. Since 2005, Wallonia and the French-speaking Community have mobilised on the ground all economic, academic and public players. Together, they have worked to stimulate economic development and establish a framework for the creation of jobs and activities. The Marshall Plan 2.Green consolidates and extends this dynamic. It continues and develops the actions of leadership and being part of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development. In total, this second plan will involve nearly EUR 3 billion for the redeployment of Wallonia and the French-speaking Community from 2010 to 2014. *Source: Contribution of CoR Belgian Delegation at the survey PNR-EUROPE 2020*

Finally, the opinion recommends specific actions that aim in particular at moving towards low-carbon, resource-efficient transport and energy systems, promoting green public procurement, achieving a zero-waste society through optimising waste prevention and seeing waste as a resource within a circular economy; promoting substitution and resource efficiency in the raw materials value chain; using ecosystem services efficiently, protecting and restoring them, and reducing the extent of existing soil sealing wherever needed.

In this opinion, the CoR stresses that Resource Efficiency cannot be seen exclusively as an European issue and calls for the OECD Declaration on Green Growth adopted in June 2009 to be adopted as soon as possible and encourages the European Union and its Member States to support the achievements of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and to adopt its Green Economy Initiative.

**Survey on *The role of regional and local authorities in promoting a sustainable water policy***

The European Commission will carry out a review of EU water policy by 2012 as part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy; a 'Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Water Resources' will comprise an analysis of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, a review of the EU Strategy on Water Scarcity and Droughts, and a review of the vulnerability of environmental resources (water, biodiversity, soil) to climate change and anthropogenic pressures.

Against this background, the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union requested an outlook opinion on *The role of regional and local authorities in promoting a sustainable water policy*<sup>54</sup>, adopted on 30 June 2011.

To support the consultative work, the Committee of the Regions launched a survey on 25 January 2011 with a final deadline of 4 March 2011, through its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform. In total, 49 questionnaires were submitted by LRAs and other stakeholders from 17 EU Member States (MS).<sup>55</sup>

The results of the survey revealed that there is no one-size-fits-all multi-level governance model for water management.

***Global challenges require joint solutions***

Multi-level governance is crucial, as global challenges require joint solutions. To manage water effectively, joint action is required and all relevant authorities and service users need to be involved, through a shared vision and a joint commitment to meet objectives. Local and regional authorities have a growing role in water management, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and ensuring that responsibilities are shared out at the most appropriate level. National governments also play an important role, however, because decisions on water – which is very scarce in some regions – need to be taken at this level in order to work over and above specific local and regional interests and to adopt a joined-up approach to redressing water shortages.

*Source: Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia) – Member of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform Survey on water policy*

Subsidiarity and multi-level governance are considered to be key principles of EU water policy. Joint action is required, as well as a shared vision and a joint commitment to meeting objectives. While some decisions need to be taken at higher governance levels to overcome regional or local interests that may potentially jeopardise the long-term interest of communities and future generations, it needs to be duly and constantly recognised that knowledge of the local situation and local needs is primarily available locally.

***Local and Regional authorities as controllers and innovators***

Since water is an extremely scarce resource, a number of measures and initiatives need to be taken so that this element can be better used by future generations. The role of local and regional authorities can be divided into two: that of controller and that of innovator. The role of *controller* requires each authority to control all the measures needed to preserve water. The authority rewards responsible citizens who act according to the law and punishes those citizens who do not take water preservation

<sup>54</sup> The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water policy - Nichi Vendola (IT/PES) ([CdR 5/2011](#))

<sup>55</sup> Full Report available at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/SustainableWaterPolicySurvey.aspx>

seriously. We use the term ‘reward’ to refer to incentives and subsidies to encourage methods of water management among the general public. The role of *innovator* requires each authority to create its own methods of water management and serve as an example to each citizen. *Xaghra (Gozo) Local Council (Xaghra) Survey on water policy*

### ***Sharing decision-making processes***

Local and regional authorities must develop the tools that will enable them to play a participatory role, if they are to optimise the potential our region offers. To do so, they must be key stakeholders in the procedures for the strategic planning and regional development of resources, playing an active role in tune with local society involvement, carrying out studies that should be submitted to and approved by civil society with a view to drawing up objective proposals that contribute to the region's sustainable development. *Source: Callosa de Segura Municipality (Ayuntamiento de Callosa de Segura) Survey on water policy*

There are contradictory views on the way awareness-raising campaigns should be run. It is, in fact, recommended that campaigns target small audiences and be tailored to local circumstances, to ensure they can clearly specify targets, benefits and responsibilities; on the other hand, reliance on good examples from other regions/countries is envisaged, as is the role of the EU in encouraging the change of attitude towards water-saving behaviour.

Multi-level governance is the solution in conceptual terms, but the examples provided by respondents underlined the fact that several multi-level governance ‘models’ exist. Coordination within these models is determined by different factors such as national legislation, institutional set-ups and existing cooperation frameworks, to mention just a few.

### ***The Delta Programme in the Netherlands***

The Delta programme is a provision of the Delta Act, which is intended to ‘guarantee the safety of the Netherlands against high water and ensure a good freshwater supply’. The programme, submitted in 2010 to the Lower House, is based on the collaboration of the national government, provinces, municipalities and water boards with social organisations, the business community and knowledge institutes, under the direction of a government commissioner (the Delta Commissioner). Within the programme, a decision at the national level is being prepared on the way the country is to manage fresh water in the future, according to changing supply and demand, also taking account of climate change impact and the consequent rising sea level, reduced discharge of water via rivers, and increasing inland intrusion of salt. The provinces are involved in this process and, additionally, several studies are under way at both national and regional/province level. *Sources: Province of South-Holland, the Netherlands, and Delta Programme Commissioner. [www.deltacommissaris.nl](http://www.deltacommissaris.nl); Survey on water policy*

### ***Aquaval: ensuring that social and environmental values are applied to local surroundings***

Funded by the European Union under the LIFE+ Community Initiative, the Aquaval project aims to boost a more sustainable management of rainwater in municipalities, ensuring that rainwater is included in water resource policies. The main aim of this ambitious project is to find innovative solutions to problems involving the quantity and quality of urban run-off. Aquaval's guiding principle is to make the best use of municipalities' landscapes and morphology in order to integrate water

infrastructure, using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). In other words, Aquaval is endeavouring to develop systems that will not only help mitigate the consequences of torrential rain but will also collect water for subsequent use. This will reduce the impact of urban development and ensure that social and environmental values are applied to the local surroundings. *Source: Benaguasil Town Council (Ayuntamiento de Benaguasil) Survey on water policy*

The EU's role in promoting water conservation and efficiency is recognised as being crucial to the regulation of water resource management at supranational level, i.e. the water catchment-based approach. In line with the subsidiarity principle, LRAs are on the front line in managing the 'demand side' and consumption level of different stakeholders, i.e. civil society and economic operators (industry, agriculture, services). Hence, the role of the EU is complementary to the role of LRAs in regulating and managing water resources at different territorial scales.

### **Opinion on *The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water management***

This opinion<sup>56</sup> was adopted on 30 June 2011. It points out that regional and local authorities across Europe face different problems related to water, ranging from droughts to floods, and insists on the need to raise awareness of the fundamental importance of the water cycle, share experiences and promote a sustainable approach to the daily management of water resources.

The opinion endorses the UN Resolution of 28 July 2010, which states that water is a universal, inalienable human right that is a natural, logical extension of the right to life: "recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights".

To enable local authorities to achieve measurable results, in its opinion the CoR "proposes, not least in relation to the requirements ensuing from implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC, that sustainable water management should have a specific, verifiable target for 2020: 1) a 20% increase in water-saving in all sectors of use; 2) a 20% increase in the number of water courses being renaturalised, inter alia in order to reduce flood risk; 3) a 20% increase in the volume of water re-used and/or recycled in farming and industry; to that end, calls for the direct involvement of the Covenant of Mayors."

### **Local and Regional Authorities committed to energy efficiency: the Covenant of Mayors Initiative**

Of all the European Initiatives, the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is the only one based on the direct political commitment of local and regional authorities. It was set up in 2008 by the European Commission (DG Energy), following the adoption of the EU Climate and Energy Package. The aim of the CoM is to support the efforts made by local authorities to implement sustainable energy policies. It is open to all cities that want to join, including those from outside the European Union, whatever their size and whatever the stage of implementation of their energy/climate policies. As of December 2011, more than 3 000 cities and towns from all 27 Member States and 17 from other countries have signed the CoM. The Committee of the Regions, which has supported the CoM since its inception in 2008,

<sup>56</sup>

The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water policy ([CdR 5/2011](#)) Rapporteur Nichi Vendola (IT/PES)



has started a process for taking political ownership of this initiative, proposing in its opinion that its scope and geographical coverage be enlarged.

The idea of extending the Covenant of Mayors beyond energy issues to include the full range of resources is a key issue for the Committee, many of whose members are Covenant signatories. The CoR believes that while the energy focus of the Covenant is important, keeping global warming below 2°C also depends, amongst other things, on the efficient use of resources. In addition, the fact that nearly 3 000 mayors, local authorities and regions have signed up to go beyond European targets for cutting emissions is a clear sign that the real momentum in this area comes from the sub-national level – a momentum that could also benefit resource efficiency.

Several CoR opinions have discussed the relevance of the Covenant of Mayors and the possibility of its further development. The opinion on *Climate change mainstreaming and the future EU budget*<sup>57</sup> calls for a substantial strengthening of the Covenant of Mayors initiative, which should be provided with the appropriate means to support cities and regions in the operational preparation of climate actions plans and for joint standards for the carbon footprint to be drawn up, in cooperation with international partners such as the US Conference of Mayors. The opinion on *The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water policy*<sup>58</sup>, calls for the Covenant of Mayors to expand its focus to also encompass the issue of water. The opinion "proposes, not least in relation to the requirements ensuing from implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC, that sustainable water management should have a specific, verifiable target for 2020: 1) a 20% increase in water-saving in all sectors of use; 2) a 20% increase in the number of water courses being renaturalised, inter alia in order to reduce flood risk; 3) a 20% increase in the volume of water re-used and/or recycled in farming and industry; to that end, calls for direct involvement of the Covenant of Mayors". The opinion on *A resource-efficient Europe – flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 strategy*<sup>59</sup> asks the European Commission and the other EU Institutions to work together on concrete mechanisms which will allow for sharing the experience of the Covenant of Mayors with our global partners, e.g. fostering cooperation at local and regional level on resource efficiency between EU cities and regions and those in our Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood, as well as with developing countries.

#### **Växjö, Sweden**

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) of the city of Växjö provides for a reduction of approximately 65% of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita emissions in 2020 compared to 1993. The ambition is to be fossil-fuel-free by 2030. The SEAP of Växjö is made up of a composite set of documents in which plans and programmes converge. A good number of ambitious measures are planned in all recommended key sectors of activity, potentially leading to the target set for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction being achieved. *Source: Covenant of Mayors.*

#### **Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP-P)**

Porto signed the Covenant of Mayors at the inaugural ceremony on 10 February 2009 in Brussels. In this context, it drew up the Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP-P), which is a strategic plan rather than an implementing programme, extending far beyond a local authority term of office and

<sup>57</sup> Climate change mainstreaming and the future EU budget (CdR 104/2011) Rapporteur: Ilmar Reepalu (SE/PES)

<sup>58</sup> The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water policy ([CdR 5/2011](#)) Rapporteur Nichi Vendola (IT/PES)

<sup>59</sup> A resource-efficient Europe – flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 strategy (140/2011) Rapporteur: Michel Lebrun (BE/EPP)



expresses the views and intentions of the city council, on behalf of the city of Porto, on how to conduct local energy policy up to 2020, in harmony with the Commission's energy and environment policy, which Porto City Council endorses. The SEAP-P was approved by the city council in October 2010 and is one of the five approved by the Commission out of the 752 submitted for assessment to date (as at 8 July 2011). Through the SEAP-P, Porto aims to become an energy-efficient city in three complementary ways: reducing dependence on the most CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive fossil fuels (primary energy); increasing use of renewable energies; promoting energy efficiency. The Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan sets the priority areas for action and lists measures for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the city by 45%. Around half of this figure is to be directly achieved through local initiatives, at the behest of the city council or other stakeholders in the city, and the remainder is to be achieved through national greener electricity and biofuels policies. As far as other methods are concerned, it is estimated that energy efficiency should have increased by 20% in 2020 over the base year, and that 35% of end energy used will come from renewable sources (6% achieved through local initiatives and 29% through national policies). The (SEAP-P) is an exercise showing how political, technically viable solutions can make it possible to achieve greater results in terms of energy used and the corresponding equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, helping to enhance the Porto brand, in line with the Sustainability Strategy. *Source: Porto Municipality (PT); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

Some of the respondents to the "Europe 2020 what's happening on the ground" survey highlighted the importance of guaranteeing funds to implement the activities that have already been planned.

#### **Riga City Council**

The City of Riga has signed the Covenant of Mayors and has drawn up its own sustainable energy plan for the city for 2010-2020, taking account of the EU's policies on sustainable energy. The city's plan is part of the second national energy efficiency plan for 2011-2013. As stated in the Riga city action plan, the following sources of funding were used to support its implementation: 1) the ERDF and Cohesion Fund; 2) the "green" funds - the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol; 3) the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme, the Central Baltic INTERREG IV programme and funding under the Baltic Sea-Norway bilateral financial instrument. To improve implementation of the action plan, it would be necessary to: 1) guarantee funding support for the activities of the ESKO energy services company; 2) establish rotation funds at national and regional level, with the support of the EU Structural Funds, in order to improve energy efficiency; 3) facilitate local and regional authorities' access to European funding, enabling them to implement their action plans in accordance with their own priorities. *Source: Riga City Council; survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **4.2.2 Flagship Initiative: *An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era***

The Communication on *An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era* was adopted by the European Commission on 28 October 2010. The Communication, on a flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy, sets out a strategy that aims to boost growth and jobs by maintaining and supporting a strong, diversified and competitive industrial base in Europe, offering well-paid jobs while becoming less carbon-intensive.

The European Union needs an industrial policy that will support businesses – especially small businesses – as they respond to globalisation, the economic crisis and the shift to a low-carbon economy, by supporting entrepreneurship – to make European business fitter and more competitive

and covering every part of the increasingly international value chain – from access to raw materials to after-sales service.

The results of the *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* survey show that the *An Industrial policy for the globalisation era* flagship initiative appears to be less well-known.

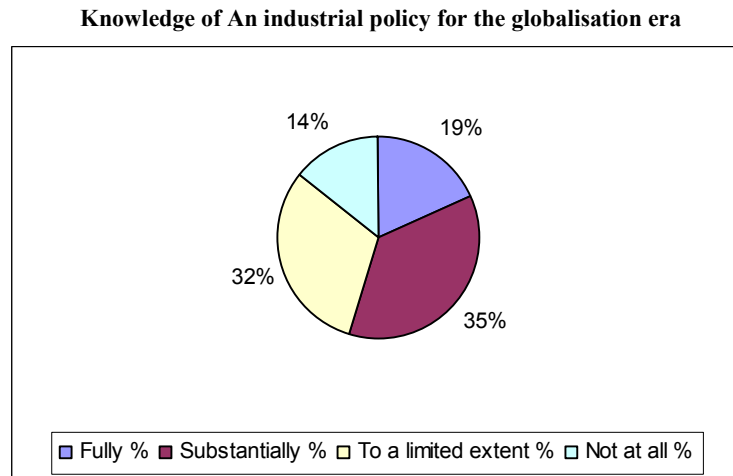


Chart 4.11: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the following Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

This flagship initiative is perceived to be one that may offer opportunity but to a limited extent.

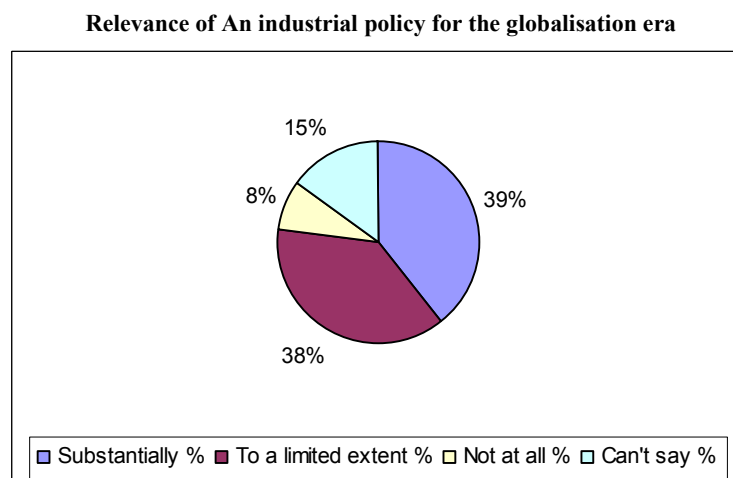


Chart 4.12: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

With regard to the above-mentioned survey, local and regional authorities highlighted some practical examples.

#### **The Walloon competitiveness centre policy**

The Government of Wallonia developed its competitiveness centre policy in 2005. This aims to build up the region's growth sectors so that they reach a level of excellence which will generate a new growth dynamic and give Wallonia an international profile. In July 2006, five competitiveness centres were recognised in priority areas identified by the government: SKYWIN for aerospace, WAGRALIM for agro-industry, MECATECH for mechanical engineering, LOGISTICS IN WALLONIA for

transport and logistics and BIOWIN for life sciences. Various actions designed to maintain and step up the dynamic of competitiveness centres and business networks are being implemented: the adoption of a decree placing these policies on a more permanent footing; the establishment of a sixth centre for environmental technologies; increased SME involvement, the strengthening of synergies between regional, national and international centres, opening up to businesses in neighbouring regions, launching a call for "sustainable development" projects and integrating this concept across the board in all centres, boosting funding (especially for research, public investment and export subsidies) and improving the training dimension (developing a single joint strategy for the centres). Budget: EUR 388 million over the 2009-2014 period, EUR 288 million of which is earmarked for calls for projects and funding for the centres, EUR 65 million of which will go to public investment, EUR 20 million to export subsidies and EUR 15 million to research and welcoming foreign investors. The calls for projects are made on an annual basis. The sixth call for projects was launched in February 2010 (the first was financed by Marshall Plan II) and projects were selected in October 2010. The seventh call was launched in January 2011. *Source: Walloon Government (BE), Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Styria 2020 Economic Policy**

The new Economic Strategy 2020, Growth through Innovation, has been in force since May 2011. Its main features are the active development of business locations in line with three guiding themes (mobility, eco-tech and health-tech) and the focussing of support instruments on the active development of business locations. The aim is also to harness private investment capital more effectively and to focus on the development of flexible financing instruments. The strategic objectives are gathered together in five key strategies and are supported by three performance functions. The five key strategies are: the development and management of business locations, the internationalisation of location and business, skills and human potential, the entrepreneurship and growth of young companies and innovation and research and development. The performance functions are development, support and financing and awareness-raising. Styria can call on key technological skills and business location advantages with a view to developing the three key themes. These include, for example, all engineering disciplines, which are taught at the universities of Graz and Leoben, as well as all areas of the creative economy, which have a cross-cutting function in relation to companies' innovativeness. 2 200 manufacturing and related service industries are located in Styria and act as growth drivers for this process and primary targets for a proactive business location policy. These 2 200 mainly innovation-orientated small and medium-sized businesses are particularly important for a growth-intensive, innovative business location. The National Reform Programme sets out tax incentives that also benefit Styrian businesses in the region. *Source: Office of the Regional Government of Styria (Austria), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Developing the business environment in Hargita County (Romania)**

The county's business environment development policy includes the design and implementation of measures, programmes and projects; all of these help to improve the local entrepreneurial environment and broaden the range of services provided to businesses. Specific activities supported by the policy include the following: participating in international cooperation projects to exchange experiences relating to the establishment of business and innovation parks (the FIDIBE SEE project); running a programme of dialogue to identify the needs of the county's entrepreneurs; this programme is funded from the county's own budget; supporting county entrepreneurs in setting up associations, clusters and networks (Hargita County Council strongly supports the founding and running of business associations); managing a project to establish a business incubator, funded from the regional operational programme; supporting the development of network industry infrastructure and industrial

parks (using the county's own budget or projects to promote the county's industrial and agricultural infrastructure). The Europe 2020 flagship initiative on ***An Industrial policy for the Globalisation Era*** provides an excellent opportunity to implement the above-mentioned policy, given that the initiative is fundamentally intended to improve the business environment and establish a sustainable industrial base. *Source: Harghita County Council (RO); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **A globally competitive region - Business development strategy 2010-2020**

The Central Denmark Growth Forum is a partnership between businesses, unions and employer organizations, education and research institutions, municipalities and the region. The role of the Growth Forum is to create growth and business development in the region by 2020, targeting sectors such as energy and the environment, foodstuffs, welfare innovation and tourism, making the region globally competitive and placing it amongst the best performers in Europe. Fields such as innovation, business development, digitalization and entrepreneurship and education and skills development are also being examined. The programme is funded by national and local authorities through national development grants and European Structural Funds. The Growth Forum is aimed at sustainable growth in the Central Denmark Region based on responsible use of resources and securing the opportunity for continued growth and well-being for future generations. Further information is available at <http://www.rm.dk/files/Regional%20udvikling/Vækstforum/Erhvervsudviklingsstrategi%202010-2020/Growth%20Forum's%20Business%20Development%20Strategy%202010-2020.pdf>. *Source:*

*Central Region Denmark (DK); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **Supporting business in Mureş County**

The objectives of the projects are to boost corporate start-ups and develop existing companies in the manufacturing and services sectors by improving the quality of products and services; to develop the competitiveness of the county's economy by encouraging product promotion activities; to support the development of a much more business-friendly environment by developing business infrastructure; and to improve cooperation between the R&D sector and the overall economy in order to bring development to the county and retain a highly skilled labour force. The concrete actions planned are: starting up and developing SMEs in the manufacturing and services sector, promoting industrial and service products both domestically and abroad, developing business by establishing business parks and supporting research, technology transfer and the development of IT networks for business. The project is conducted in partnership with the Mureş Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and county universities. *Source: Mureş County Council (RO); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

### **Opinion on *An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era – Putting Competitiveness and Sustainability at Centre Stage***

The CoR opinion<sup>60</sup> focuses on supporting the European Commission's commitment to the development of a strong, competitive and sustainable industry throughout Europe in order to achieve a full economic recovery from the current crisis, as well as meeting the Europe 2020's objectives of establishing smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era – Putting Competitiveness and Sustainability at Centre Stage, Rapporteur: Patxi López (ES/PES) (CdR 374/2010)

As such, it welcomes the Commission's flagship initiative of *An Integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era*, and the emphasis placed on integration and sustainability, which gives an equal role to both the economic and social, as well as the environmental variables of an industrial policy.

The opinion also supports the territorial pact between regions and Member States, which allows for coordinated approaches in order to tackle common problems. The opinion, however, also calls for the 2020 strategy's 7 flagships to be further integrated and coordinated in order to achieve their potential. In addition, it proposes the implementation of certain policies such as additional flexibility for businesses with regard to their employment strategies, in exchange for sufficient social protection for those hit hardest by the current transformation of Europe's industry. And finally, the opinion calls on the Commission to establish a mechanism making it possible to improve programme supervision to ensure that the EU's industrial policy is properly implemented.

#### **4.2.3 Food and agriculture as part of sustainable growth**

On 8 March 2011, the Commission published a Communication entitled *A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050* as a key deliverable under what is known as the Europe 2020 Resource Efficiency Flagship. The Roadmap sets out the milestones for achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The way in which we produce food and energy is closely linked to resource efficiency and sustainable development. While the Europe 2020 strategy makes no specific reference to the agriculture sector, the Committee of the Regions points out in its opinions that this sector has a role to play in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy.

#### **Opinion on *Local Food Systems* (CdR 341/2010)**

In recent decades, our food system has become highly globalised. While only a century ago, most food products were consumed in a comparatively small area, our diet today is made up of foods from around the globe. This has increased the distance between producers and consumers and has led the Committee of the Regions to question the sustainability, in economic, environmental and social terms, of our food choices. The Committee of the Regions noted in its opinion on local food systems<sup>61</sup> that the development of local food systems is of major importance for local and regional authorities, as they contribute greatly to the promotion of activities and services of the food industry in rural areas. If these systems keep farmers in disadvantaged areas, they contribute more broadly to sustainable development in rural areas.

Indeed, local food systems support the local and regional economy by providing jobs in agriculture and food production, such as activities and services relating to processing, distribution, marketing and sales. The CoR also considers that the development of these systems is essential to address the power imbalances that currently exist within the food chain and threaten the sustainability of the agricultural sector, which directly or indirectly employs one in six in the European Union.

<b>Catalonia's territorial pacts for the countryside - Pactes territorials per al món rural</b>
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<sup>61</sup>

Local food System (CdR 341/2010), Rapporteur: Ms Lenie Dwarshuis-Van De Beek (NL/ALDE)

The purpose of the Territorial Pact for rural areas is to promote dynamic interaction between different stakeholders and local authorities in the sub-regions of Catalunya. The aim is to establish a common approach and to negotiate jointly to develop strategies for future rural development. The aim of the Territorial Pacts arises from the need to give each territory an instrument, achieved through strategic reflection, facilitating direct action to ensure comprehensive rural development. Participants in the Territorial Pact are divided into three working groups: Diversification, Sustainability and Competitiveness. *Source: Regional Government of Catalonia*

### **Opinion on *The future of the CAP after 2013* (CdR 127/2011)**

While the European Commission ignores agriculture and the future of the CAP in its 2020 Strategy, in its opinion on the future CAP after 2013,<sup>62</sup> the Committee of Regions stated that the essential contribution of the European agricultural sector is the construction of Europe and to maintain growth and employment in rural areas. Faced with increased global food demand and the risks posed by climate change and increased market volatility for food production, it is more important than ever for the EU to maintain its agricultural activities. Agriculture has a role to play in the context of the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy.

While the level of development in rural areas remains below the European average and far below that of predominantly urban areas, the Committee of the Regions points out that while most public policy efforts focus on cities and the quest for competitiveness, it is clear that the investment needed to develop rural areas cannot be sustained, and we will see an increasingly city-centric form of development, which runs counter to what we want as a development model - namely a balanced territorial development between town and country. Therefore, the Committee of the Regions considers it necessary to have a specific policy at European level for rural areas in order to move towards the objective of territorial cohesion set out in the Treaty of Lisbon.

#### **4.3 Inclusive growth - fostering a high-employment economy delivering economic, social and territorial cohesion.**

Europe 2020 is not only about competitiveness and innovation. It is about people, their work opportunities and their full inclusion in society. Europe 2020 aims at boosting economic, social and territorial cohesion. The targets for inclusive growth are the following:

- the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to increase from the current 69% to at least 75%, including through the greater involvement of women, older workers and the better integration of migrants in the work force;
- the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line to be reduced by 25%, raising over 20 million people out of poverty

To ensure inclusive growth in the European Union, the European Commission has produced two flagship initiatives: *New Skills for New Jobs - Anticipating and matching labour market and skills needs* and *The European platform against poverty and social exclusion*.

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<sup>62</sup>

Future CAP after 2013 (CdR 127/2010), Rapporteur: Mr René Souchon (FR/PES)

## The point of view of LRAs, outcomes of the survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

The results for the MP survey on *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?* show that more than half of the respondents find their employment target appropriate, while only 4 out of 10 agree with the level set for the national poverty target. Over one-quarter of respondents think that the poverty target is not ambitious enough, while nearly the same amount find the employment target too ambitious

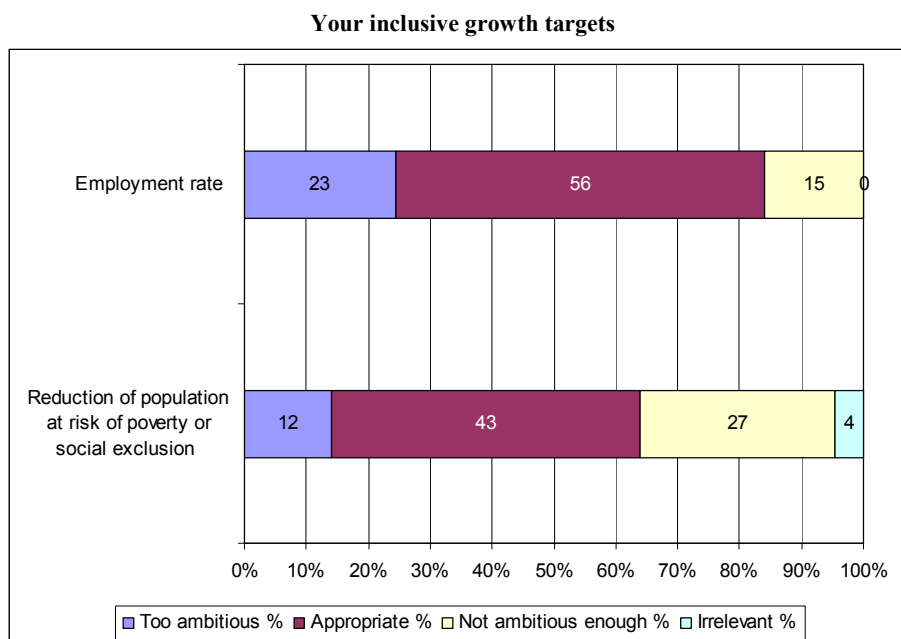


Chart 4.13: Your Europe 2020 country targets: To what extent are your country's quantitative targets (as stated in the NRP: you can consult them at [here](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf)<sup>63</sup>) appropriate for the territory administered by your regional/local authority?

### 4.3.1 Flagship Initiative: *An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment*

The Flagship Initiative New Skills for Jobs was presented by the European Commission in November 2011. It proposes actions in four areas: i) Making labour markets function better through further reform, ii) Equipping people with the right skills for employment, iii) Improving job quality and working conditions, iv) Creating jobs. While the agenda runs until 2014, in 2012 the European Commission will focus on completing the EU skills panorama.

Half of the respondents have a substantial knowledge of this Flagship Initiative while nearly one-fifth feel fully informed about the actions envisaged in this policy document.

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[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf).

**Knowledge of An agenda for new skills and jobs**

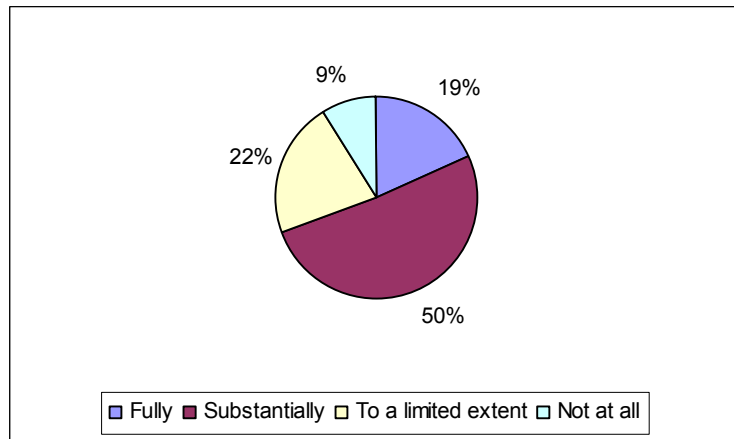


Chart 4.14: Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Over half of the representatives of local and regional authorities feel that the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs is of substantial relevance to their local and regional goals and actions.

**Relevance of An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs**

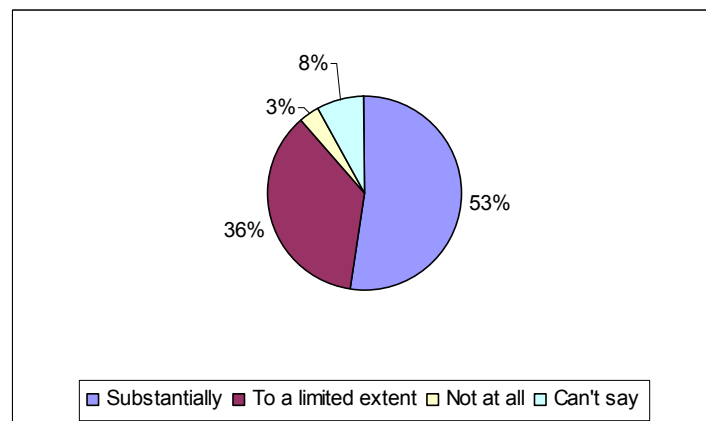


Chart 4.15: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

### **Opinion on the *Agenda for New Skills and Jobs***

The CoR opinion on the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs<sup>64</sup> identifies measures for developing the right skills mix to equip citizens for the challenges of the job market, taking into account the dire economic conditions in the aftermath of the crisis. It highlights flexicurity and calls for new momentum for flexible work arrangements. Solutions to facilitate worker mobility and to improve the quality of working conditions are also focal points of the opinion. It puts forward suggestions for supporting job creation and identifies EU funding sources suitable for this purpose, such as the Structural Funds and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

The National Reform Programmes are named as the instrument to deliver Europe 2020, as well as the monitoring process. The opinion supports multi-level governance as the appropriate framework for

<sup>64</sup>

Agenda for New Skills and Jobs ([CdR 401/2010](#)), Rapporteur: Henk Kool (NL/PES)



involving the local and regional authorities in EU2020. Furthermore, there are strong references to territorial Cohesion, the territorial dimension and territorial policy.

In **Germany**, the **Hohenlohe initiative** aims to reintegrate into the labour market people who are suffering from long-term unemployment, while reducing their dependency on social welfare programmes. The project's activities include assessments of vocational training needs among people at risk of exclusion, traineeships, work opportunities and programmes for older people. The initiative also supports the integration of disabled people into the labour market through a sub-project called 'ZEBRA'.

*Source: Quick Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion*

**The European Social Funds and the options for integration into territories** is a project created by the General Council of Savoie. The project's main aim is to help people enter the job market, especially the long-term unemployed. Therefore, at the end of 2009, the Savoie General Council implemented a number of measures to remove obstacles to employment: mobility (by supplying more vehicles, providing financial support for driving lessons), childcare (by financing kindergartens and providing longer opening hours), individualised social counselling, etc. The aim was also to attempt to reduce entitlement to the *Revenu de Solidarité Active* (income support) from three years to six months by 2013. Other departments in the Rhône-Alpes region started moving towards this strategy, for instance, the Haute Savoie in March 2010, followed by Ain.

*Source: General Council of Savoie (FR), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **An awareness campaign to encourage people to stay at work longer in Flanders**

In chapter 4 of the Flemish Reform Programme Europe 2020 "More people at work in more workable jobs and longer average working lives" a range of measures has been taken to encourage people to stay at work longer. These include systematic assistance for job-seekers aged over 50 (as of autumn 2011 it was decided to extend the scheme to 58-year-olds). In addition, an age-conscious personnel policy is being introduced, of which this awareness campaign is a concrete example.

In June 2011, the Flemish government launched an awareness campaign and a website 'www.dejuistestoel.be' (together with Toolbox 50+) to encourage people to stay at work longer. Toolbox 50+ consists of a collection of accessible labour market instruments to make employers and employees aware of the importance of well-developed career and skills policy. This policy measure encourages employers to keep people over 50 at work and motivates older employees to remain longer in the work force. The two main instruments are the age scan and the 'argumentarium'. The first instrument provides employers with an age pyramid of the company and simulates staff ratios after 5 or 10 years if policy remains unchanged. The argumentarium shows employees why it is important to stay at work and shows employers why it is important to recruit or retain people over 50. The website 'www.competentiebeleid.be' was launched to assist businesses in developing a skills policy. The aim of this measure is to equip businesses better for the challenges which lie ahead on the labour market.

This policy has been planned and implemented by the Flemish government together with the social partners and in consultation with other civil society actors. The Agenda for new skills and jobs is a platform that provides guidance on the development of "forward looking labour market policy tools". Through the "Platform Vlaams Arbeidsmarktonderzoek van de Toekomst" (Flemish Labour Market Research Platform for the Future - VLAMT) (supported by the European Social Fund) Flanders wishes to experiment with methods for detecting and analysing trends and their impact on jobs and

skills. In line with the objectives of the flagship, the VLAMT project is examining the possibility of setting up a regional platform for “skills forecasting”.

*Source: Flemish Government, Department Services for the General Government Policy (Belgium), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

#### **4.3.2 Flagship initiative: *The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion***

This flagship initiative was adopted in December 2010. As stressed by the European Commission, although combating poverty is primarily the responsibility of national governments, the EU can play a coordinating role, as all Member States are facing similar challenges. The EU can help to develop and spread more effective and innovative methods and instruments. The Platform will support voluntary policy coordination and mutual learning, as well as providing EU-wide rules and funding.

Among the respondents to the recently-closed survey *Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*, this flagship initiatives is relatively well known, with one-fifth having substantial knowledge of this EU initiative.

**Knowledge of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion**

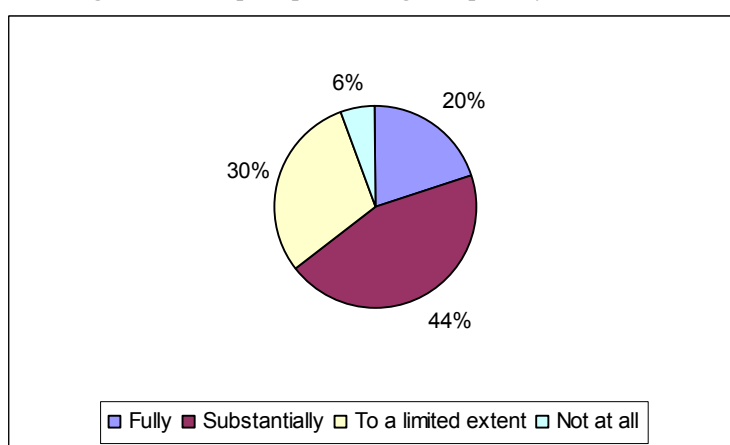


Chart 4.16 Knowledge of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: In general, to what extent are you familiar with the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives?

Four out of ten respondents thought that the relevance of this flagship initiative was substantial, while the same number found the relevance to be limited.

**Relevance of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion**

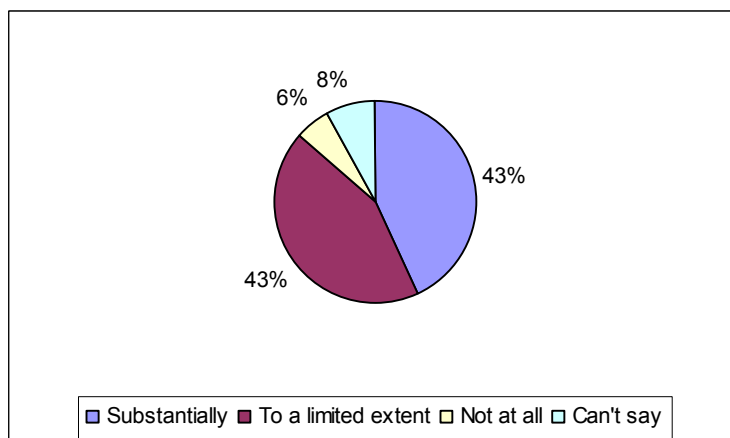


Chart 4.17: Relevance of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives: To what extent do the seven Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives provide an opportunity for your regional/local authority to establish more ambitious policies goals/actions?

### **Opinion on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion**

This opinion<sup>65</sup> focuses on giving a regional and local perspective to the Europe 2020 flagship initiative on the European platform against poverty and social exclusion, and welcomes its emphasis on child poverty. It also makes several recommendations to the European Commission with a view to improving this initiative and to helping achieve the Europe 2020 objective of reducing the number of Europeans living below national poverty lines by 25%. Firstly, the opinion calls on the Commission to further increase its commitment to reducing child poverty and claims that there are no convincing arguments to delay the adoption of the 2011 Child Poverty Recommendation. Secondly, it promotes the importance of the Social Open Method for Coordination (OMC). Thirdly, it asks the Commission to further explore the possible contribution of local and regional authorities (LRA) by, for example, establishing Europe-wide Guidelines for Member States on how LRAs can help to achieve the Europe 2020 objective of fighting poverty. And finally, the opinion recommends widening the European Social Fund's objectives by not viewing employment merely as an end in itself, but by using it as a means to achieve the overall aim of combating poverty and social exclusion.

In 2011, the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform conducted two surveys on practices related to local and regional social and anti-poverty actions<sup>66</sup>. Case-studies presented by the respondents focussed on strengthening social service structures, poverty-reduction measures and social exclusion among vulnerable groups, encouraging the disadvantaged to enter the labour market and running awareness raising campaigns.

**Kaste** is a national social and healthcare development programme in **Finland**, which aims to reduce poverty and social exclusion in a number of vulnerable groups. The programme mainly targets children at risk of poverty, the long-term homeless, drug-users and people with mental health

<sup>65</sup> The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion,(CdR 402/2010) Rapporteur: Christine Chapman (PES/UK)

<sup>66</sup> Final Report from the Quick Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" available here: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/ClosedSurveys/Pages/SurveyEuropeanPlatformAgainstPoverty.aspx>.

problems, by supporting new social service structures and systems.

In **Portugal**, Faro Town Council has implemented an information and awareness-raising campaign on the issue of poverty and social exclusion in the local community. The initiative has enabled the local authorities to: publicise work carried out by local stakeholders in this field; directly encourage an increase in the information made available and indirectly promote easier access to social welfare and other assistance. It has also helped to consolidate partnerships, create new communication channels and develop common aims between the relevant stakeholders in the social assistance field. *Source: Quick Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative: the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion*

#### **Educational success through designing diversity**

The project aims to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in Achim, Germany, focusing particularly in the *Magdeburger Viertel* neighbourhood of the city and including those from stigmatised and socially disadvantaged groups. It provides holistic, sustainable and demonstrable support, using concepts and measures tailored to local needs. The project has sought to improve learning outcomes (improvements in language skills, school grades and qualifications) for children and adolescents from an immigrant background, not only by establishing general language support and early childhood education (a child-centred learning workshop), but also by making changes to the way educational institutions are organised and their curricula. The project is based on the assumption that, where individuals face difficult life situations, support can only be provided in a meaningful and holistic way if the focus is on the entire span of the educational process and if educational institutions succeed in developing joined-up approaches and measures that reach beyond the confines of their own walls. This requires close collaboration between the different players from the various institutions and sectors involved in educational processes, i.e. a collaboration between those directly concerned with education both within the various branches of the school system (primary, general and vocational secondary schools and grammar schools) and outside it (child care, youth work, family welfare, community work and the education department of the public library), others outside the educational domain itself (mosques, churches, business advisory councils and local politics) and, not least, the groups to whom the project is addressed (parents, children and adolescents) and their representatives. From February 2008 to July 2011, the project was supported by EU funding from the ERDF (Convergence). This funding has now come to an end and the project is being supported by the Achim city authorities. *Source: Achim (DE), survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground? , [www.bildungserfolg-achim.de](http://www.bildungserfolg-achim.de)*

#### **Increasing childcare provision in Bavaria**

The special programme is run jointly by the federal government (represented by the Ministry of the Family, Elderly People, Women and Youth), Bavaria (represented by the Bavarian Ministry of Employment, Social Order, Families and Women) and the local authorities/local authority associations responsible for childcare. The Federal State/*Länder* working group on increasing childcare provision adopted the decision to increase childcare provision for under-3s in 2007. The federal state and the *Länder* subsequently concluded an administrative agreement concerning the "childcare funding 2008-2013" investment programme to create and maintain places for children under 3. Bavaria then entered negotiations with the local authority associations representing the local authorities responsible for providing the necessary places in nurseries and with childminders. In agreement with the local authority associations, and on the basis of the administrative agreement, Bavaria adopted guidelines on subsidies for investments in connection with the "childcare funding 2008-2013" investment programme. Local providers of public youth welfare services and towns and communes within local authorities can apply for the subsidy from local administrations. The

administrations take their decisions on the subsidy applications on the basis of the guidelines. The administrative agreement between the federal state and the *Länder* on the "childcare funding 2008-2013" investment programme is comparable with a territorial pact as proposed by the CoR. The federal state and the *Länder* have agreed on a shared goal of developing childcare provision for under-3s. The objective is to achieve a national average of 35% of children under 3 in childcare, with around 750,000 places for under-3s. On this basis, the federal state is contributing a total of EUR 2.15 billion to investment and operating costs from 2008 to 2013. The *Länder* have to provide the federal government with an annual progress report from 2008 to 2013. In addition, an interim report was produced in Spring 2011, and a final report will be produced in 2014. *Source: Bavarian State Chancellery Germany, survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**The Vorarlberg "Opportunity Pool" – getting young people, people with immigrant backgrounds and the low-skilled onto the labour market**

The Vorarlberg "Opportunity Pool" is a state-wide counselling and support system that meets the need for individual support for young people in the under-20 age bracket on the threshold between school and work. The aim of the system is to help young people leaving compulsory education, and dropping out of secondary, tertiary or other forms of higher education, to find suitable training courses or qualifications. Teachers, community representatives and youth workers inform the coordination office (BIFO) about young people's situations and a flexible approach is employed in working with them to find suitable support.

One of the cornerstones of the system is the "Qualification Start-Up Check" which provides support to pupils in the lowest educational stream in their last year of compulsory education. At the beginning of the school year, these pupils are assessed, using a computer-based test, to see whether they have reached the required level to go on to further training. All those who have not done so are offered extra tuition in the subjects concerned.

*Source: Vorarlberg State (AT); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

**Opinion on *The social and economic integration of the Roma in Europe***

This opinion<sup>67</sup> focuses on the integration of Roma throughout Europe. It is important to note that discrimination and social exclusion towards Roma remains relatively wide-spread in some EU Member States. As such, Roma generally experience living conditions far worse than those experienced by other ethnic minorities, especially with regard to health, education and unemployment. The Committee of the Regions thus calls for the establishment of specific coordination mechanisms between Roma communities, NGOs and European, Member State, Regional and Local authorities, in order to better use the funds devoted to Roma Integration. Furthermore, the CoR calls for improved multi-level governance integration and cooperation, especially with regard to aiding local authorities in dealing with inclusion policies for the Roma community. Consequently, the Committee of the Regions is committed to working with all partners in order to promote and establish a coherent, harmonised, consolidated and effective EU-wide policy with regard to the integration of the Roma community, which would contribute towards the Europe 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

<sup>67</sup>

The social and economic integration of the Roma in Europe ([CdR 178/2010](#)) Rapporteur: Mr Alvaro Ancisi (IT/EPP)

A project is being implemented in Cyprus on ***Raising Public Awareness Regarding the Inclusion of Roma People in Cypriot Society***. The project aims to inform and raise public awareness about the Roma community to encourage social acceptance as well as maintaining respect for their way of life and customs. The overall objective is to reduce the poverty and social exclusion of the Roma community.

*Source: Quick Survey on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion*

The concept of multi-level governance has been taken on board in France and Spain in local and regional actions regarding social inclusion and the integration of immigrants.

#### **Territorial Pact for Inclusion, France**

Within the national framework established in France in 2008, the rescue scheme of the Territorial Pact for Inclusion (*PTI, Pacte Territorial d'Insertion*) coordinates actions undertaken to promote the social and professional integration of beneficiaries of income support (*RSA, Revenu de Solidarité Active*). It encourages partnerships in the region, including with private partners, and helps identify strategic priorities and implementation conditions at local level. This can be seen as France's specific way of implementing the Territorial Pacts proposed by the CoR. Each PTI is thereby preceded by an inclusion plan at departmental level (*Plan Départemental d'Insertion*) including all levels of government and private enterprises from the planning stage onwards. Multi-level governance is important when carrying out concrete territorial actions in keeping with EU guidelines.

*Source: President of the Seine-Maritime General Council, alternate CoR member, 6th Territorial Dialogue: Territorial Pacts and the forthcoming Europe 2020 Agenda, 22 February 2011*

#### **Contractual arrangements for the integration of immigrants**

The Generalitat Valenciana has an ambitious legal framework for integration, namely a regional law and a regional decree enacted in the context of national immigration policy and integration initiatives. These provide for the active cooperation of other players in the coordination of efforts to facilitate the integration of migrants. In response, the *Local Pact for Integration* (the first of its kind) brings together public authorities from the local, provincial and regional levels to create a framework that can boost cooperation and provide coherence for the actions carried out in different areas to integrate immigrants in the region. In addition, The *Valencian Pact for Immigration* - an agreement signed with the social stakeholders, trade unions and employers' organisations – encompasses and coordinates initiatives to manage diversity in the workplace and encourage the active participation of immigrant workers in industrial processes. The agreement calls for the active cooperation and coordination of all players involved to promote basic and vocational training of immigrants as well as intercultural training for professionals in the workplace. All of these agreements bring together virtually all representatives of the social stakeholders responsible in their various areas for effectively integrating immigrants into the host society.

*Source: Valencia (ES); Consultation on the upcoming Second European Agenda on Integration*<sup>68</sup>

#### **Opinion on Developing the European Dimension of Sport**

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Final report available at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/SecondEuropeanAgendaonIntegration.aspx>

The CoR opinion on Developing the European Dimension of Sport<sup>69</sup> stresses that local and regional authorities have always acknowledged and harnessed the educational potential of sport, incorporating it into education policies and measures to improve the quality of life, which includes public health. It welcomes, in particular, the steps taken by the European Commission to support the fight against fraud and corruption in the field of sport. The opinion emphasises the ethical values of sport and in particular the need to teach young people the value of losing and fair play, starting with trainers and coaches, who must teach by example, in order to put a stop to improper and counter-educational incidents. It stresses the societal value of sports initiatives such as the Special Olympics and the Paralympics, which further the social inclusion of people with disabilities, contributing in varying degrees to their personal independence.

In this opinion, the CoR advocates supporting innovative initiatives in the framework of lifelong learning, to encourage physical exercise in schools, especially between the ages of four and fourteen. The opinion also calls for the opportunities under the European Regional Development Fund to be fully exploited in support of sports infrastructure and activities and for opportunities under the European Social Fund to be used to improve the skills and employability of workers in the sports sectors.

#### **4.3.3 Sound pension and health systems and their link with Europe 2020**

##### **Opinion on *Towards adequate sustainable and safe pension systems***

This opinion<sup>70</sup> focuses on recommendations by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on how the European Commission can ensure adequate, sustainable and safe pension systems throughout the EU. It ensures that any budgetary measures taken in reaction to the current economic crisis should not overlook the permanent responsibility of each and every Member State to guarantee a reasonable standard of living for all their citizens after retirement, as stated in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. To this end, the CoR calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that any steps taken in this area reflect specific impact assessments by European, National, and local and regional authorities. The steps with regard to budgetary constraints must of course take into account the result of these impact assessments, especially with regard to social welfare and the local and regional capacity to compensate for any possible effects on pensions. Furthermore, this opinion urges the Commission and Member States to consider the possibility of coordinating pensions at an EU level and establishing a framework promoting good practice, as a means of implementing the Europe 2020 strategy towards smart, green and inclusive growth.

##### **Opinions on *Solidarity in Health and the Health Strategy 2008-2013***

The opinions recently adopted by the Committee of the Regions in the domain of health - *Solidarity in Health*<sup>71</sup> and *The Role of Local Authorities in the Implementation of the Health Strategy 2008-2013*<sup>72</sup>,

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<sup>69</sup> Developing the European Dimension of Sport (CdR 66/2011) Rapporteur: Roberto Pella (IT/EPP)

<sup>70</sup> Towards adequate sustainable and safe pension systems (CdR 319/2010), Rapporteur: Ms Mia De Vits (BE/PES)

<sup>71</sup> Solidarity in Health: Reducing Health Inequalities in the EU (CdR 47/2010), Rapporteur: Dave Wilcox (UK/PES)

<sup>72</sup> The Role of Local Authorities in the Implementation of the Health Strategy 2008-2013 (CdR 260/2010), Rapporteur: Adam Banaszak (PL/EA)

- establish a connection between this policy and the fight against social exclusion in the Europe 2020 strategy. In the first opinion, the need for improved recognition of the key role played by health and well-being in the fight against exclusion is brought into particular focus, this link providing an important foundation for the development of measures designed to combat inequalities in health. This approach was developed in more detail in the opinion on the health strategy, which calls for health indicators and objectives to be included in the Europe 2020 strategy with a view to achieving intelligent and balanced development that can help combat social exclusion. To achieve this, the CoR recommends that greater use be made of available indicators, that new indicators be developed taking regional conditions fully into account and that necessary data be systematically collected to improve the formulation of policies designed to level out inequalities between regions, and other health problems.



## 5. HORIZONTAL ISSUES

Europe 2020 is being implemented as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the economic governance of the EU as a whole, and of the euro area in particular. This has become necessary due the need to address the financial and economic crisis that started in 2008 and which is not yet over, the subsequent ongoing public debt crisis and the looming tensions in the EU economic, social and territorial fabric. Besides legislative measures to strengthen fiscal discipline and financial regulations, the European Semester was adopted as a tool to achieve greater economic policy coordination in an increasingly integrated EU, and to strengthen the "economic leg" of the EMU within the eurozone.

This is why the challenge of effectively implementing Europe 2020, while keeping cohesion as a priority and respecting fiscal constraints, is all the more urgent. Increased communication should make it clear to European citizens that the EU is boosting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, providing an explanation for the present fiscal hardships: the EU is working to build a better future, which implies the need for tough choices today.

The need for European society to take greater ownership of Europe 2020 makes it even more important for the strategy to be implemented in partnership with the LRAs - as well as with all relevant social, economic and territorial stakeholders.

Against this background, the importance of the ongoing negotiations on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 cannot be exaggerated. The next MFF should not only make available the funds needed to implement Europe 2020 at the EU level while strengthening cohesion: it should also provide the necessary tools to deploy the funds in a simpler, more effective and more coordinated and integrated way. In this respect, a crucial feature of the Commission's proposals is the Development and Investment Partnership Contract between the EC and each Member State, coordinating cohesion policy expenditure, at the EU and country level, in view of the Europe 2020 objectives. According to the CoR, at the country level, Partnership Contracts should be drawn up and implemented in partnership by all tiers of government on the basis of Territorial Pacts.

The CoR has recently contributed several opinions in the relevant fields. These are summarised in the following paragraphs.

**The appointment of the Regional Council of Kalmar County and of the Västerbotten development region as horizontal action leaders for "multilevel governance" within the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, with the Involve project as part of their related work.**

The objective of the action is to develop and enhance multilevel governance and increase the involvement of LRAs in the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy and the Baltic Sea Region Strategy. The project involves cooperation between actors at EU, national, regional and local levels, and mobilises stakeholders such as universities, business, voluntary organisations and individuals.

The project involves 15 partners and is supported by a further four associate partners, and by "letters of support" from the governments of Germany, Poland, Sweden and Finland and DG Regio.

The work is currently financed using regional development funding from the Regional Council of Kalmar and the Västerbotten development region, together with resources from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's Baltic Sea unit.

*Source: Regional Council in Kalmar County (SE); Survey Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?*

## **5.1 Economic policy coordination and the EU budget 2014-2020**

### **Opinion on *Reinforcing economic policy coordination***

In this opinion<sup>73</sup>, the Committee of the Regions focuses on presenting the local and regional viewpoint on reinforcing economic policy coordination. Firstly, it reiterates that the foundations of the Stability and Growth Pact are focused on creating a prosperous economy capable of creating more and better jobs, and thus contributing to the Europe 2020 objectives of raising employment and reducing poverty. This being the case, any reform adopted must reflect this fundamental aim of ensuring prosperity for EU citizens. The Committee of the Regions thus calls on the European Commission to minimise the impact of budget cuts with regard to the key mechanisms that could help achieve the 2020 objectives. It also urges the Member States to pursue institutional changes where necessary, in order to reinforce the principle of bottom-up compliance with the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact. The Committee of the Regions also requests that the Commission further involve local and regional authorities in drawing up guidelines and in implementing budgets. Local and regional authorities should consequently be given a greater role in the current budget debate, especially those who enjoy legislative or quasi-legislative powers in the areas specifically covered by the debate. This further involvement, the Committee of the Regions believes, will only help to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives of accomplishing smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### **Opinion on *The EU Budget Review***

The CoR opinion<sup>74</sup> fully agrees with the importance of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and, like the Commission, stresses that its success requires "*a partnership between the EU and the national and regional authorities*" as well as with local authorities. It stresses, however, that the place given to the Europe 2020 strategy should not lead to a downgrading of other objectives as laid down by the Treaties, particularly economic, social and territorial cohesion. It also considers that, while the Europe 2020 strategy represents a main driver for policy mobilisation, neither its three strands nor the seven Flagship Initiatives are fit for the purpose of identifying budget headings. Whilst the opinion concurs that money should be spent more efficiently, it does not support the idea of a performance reserve based on Europe 2020 objectives. It does, however, welcome the fact that the Innovation Union flagship initiative quite rightly defines the term "innovation" broadly, as this might encourage Member States to support their modernisation of education and training systems at all levels. The opinion also underlines that the CAP may bring a valuable contribution to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and approves the proposed Common Strategic Framework and the concept of Partnership Contracts as an accurate budgetary illustration of the territorial pacts that it promotes for National Reform Programmes. These contracts must, however, be developed in partnership with local and regional authorities and not just between Member States and the Commission, in accordance with the multi-level governance principle.

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<sup>73</sup> Opinion on Reinforcing economic policy coordination (CDR224/2010), Rapporteur: Konstantinos Tatsis (EL/EPP).

<sup>74</sup> The EU Budget Review, Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (IT/PES) and Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (ES/EPP)

**Opinion on *Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships.***

In this opinion<sup>75</sup>, the Committee of the Regions focuses on the ways in which Public Private Partnerships (PPP) can be further developed and used as a means for economic recovery and, indeed, even for long-term structural change. As such, PPP are to be viewed as an important tool for achieving the Europe 2020's strategy. Indeed, the long-term lifecycle perspective of planning, conceptualising, and funding, all the way through to implementation of the partnership, can take as long as 30 years. Any assessment of such a partnership should not, therefore, be made on a short-term basis. Furthermore, the added value of a PPP is not always evident. Indeed, PPPs, the Committee claims, are not suitable to every context, and often depend on the specific features of an individual project, on public service and on innovation. Furthermore, in the short-term at least, the opinion calls on the Commission to refrain from regulating on service concessions. Moreover, if the Commission were to adopt this approach, the Committee of the Regions calls for regulations to be focused on the directives on public works concessions, and not on the provisions governing the procurement of services. The Committee views this as necessary for the well-being of PPPs, and consequently of Europe's economic recovery.

**5.2 Improving the functioning of the EU economy: single market and smart regulation issues**

**Opinion on *Towards a Single Market Act***

This opinion<sup>76</sup> focuses on the Committee of the Regions' view of the Single Market Act, bearing in mind the obvious contribution of the European single market to achieving the Europe 2020 strategy. The Committee of the Regions therefore urges the European Commission to review the Single Market Act in order to strike a balance between its three pillars, and recommends that the Commission fully implement all the new social advances established in the Lisbon Treaty. These involve further combating social exclusion and discrimination, protecting the rights of the child, promoting social justice and many more. Secondly, the opinion encourages the Commission to clarify its proposals on restoring the confidence of the European people by gathering all the measures focused on access to core services and those involving day-to-day services into an initial package of measures. And finally, the Committee of the Regions recommends that territorial pacts be set-up - on a flexible region-by-region approach - in order to focus regional policy and funding on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and the 7 flagship initiatives.

**Opinion on *Reform of the EU State Aid Rules on services of general economic interest***

The opinion<sup>77</sup> states the case of local and regional authorities in the debate on the state aid rules for the services of general economic interests. One of the strongest points it makes is the call for respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The CoR advocates granting greater autonomy for

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<sup>75</sup> Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long-term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships, Rapporteur: Catarina Segersten Larsson (SE/EPP).

<sup>76</sup> Towards a Single Market Act, Rapporteur: Jean-Louis Destans (FR/PES)

<sup>77</sup> Reform of the EU State Aid Rules on services of general economic interest ([CDR150/2011](#)), Rapporteur: Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE/PES)

the local authorities to choose providers without necessity to pass through cumbersome state aid procedures in case of small projects of low overall impact on the single market. The opinion proposes measures for allocation of public resources, addresses the need for increased economic efficiency in public service compensation and public service productivity at a time of economic and budgetary crisis.

The opinion does not make any direct reference to the flagship initiatives, it reiterates however the importance of the services of general economic interest for the successful implementation of the EU2020 and the role they play in the successful reform of the single market.

No mention is made of territorial pacts or multi-level governance. There is however a strong case on the territorial cohesion and territorial dimension as well as subsidiarity.

### ***Opinion on Modernisation of EU public procurement policy: towards a more efficient European Procurement Market***

In this opinion<sup>78</sup>, in order to achieve the EU 2020 objectives, the Committee of the Regions –in agreement with the Commission - believes that access for SMEs to public procurement is of absolute importance in maintaining, and even increasing, employment due to SMEs' role as the backbone of the EU economy. In order to facilitate access to public procurement, the Committee of the Regions calls on the Commission to implement a mechanism such as an EU-wide procurement passport, enabling operators to prove that their declaration and documentation are correct. Operators would then not have to continuously apply for the relevant documents necessary for public procurement. Standardising and simplifying access to public procurement throughout Europe is a tool needed by operators to promote innovation, social inclusion, sustainability and the environment and thus contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### ***Opinion on European and international mobility for local and regional authority staff***

This opinion<sup>79</sup> draws attention to the CoR's commitment to mobility, whether educational or professional, since mobility helps strengthen European identity, thereby enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion within the European Union. The rapporteur also points out that a wealth of knowledge and experience exists at local and regional level and this is the level where the exchange of best practice will help to identify the majority of innovative and creative approaches. The rapporteur also notes that, if the Europe 2020 strategy is to become fully operational, local and regional authorities must be involved in its design and implementation, particularly as regards flagship initiatives such as *An Agenda for new skills and jobs* and *Youth on the Move*.

### ***Opinion on the European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015***

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<sup>78</sup> Modernisation of EU public procurement policy: towards a more efficient European Procurement Market (CDR70-2011), Rapporteur: Henk Kool (NL/PES)

<sup>79</sup> European and international mobility for local and regional authority staff (CdR 114/2011), Rapporteur: Mireille Lacombe (FR/PES)

The CoR welcomes the European eGovernment Action Plan<sup>80</sup>, as it can significantly help bridge the digital divide and achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, while at the same time helping to fulfil a number of the of the European public's key social, cultural and economic needs. The Committee points out the importance of ensuring that security requirements are met at all levels, as infrastructure and services continue to develop under the European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015, in order to guarantee maximum protection of privacy and personal data and to prevent any form of unauthorised monitoring of such data.

#### **European Entrepreneurial Region**

The European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) is a project that identifies and rewards EU regions with outstanding entrepreneurial visions, irrespective of their size, wealth and competences. The regions with the most convincing and forward-thinking policy strategy will be granted the "Entrepreneurial region of the year" label. The aim of the initiative is to create dynamic, green and entrepreneurial regions throughout Europe.

The project is a practical contribution by the CoR to the Europe 2020 strategy. The label is awarded if a region puts forward a vision plan meeting six criteria in the following areas: the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) and the main EU policy initiatives and instruments; promotion of entrepreneurship while ensuring full coherence between the regions' and the EU's entrepreneurial agenda; cross-cutting themes/EU dimension; regional integration and cooperation among all players within the region; sustainability; implementation, governance and communication.

The first EER labels were awarded for the EER years 2011 and 2012 at an Award Ceremony held at the Committee of the Regions in February 2010 to the following regions: for the Year 2011, Land Brandenburg (DE), County Kerry (IE) and the Murcia Region (ES); for the Year 2012 Catalonia (ES), Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (FI) and Trnava Self-Governing Region (SK). The regions are currently implementing their activities achieve the Europe 2020 strategy's various targets.

Further information is available on the EER web page: [www.cor.europa.eu/eer](http://www.cor.europa.eu/eer)

### **5.3 Cohesion policy and Europe 2020**

#### **Outlook Opinion on *The Future of the European Social Fund (ESF) after 2013***

The CoR opinion<sup>81</sup> considers that the independence of cohesion policy as provided for in the Treaty should be maintained, whilst making good use of the ways in which it can contribute to the success of Europe 2020 through appropriate coordination mechanisms. The ESF contributes to all three of the priority sectors set out in the Europe 2020 strategy, in particular smart and inclusive growth: by boosting policies for social inclusion, it directly endeavours to increase the employment rate to 75%, to reduce early school leaving and to achieve a general reduction in the level of poverty. It also helps to meet four of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines. The Common Strategic Framework announced in the 5th Cohesion Report is considered to be the best means of ensuring such unity of purpose. The CoR opinion rejects, on the other hand, any suggestion of re-nationalising cohesion policies, or of sectoral concentration. Such suggestions do not offer coherent and functional support to the Europe

<sup>80</sup> European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015 (CdR 65/2011), Rapporteur: Ján Oravec (SK/EPP)

<sup>81</sup> The Future of the European Social Fund (ESF) after 2013, Rapporteur: Catiuscia Marini, President of the Umbria region (IT/PES)

2020 strategy and moreover conflict with the principle of multi-level governance . The CoR opinion strongly recommends instead that the ESF retain its structural fund characteristics and calls for its territorial dimension to be strengthened. It also underlines that territorial pacts, as an expression of the partnership principle, are a helpful instrument for strengthening that multi-level governance principle. The CoR opinion also calls for the ESF to be used in accordance with the Europe 2020 flagships *An agenda for New Skills and Jobs*, and *A European Platform against Poverty*.

## 6. ANNEXES

### List of abbreviations and country codes

AGS	Annual Growth Survey	BE	Belgium
ALDE	Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	BG	Bulgaria
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	CZ	Czech Republic
CdR	Comité des Régions	DK	Denmark
COM	Communication	DE	Germany
CoM	Covenant of Mayors	EE	Estonia
CoR	Committee of the Regions	IE	Ireland
EA	European Alliance Group	EL	Greece
EC	European Commission	ES	Spain
EER	European Entrepreneurial Region	FR	France
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	IT	Italy
EMU	European Monetary Union	CY	Cyprus
EP	European Parliament	LV	Latvia
EPP	European People's Party	LT	Lithuania
EU	European Union	LU	Luxembourg
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	HU	Hungary
MP	Monitoring Platform	MT	Malta
NRP	National Reform Programme	AT	Austria
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities	NL	Netherlands
PES	Party of European Socialists	PL	Poland
R&D	Research and Development	PT	Portugal
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	RO	Romania
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union	SL	Slovenia
YotM	Youth on the Move	SK	Slovakia
		FI	Finland
		SE	Sweden
		UK	United Kingdom

**List of respondents: Survey: Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?**

Country	Organisation
AT	Association of public services and public enterprises Austria ( <i>Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft - VÖWG</i> )
AT	Land Salzburg
AT	Municipal Executive of Linz ( <i>Landeshauptstadt Linz</i> )
AT	Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government ( <i>Land Burgenland</i> )
AT	Office of the Regional Government of Styria ( <i>Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung</i> )
AT	Office of the State Government of Vorarlberg ( <i>Land Vorarlberg</i> )
BE	Belgian ministry for the German-speaking community ( <i>Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens</i> )
BE	Benelux
BE	Brussels-Capital Region ( <i>Région de Bruxelles-Capitale</i> )
BE	Flemish authorities ( <i>Vlaamse overheid</i> )
BE	Walloon Region ( <i>Région wallonne</i> )
CY	Municipality of Strovolos ( <i>Δήμος Στροβόλου</i> )
CZ	Vysočina Region ( <i>Krajský úřad Kraje Vysočina</i> )
DE	Achim City ( <i>Stadt Achim</i> )
DE	City of Arnsberg ( <i>Stadt Arnsberg</i> )
DE	City of Frankfurt/Oder (Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Centre)
DE	City of Mülheim an der Ruhr ( <i>Stadt Mülheim an der Ruhr</i> )
DE	Federal Land of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania ( <i>Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</i> )
DE	Free Hanseatic City of Bremen ( <i>Freie Hansestadt Bremen</i> )
DE	Free State of Bavaria ( <i>Freistaat Bayern</i> )
DE	Landratsamt Hohenlohekreis ( <i>Baden-Württemberg</i> )
DE	Munich ( <i>München</i> )
DE	State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia
DK	Local Government Denmark ( <i>Kommunernes Landsforening</i> )
DK	Central Region Denmark
EE	Tallinn City
EL	Crete Region ( <i>Περιφέρειας Κρήτης</i> )
EL	Drama Municipality ( <i>Ο Δήμος Δράμας</i> )
EL	Municipality of Kavala ( <i>Δήμον Καβάλας</i> )
ES	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia ( <i>Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia</i> )
ES	Basque Government ( <i>Gobierno Vasco</i> )



Country	Organisation
ES	Government of the Balearic Islands ( <i>Govern de les Illes Balears (Gobierno de las Islas Baleares)</i> )
ES	Government of Catalonia ( <i>Gobierno de Catalunya</i> )
ES	Local Economic and Social Development Agency, Alicante Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Alicante</i> )
EU	Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
EU	Galicia-Norte de Portugal EGTC ( <i>Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial / Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial Galicia-Norte de Portugal (GNP-AECT)</i> )
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities - AFLRA ( <i>Suomen Kuntaliitto</i> )
FI	City of Lahti ( <i>Lahtis</i> )
FI	Helsinki-Uusimaa Region ( <i>Uudenmaan liitto</i> )
FR	Auvergne Region ( <i>Région Auvergne</i> )
FR	General Council of Alpes de Haute Provence ( <i>Conseil Général des Alpes de Haute Provence</i> )
FR	General Council of Savoie ( <i>Conseil général de la Savoie</i> )
FR	General Council of Seine-et-Marne ( <i>Conseil général de Seine-et-Marne</i> )
FR	Network - Les P <sup>ACTES</sup> Européens/ European P <sup>ACTS</sup>
FR	Saône-et-Loire Department ( <i>Département de Saône-et-Loire</i> )
FR	Urban Community of Dunkirk ( <i>Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque</i> )
HU	Győr-Moson-Sopron County Council ( <i>Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat</i> )
HU	Innova Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency
IE	Border, Midlands and Western Regional Assembly
IT	Apulia Region ( <i>Regione Puglia</i> )
IT	Emilia-Romagna Region ( <i>Regione Emilia-Romagna</i> )
IT	Le Marche Region ( <i>Regione Marche</i> )
IT	Municipality of Giuliano Teatino ( <i>Comune di Giuliano Teatino (CH)</i> )
IT	Tulip Bologna - Teaching & Learning International Projects University network, Bologna Municipality Association
IT	Umbria Region ( <i>Regione Umbria</i> )
LV	Rīga City Council ( <i>Rīgas pilsētas pašvaldība</i> )
NL	Achterhoek Region ( <i>Regio Achterhoek</i> )
NL	City of Delft ( <i>Gemeente Delft</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of Łódź ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski w Łodzi</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Opolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Opolskiego</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Westpomeranian Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Zachodniopomorskiego</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region in Olsztyn ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Warmińsko-Mazurskiego w Olsztynie</i> )

Country	Organisation
PL	Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Świętokrzyskiego</i> )
PT	Ferreira do Alentejo Town Council ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Ferreira do Alentejo</i> )
PT	Lisbon City Council ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Lisboa</i> )
PT	Porto City Council ( <i>Município do Porto, Câmara Municipal do Porto</i> )
PT	Regional Government of Madeira ( <i>Governo Regional da Madeira</i> )
PT	Santiago do Cacém Municipality ( <i>Município de Santiago do Cacém</i> )
RO	Harghita County Council ( <i>Hargita Megye Tanácsa</i> )
RO	Mureș County Council ( <i>Consiliul Județean Mureș</i> )
RO	Town Hall of Țândărei, in Ialomița county ( <i>Primăria Orașului Țândărei, Județul Ialomița</i> )
RO	Town Hall of Calafat ( <i>Primăria Calafat</i> )
RO	Town Hall of Cugir ( <i>Orașului Cugir</i> )
RO	Town Hall of Mizil ( <i>Primăria Mizil</i> )
SE	City of Malmö ( <i>Malmö Stad</i> )
SE	City of Solna ( <i>Solna stad</i> )
SE	County Council of Jämtland ( <i>Regionförbundet Jämtlands län</i> )
SE	Kristianstad Municipality ( <i>Kristianstads kommun</i> )
SE	Eskilstuna Municipality ( <i>Eskilstuna kommun</i> )
SE	Regional development council of Örebro ( <i>Regionförbundet Örebro</i> )
SE	Regional Council in Kalmar County ( <i>Regionförbundet i Kalmar län</i> )
SE	Skåne Region ( <i>Region Skåne</i> )
SE	Västerbotten Region ( <i>Region Västerbotten</i> )
SK	Prešov Self-Governing Region ( <i>Prešovský samosprávny kraj</i> )
SK	Trenčín Self-governing Region ( <i>Trenčiansky samosprávny Kraj</i> )
SK	Trnava Self-governing Region ( <i>Trnavský samosprávny kraj</i> )
SK	Žilina Self-Governing Region ( <i>Žilinský samosprávny kraj</i> )
UK	Belfast City Council
UK	Preston City Council

**List of respondents: Quick Survey on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Country	Organisation
AT	City of Vienna ( <i>Stadt Wien</i> )
AT	Lower Austria ( <i>Amt der NÖ Landesregierung</i> )
BE	Belgian Anti-Poverty Network (BAPN) - Réseau Belge de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (BAPN)
BE	Flemish administration, on behalf of the Health, Welfare & Families (WVG) and General Government Policy Services (DAR) departments
BG	Dobrich Municipal Authority ( <i>Община градо Добрич</i> )
CY	Mayor of Kato Polemidia ( <i>Δήμαρχος Κάτω Πολεμιδιών</i> )
CZ	Moravian-Silesian Region - Regional Authority ( <i>Moravskoslezský kraj</i> )
CZ	Vysočina Region ( <i>Kraj Vysočina</i> )
DE	Arnsberg Municipality ( <i>Stadt Arnsberg</i> )
DE	German County Association/Hohenlohe rural district ( <i>Deutscher Landkreistag</i> )
DE	Free Hanseatic City of Bremen ( <i>Freie Hansestadt Bremen</i> )
DE	Ministry for Work, Family, Prevention, Social Affairs and Sport of the Saarland
DE	Saarpfalz District Assembly ( <i>Saarpfalz-Kreis</i> )
EE	Association of Municipalities of Estonia (AME)
EL	Municipality of Kavala ( <i>Δήμος Καβάλας</i> )
ES	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia ( <i>Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia</i> )
ES	Basque Government ( <i>Gobierno Vasco</i> )
ES	Regional Government of Galicia ( <i>Xunta de Galicia</i> )
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities - AFLRA ( <i>Suomen Kuntaliitto</i> )
FI	Kerava City Council ( <i>Keravan kaupunki</i> )
FR	Pactes Locaux / P'ACTES
HU	Győr-Moson-Sopron County Council ( <i>Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat</i> )
IE	Dublin City
NL	City of Delft ( <i>Gemeente Delft</i> )
NL	City of the Hague ( <i>Den Haag</i> )
NL	Municipality of Lingewaard ( <i>Gemeente Lingewaard</i> )
NL	Province of Overijssel ( <i>Provincie Overijssel</i> )
PL	Board of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Mazowieckiego</i> )
PL	Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Kujawsko-Pomorskiego</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego</i> )
PT	Faro Municipality ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Faro</i> )

Country	Organisation
RO	Calarasi County Council ( <i>Consiliul Județean Călărași</i> )
RO	Mureș County Council ( <i>Consiliul Județean Mureș</i> )
SE	City of Malmö ( <i>Malmö stad</i> )
SE	City of Stockholm ( <i>Stockholm stad</i> )
SI	Ptuj Municipality ( <i>Mestna občina Ptuj</i> )
SK	Košice Self-governing Region ( <i>Úrad Košického samosprávneho kraja</i> )
SK	Nitra Self-governing Region ( <i>Nitriansky samosprávny kraj</i> )
SK	Prešov Autonomous Region ( <i>Prešovský samosprávny kraj</i> )
SK	Trnava Region ( <i>Trnavský samosprávny kraj</i> )
UK	Preston City Council
UK	Scottish Borders Council
UK	Scottish Government

**List of respondents: Survey on the role of regional and local authorities in promoting a sustainable water policy**

State	Organisation
AT	Office of the Regional Government of Burgenland ( <i>Land Burgenland</i> )
AT	Office of the Tyrol Regional Government ( <i>Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung</i> )
AT	Salzburg Provincial Government, Department of Water Management ( <i>Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Fachabteilung Wasserwirtschaft</i> )
AT	State Government of Vorarlberg ( <i>Vorarlberger Landesregierung</i> )
BE	Flemish Environment Agency ( <i>Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij</i> )
BE	Walloon company for water supply and sanitation ( <i>SWDE - Société wallonne des Eaux</i> )
CZ	Liberec Regional Council ( <i>Krajský úřad Libereckého kraje</i> )
CZ	Povodí Ohře, State Corporation ( <i>Povodí Ohře, státní podnik</i> )
CZ	South Moravia Regional Council ( <i>Zatupitelstvo Jihomoravského kraje</i> )
DE	Arnsberg City ( <i>Stadt Arnsberg</i> )
DK	Danish Regions ( <i>Danske Regioner</i> )
EE	Kuressaare Municipal Authority ( <i>Kuressaare linnavalitsus</i> )
EE	Sindi municipal authority ( <i>Sindi linnavalitsus</i> )
EE	Tõrva Municipality ( <i>Tõrva linnavalitsus</i> )
EL	Region of Attica ( <i>Περιφέρεια Αττικής</i> )
ES	Almoradí Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Almoradí</i> )
ES	Autonomous Community of Galicia ( <i>Xunta de Galicia</i> )
ES	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia ( <i>Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia</i> )
ES	Autonomous Community of Valencia ( <i>Generalitat Valenciana</i> )
ES	Benaguasil Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Benaguasil</i> )
ES	Callosa de Segura Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Callosa de Segura</i> )
ES	Catalonia Region ( <i>Generalitat de Catalunya</i> )
ES	Federation of Aragonese Municipalities, Districts and Provinces (FAMCP) ( <i>Federacion Aragonesa de Municipios, Comarcas y Provincias (FAMCP)</i> )
ES	Local Agency for Economic and Social Development of Alicante City Council ( <i>Agencia Local de Desarrollo Económico y Social de Alicante</i> )
ES	Madrid City Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Madrid</i> )
ES	Mutxamel Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Mutxamel</i> )
ES	Ribesalbes Town Council ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Ribesalbes</i> )
EU	European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions (AEM) - Association européenne des élus de montagne (AEM) AEM
FI	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Ostrobothnia ( <i>Pohjois-Pohjanmaan elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus</i> )

State	Organisation
FR	European House of French Local Authorities ( <i>Maison européenne des pouvoirs locaux français - MEPLF</i> )
HU	Budapest Representation to the EU
IT	Environmental association ( <i>Associazione ambientale</i> )
IT	Le Marche Region ( <i>Regione Marche</i> )
IT	Taranta Peligna Town Council ( <i>Comune di Taranta Peligna</i> )
IT	Volvera Town Council ( <i>Comune di Volvera</i> )
MT	Xaghra (Gozo) Local Council (Xaghra)
NL	City of Nijmegen ( <i>Gemeente Nijmegen</i> )
NL	Province of South-Holland ( <i>Provincie Zuid-Holland</i> )
PT	Santiago do Cacém Municipal Council ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Santiago do Cacém</i> )
PT	Ferreira do Alentejo Town Council ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Ferreira do Alentejo</i> )
PT	Lisbon City Council ( <i>Câmara Municipal de Lisboa</i> )
SE	Göteborg Municipality ( <i>Göteborgs Stad</i> )
SK	Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia ( <i>Združenie miest a obcí Slovenska</i> )
SK	Ateliér Dobručká, s.r.o.
SK	Košice City ( <i>Mesto Košice</i> )
SK	Pliešovská kotlina microregion ( <i>Mikroregión Pliešovská kotlina</i> )
SK	Research team from the Plant Production Research Centre, Grassland and Mountain Agriculture Research Institute (VÚTPHP), Banská Bystrica ( <i>Kolektív VÚTPHP Banská Bystrica</i> )
SK	Trnava Self-governing Region ( <i>Trnavský Samosprávny Kraj</i> )
SK	Zvolen University of Technology ( <i>Technická Univerzita vo Zvolene</i> )

**List of respondents: Survey on Anti-Crisis Policies in Regions and Cities Two Years On: public authorities working in partnership**

State	Organisation
AT	City of Moerbisch am See ( <i>Stadt Mörbisch am See</i> )
AT	Regional Government of Lower Austria ( <i>Niederösterreichische Landesregierung</i> )
DE	University of Hamburg ( <i>Universität Hamburg</i> )
DK	Region of Southern Denmark ( <i>Region Syddanmark</i> )
EL	Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry
EL	EETAA - Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government
ES	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia ( <i>Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia</i> )
ES	Autonomous Government of Catalonia ( <i>Generalitat de Catalunya</i> )
ES	Basque Government ( <i>Gobierno Vasco</i> )
ES	Pozuelo de Alarcón Town Hall ( <i>Ayuntamiento de Pozuelo de Alarcón</i> )
ES	Regional Council of Gipuzkoa ( <i>Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa</i> )
ES	Representative Office of the Principality of Asturias (Spain)
EU	Galicia - Norte de Portugal European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation ( <i>Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial Galicia-Norte de Portugal - Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial Galicia-Norte de Portugal</i> ) (ES-PT)
EU	MASH EGTC (HU-SI)
EU	UTTS EGTC (HU-SK)
FI	Council of Tampere Region ( <i>Pirkanmaan liitto</i> )
FI	Uusimaa Regional Council ( <i>Uudenmaan liitto</i> )
HU	INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Development and Innovation Agency ( <i>Észak-Alföldi Regionális Innovációs Ügynökség Kht.</i> )
IE	Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly
IT	Emilia-Romagna Region ( <i>Regione Emilia-Romagna</i> )
IT	Province of Turin ( <i>Provincia di Torino</i> )
IT	Province of Reggio Emilia ( <i>Provincia di Reggio Emilia</i> )
LT	Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (ALAL) - <i>Lietuvos savivaldybių asociacija (LSA)</i>
LT	Zarasai District Municipality ( <i>Zarasų rajono savivaldybė</i> )
NL	Province of Zeeland ( <i>Provincie Zeeland</i> )
PL	Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego</i> )
UK	Preston City Council

**List of cases: Survey: Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?**

MS	Title of the action	Organisation
<b>SUSTAINABLE GROWTH</b>		
AT	Salzburg 2050: climate neutral, energy self-sufficient and sustainable	Land Salzburg
AT	Linz energy efficiency programme 2012	Municipal Executive of Linz ( <i>Landeshauptstadt Linz</i> )
BE	Indicators of Local Transition to a LowCarbon Economy in the Benelux countries	Benelux
DE	Hohenlohe-Odenwald-Tauber (H-O-T) Bio-Energy Region	Landratsamt Hohenlohekreis ( <i>Baden-Württemberg</i> )
DE	Bavaria 2020 climate programme	Free State of Bavaria ( <i>Freistaat Bayern</i> )
	Electromobility	
EL	Calculating the carbon footprint of Kavala Municipality	Municipality of Kavala ( <i>Δήμος Καβάλας</i> )
FR	Agenda 21 Regional climate change plan (TCEP)	General Council of Alpes de Haute Provence ( <i>Conseil Général des Alpes de Haute Provence</i> )
LV	Heat recovery from unused low-potential heat flows	Riga City Council ( <i>Rīgas pilsētas pašvaldība</i> )
PT	Covenant of Mayors	Santiago do Cacém Municipality ( <i>Município de Santiago do Cacém</i> )
PT	Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP-P)	Porto City Council ( <i>Município do Porto, Câmara Municipal do Porto</i> )
RO	Developing the business environment in Harghita County	Harghita County Council ( <i>Hargita Megye Tanácsa</i> )
RO	Local action plan on energy	Town hall of Mizil ( <i>Primăria Mizil</i> )
SE	EU 2020 going local	Regional development council of Örebro ( <i>Regionförbundet Örebro</i> )
SE	Four annual strategic targets in line with 2020, and a sustainable development management system	Eskilstuna Municipality ( <i>Eskilstuna kommun</i> )
<b>SMART GROWTH</b>		
CZ	Introduction of eGovernment in the Vysočina region	Vysočina Region ( <i>Krajský úřad Kraje Vysočina</i> )
CZ	Vysočina regional innovation strategy	
DE	Productive learning.	Federal Land of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania ( <i>Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</i> )
DE	Federal and Land excellence initiative to promote science and research in German higher education	Free State of Bavaria ( <i>Freistaat Bayern</i> )
	Leader strategy	
ES	Emprender en mi escuela (–Starting a business at my school)	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia ( <i>Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia</i> )
ES	Technology Valorisation Programme	ACC10 (the Catalan Agency of Innovation and Internationalisation)



MS	Title of the action	Organisation
FI	EER 2012, Uusimaa Euroopan yrittäjyysalue (European Entrepreneurial Region) 2012	Helsinki-Uusimaa Region ( <i>Uudenmaan liitto</i> )
FR	Broadband infrastructure development.	General Council of Seine-et-Marne ( <i>Conseil General de Seine-et-Marne</i> )
FR	Creation of Sustainable City Learning Centre in Dunkirk	Urban Community of Dunkirk ( <i>Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque</i> )
FR	Internet très haut débit (ultra-fast broadband)	Auvergne Region ( <i>Région Auvergne</i> )
FR	Pack Jeune Adulte (Young adult pack)	
HU	Pre-Commercial Procurement pilot action, based on Structural Funds	Innova Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency
IT	Regional innovation partnership (Call for proposals launched in the framework of the ERDF Operational Programme for Puglia Region 2007-2013)	Apulia Region ( <i>Regione Puglia</i> )
IT	Call for project proposals to set up innovation poles	Umbria Region ( <i>Regione Umbria</i> )
NL	Clustering of specific scientific topics: e.g. Clean Tech, Medical Delta	City of Delft ( <i>Gemeente Delft</i> )
PL	Information Society Infrastructure	Marshall's Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region in Olsztyn ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Warmińsko-Mazurskiego w Olsztynie</i> )
PL	Innowacyjna Wielkopolska (Innovative Wielkopolska)	Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego</i> )
PL	Creation and development of credit and guarantee funds implemented on the basis of the 2007-2013 Świętokrzyskie Regional Operational Programme	Marshal's Office of the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Świętokrzyskiego</i> )
PL	Supporting the R+D sector and business innovation.	Marshal's Office of the Opolskie Region ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Opolskiego</i> )
PL	Transfer of knowledge in the region through the development of cooperation networks.	Westpomerania ( <i>Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Zachodniopomorskiego</i> )
SE	Innovation Örebro	Regional development council of Örebro ( <i>Regionförbundet Örebro</i> )
SE	Regional development departments' priorities for 2011	City of Malmö ( <i>Malmö Stad</i> )
<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH</b>		
AT	The Vorarlberg "Opportunity Pool"	Office of the State Government of Vorarlberg ( <i>Land Vorarlberg</i> )
DE	Educational success through designing diversity	Achim City ( <i>Stadt Achim</i> )
DE	Improving access to employment and social integration	Free State of Bavaria ( <i>Freistaat Bayern</i> )
	Increasing childcare provision in Bavaria	

MS	Title of the action	Organisation
	Mainstream funding programme for employment-related youth social work	
EE	Recovery Package “Tallinn Works”	Tallinn City
FR	The European Social Funds and the options for integration into territories	General Council of Savoie ( <i>Conseil général de la Savoie</i> )
FR	Better respond to developments in employment needs of businesses and employees by permanently establishing local partnerships	Les P’ACTES Européens/ European P’ACTS (coordinated by CRGE - Resource centre for employers' groups)
IT	Agenda for new skills and jobs ( also Teleworking )	Tulip Bologna - Teaching & Learning International Projects University network, Bologna municipality
RO	Supporting business in Mureş county	Mureş County Council ( <i>Consiliul Judeţean Mureş</i> )
<b>CROSS-CUTTING POLICY ACTIONS</b>		
AT	Economic Policy Styria 2020 – Growth through Innovation	Office of the Regional Government of Styria ( <i>Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung</i> )
BE	Implementation of the New deal (Pacte de Croissance Urbaine Durable) [sustainable urban growth pact]; The implementation of a new research and innovation strategy in the Brussels-Capital Region; Greenbizz: A specific project to create environmental business incubators.	Brussels-Capital Region ( <i>Région de Bruxelles-Capitale</i> )
BE	An awareness campaign to encourage people to stay at work longer; Child poverty action programme; White Paper: New Industrial Policy for Flanders	Flemish authorities ( <i>Vlaamse overheid</i> )
BE	Continuation and expansion of the competitiveness centre policy	Walloon Region ( <i>Région wallonne</i> )
BE	Regional development plan (REK) of the Belgian German-speaking community - Ostbelgien leben 2025 (East Belgium – life in 2025)	Belgian ministry for the German-speaking community ( <i>Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens</i> )
DE	Implementation of the Frankfurt/Oder-Słubice 2010-2020 Local Action Plan	City of Frankfurt/Oder (Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Centre)
DE	Preparation of the EU Structural Fund programmes from 2014	State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia
DE	The Bremen Maritime Action Plan	Free Hanseatic City of Bremen ( <i>Freie Hansestadt Bremen</i> )
DE	More efficient cross-border administrative procedures using the P23R process-data accelerator - cross-border applications for and approval of heavy goods transport	Free State of Bavaria ( <i>Freistaat Bayern</i> )
DK	A globally competitive region - Business development strategy 2010-2020	Central Denmark Region

MS	Title of the action	Organisation
EL	Regional Innovation Committee of Crete (PSKK)	Crete Region ( <i>Περιφέρειας Κρήτης</i> )
ES	Catalonia 2020 Strategy (ECAT 2020)	Government of Catalonia ( <i>Gobierno de Catalunya</i> )
EU	Galicia-Northern Portugal European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	Galicia-Norte de Portugal EGTC ( <i>Agrupación Europea de Cooperación Territorial / Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial Galicia-Norte de Portugal (GNP-AECT)</i> )
FI	Lahti City strategy 2025	City of Lahti ( <i>Lahtis</i> )
FI	Reform of the municipal system.	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities - AFLRA ( <i>Suomen Kuntaliitto</i> )
IT	Macroregione adriatico-ionica (Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion)	Le Marche Region ( <i>Regione Marche</i> )
IT	Measures to implement the simplification objectives as regards the local and regional administrative system.	Emilia-Romagna Region ( <i>Regione Emilia-Romagna</i> )
NL	Achterhoek 2020	Achterhoek Region ( <i>Regio Achterhoek</i> )
RO	A resource-efficient Europe – innovation in technology and in the socio-economic system	Town hall of Țândărei, in Ialomița county ( <i>Primăria Orașului Țândărei, Județul Ialomița</i> )
SE	2007-2013 Development Strategy for Västerbotten county.	Västerbotten Region ( <i>Region Västerbotten</i> )
SE	Aligning the city budget and plan of actions with the Europe 2020 strategy.	City of Solna ( <i>Solna stad</i> )
SE	Regional development programme for Skåne	Skåne Region ( <i>Region Skåne</i> )
SE	Regional development strategy (RDS), regional growth programme – operational programmes	County Council of Jämtland ( <i>Regionförbundet Jämtlands län</i> )
SE	The appointment of the Regional Council in Kalmar County and of Västerbotten development region as horizontal action leaders for "multi-level governance" within the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, and the Involve project as part of their work in that connection.	Regional Council in Kalmar County ( <i>Regionförbundet i Kalmar län</i> )
SK	Drafting the strategy document entitled "Programme of Economic and Social Development of the Trenčín Region 2011–2020" (PHSR TSK 2011–2020) (hereafter "PESD").	Trenčín Self-governing Region ( <i>Trenčiansky Samosprávny Kraj</i> )
SK	Trnava Self-Governing Region Economic and Social Development Plan 2009–2015 (preparation, drafting, adoption, publicising)	Trnava Self-governing Region ( <i>Trnavský samosprávny kraj</i> )
SK	Žilina Self-governing Region Plan for Economic and Social Development (PESD) 2007–2013	Žilina Self-Governing Region ( <i>Žilinský samosprávny kraj</i> )

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