



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

# 4<sup>th</sup> CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020

October 2013 • Final Report



Regions and Cities supporting  
**Europe2020**  
Europe's growth strategy

The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives

## Table of Contents

Prefaces.....	1
1. Executive summary.....	4
2. Introduction .....	12
3. Regional development in the EU: current trends and progress towards Europe 2020 targets .	13
3.1 The impact of the economic crisis on regional development trends .....	13
3.2 EU regions and the Europe 2020 targets .....	17
3.3 Where are the regions on the way to Europe 2020? Benefits and challenges of a Regional Progress Indicator .....	23
3.4 Summary and comments .....	28
4. Monitoring the governance of Europe 2020.....	28
4.1 National Reform Programmes for 2013 .....	30
4.2 Country-Specific Recommendations for 2013.....	31
4.3 The Partnership Agreements.....	33
5. Monitoring the flagship initiatives .....	35
5.1 Horizontal aspects of monitoring results.....	35
5.2 The flagship initiatives so far .....	40
5.2.1 Youth on the move.....	40
5.2.2 An agenda for new skills and jobs.....	41
5.2.3 An industrial policy for the globalisation era .....	42
5.2.4 European platform against poverty and social exclusion.....	43
5.2.5 Digital Agenda for Europe .....	44
5.2.6 Resource-Efficient Europe .....	45
5.3 Good practices.....	47
5.3.1 Youth on the Move .....	47
5.3.2 An agenda for new skills and jobs.....	49
5.3.3 An industrial policy for the globalisation era .....	50
5.3.4 European platform against poverty and social exclusion.....	52
5.3.5 Digital Agenda for Europe .....	53
6. Appendices .....	56
6.1 List of abbreviations and country codes.....	56
6.2 EU 2020-related CoR opinions adopted in 2012-2013.....	56
6.3 List of respondents to the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform surveys.....	59
6.4 List of members of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform – August 2013.....	85

## **Prefaces**

### **Preface to the CoR's Fourth Monitoring Report on Europe 2020**

**by Ramon Luis Valcárcel Siso**

*President of the CoR, President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia*

This Fourth CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 fulfils an engagement taken in the Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. It comes ahead of what looks to be a milestone year for the EU and a turning point for the Europe 2020 strategy.

On 25 May 2014, a new European Parliament will be elected and a new European Commission will be appointed in the autumn. One of the priorities of the new EU legislature will be a revision of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs and to ensure a revised strategy can better respond to the need for an economically stronger, more competitive and more cohesive, Europe.

The 2013 Spring European Council had already announced that it would examine the strategy in 2013/2014; thematic meetings on key policy issues (energy, industrial policy, competitiveness) are being held. I am pleased that European Commission's President Barroso announced in his speech on the State of the Union on 11 September 2013 that the Commission also sees the need for a reflection on the Europe 2020 strategy.

The CoR has itself embarked on a comprehensive review of the strategy from a regional perspective. It will give its contribution through a Political Declaration, accompanied by a mid-term assessment report, to be presented in March 2014, ahead of the Spring European Council, at the Summit of European Cities and Regions in Athens.

In preparation for this phase of dense political debate, this Report looks at the impact of the Europe 2020 strategy so far from the standpoint of EU local and regional authorities. In particular, it assesses the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives, to which the CoR has devoted a series of dedicated conferences (due to end in November 2013), supported by surveys of EU local and regional authorities carried out by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform.

The Report shows that one of the main weaknesses of the Europe 2020 Strategy is the lack of a genuine understanding of regional disparities across Europe and the lack of a genuine territorial dimension. Moreover, it is impossible to make visible progress towards its goals and targets without adequately involving the local and regional authorities.

We must also be aware that delivering Europe 2020 will be impossible without adequate funding for the investments needed. Eventhough the most important part of the money available in several regions will be provided under the future Structural and Investment Funds, their overall size - around 30% of the EU

budget– falls much too short of the actual amounts needed to generate growth and jobs on the ground. Therefore new incentives should be given urgently at EU level to foster greater synergies between private and public financing available at all levels of governance and incite a better quality of spending on the ground.

Rethinking Europe 2020 on the basis of a partnership with Europe's regions and cities, within the context of the new economic governance, is also a contribution to ensure that the EU strengthens its democratic legitimacy and accountability in its path towards sustainable recovery.

## **Preface to the CoR's Fourth Monitoring Report on Europe 2020**

**by Michel Delebarre**

*CoR member, political coordinator of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform,  
Mayor of Dunkirk and Senator of France*

This fourth annual CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 provides readers with a good overview of how Europe 2020 is working on the ground, in EU regions and cities. The report is built upon the monitoring and assessment work of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, the assessment conferences on the flagship initiatives organised by the Committee of the Regions and existing statistics and studies.

Our findings support the view that one of the strategy's critical weaknesses is a lack of understanding of regional disparities across Europe. One-size-fits-all targets are imposed on the strongest regions and metropolitan areas as well as on the smaller ones and those more vulnerable to the ongoing crisis. Instead, differentiated targets should be adopted following a place-based approach. The latter takes into account regional needs, limitations and also potentialities, which depend upon geographical locations, infrastructure, natural and human resources, institutional capabilities and social capital.

Inadequate governance and insufficient funding are the other key critical weaknesses of the strategy. Contrary to what happens today, goals and targets should be set in partnership by national and sub-national governments on the basis of a shared vision. The National Reform Programmes should be designed and implemented on the basis of a multi-level governance approach, including the use of territorial pacts or other contractual agreements.

Within the EU institutions, there is a broad consensus today on the need to review Europe 2020, as expressed in recent months by the Council, the Commission and the Parliament.

As the political coordinator of the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, I hope that this fourth Monitoring Report will provide a useful contribution to the discussions to come, supporting the CoR's view that vital changes must be made to give the strategy a genuine territorial dimension.

## 1. Executive summary

For the fourth consecutive year, this report presents the results of the monitoring activities carried out by the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the EU Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### ***Lack of growth, high unemployment and widening gaps between regions: the crisis is still there***

In the twelve months ending in September 2013, the economic and social situation of the EU was still characterised by an absence of growth and exceptionally high unemployment. There were some weak signs of recovery in the second quarter of the year, but these still fell far short of producing any visible improvements in current labour market conditions.

The most recent statistics available<sup>1</sup> show that the economic crisis has affected EU regions unevenly and existing gaps have widened. The latest Cohesion Report of the European Commission<sup>2</sup>, points out that, overall, the crisis has reversed the process of convergence of regional GDP per head within the EU, increased the gap between regions in terms of unemployment and made progress towards the Europe 2020 targets more challenging for many regions.

The following tables use the Regional Progress Indicator (RPI) to summarise the number of NUTS 2 regions showing an increasing, stagnating or decreasing trend in the Europe 2020 target variables, highlighting, as far as possible, the turning point of the crisis<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 5 of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, European Commission, 26.06.2013; COM(2013)463

<sup>3</sup> While the starting year is 2000, the end year varies according to variables and regions. Details on the MRYA (most recent year available) for each variable are shown in the report. See too figure 14.

### Europe 2020 target variables, pre-crisis trends at regional level (based on the RPI)

Indicator (with EU Target)	2000 - 2007 (Pre-crisis)						
	Regions improving	as % of regions with data available	Regions stagnating	as % of regions with data available	Regions declining	as % of regions with data available	Regions without data
75 % employment rate among 20-64 year olds	<b>85</b>	35%	<b>153</b>	62%	<b>7</b>	3%	27
Tertiary educational attainment	<b>196</b>	84%	<b>30</b>	13%	<b>6</b>	3%	40
At most 10% early school leavers	<b>113</b>	59%	<b>47</b>	25%	<b>31</b>	16%	81
3% of GDP R&D spending	<b>74</b>	49%	<b>40</b>	27%	<b>36</b>	24%	122
20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion**	<b>65</b>	63%	<b>16</b>	15%	<b>23</b>	22%	168

\* Trends are assessed by evaluating the differences between the start and end of the year. They are positive or negative if the average annual change is greater than 1 % in absolute terms. If it is between 0 % and 1 % in absolute terms, it is supposed that no significant change has occurred (=stagnation).

\*\* Latest trend in the table calculated on the basis of 2005-2007, due to limited data availability

### Europe 2020 target variables, post-crisis trends at regional level (based on the RPI)

Indicator (with EU Target)	Regions improving	as % of regions with data available	Regions stagnating	as % of regions with data available	Regions declining	as % of regions with data available	Regions without data
75 % employment rate among 20-64 year olds	<b>17</b>	7%	<b>171</b>	67%	<b>67</b>	26%	17
Tertiary educational attainment	<b>235</b>	94%	<b>16</b>	6%	<b>0</b>	0%	21
At most 10% early school leavers	<b>161</b>	67%	<b>39</b>	16%	<b>39</b>	16%	33
3% of GDP R&D spending	<b>68</b>	69%	<b>11</b>	11%	<b>20</b>	20%	173
20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion**	<b>35</b>	30%	<b>25</b>	21%	<b>58</b>	49%	154

\* Trends are assessed by evaluating the differences between the start and end of the year. They are positive or negative if the average annual change is greater than 1 % in absolute terms. If it is between 0 % and 1 % in absolute terms, it is supposed that no significant change has occurred (=stagnation).

\*\* Latest trend in the table calculated on the basis of 2005-2007, due to limited data availability

Overall, these figures show that the crisis has hit employment and increased poverty in many regions, as expected, thus widening the already existing gaps between regions. The number of regions showing improving trends for early school-leavers and people with tertiary education (aged 30-34) increased, in percentage and absolute terms, after 2007, as these phenomena do not depend entirely on short-term economic trends. The data available for R&D expenditure cover less than half of NUTS 2 regions. The improvements observed in an increasing percentage of regions, should be read carefully: the figures do not yet cover the years in which fiscal consolidation policies may have weakened the efforts previously made in most EU regions.

This outcome is no surprise. Each EU region has its own specific socio-economic profile and institutional capability, both of which influence its degree of resilience in the face of crises and its potential for growth. In fact, growth and employment differentials between regions can be even wider than those between groups of countries having the same average level of development.

### ***The lack of a territorial dimension hinders Europe 2020's success***

More than three years after its inception, the Europe 2020 strategy does not seem to have taken note of these territorial differentiations. The lack of what the Committee of the Regions calls the *territorial dimension* of Europe 2020 is apparent at both EU and national level, which complicates the efforts that several regions and cities have made to progress towards the goals of Europe 2020 – with the help of the Structural Funds and designing, in some cases, full "regional Europe 2020 strategies"

At EU level, no analysis of socio-economic territorial differences has surfaced in the *Annual Growth Surveys* (AGS) so far. Moreover, the AGS have never requested Member States to list their Europe 2020 country targets in a territorially differentiated manner. For their part, the Member States have not taken the initiative to set Europe 2020 targets at regional level.

As a result, in spite of the obvious empirical evidence regarding relevant growth differentials within countries and different institutional capabilities, the same country targets (R&D, energy efficiency, activity rates, tertiary education, etc.) are supposed to be taken as a reference by all regions within any given country. Not unsurprisingly, only slightly more than half of the local and regional authorities (LRAs) surveyed by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform see their countries' targets as appropriate. Even less unsurprisingly, many regions are far from meeting the national targets, or have not made visible progress, while for others those targets have proved to be insufficiently challenging.

***While local and regional authorities are partners in the implementation of Europe 2020, they are much less involved in its design and governance***

The lack of a territorial dimension is also apparent in the governance of Europe 2020 and of the whole European Semester, the process aimed at coordinating Member States' economic policies along EU guidelines for structural and fiscal policies<sup>4</sup>.

The *Country-Specific Recommendations* for 2013, one of the main tools for EU coordination of country policies, failed once again to address the sub-national government levels, in spite of:

- the current division of powers in each Member State;
- the broad competences that LRAs have in several countries and in most Europe 2020 policy fields;
- the wide-ranging activism shown by local governments, notwithstanding their current difficult budgetary conditions.

Moreover, the CSRs missed the opportunity to encourage Member States to implement Europe 2020 by widely adopting the partnership principle and multi-level governance (MLG) tools.

At national level, 27 out of 28 *National Reform Programs* (NRPs) for 2013 acknowledge the role of the LRAs, but more in their contribution to *implementation* than in the *design* and *monitoring* of policies aimed at pursuing the Europe 2020 goals and targets. Only 11 NRPs state whether the input received from the LRAs has been taken into account. This state of affairs is reflected in the most frequent statement given by respondents on this point, according to which they have, at the very most, only been consulted. Moreover, only one-third to two-thirds of respondents declare their satisfaction with how their points have been taken into account in the final version of the NRP.

Regarding MLG, only nine NRPs mentioned some examples (less than in 2012), one of which is a Territorial Pact. However, references to partnerships (falling short of formal MLG agreements) between different levels of government can be found in some policy fields. In particular, 21 of the 2013 NRPs contain references to partnerships aimed at fighting unemployment and promoting job-creation, entrepreneurship, continuing education and re-training.

For the third consecutive year, the CoR has promoted a ranking of the NRPs based on how exhaustively they give visibility to the role of LRAs in implementing Europe 2020<sup>5</sup>. Overall, 14 Member States improved their score in 2013 with respect to the two previous years. However, not all countries have yet

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<sup>4</sup> Within the context of the European Semester, the two overarching documents summarising a country's planned policies are the National Reform Programmes (structural policies pursuing the Europe 2020 goals) and the Stability and Convergence Programmes (fiscal policies fulfilling the Stability and Growth Pact).

<sup>5</sup> This ranking is based on the sum of the scores NRPs get for each item of an assessment grid. See section 5.1 below.

complied with the request to report on the involvement of the LRAs made by the general secretariat of the European Commission in January 2013<sup>6</sup>.

The *Partnership Agreements* (PAs) currently being negotiated between the Member States and the European Commission are another relevant test for the governance of Europe 2020. The Common Strategic Framework for the Structural Funds 2014-2020 is implemented at national level through the PAs and its main priority is contributing to the Europe 2020 goals and targets. Moreover, an *EU Code of Conduct* on the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of the PAs has been enacted. On these bases, the CoR has insisted that the preparation of the PAs be taken as an opportunity for multi-level coordination on *all Europe 2020-related policies*. A short survey carried out by the CoR in recent months shows that yet again the LRA have doubts about whether their input was taken on board. On a positive side, a clear majority declared that they had been involved in the preparation of the PAs.

At national level, the lack of involvement of the LRAs as partners in the preparation of their NRPs (on average, from one-third to one-half of them have been consulted to a limited extent) is reflected in slightly more than 50 per cent of respondents finding their country targets appropriate in their specific territorial context. The respondents' satisfaction with the specific policies or programmes included in each NRP – in terms of alignment with the real needs of local communities – ranges from one-third to two-thirds in the different policy fields.

### ***Local and regional authorities are active in most Europe 2020 policy fields***

Overall, the EU local and regional authorities are actively at work in most key policy fields of Europe 2020, in spite of the difficulties arising in the context described so far. Several examples collected on the ground by the CoR<sup>7</sup> concerning local projects aligned with the Europe 2020 goals, if not directly inspired by them, give rise to two main findings.

The first is that, while some projects were conceived separately from Europe 2020, others were encouraged by the strategy and its flagship initiatives to be more ambitious in their own goals. This is especially true in the policy fields where the current division of powers and responsibilities grants wider room to the LRAs, such as "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", "European Platform against Social Exclusion" and "Youth on the move". Overall, the goals and actions included in the flagship initiatives are largely shared by the LRAs.

The examples and good practices collected during the CoR monitoring exercise show that, in several cases, the LRAs work in cooperation with other administrations, both in vertical partnerships (with their

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<sup>6</sup>

On 14 January 2013, a guidance note of the SG asked that, in their NRPS, Member States "should notably report on ... how local and regional authorities ... were involved in the preparation of the NRP and in the implementation of the past guidance and commitments".

<sup>7</sup>

A full list of these examples can be found here: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/MonitoringFlagships/Pages/Good-Practices.aspx>

national authorities) and in horizontal ones (with other local stakeholders, such as non-profit organisations and businesses).

The second finding, on a less positive note, is that only a few cases of ad hoc adoption of a multilevel governance tool were detected - and only two of them are labelled as *territorial pacts*. So far, it does not seem that Europe 2020 has been taken as an opportunity to test innovative coordination and integration approaches between different levels of government and related multi-level governance structures.

### ***In spite of the Structural Funds' key role, the funding for Europe 2020 is still insufficient***

Most LRAs taking part in the surveys stated clearly that they do not have sufficient financial resources to properly implement Europe 2020, because of the impact of the economic crisis and the related need to face its short-term social impact, as well as of persisting fiscal consolidation policies in the absence of economic recovery. In his speech on the State of the Union, on 11 September 2013, EU Commission president Barroso<sup>8</sup> stated that the Structural Funds were often the only available source to fund growth and employment policies at regional level.

So far, the only source available to many LRAs to fund Europe 2020-related projects has been the EU Structural Funds, a fact widely acknowledged by most survey respondents – in spite of their administrative complexity. In some areas and policy fields, the Structural Funds have been a primary and indispensable source of funding to get projects off the ground. This was the case for the European Social Fund, for instance, in Eastern and Central European Member States as well as in some ultra-peripheral EU territories.

No wonder that the LRAs look forward to the beginning of the new programming period 2014-2020. The new approach of a Common Strategic Framework, implemented through Partnership Agreements between the Commission and the Member States, raises hopes of increased focus, simplification and synergies.

Overall, though, the LRAs are experiencing a shortage of public funds to implement Europe 2020. As a consequence, they have been forced to postpone some of their projects and to move resources away from the kind of investments needed to foster long-term growth (such as those in digital infrastructures and services) in order to combat increasing unemployment and poverty.

### ***A need to rethink Europe 2020***

The empirical evidence gained during the preparation of this report seems to show that **Europe 2020 is not delivering** on its promises. In particular, it is not providing EU local and regional authorities with the support they need to combat the economic crisis while ensuring smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the longer term, and is not promoting multi-level governance as a tool to effectively carry out and manage structural reforms.

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<sup>8</sup>

State of the Union Address 2013 , José Manuel Durão Barroso, president of the European Commission, available at: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-13-684\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-684_en.htm)

Even if the economic crisis has undoubtedly played a role, making the achievement of the strategy's goals an even tougher challenge, the monitoring results presented in this report lead to the conclusion that **Europe 2020 has not proved to be a driving force for structural reforms, and needs a profound rethink**, because of:

- its **lack of a territorial dimension**, and consideration of the European Union's territorial diversity, which requires a flexible delimitation of its goals and targets. So far, the overall picture is one in which the National Reform Programmes have been drafted by the national governments, setting targets whose low ambition has been the inevitable outcome of a lack of coordination and integration of the policies carried out at different levels of government. Instead, Europe 2020 targets need to be differentiated at regional (and not only at national) level. The CoR is concerned that, due to a lack of data, it is well nigh impossible right now to even monitor current progress towards the Europe 2020 targets at regional level. The EU's regions and cities need the available set of regional statistics to be broadened and updated as a matter of urgency;
- its **inadequate governance**, which must be discontinued by switching to the principle of partnership between different government levels. Indeed, building on the current division of powers and competences in each country, a renewed Europe 2020 must take a multilevel governance approach in all Member States. Such an approach should: (a) include the synchronisation of policy programming timelines at the different levels of government, to grasp all possible synergies to improve the effectiveness of public spending. This approach follows the same line as the OECD principles for better spending currently under discussion; (b) allow each level to set its targets in negotiations with the other relevant levels. The use of contractual tools, such as territorial pacts, should be encouraged across the board. To summarise: for Europe 2020 to deliver its expected results by 2020, it is important that the present, top-down and abstract approach be replaced by a multilevel governance one, building on the role and possible contribution of the EU's cities and regions - while not preventing some policy issues from being dealt with in a top-down manner if and when necessary. This would also answer the increasing concerns over the recentralisation of the governance of the EU and the Economic and Monetary Union, which was set in place, in the name of stability, during the recent economic and fiscal crisis. As regions are closer to the citizens, their greater involvement in the EU's economic governance would increase the latter's democratic legitimacy and accountability;
- its **insufficient funding**. While respecting the need for fiscal consolidation, the funds available to pursue the Europe 2020 goals have to be brought up to the level needed to provide public investments in infrastructures, education, research and innovation, green procurement, support for SMEs, social inclusion and the fight against poverty. The new MFF 2014-2020, while rightly setting Europe 2020 goals as the priorities for cohesion policy, does not fund the relevant EU policies adequately. On another note, the EU budget represents only a small share (about 2%) of overall public expenditure in the EU. So far, though, the resources available at national, regional and local level are not enough to support such an ambitious strategy: the local and regional

authorities surveyed by the CoR reported that there was a lack of resources to support the investments needed in the relevant policy fields. As mentioned above, multi-level governance of the strategy would allow for greater synergies between public budgets, thus contributing to a better effectiveness and quality of public expenditure.

### *Towards the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy*

With the forthcoming new EU legislature for 2015-2020 on the horizon, the Committee of the Regions is not alone in thinking that the Europe 2020 strategy needs a rethink. In March 2013, the Spring European Council announced that it would hold a series of thematic meetings, in view of its review of the strategy in 2014.

In his letter to EP president Martin Schulz on 11 September 2013, on the forthcoming working programme of the European Commission for 2014, EU Commission president José Manuel Barroso stated that "We will also be reflecting on the experience of the Europe 2020 strategy so far and considering whether we need adaptations to encourage the reforms needed to accelerate growth and create new jobs".

The Committee of the Regions has been working on an assessment of the strategy's flagship initiatives since December 2012, through a series of surveys and collection of good practices feeding into a series of thematic conferences. A broad consultation of EU cities and regions, and a series of workshop discussions in the second half of 2013 are providing further content feeding into the political declaration on the future of the Europe 2020 strategy, to be adopted by the CoR Bureau in Athens, on ... March 2014, and presented publicly at the Summit of European Cities and Regions on the following day. This declaration, to which a mid-term assessment report will be attached, will be addressed to the 2014 Spring European Council, as well as to the new European Parliament and the new European Commission later in the year.

The full text of the report, together with the translation of this summary in 23 EU languages, can be found at: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/Publications.aspx>

## 2. Introduction

Since 2010, the CoR has published an annual Monitoring Report on Europe 2020, fulfilling a commitment by the CoR in the latest cooperation agreement with the European Commission.<sup>9</sup> This fourth report is based on the outcome of the activities of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform carried out during the past twelve months as part of the mid-term review of the strategy<sup>10</sup>. The full results of the mid-term review will be presented in March 2014 at the 6th Summit of Regions and Towns.

The report presents the analysis of five (out of seven) flagship initiatives monitored so far, focusing on their relevance, their successes and problems with their implementation on the ground, exploring financial and multilevel governance aspects. In the context of surveys among local and regional authorities, questions focused on whether respondents' country-specific targets were appropriate for their territories, and on whether Europe 2020 and their NRPs encouraged them to set more ambitious goals and related policies. The assessment has been complemented by desk research into relevant recent publications and regional data as well as a distance to target analysis of the Regional Progress Indicator, whose feasibility study was released in June 2013. An analysis of the functioning of the governance of Europe 2020 from the perspective of local and regional authorities was also undertaken. The outcome of this work is presented as follows:

- **Chapter 2** is an overview of the current trends on how far EU NUTS II regions are from their country's Europe 2020 targets, as resulting from the feasibility study on a Regional Progress Indicator carried out by external contractors; it summarises the methodology used to measure progress, the main data issues and a few examples of possible outcomes.
- **Chapter 3** analyses the governance of Europe 2020 through the assessment of the involvement of local and regional authorities in: a) the preparation of 2013 National Reform Programmes based on a study carried out by external contractors (section 5.1); b) the 2013 Country-Specific Recommendations through an internal analysis carried out by the Monitoring Platform (section 5.2); and c) the Partnership Agreements (section 5.3) based on the results of the dedicated survey carried out by the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform.
- **Chapter 4** summarises the results of the flagship initiatives monitored so far, based on a horizontal analysis of the outcomes of the flagship initiatives on common issues (section 6.1) and the surveys' reports and conference proceedings (section 6.2). It also showcases examples of best practices (section 6.3) selected from the online database, the surveys and the conference exhibition catalogues.
- **Chapter 5** contains factual and practical annexes.

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<sup>9</sup> Protocol on the Cooperation between the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions

<sup>10</sup> For further details, see the Bureau document on the "EU2020 strategy mid-term assessment" <http://toad.cor.europa.eu/AgendaDocuments.aspx?pmi=ha5jDW%2bOWSG9csdkuvMupq93I6%2beX1FkdLxAYnYqvwQ%3d&ViewDoc=trueh>

### **3. Regional development in the EU: current trends and progress towards Europe 2020 targets**

European regions and cities entered the economic crisis and the Europe 2020 decade from a variety of starting points in terms of socio-economic development, challenges and institutional capability, which influenced their resilience to crises and potential for growth. Using the most recent (yet limited) regional statistics, the following sections analyse current development trends and compare the performance of different territories in implementing growth and jobs policies and in meeting Europe 2020 targets.

As part of its monitoring activity, the Committee of the Regions has also explored the feasibility of a Regional Progress Indicator to track how regions are proceeding towards the Europe 2020 goals and targets. The last section of this chapter offers some evidence based on the RPI, whose extensive use is hindered by the lack of regional statistics.

#### **3.1 The impact of the economic crisis on regional development trends**

The beginning of the crisis marked a turning point: since 2007, the regional convergence process has slowed down substantially after nearly a decade of convergence trends (figure 1).<sup>11</sup> The graph shows that regional disparities in GDP per head decreased every single year until 2009, when they came to a halt and started a reverse trend in 2010 and 2011. Regional disparities in unemployment fell every year until 2007, when they started to grow. In brief, two out of three EU regions experienced a contraction in GDP between 2007 and 2010; in the same period, more than half suffered job losses<sup>12</sup>. The worst trends were observed in the Baltic States, Spain, Ireland, Greece and some Romanian, Bulgarian and Italian regions. At the opposite end of the spectrum, regions with GDP and employment that were still growing could be found in Poland, Germany, and some other Northern and Central European countries.

In 2010, two years into the crisis, the picture (in terms of GDP per head) was still one of wide disparities not only *between* EU countries, but also (and sometimes even more so) *within* them. Figure 2 illustrates these disparities, with particularly high internal imbalances in the UK, France, Germany and Belgium. As regards unemployment, the most recent data from 2012 (figure 3) show that the situation is most worrying in Southern Europe and some of the new Member States. 29 of the 30 regions with the highest unemployment rates in 2012 are in Spain, Greece and France's overseas departments. In these areas, unemployment ranges from 27.8% (Sterea Ellada) to 38.5% (Ceuta). Between 2008 and 2012, unemployment increased in four out of five regions. The most negative trends were observed in Spain, Greece, Ireland and the Baltic States. On the other hand, regions where unemployment is below 5% are to be found mainly in Austria, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

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<sup>11</sup> Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, European Commission, 26.06.2013; COM(2013)463

<sup>12</sup> Atanas Kolev, *The impact of the recession in 2008-2009 on EU regional convergence*, EIB, Economic Studies Division 14.12.2012, available online: [http://www.eib.org/attachments/efs/econ\\_note\\_2012\\_regional\\_convergence\\_en.pdf](http://www.eib.org/attachments/efs/econ_note_2012_regional_convergence_en.pdf)

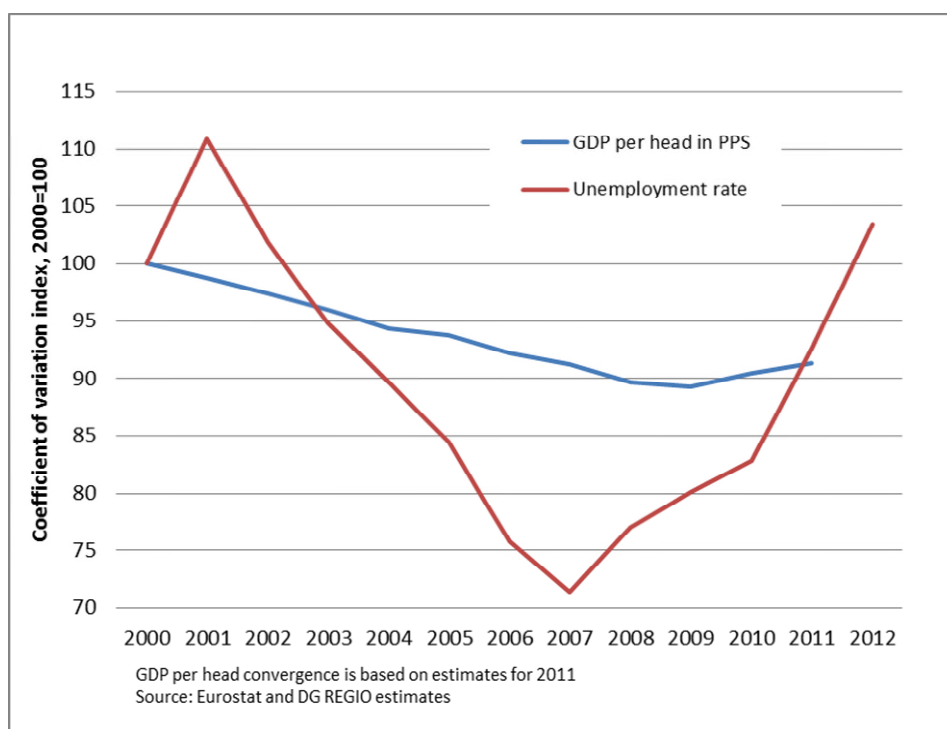


Figure 1: Regional convergence and the crisis (source: European Commission, Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion)

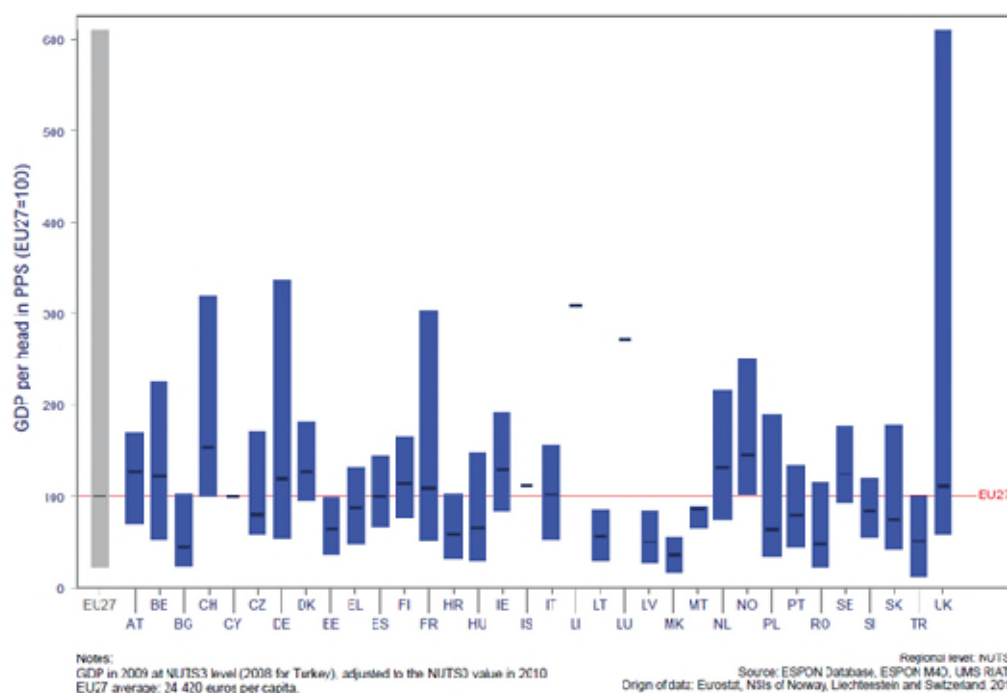
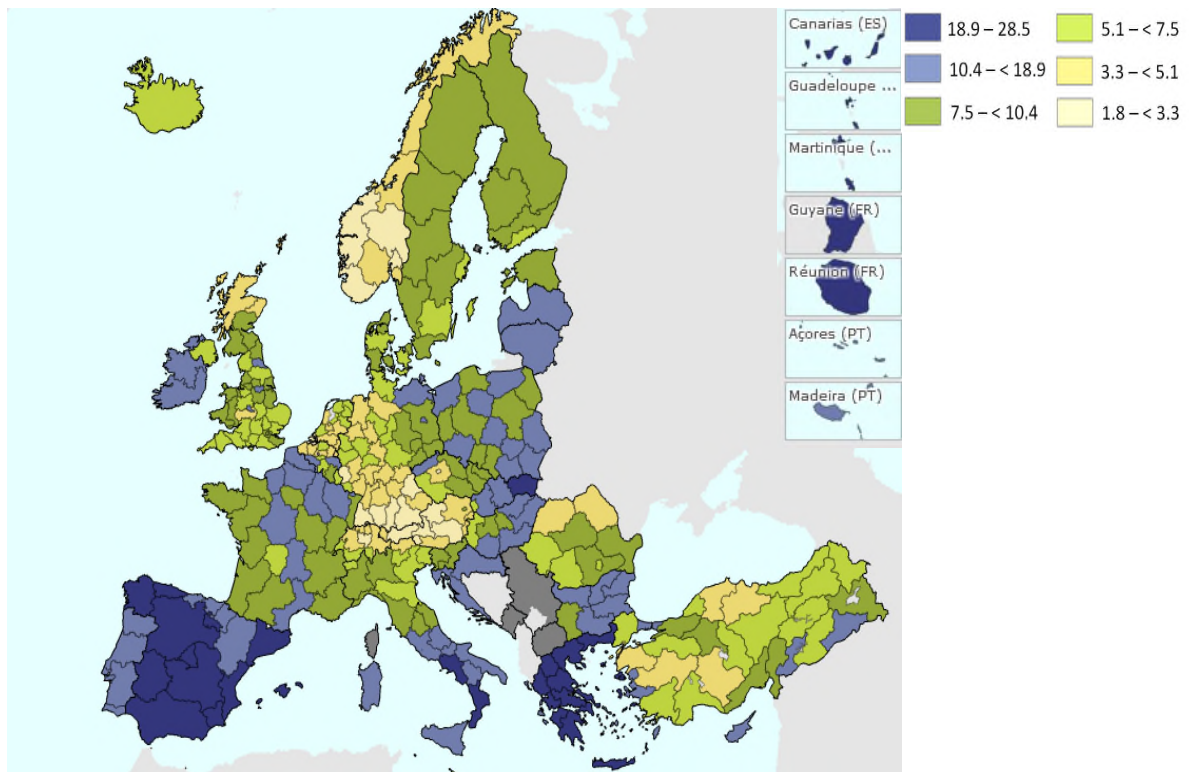
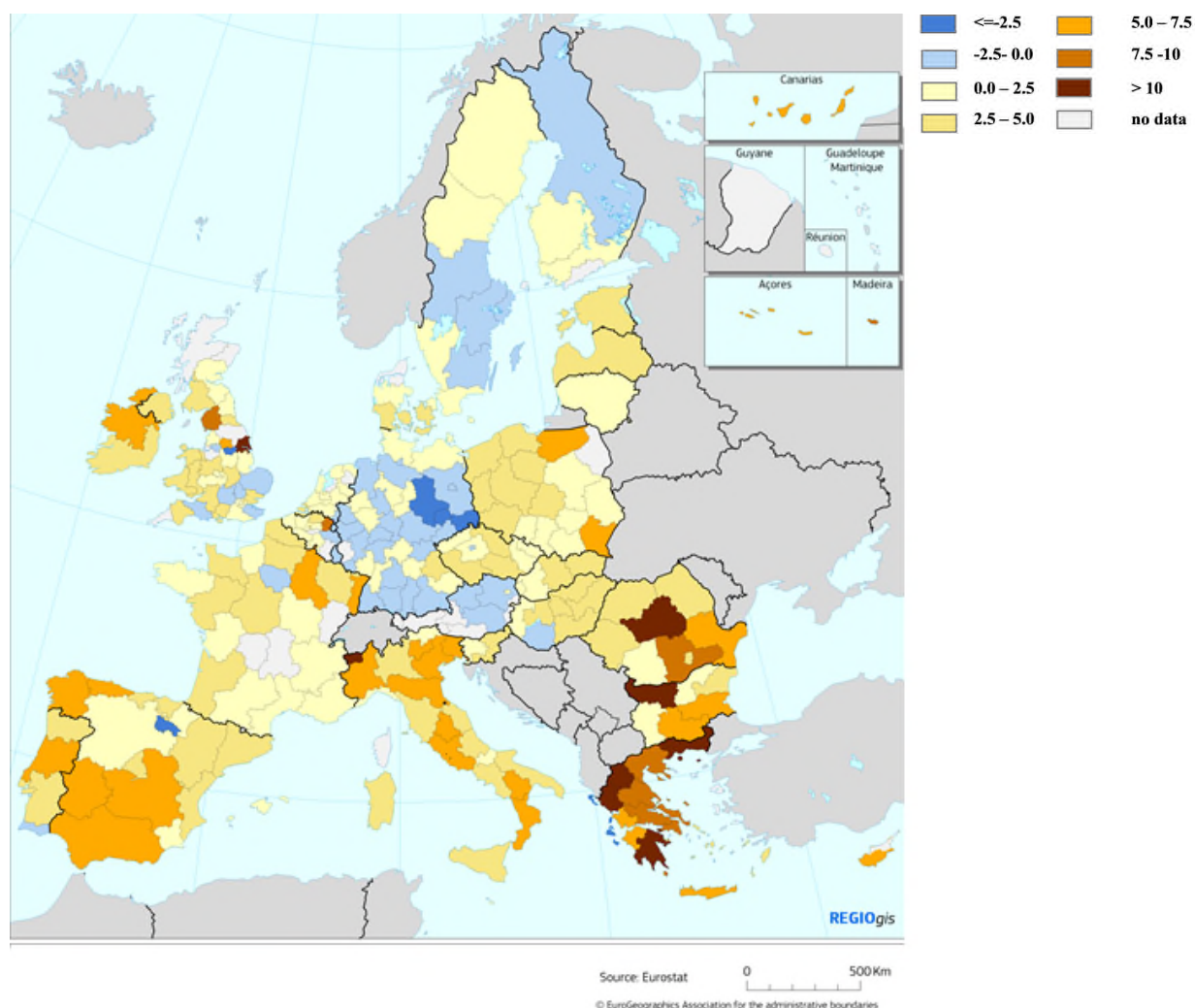


Figure 2: Regional disparities (NUTS3) in GDP per capita (PPS) by country, 2010 (source: ESPON Atlas 2013)



**Figure 3: Unemployment rate of the age group 15-64 by NUTS 2 regions, in %, 2012, (source: Eurostat)**

Available data on young people (from 15 to 24) not in employment, education or training (NEET) show a very similar pattern of huge and increasing regional disparities in the period 2008-2012 (figure 4). The highest rates of NEETs in their age group are in Italy, Spain and Greece (because of high unemployment), as well as in Bulgaria and Romania (because of high inactivity rates), while the lowest are in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic (Prague).



**Figure 4: Population aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEET), change 2008-2012 (source: European Commission, Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion)**

The European Commission's Regional Competitiveness Index for 2013<sup>13</sup> (figure 5) confirms the existence of huge regional disparities in growth prospects. Figure 5 shows that France, Spain and Romania, but also to a lesser extent Italy and the UK, have huge variations in competitiveness between regions. Moreover, for most Member States, it is the capital regions that drive the national indicators for competitiveness. There are only three countries where regions other than the capital region score higher than the capital: Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

13

The first edition of the RCI was published in 2010, in cooperation between DG Regio and the Joint Research Centre. It builds on the methodology developed by the World Economic Forum for the Global Competitiveness Index. The composite index shown in figure 5 is based, in 2013, on 73 variables covering a wide range of issues relevant to territorial competitiveness, including innovation, quality of the institutions, infrastructure (including digital networks) and measures of health and human capital.

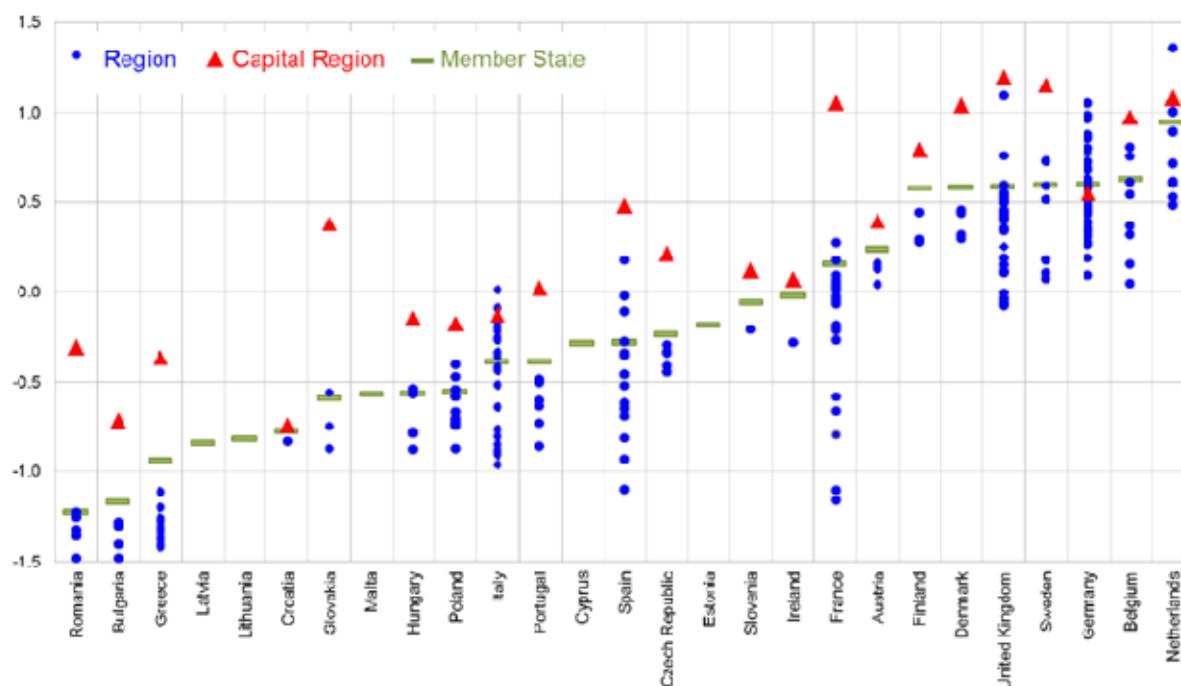


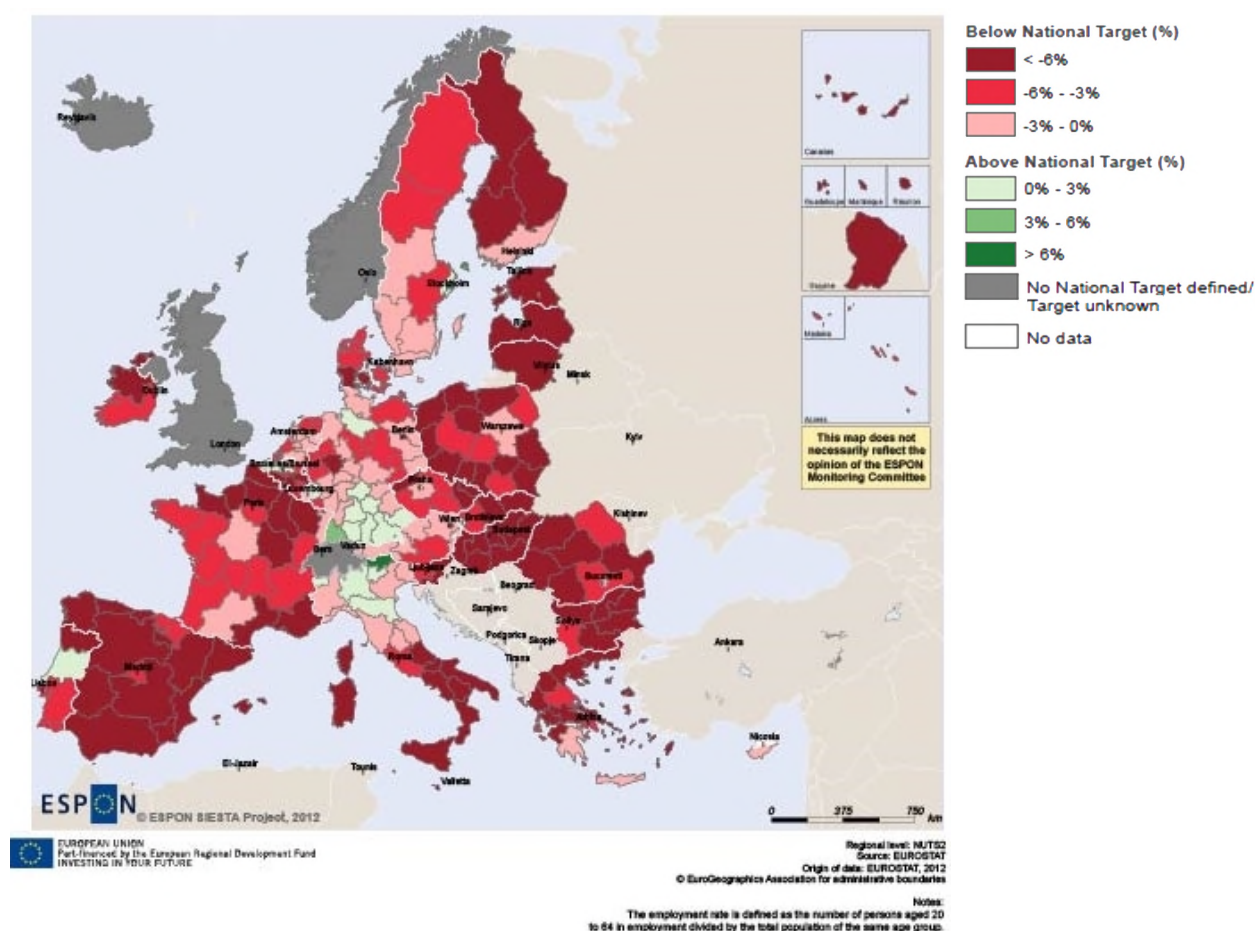
Figure 5: Regional Competitiveness Index, 2013 (source: European Commission)

### 3.2 EU regions and the Europe 2020 targets

To put the EU on a path of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Europe 2020 has set a series of headline targets and each Member State has set its contribution to these targets in order to take into account its specific starting point. But how far are European regions from these targets? A good illustration of the ongoing trends comes from the 2013 ESPON Atlas<sup>14</sup>, which shows regional diversities, pointing at main territorial patterns and development potentials related to the Europe 2020 targets.

Figures 6-9 illustrate the NUTS 2 regional level distance from the national targets for employment, early school-leavers, 30-34 year-olds with tertiary education and R&D expenditure rates respectively.

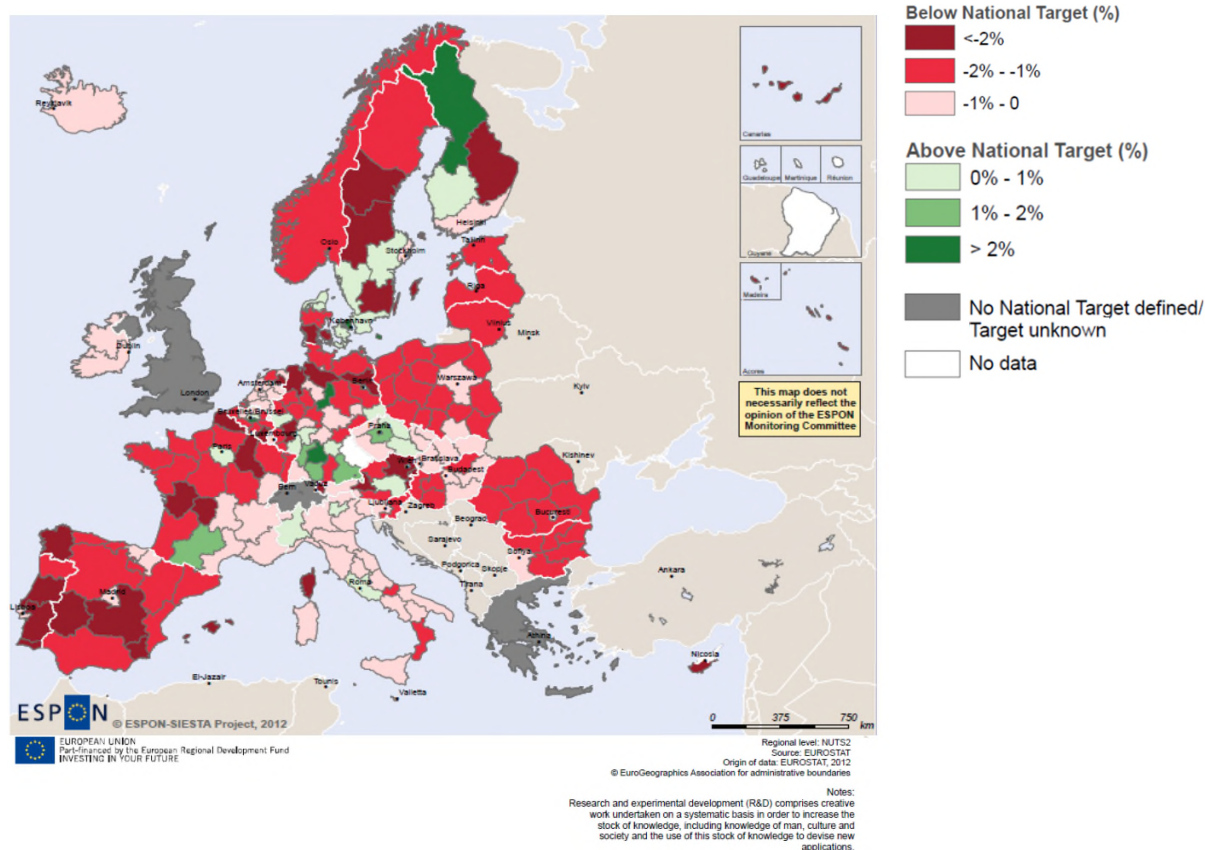
As regards regional distances from the target for employment (figure 6), the map shows that the larger countries have wide internal differences. Moreover, almost all regions in some of the larger countries show on average a very significant distance from the target, especially in Southern Europe.



**Figure 6: Distance from the Europe 2020 national target on employment rate (percentage of active population aged 20-64), 2010 (source: ESPON Atlas 2013)**

Most regions are far from meeting the R&D national targets (figure 7). In some countries, in which national performance is fairly good, there are huge differences between regions, e.g. in Germany, Denmark and Finland. Regional smart specialisation strategies are now slowly emerging in many regions, increasingly in the context of new Structural Funds programming, with a stronger focus on innovation and R&D. Yet one could wonder whether all regions can or should achieve the national targets.

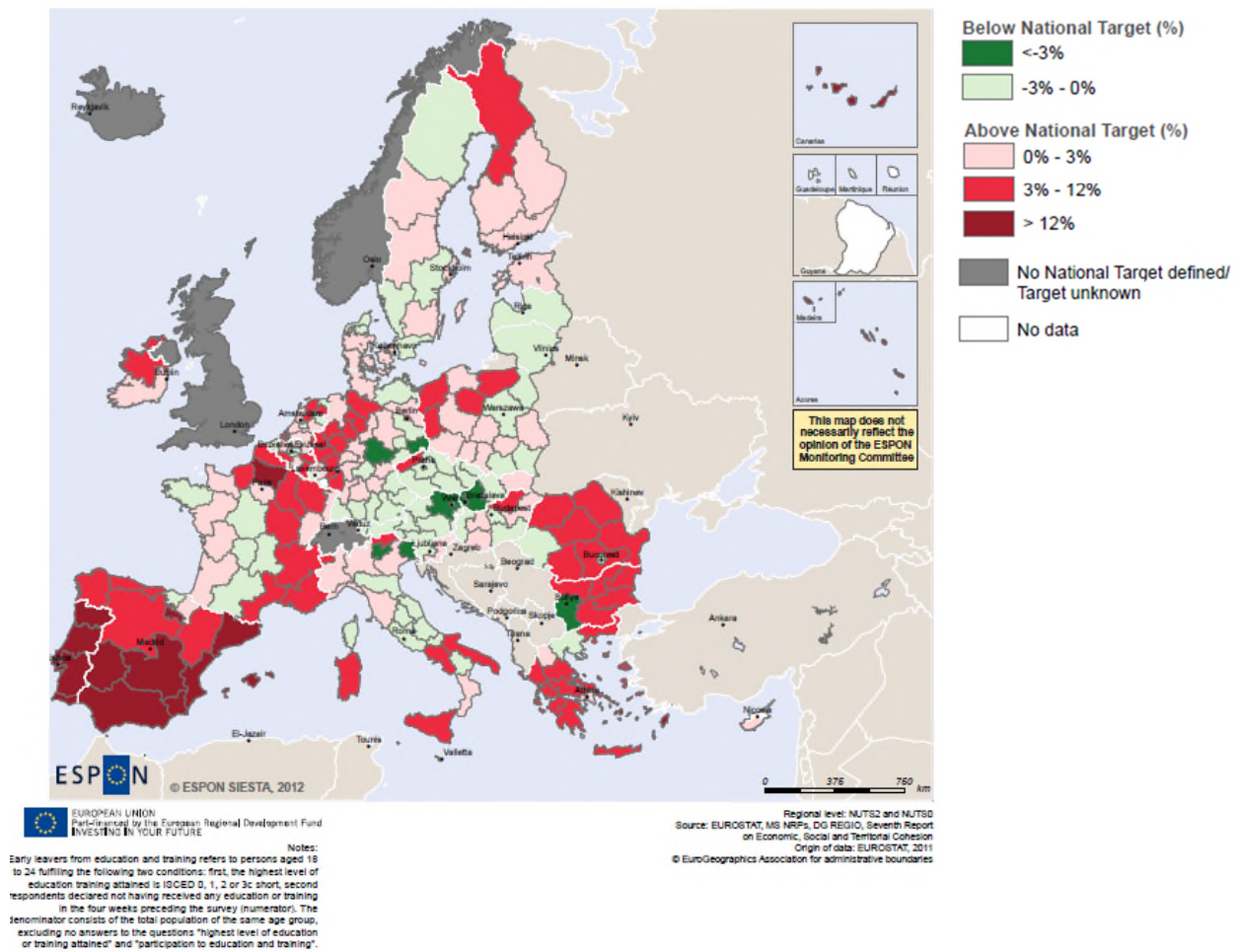
With respect to early school-leavers, figure 8 shows that, as of 2010, in Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria and Greece the rate of early school-leavers is well above national targets in almost all regions. France shows big regional disparities, with well and poorly performing regions. Most of the other countries are fairly within or above the target.



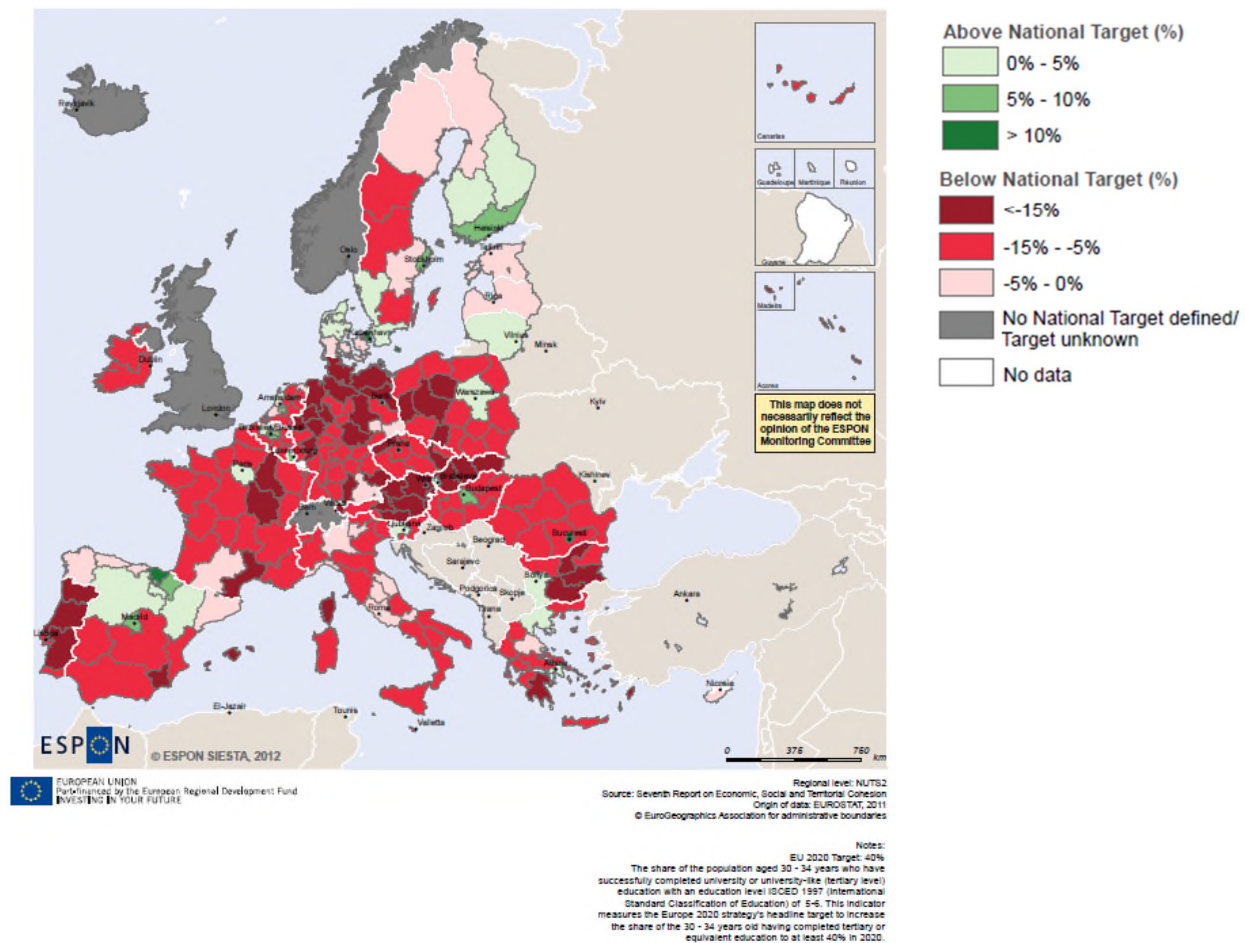
**Figure 7: Distance from the Europe 2020 national targets on R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP, 2009 (source: ESPON Atlas 2013)**

As regards to the tertiary education targets (figure 9), it is worth noticing that, as of 2009, the national targets were set at an ambitious level, which is illustrated by the predominance of the red or dark red marking on the map. However, the CoR feasibility study on a Regional Progress Indicator (see the following section) shows that, as of 2012, the trends are in general negative across Europe, with significant differences within countries.

Overall, only the national targets for reducing the number of early school-leavers have been almost reached, or even exceeded (especially in the central parts of the continent) at regional level. As regards the other three targets, the average distances remain considerable.



**Figure 8: Distance from the Europe 2020 national targets on early school-leavers, 2010 (source: ESPON Atlas 2013)**



**Figure 9: Distance from the Europe 2020 national targets on the percentage of the population with tertiary education 2009 (source: ESPON Atlas 2013)**

The achievement of national targets depends crucially on regional and local trends, but no targets were set at sub-national level. Therefore, checking the current values of the target variables at regional level *against national target* makes the underlying assumption that each region should reach the same target as its country. However, due to the different regional starting points referred to in the previous section, it comes as no surprise that many regions and cities support the CoR's view that regional targets should also be considered.

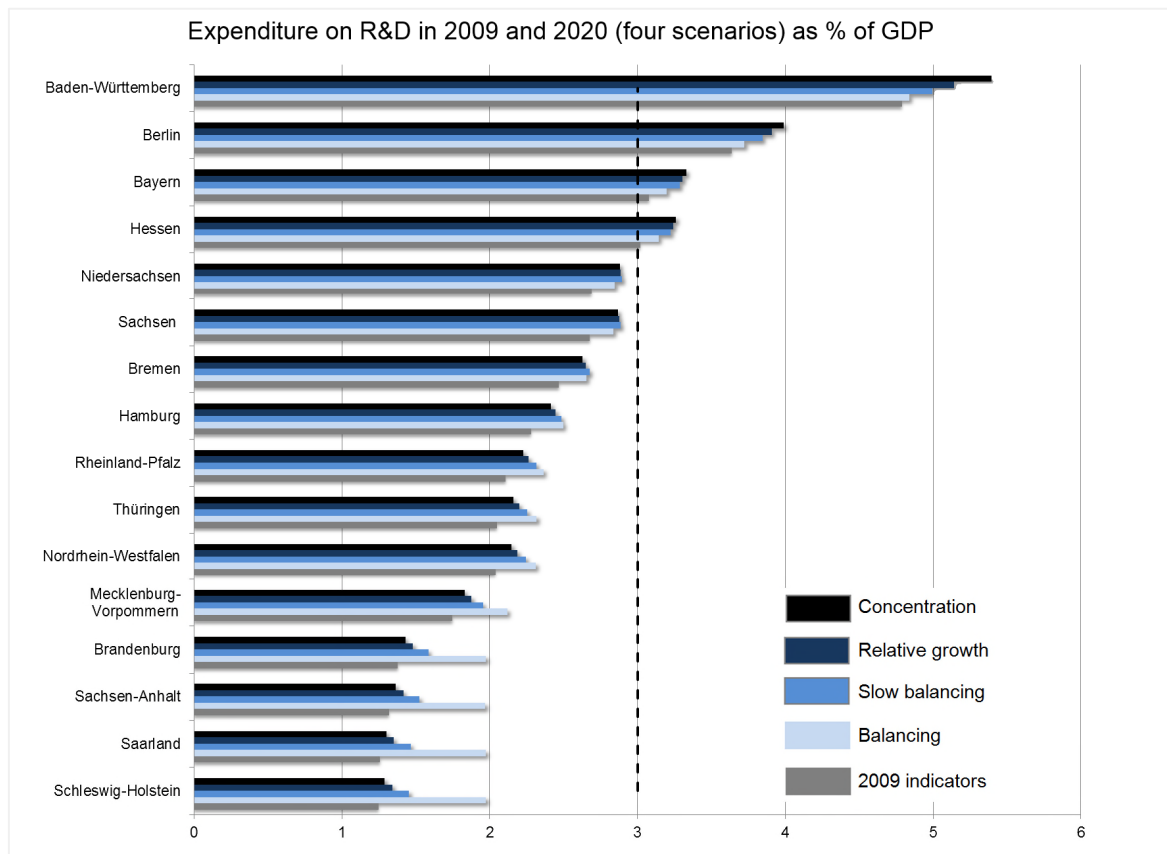
On this basis, various possible scenarios could be envisaged for achieving the national targets. A recent study<sup>15</sup>, suggests four possible scenarios for achieving a level of R&D expenditure equal to 3% of the GDP for 16 German federal states.

15

This study was carried out by Spatial Foresight GmbH and presented during a CoR workshop (03.07.2013) on the implementation of the strategy.

Figure 10 illustrates these scenarios, ranging from concentration on the best performing regions (top line in dark blue); though relative/moderate growth, to gradual/slow balance and balance (light blue line). The last line (grey) illustrates 2009 status. The study shows that if the "coherence scenario" is chosen, then the regions with the lowest R&D expenditure would have to significantly increase their spending. The "concentration scenario" on the other hand does not require significant changes in the budgets of the less R&D-oriented regions. Reaching the 3% of GDP is in this case based on higher spending coming mainly from regions that are already leading in this category.

In view of the regional disparities described in this chapter, this study raises the question of regionally adjusted targets vs. national targets. As seen in the German example, reaching the 3% of GDP level for R&D expenditure can either be achieved through a gradual increase by the best-performing regions or a rather unrealistic sudden increase by the worst-performing regions.



**Figure 10: Four scenarios on how Germany could reach the 3% R&D target (source: *Spatial Foresight GmbH*).**

### 3.3 Where are the regions on the way to Europe 2020? Benefits and challenges of a Regional Progress Indicator

As confirmed by the example in the previous section, it is important to have a set of monitoring tools, which then might be used to address the existing gaps and design the most efficient policies. Appropriate indicators are necessary, which would allow for inter-regional comparisons. To keep track on progress towards the Europe 2020 targets, the Committee of the Regions has launched a feasibility study<sup>16</sup> for a Regional Progress Indicator (RPI), which shows how statistics could answer basic monitoring questions and feed into the policymaking process. The study focused on the Europe 2020 headline targets<sup>17</sup> and how to calculate the progress each EU NUTS 2 region is making in comparison to (1) its national targets, (2) a baseline year and (3) other regions. In ideal conditions, it is also possible to aggregate each variable's RPIs in a composite distance-to-target indicator<sup>18</sup> (DTT I), which is also quantifiable at national level (National Progress Indicator, NPI).

The right-hand side of figure 11 below shows the basic structure of these indicators, proceeding from raw data through individual DTT indicators to the composite indicator. The left-hand side of the picture shows the current situation, in which the composite DTTI could be calculated only at national level, but not at regional level, due to a lack of the regional data needed.



**Figure 11: Relationship between raw data and the Regional and National Progress Indicators**

<sup>16</sup> "An Indicator for Measuring Regional Progress towards the Europe 2020 Targets" (Framework Contract CdR/ETU/96/2010, Order Form 4394, June 2013), carried out by Ecologic Institute, Think tank for Environment & Development, Berlin, and RIMAS, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna. The final report of this study will be made available on the website of the CoR's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform in September 2013.

<sup>17</sup> The Europe 2020 headline targets can be consulted in the Europe 2020 website through the portal of the European Commission ([http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/targets/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/targets/index_en.htm)). Country targets can be consulted in another page of the same website ([http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf)).

<sup>18</sup> The key methodological choices were: (1) taking as (quantitative) targets the country ones (apart from the poverty objective, which, being set in absolute terms, as been "regionalised" by referring to the population distribution in a given country), (2) giving equal weigh to each of the eight indicators selected to set Europe 2020 targets. The reasons underlying these choices, and more details, are presented in the report.

The national composite DTT shown in figure 12 (National Progress Indicator, NPI) provides an example of how such an indicator (RPI) would have looked like for each NUTS 2 region had the data availability been higher. A more complete picture is presented in figure 13, showing the composite elements of the national DTT indicator, broken down by the eight Europe 2020 headline targets.

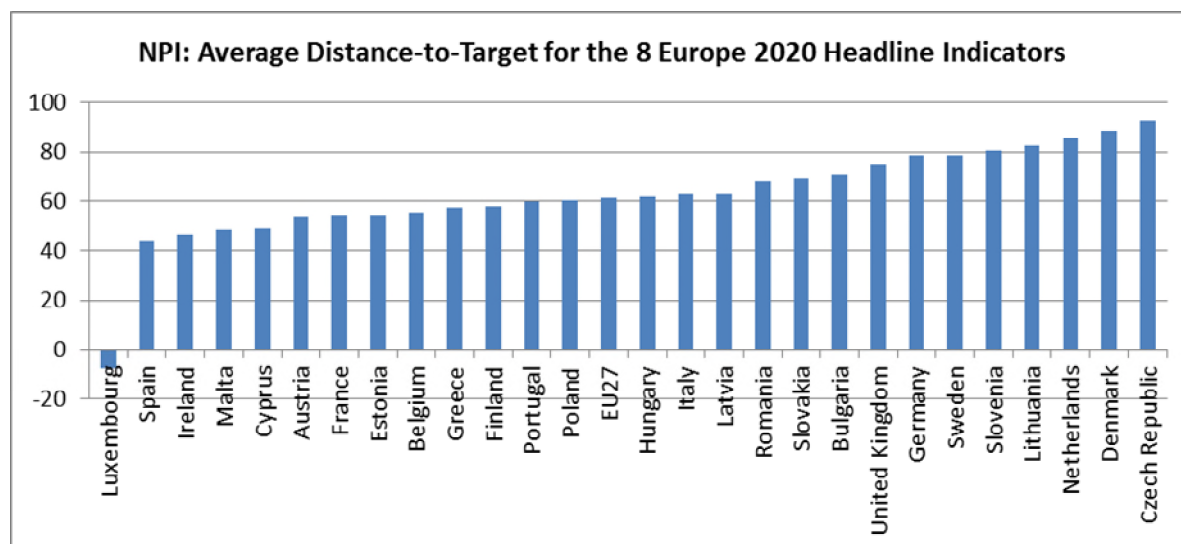


Figure 12: NPI - average distance to target for the 8 Europe 2020 Headline Indicators, EU 27

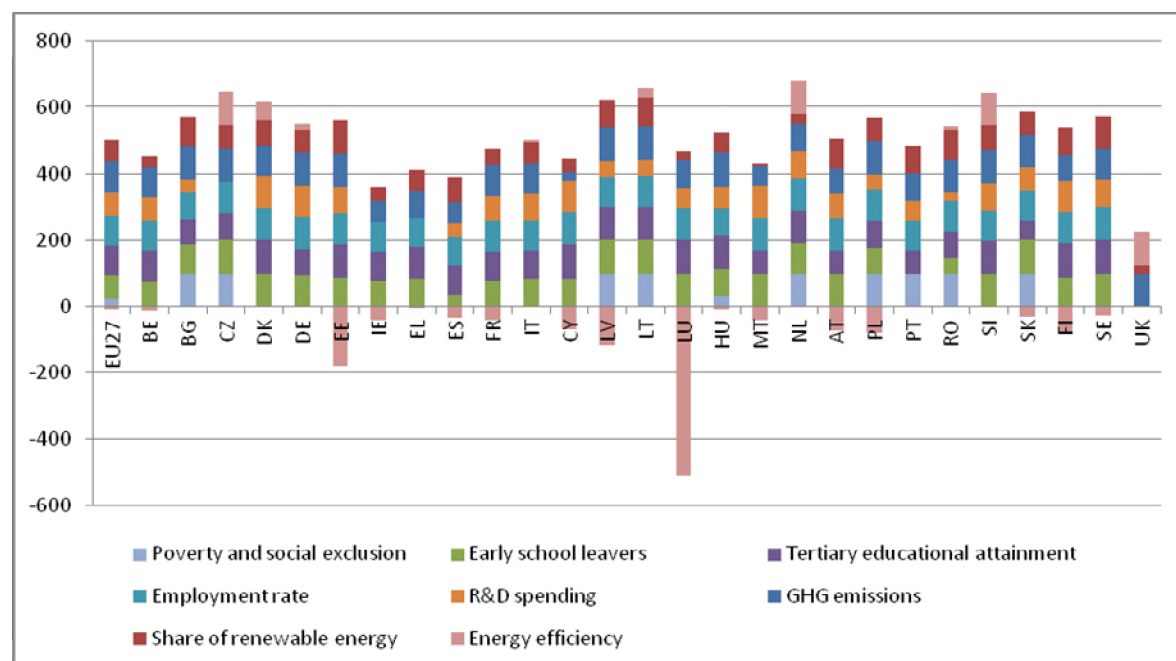


Figure 13: Progress on the individual Europe 2020 indicators, EU 27

Analysing the composite national DTT, one can see that, in 2012, the aggregate average score of the NPI for the EU 27 is 71.5 (compared with a maximum theoretical value of 100 when all headline targets have been reached), mainly due to lagging progress in energy efficiency and a reduction in the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

To grasp the exact meaning of this overall picture, it has to be taken into account that (1) progress depends heavily on the national targets (i.e., ambitious targets will likely mean that the NPI shows less progress than conservative ones and that (2) some countries have not set all targets (in particular, the UK has only specified targets for GHG emission reductions and renewable energy, so that its NPI is therefore only the average of the two actual distances to their corresponding target values).

It appears that Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and the Czech Republic have average NPIs of more than 90 (out of 100). In contrast, Luxembourg, Spain, Ireland and Malta are the four countries that, looking at their 2000-2012 data, have so far made the least progress towards their national Europe 2020 targets.

As mentioned above, a similar visual presentation for all NUTS 2 level regions is currently not possible because of a lack of data. Figure 14 below illustrates where the most significant gaps exist while trying to measure progress on Europe 2020.

Indicator	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
GHG emissions	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Share of renewable energy	0%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Early school-leavers	71%	79%	85%	74%	74%	85%	85%	90%	89%	92%	94%	93%	92%
Tertiary education	85%	86%	88%	90%	90%	90%	90%	92%	92%	96%	96%	96%	96%
Employment rate	0%	90%	91%	91%	91%	91%	91%	94%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%
R&D spending	38%	40%	48%	69%	48%	74%	52%	78%	57%	87%	37%	2%	0%
Poverty and social exclusion	0%	0%	0%	1%	15%	41%	51%	56%	63%	63%	54%	38%	4%
Energy efficiency	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

**Figure 14: Data availability for each of the Europe 2020 indicators, NUTS 2 level (September 2013)**

Within these limitations, figure 15 uses the Regional Progress Indicator (RPI) to summarise the number of NUTS 2 regions showing an increasing, stagnating or decreasing trend in the Europe 2020 target variables, highlighting, as far as possible, the turning point of the crisis<sup>19</sup>; this information is also expressed in the percentage of the regions for which data is available. Figure 15 suggest that:

- the percentage of regions showing a stagnating or declining trend in the employment rate has substantially increased after 2007, especially because of a growing number of regions with a declining trend. Pre-crisis data on employment underline that, even without financial and economic difficulties, a quite large number of regions were not making any substantial progress, thus confirming the existence of a structural challenge in increasing the employment rate of the active population. The economic crisis has worsened an already uncertain picture, deepening existing gaps;
- the percentage of regions showing an improvement in the proportion of tertiary education (of the total of those aged 30-34) and early school-leavers (of the total of those aged 18-24) increases over the whole period, even after the beginning of the crisis, while the percentage of those showing stagnating or declining trends decreases (or does not increase). These variables seem mainly linked to the results of past policy choices only emerging with a time gap or, more recently, the increased difficulty of young school-leavers finding a job and therefore prolonging their education;
- the percentage of regions increasing their R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP seems to have continued growing (although mostly at a very slow pace) notwithstanding the crisis. It should be noted, however, that more than 170 regions lack statistical data after 2007; as fiscal consolidation policies potentially affecting R&D expenditure were mainly implemented later, it is therefore difficult to say, at this stage, whether the efforts being made in the years before the crisis have been hindered in the new context;
- the percentage of regions where the number of people at the risk of poverty or social exclusion stagnated or increased after 2007 has significantly increased, while diverging trends in the poverty/social exclusion variable were visible before the crisis. Notice, however, that data for the latter variable is missing for more than half of the NUTS 2 regions.

Overall, the available data show, as expected, that the crisis has hit employment and increased poverty in many regions, thus widening the already existing gaps between regions. Regions showing improving trends for early school-leavers and people with tertiary education (aged 30-34) increased, in percentage and absolute terms, after 2007, as these phenomena are partly independent from short-term economic trends. The data available for R&D expenditure cover less than half of NUTS 2 regions. The improvements observed in an increasing percentage of regions should then be read carefully: data do not

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19

While the starting year is 2000, the concluding year varies depending on the variables and regions. Details on the MRYA (most recent year available) for each variable are shown in the report. See also figure 14.

yet cover the years in which fiscal consolidation policies may have weakened the efforts previously made in most EU regions.

Indicator (with EU Target)	2000 - 2007 (Pre-crisis)						
	Regions improving	as % of regions with data available	Regions stagnating	as % of regions with data available	Regions declining	as % of regions with data available	Regions without data
75 % Employment rate among 20-64 year-olds	<b>85</b>	35%	<b>153</b>	62%	<b>7</b>	3%	27
Tertiary education	<b>196</b>	84%	<b>30</b>	13%	<b>6</b>	3%	40
At most 10% early school-leavers	<b>113</b>	59%	<b>47</b>	25%	<b>31</b>	16%	81
3% of GDP R&D spending	<b>74</b>	49%	<b>40</b>	27%	<b>36</b>	24%	122
20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion**	<b>65</b>	63%	<b>16</b>	15%	<b>23</b>	22%	168

Indicator (with EU Target)	2007 – present						
	Regions improving	as % of regions with data available	Regions stagnating	as % of regions with data available	Regions declining	as % of regions with data available	Regions without data
75 % Employment rate among 20-64 year-olds	<b>17</b>	7%	<b>171</b>	67%	<b>67</b>	26%	17
Tertiary education	<b>235</b>	94%	<b>16</b>	6%	<b>0</b>	0%	21
At most 10% early school-leavers	<b>161</b>	67%	<b>39</b>	16%	<b>39</b>	16%	33
3% of GDP R&D spending	<b>68</b>	69%	<b>11</b>	11%	<b>20</b>	20%	173
20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion**	<b>35</b>	30%	<b>25</b>	21%	<b>58</b>	49%	154

\* Trends are assessed by evaluating the difference between the start and end of the year. They may be positive or negative if the average annual change is greater than 1 % in absolute terms. If it is between 0 % and 1 % in absolute terms, it is supposed that no significant change has occurred (=stagnation).

\*\* Last trend in the table calculated on the basis of 2005-2007, due to limited data availability

**Figure 15: Europe 2020 target variables: pre- and post-crisis trends at regional level (based on the RPI)**

### **3.4 Summary and comments**

Overall, the findings examined in this section suggest that the economic crisis has set EU regions on divergent development trajectories, reversing the convergence trend observed in previous years and stressing the underlying differences in competitiveness between regions. For many regions, the crisis has made the Europe 2020 targets more challenging.

This conclusion implies two kinds of consequences regarding the Europe 2020 targets. On one hand, the economic crisis has possibly made some of them less realistic. On the other hand, it is even more urgent that they are profoundly redesigned in a smart way which takes into account the different economic and institutional realities *at regional level*.

The achievement of national targets is compatible with different scenarios at regional level, based on different sets of targets. To keep together growth and cohesion, the burden of progress can be shared in different ways between the more competitive regions and those lagging behind. A place-based approach would maximise growth across the board, while the adoption of the partnership principle in coordinating policy agendas at the different government levels, including target setting, and of multi-level governance tools, would maximise the synergies and effectiveness of the whole strategy.

## **4. Monitoring the governance of Europe 2020**

As part of the European Semester, Member States (MS) submit their annual National Reform Programmes (NRPs) that specify the progress made, actions to be undertaken in areas such as employment, research, innovation, energy or social inclusion, and measures implemented in response to the country-specific recommendations (CSR) proposed by the EU Commission in order to meet the goals and targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

In order to monitor the governance of the Europe 2020 strategy, the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform has regularly carried out analyses of the 2011 and 2012 NRPs, presented in previous editions of this report. In 2013 the study focused on how the 2013 National Reform Programmes reflect the role of the local and regional authorities, as requested by the general secretariat of the European Commission in January 2013.

The monitoring activities have also included an analysis of the European Commission's Country-Specific Recommendations package for 2013 adopted on 29 May 2013 and on the development of Partnership Agreements as part of the new Common Strategic Framework for Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020. Figure 5 shows the specific stages of the European Semester and the activities of the Committee of the Regions, as mentioned above.

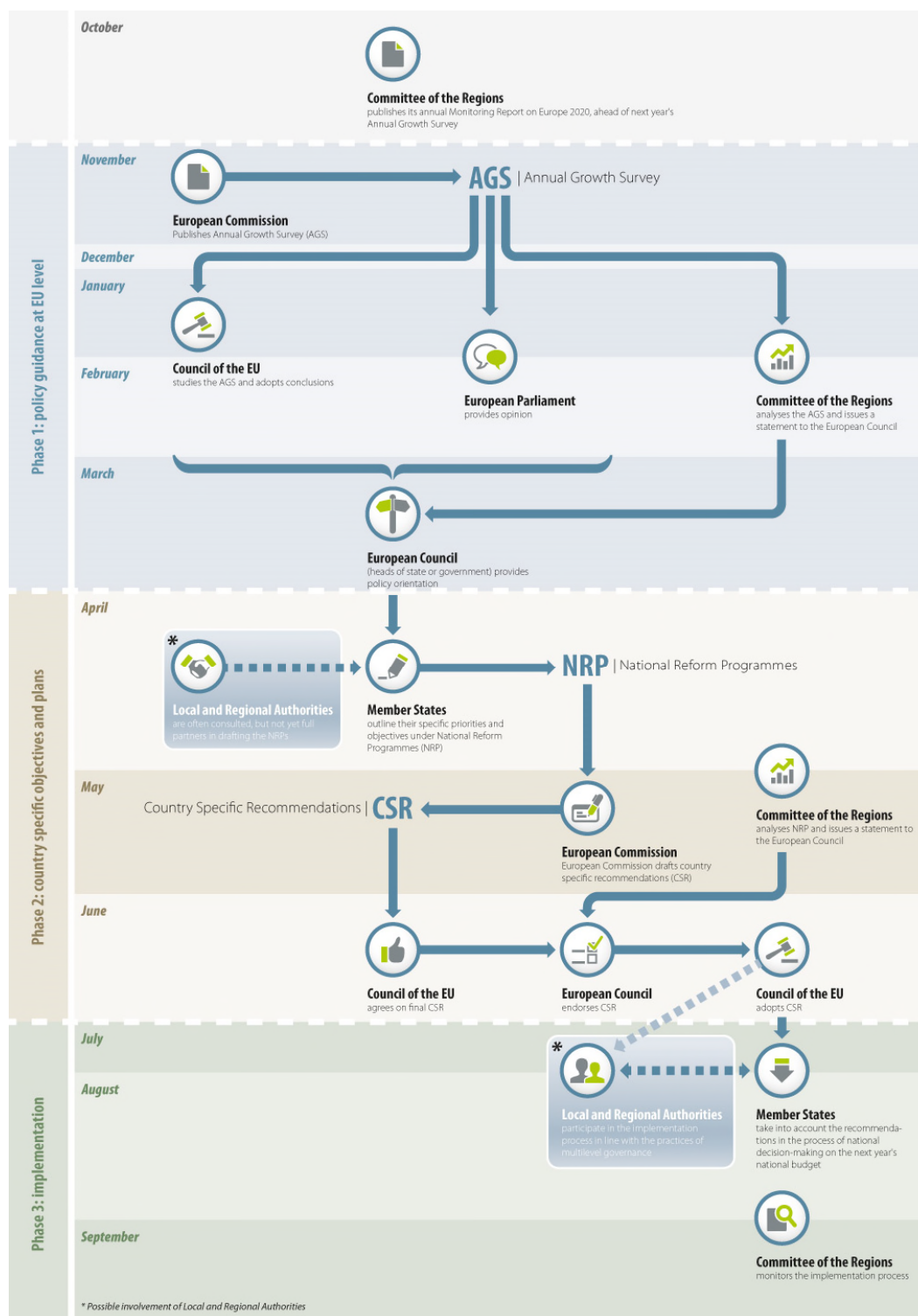
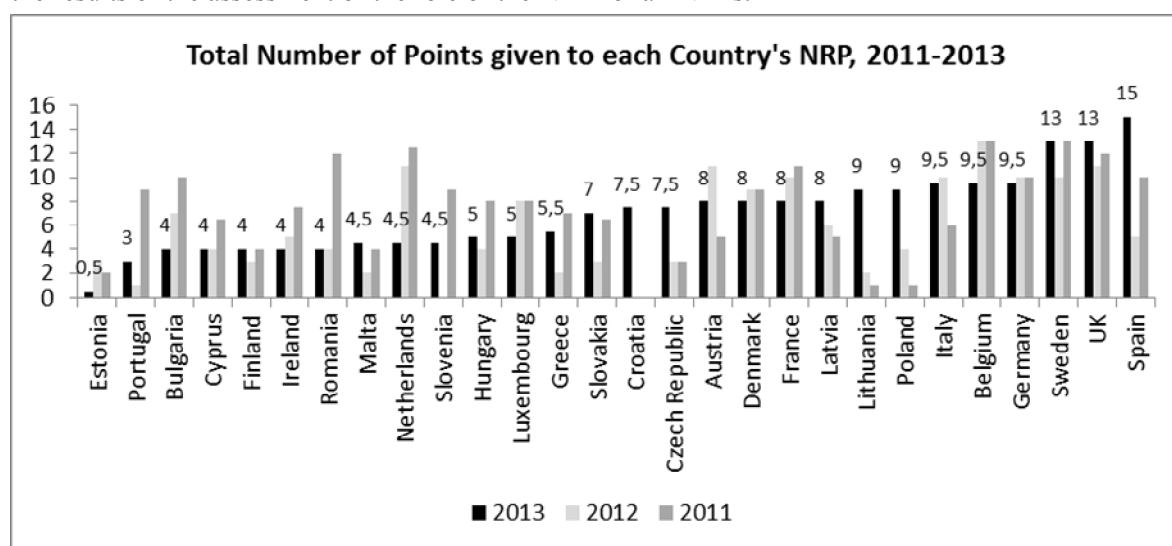


Figure 18: European Semester, showing the possible involvement of LRAs

#### 4.1 National Reform Programmes for 2013

The analysis of 2013 National Reform Programmes (NRP) focused on: i) if and to what extent local and regional authorities (LRAs) were involved in the design of the NRP – in line with the analyses of the 2011 and 2012 NRPs; ii) if and to what extent the NRP fulfil the request made by the general secretariat of the European Commission.

The first and most important observation is that the majority of NRPs acknowledge the role of the LRAs, albeit more so in the implementation of actions, programmes and policies than in developing the NRP. For example, 27 out of 28 NRPs (96%) mention LRAs – their work and responsibilities in achieving the Europe 2020 goals – and 26 NRPs (93%) make at least a limited reference to their role in implementing the actions described in the NRP. Both figures are slightly higher than in 2012 and reflect an evolution since 2011. In 11 NRPs (39%) it is specified to what extent the input received from LRAs was taken into account by the central government; in 2012 it was 12 NRPs (44%) and in 2011 it was 15 (55%). The consideration of the input provided by the LRAs was mentioned in the most visible way in the NRPs from Denmark, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The German, Irish and Polish NRPs make a somewhat weaker - but still substantial - reference to how the LRAs' input was taken into account. NRPs from Belgium, the Czech Republic, France and Lithuania were judged to give a limited account on how the viewpoints of the LRAs were taken into consideration during the NRP drafting process. Overall, 14 NRPs improved their score in terms of involvement of LRAs since 2012 and 10 since 2011. The newest Member States in particular show better how LRAs play a role in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy. Figure 19 shows the results of the assessment of the role of the NRP for all NRPs.



**Figure 19: Total scores for core questions for each NRP for 2011-2013.**

Note: Croatia submitted an Economic Programme for 2013, which is included in the analysis, although it is not technically an NRP. It does not have a score for 2011 and 2012

The Spanish NRP is judged to have explained most clearly and explicitly the role of the LRAs, with a total of 15 points, followed by the UK and Sweden (each with 13 points). These countries have governance structures that promote or require the involvement of sub-national levels of government (UK and Spain) or have an established history of active multi-level participatory governance (Sweden). In contrast, Estonia (0.5 points), Portugal (3 points) and Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland and Romania (each with 4 points) hardly mention any but the central governmental authorities in their NRPs. As for countries with lower scores, it is relevant to mention that in 2013 several Member States submitted additional documents in conjunction with the NRP that, for example, covered specific measures taken when implementing the NRP.

The various forms of multi-level governance were mentioned less frequently than in previous years. Eight NRPs (29%) made such references in 2013 compared with 10 in 2012 (37%) and 11 in 2011 (41%). Only the UK cites the existence or establishment of a Territorial Pact as proposed by the CoR in 2010. In the 2012 NRP analysis no Member State mentioned Territorial Pacts and in 2011 only the Romanian NRP included a reference to this governance model. On the other hand, other forms of cooperation and coordination across different levels of government, especially in the field of employment, are mentioned. The main areas that have seen an improvement since 2012 are the financial aspects of actions and programmes involving LRAs, the administrative capacity of LRAs and the role of LRAs in monitoring the implementation of actions.

## **4.2 Country Specific-Recommendations for 2013**

On 29 May 2013 the European Commission adopted its Country-Specific Recommendations (CSR) package for 2013, showing that the EU is making lasting changes and is tackling the serious structural problems that have built up over the past decade. The main points of concern - and therefore the most reoccurring recommendations - concern the following: the correction of past imbalances, unemployment, fiscal consolidation and structural reforms. In the CSR package, the European Commission concludes that the short-term economic outlook for Europe is still weak, but many of the actions now being taken by Member States are helping to move the EU beyond the crisis. It underlines in particular that structural reforms should be pursued more intensively and that new ways of funding growth should be identified and promoted. A graphic overview of the CSR 2013-2014 package for all Member States is available in a table below (figure 20).

	Public finances				Financial sector		Structural reforms					Employment and social policies					
	Sound public finances	Pension and healthcare systems	Fiscal framework	Taxation	Banking and access to finance	Housing market	Network industries	Competition in service sector	Public administration and smart regulation	R&D and innovation	Resource efficiency	Labour market participation	Active labour market policy	Wage setting mechanisms	Labour market segmentation	Education	Poverty and social inclusion
AT																	
BE																	
BG																	
CZ																	
DE																	
DK																	
EE																	
ES																	
FI																	
FR																	
HU																	
IT																	
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MT																	
NL																	
PL																	
RO																	
SE																	
SI																	
SK																	
UK																	

**Figure 20: Overview of Country-Specific Recommendations for 2013-2014; source, EC, COM (2013) 350**

Note: Commission's recommendations presented on 29 May 2013 for 2013-2014. Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal should implement commitments under EU/IMF financial assistance programmes. More information at: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

The CoR has examined the CSR package from the local and regional perspective, taking into account the objectives of Europe 2020. This analysis leads to the following conclusions:

- The reference to/importance given to the Europe 2020 strategy and its targets decreased between 2012 and 2013: the strategy is mentioned less in the 2013 CSRs than in 2012; meeting the Europe 2020 targets is less emphasised. As in 2012, no reference is made in 2013 to the flagship initiatives. An analysis of the MS progress in meeting the Europe 2020 targets is missing (although referred to wrongly in the main text).
- The local and regional dimension is still largely absent in the CSRs: There is no reference to the issue of division of powers (and the recognition of competences at local and regional level), and no reference to CSRs at sub-national level (although this is the case in the CSRs of individual Member States). There is no reference to multi-level governance or the partnership principle. Reference is made to Member States stepping up their contacts with social partners and civil society but not with LRAs.
- The only reference to local and regional authorities is made when talking about fiscal discipline (sub-national finance) and the implementation of the structural funds. A reference is made to strengthening capacity-building at regional and local level to manage the implementation of joint

strategies but this reference is mainly related to the efficient implementation of structural funds programmes on the ground.

- The focus of the CSRs shifted slightly between 2012 and 2013: The emphasis on structural reforms has increased: more countries have now received recommendations on providing support to network industries, increasing competition in the service sector, improving public administration and resource efficiency. For the first time, nine countries have received special recommendations on addressing poverty and social exclusion. The focus on public finances and the financial sector has decreased slightly.

In a more in-depth analysis of a selection of CSR documents (Spain, Bulgaria, Austria), the CoR has further observed that, despite the European Commission showing interest in the division of powers between different tiers of government, the 2013 CSRs broadly repeat the same lack of understanding and consideration of competences of local and regional authorities. There are still only a few CSRs, which relate directly to LRAs. Specific recommendations to Member States include a call for better coordination between national, regional and local government and the finalisation of an efficient local administration reform. Although some CSRs touch upon LRAs' competences, it is without explicitly mentioning them, e.g. those related to education, labour market policy, social policy/anti-poverty measures, etc. In general, the CSRs of the individual Member States mirror the approach and language of the CSR main communication, hardly referring to the Europe 2020 strategy and not specifically mentioning the flagship initiatives.

### 4.3 The Partnership Agreements

The involvement of local and regional authorities in the programming process for funds under MFF 2014 is related to two key elements in the preparatory stage: i) the **Common Strategic Framework (CSF)**, which provides the overarching strategic guidance for the period 2014-2020, and ii) the **Partnership Agreement** at national level which is proposed by Member States and is subject to approval by the Commission.

At the end of 2012, the Commission published position papers on the development of the Partnership Agreement and programmes for the 2014-2020 period for each Member State<sup>20</sup>. The Commission requested Member States to submit their draft Partnership Agreements (PAs) by the end of June 2013. The draft regulation laying down the Common Provisions underlines clearly the involvement of local and regional authorities in the preparation of the Partnership Agreements.<sup>21</sup> The Committee of the Regions saw the preparation of the Partnership Agreements as an opportunity not to be missed for the different levels of government to work in partnership in order to ensure that not only the Structural Funds, but all available policy instruments, were coordinated in order to achieve the Europe 2020 goals. The CoR has

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<sup>20</sup> Documents available online: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm)

<sup>21</sup> COM(2013) 246 final, 22.04.2013

called for respect of Article 5 of the European code of conduct<sup>22</sup> (ECCP) for the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of the Partnership Agreements.<sup>23</sup>

At the crucial stage of the programming process, in April 2013, the CoR carried out a short survey on the involvement of local and regional authorities in the preparation of the Partnership Agreements. A total of 61 contributions were received from 25 Member States (all EU12<sup>24</sup> and 13 EU15<sup>25</sup> countries). The survey helped to examine whether LRAs were involved in the preparation of Partnership Agreements with their national governments and at what stage of finalising the documents their national governments were. It also examined the satisfaction level with the drafting process. With regard to the first two questions, the situation became more positive a few months after the survey. The answers submitted to the third question, however, are still relevant. They illustrate the perception of the drafting process from the perspective of LRAs just before the first official deadline for the submission of the Partnership Agreement by their national governments. When answering this last question, LRAs from 20 Member States reported that their participation in the development of the Partnership Agreement was satisfactory, either fully (4) or partly (16). LRAs from five Member States were not satisfied with their participation in its development: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Malta and Romania.

The main point of criticism reported by respondents to the CoR survey concerned the quality of the consultation process. Often the consultations were perceived as a mere paper exercise with little impact on the final outcome. There was also a visible split between the EU15 and EU12 countries when it came to the perception of the drafting process. All of the LRAs declaring their dissatisfaction with the development of the PAs came from the EU12 countries. LRAs from four countries were fully satisfied: three EU15 (Austria, Germany, and Ireland) and one EU12 (Lithuania). Another relevant issue expressed by some of the respondents was the need for CoR regular monitoring of the application of the partnership principle at EU level.

The CoR checked the results of the survey on Partnership Agreements with the content of the National Reform Programmes of all Member States. NRPs were analysed to see whether LRA involvement in the preparation of Partnership Agreements was mentioned and also whether the application of the proposed ECCP was indicated. The analysis showed that a relatively small number of seven NRPs made explicit references to the Partnership Agreements (AT, CZ, IT, MT, SK, ES and SE). Of these, AT, IT, SK and SE made substantial references and the remaining NRPs only very limited ones. The ECCP was mentioned in only one document, that submitted by Germany.

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22 Art. 5, European code of conduct available online:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/pdf/preparation/fiche\\_code\\_conduct\\_2013\\_01\\_21.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/preparation/fiche_code_conduct_2013_01_21.pdf)

23 Statement of the Conference of Presidents of the Committee of the Regions ahead of the Spring European Council, 12.03.2013, available online: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/pr/Documents/statement-cop-european-council.pdf>

24 EU12 includes all those Member States which acceded after 2004: BG, CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK

25 EU15 means the EU as constituted in 1995: BE DK DE EL ES FR IE IT LU NL AT PT FI SE UK

## **5. Monitoring the flagship initiatives <sup>26</sup>**

In autumn 2012 the Committee of the Regions (CoR) launched - and is currently carrying out - a comprehensive assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy and its building blocks, the seven flagship initiatives. Part of this assessment consists of collecting opinions from local and regional authorities (LRAs) through a series of surveys. These thematic surveys are analysed and the results are presented to all relevant stakeholders and also to the general public through the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform. The CoR surveys help to analyse, from a regional and local perspective, whether the flagships are still valid to meet the Europe 2020 targets, what the state of implementation is at regional level, where the governance and delivery gaps are and what finances are available to fund various initiatives.

The CoR has carried out to date five detailed surveys on the flagship initiatives and the remaining two will be completed by the end of November 2013.

The first five flagship initiatives have been assessed so far according to the following timeline:

1. Youth on the move: survey run from 7 September to 5 November 2012; conference held on 13 December 2012 in Brussels;
2. An agenda for new skills and jobs: survey run from 26 November 2012 to 21 January 2013; conference held on 28 February and 1 March 2013 in Dublin;
3. An industrial policy for the globalisation era: survey run from 9 January to 1 March 2013; conference held on 10 April 2013 in Brussels;
4. European platform against poverty: survey run from 15 February to 22 April 2013; conference held on 29 May 2013 in Brussels;
5. Digital Agenda for Europe: survey run from 25 March to 27 May 2013; conference held on 2 July 2013 in Brussels;

### **5.1 Horizontal aspects of monitoring results**

Each CoR event on the flagship initiatives was an occasion for the representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and other relevant stakeholders to present the latest developments concerning their portfolios. The programmes of these events included working sessions and discussions which allowed the general findings of the surveys to be fleshed out with "real life" examples and the latest pieces of information. These two elements, namely the survey findings and conference proceedings, have made it possible to draw the first general conclusions concerning flagship initiatives and to list the most recurring elements, such as:

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This chapter includes a comprehensive analysis of 5 flagship initiatives (Youth on the Move, An agenda for new skills and jobs, An industrial policy for the globalisation era, European platform against poverty, Digital Agenda for Europe) in terms of horizontal aspects, surveys and conferences' outcomes, best practices.

A complete analysis could not be extended to cover Resource-Efficient Europe, as the dedicated conference only took place on 2-3 September. Therefore the report is limited to the main results of the survey and key messages from the conference (see paragraph 6.2.6).

Regarding the 7th flagship initiative "Innovation Union", the survey is ongoing and will run until 27 September, whereas the conference will be held on 27 November 2013, so the results and outcomes will only be available after the publication of this report.

- the relevance of Europe 2020 and flagship initiatives for regional policies and actions;
- the relevance of building blocks, pillars and action taken under flagship initiatives;
- Europe 2020 country-specific targets seen as appropriate;
- LRA participation in drafting NRPs;
- the relevance of Europe 2020 and flagship initiatives in the NRP – from the LRAs' viewpoint;
- the effects of the financial and economic crisis;
- the importance of EU funds;
- the call for a simplification of procedures; and
- the importance of improved coordination between all governance levels (regional-national-EU).

The most positive finding is that local and regional authorities are very much involved in delivering Europe 2020 and the objectives of specific flagship initiatives. All respondents to the CoR survey on the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" and also on "Youth on the Move" declared that they were involved in the implementation process. The number was also high (80% of respondents) for the survey on the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs." Statements made during CoR conferences also show that the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives are supported by the local and regional authorities. Several good practices, which were exhibited during conferences and presented in conference catalogues, show how to achieve the most from available resources within the limitations of the complexity of the EU funds.

Being involved unfortunately does not necessarily mean that the LRAs' role is highlighted in National Reform Programmes. Based on the CoR surveys, the share of local and regional authorities involved in the preparation of NRPs ranges from only one-third to a half. Consequently, the local and regional authorities are not fully satisfied with the way the challenges related to specific flagship initiatives are tackled in the National Reform Programmes. This satisfaction level was measured in the surveys and only one-third of respondents were satisfied with the way issues related to "Youth on the Move" and the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" are being tackled. This figure is higher for the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" and the "Digital Agenda for Europe" where half of the respondents declare their satisfaction. Taking into account the very strong focus on the economic recovery, the highest satisfaction level was with the NRP sections corresponding to the "Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era". Two-thirds of respondents said that the industrial competitiveness policies set in their countries' current NRPs meet their needs. The respondents nevertheless also expressed some sharp criticism. For example, NRP documents did not set out a coherent industrial policy for their countries. In particular, NRP documents did not specify those regions and technologies with the greatest development and competition potential. This point was also made during the "Industrial Policy" conference in April.

An important point covered in answers to the surveys was about funding and especially the use of EU funds. The relevance of EU funds was highlighted and appreciated by all respondents. However, they also said very clearly that the on-going financial and economic crisis was having a negative effect on their activities. The crisis and resulting shortage of public funds had led to a prioritisation of projects and jeopardised many others. The limited availability of funds was also very challenging because of the complexity of the grants procedures. This criticism was present in the replies to all CoR surveys. On a more positive note, the respondents did see that the up-coming Partnership Agreements, under the new

rules for funds in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, might improve this situation when it comes to simplification and synergies.

A more detailed description of the horizontally analysed issues is contained in the following boxes:

*Relevance of Europe 2020 and flagship initiatives for regional policies and actions*

Results of the surveys show that the flagship initiatives are reflected in local and regional policies. Respondents gave several examples of policies or specific projects which were aligned to match the five strategic documents assessed to this date. There is a certain level of coordination and common recognition of targets and fields of activities across the EU; For example, 58% of the respondents to the survey on the Digital Agenda for Europe answered that they incorporated a digital agenda in their local or regional policies and initiatives.

*Relevance of building blocks, pillars and action taken under flagship initiatives*

The list of priorities mentioned by respondents under each flagship initiative varies depending on the region's characteristics. However, when respondents are asked about the place of individual action points under flagship initiatives on the list of priorities, the level of positive replies on average reaches approximately 50% (multiple answers are allowed). This shows that, in general, action points under specific flagship initiatives are seen as positive and LRAs do proceed with their implementation covering all the points listed in the strategic EU documents. When it comes to each flagship initiative's specific challenges, respondents generally agree with their importance. Conference speakers also confirmed that regions and cities play a key role in delivering Europe 2020, being "where initiative is taken, where the European funds are managed and where the citizens' support is enhanced"

27

*Europe 2020 country-specific targets seen as appropriate*

In the CoR surveys, LRAs were asked whether Europe 2020 national targets<sup>28</sup> were appropriate to their local situation. More than a half of all the respondents to surveys<sup>29</sup> which covered this issue<sup>30</sup> declared that the targets and objectives set in the respective flagship initiatives were generally appropriate.

As for more concrete examples, with respect to the poverty and social exclusion indicators, the majority of respondents (53%) believed that they were compatible with their local situation. In a few cases (14%), the local or regional situation was better or worse than the national target, but the respondents nonetheless agreed that the national targets served as a useful point of reference. As for the Industrial Policy flagship initiative, more than half (53%) of the respondents affirmed that the targets set in their respective countries were appropriate to their local/regional situation. Another 15%, however, were either only partially satisfied with their national targets or felt

27

Commissioner Antonio Tajani at the "Industrial Policy" conference on 10 April 2013. Proceedings, photographs and related exhibition catalogue from the CoR Industrial Policy flagship initiative conference are available online: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Pages/europe-2020-conference-industrial-policy.aspx>

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Europe 2020 country-specific targets are available online: which you can find at [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf)

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This point was not covered in the CoR survey on the Digital Agenda, as the specific objectives of this flagship initiative are not among the eight headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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This point was not covered in the CoR survey on the Digital Agenda, as the specific objectives of this flagship initiative are not among the eight headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

that these targets were not realistic in the view of their local or regional situations. With regard to the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, the country-specific targets were considered to be adequate by the majority; nine respondents<sup>31</sup> felt that at least one target was too ambitious. For example, Prešov Autonomous Region stated that, while their employment and poverty targets would not be achieved, those for the reduction of the school dropout rate and the share of 30-34 years old with tertiary education were achievable.

#### LRA participation in drafting NRPs

Based on the replies collected so far, the level of LRAs which are involved in the drafting of their respective NRPs ranges from one-third to 50%. For example, one-third of the respondents to the survey on Youth on the Move contributed to the drafting of the NRP documents. The degree of their participation varied from marginal consultation (e.g. Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia) to formalised membership in the process leading to the development of the NRP (e.g. Vienna, Austria). In the case of the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, nearly half of the respondents (44%) stated that they had a chance to contribute to the development of the 2012 NRP. Their involvement generally took the form of consultations to participation in working groups tasked with drafting different sections of the NRP. As for the Digital Agenda for Europe, slightly more than half of the respondents felt that they had had sufficient opportunity to participate in and contribute to the drafting of their National Reform Programmes.

#### Relevance of Europe 2020 and flagship initiatives in the NRP – from the LRAs' viewpoint

In terms of matching specific policies or programmes included in each NRP with real local and regional needs, the proportion of respondents declaring their satisfaction ranged from one-third to two-thirds. The proportion of respondents satisfied with the way NRP documents responded to their needs in policy fields reflected by specific flagship initiatives was as follows: Youth on the Move and European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: one-third; Agenda for New Skills and Jobs and Digital Agenda for Europe: half; An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era: two-thirds.

#### Effects of the financial and economic crisis

The ongoing financial and economic crisis was having a negative effect on the execution of planned activities and also required LRAs to re-prioritise some of their projects. In many cases planned future activities were in jeopardy due to fiscal reforms and austerity measures. For example, with regard to the Digital Agenda, 52% of those responding emphasised that their goals were jeopardised by the growing fiscal consolidation. Another negative effect of the financial and economic crisis was that it seemed to have accelerated problems that were often structural in nature. As far as the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs was concerned, the economic crisis had had a negative influence on structural changes in the labour market and generated higher unemployment, as reported by 61% of the respondents to this specific survey. Three out of four respondents to the survey on the Industrial Policy flagship initiative stated that the type of challenges encountered nowadays by industries were no different from those faced in 2010 when the Europe 2020 strategy was launched, but in some cases the crisis had exacerbated the challenges.

#### Importance of EU funds

EU funds are generally much appreciated and seen as an important element in delivering objectives and targets of

31

e.g. Prešov Autonomous Region, Olomouc Region, Tolna County Council, Government of Catalonia

the Europe 2020 strategy and specific flagship initiatives. The role of the European Structural Funds (especially the ESF<sup>32</sup> and ERDF<sup>33</sup>) has been highlighted as important by the majority of respondents and as critical by some (especially the 'new' EU Member States<sup>34</sup>) in their answers to the survey on New Skills and Jobs. With regard to Youth on the Move the situation is very similar; for Eastern and Central Europe in particular, as well as for the Canary Islands and Madeira, the European Social Fund is a critical source of funding to get projects off the ground whereas for others (the UK, Sweden, Austria and Belgium) it contributes to their programmed activities by allowing their enhancement or expansion, without being the primary source of funding. As for projects under the Industrial Policy flagship initiative, EU funds were appreciated by 72% of all respondents to this specific survey, especially programmes designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The importance of EU funds was also highlighted at conferences on the flagship initiatives. For example, on poverty and social exclusion the CoR president Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso expressed his support for an ambitious social investment strategy which should be based on appropriate EU funding.

#### Call for a simplification of procedures

In all CoR surveys, respondents had an opportunity to express their concerns and suggest ways to improve specific actions, policies or tools. The most recurring element was a call for the simplification of procedures. For instance, with regard to Poverty and Social Exclusion, respondents asked that the funding mechanisms be simplified and aligned in order to allow multiple sources of funding. Similar statements were made in the surveys on the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs<sup>35</sup> and on Youth on the Move<sup>36</sup>. For the latter, respondents highlighted the need to clarify the role of the ESF and simplify its rules in order to make it more flexible and increase its size. As much as 48% of the respondents to the survey on Digital Agenda for Europe recommended specific changes to this flagship initiative, asking *inter alia* for more guidance on concrete actions as well as simplified procedural requirements and clear solutions on next generation networks.

#### Importance of improved coordination between all governance levels (regional-national-EU)

When it comes to implementation on the ground, the figures illustrating cooperation between different levels of government reach in some cases 100% of respondents. For example, all (100%) respondents to the survey on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion state that partnerships, collaboration and/or coordination of activities exist. To accomplish their goals, the LRAs are working with national authorities (vertical partnerships) and in cooperation with local stakeholders such as non-profit organisations and businesses, (horizontal partnerships). The fiscal consolidation of public funding in the area of poverty and social services is seen as an additional driver to make the most of the available resources, including building more effective horizontal and vertical cooperation. . Similarly, all respondents to the survey on Youth on the Move stated that they are engaged in partnerships with other tiers of government as well as a variety of organisations and businesses but few have adopted formal multi-

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32 European Social Fund (ESF)

33 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

34 The term 'new Member States' refers to those which acceded in or after 2004: BG, CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK

35 For example Hengelo Town Council (NL) as well as Tolna City Council (HU) have stated that there is a need for "simplifying the bureaucracy and system for applying for grants, as well as accounting procedures." See Agenda for New Skills and Jobs Survey Results Report, CoR, Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, available online:  
<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/MonitoringFlagships/Documents/New%20skills%20and%20jobs%20trad/Report.pdf>

36 [http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/SiteCollectionDocuments/Europe%202020%20MP\\_Youth%20on%20the%20Move\\_FinalResults\\_survey\\_formatted.pdf](http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/SiteCollectionDocuments/Europe%202020%20MP_Youth%20on%20the%20Move_FinalResults_survey_formatted.pdf)

level governance agreements.

As regards the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, most respondents (80%) work together with other tiers of government, typically on a range of projects. In the survey on the Industrial Policy flagship initiative, almost two-thirds of the participants described the presence of cooperation or coordination between their local and regional authority and the national industrial competitiveness policy. However, almost one-third of the participants mentioned that there was some room for improvement.

## **5.2 The flagship initiatives so far**

The following paragraphs summarise the main results of the surveys, as well as the outcome of the conferences. More details can be found at:

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

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/policies/growth-and-jobs/Pages/europe-2020.aspx>

### **5.2.1 Youth on the move**

The survey on the flagship initiative “Youth on the Move” received a total of 34 replies from 15 countries. According to the respondents, the economic crisis is having significant adverse effects on youth employment prospects throughout the EU but more critically in Greece, Spain, and Portugal. The peripheral regions, and especially the islands, have suffered more than the central and more affluent regions. The conference debate, held in Brussels on 13 December 2012, reflected the widespread concerns about the level of and trends in youth unemployment.

The debate stressed that education and vocational training must be at the heart of youth employment plans, as should mobility, and should include a stronger European dimension. Respondents to the survey confirm that globalisation and systemic changes in the labour market require a rethink of secondary and tertiary education, vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities.

Those who replied to the survey found that, on the whole, the flagship initiative is seen as useful in raising awareness among the different actors and increasing collaboration in order to tackle the key socio-economic problems it addresses. In particular, Youth on the Move provides added value by addressing multiple, interrelated issues in concert: higher education and vocational training, lifelong learning, mobility, employment and unemployment.

Young people are recognised as important constituents and drivers of economic growth as well as part of the social fabric; they must be critical when choosing their field of study/work and be prepared to be flexible, motivated and active in continuing to build their knowledge and skill base. In addition, their active participation in the education sector and labour market must be promoted, secured and rewarded.

Dropping out of school is one of the strongest signs of the lack of future job prospects. Among disadvantaged youth in particular, who experience additional forms of exclusion and discrimination, staying in school is a critical step towards gaining successful entry into the job market.

Mobility is seen as an important means through which young people can broaden their professional and language skills and gather useful experience. Migration for job reasons is more prevalent now than it has been in the recent past, although it can have negative effects for the regions losing skilled workers.

The national targets concerning education and employment are widely seen as appropriate. However, the outermost regions and rural areas that are hard hit by the economic crisis were in favour of adjustments.

Cooperation between different tiers of government is in a critical state, in particular due to the fact that EU and national governments are setting guidelines without taking account of local circumstances. EU cohesion policy instruments, in particular the ESF, appear to be the most important source of funding for local actions related to Youth on the Move.

Respondents identified shortcomings in implementation and a need for additional instruments, better awareness and clarity of responsibilities, the creation of a fund to support secondary school attendance by pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, the provision of lifelong learning for teachers, increased attention to non-formal learning and education, and enhanced cooperation between institutions at EU, national and local level.

There would have to be a better coordination of existing exchange programmes at EU, national and regional level. Existing regional and local programmes promoting a culture of start-up models for young entrepreneurs are important for job creation and regional innovation systems, as they also make people more conscious of what could be achieved in their region.

### **5.2.2 An agenda for new skills and jobs**

Unemployment is on the rise not only because of areas of mismatch between labour demand and supply but also because of an insufficient net creation of jobs. In addition, the crisis affects regions and cities in an uneven manner, increasing regional disparities. There was a total of 46 responses from 17 EU Member States to this survey. This agenda is seen as a means to address major social challenges and its main goal is to achieve the employment percentage of 75% of the working-age population (20-64 years) by 2020. Other EU targets are to get the early school-leaving rate below 10% and more young people into higher education or equivalent vocational education (at least 40%), as well as to have at least 20 million less people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

With respect to the perceived strengths of the flagship initiative, the survey provides evidence that the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" reflects the key concerns of nearly all respondents (98%), namely the need to tackle the problem of modernising labour markets systematically and comprehensively with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of predominant social models. The "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" flagship initiative appears to be seen as successfully addressing key socio-economic issues in the EU in a context in which the economic crisis (a) has accelerated and developed structural changes in the labour market and increased unemployment (61%), and (b) has led to an increasing mismatch between the skills available and those demanded by employers (20%). Several

respondents (20%) highlighted the fact that it is not only a matter of creating additional jobs, but also of improving the quality of these jobs and of striking the right balance between flexibility and job security, especially with respect to the growing number of temporary contracts.

The weak points of the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" are to some extent direct consequences of the features that it was praised for: the EU-wide and all-inclusive scope of the agenda means that it was also viewed as too theoretical and broad in scope, failing to take into account the diversity of different national and subnational situations. As a consequence, the strategy was perceived as having difficulties when it came to addressing the different challenges facing different parts of Europe or outermost regions. In addition, implementation and funding of measures was perceived as even more difficult due to the current economic recession (37%).

As far as the "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" is concerned, the conference debate held in Dublin stressed that local and regional authorities see investments in human capital through education, vocational training, lifelong learning and culture as key elements of any effort to restore growth in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Increasing human capital should not be seen as a cost, but as an investment in the future, as well as a way to lift people out of poverty and social exclusion. This flagship is all the more relevant when considering the most promising sectors in terms of job creation: health and social services, green jobs, ICT-related jobs, etc. Furthermore, the CoR would add cultural and creative sectors to this mix as the latter play a key role in European identities and quality of life.

### **5.2.3 An industrial policy for the globalisation era**

The results of the survey on "Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era" show that the biggest challenges faced by industries at local and regional level are caused either by globalisation or by the economic and financial crisis. Access to finance, especially for SMEs, is seen as one of the main obstacles to boosting competitiveness. Other challenges include the lack of proper investments in infrastructure and the need for re-structuring the industrial fabric and fighting re-location. Problems with finding the necessary workforce with the right skills were also often reported by respondents to the survey, as were high unemployment rates, especially among LRAs in southern and eastern countries. In total, the survey to assess the flagship initiative "Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era" received 36 responses from 12 EU Member States.

Almost two-thirds of the contributions reported that the above-mentioned challenges are addressed by taking action through regional or local policies. LRAs provide direct support to firms, networks and clusters and try to find ways of encouraging stronger relationships between them and universities, as well as public and private research institutions. The improvement of the business environment also plays a role, especially through administrative simplification. The support provided by the European Union in the form of funding was appreciated by almost three-quarters of the contributions. In particular, the programmes aimed at supporting SMEs were seen as a very positive tool. An interesting observation is that three out of four respondents stated that the challenges encountered nowadays are no different from those faced in 2010 when the Europe 2020 strategy was launched. The crisis has further exacerbated the

challenges over time but many of them were actually long-term issues and thus appear to be structural in nature.

Two of the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy are directly related to this flagship initiative, namely: achieving a 75% employment rate among 20-64 years-olds and a figure of 3% of EU GDP for investment in R&D. A third target, the energy-related "20-20-20", is indirectly linked to this flagship. The respondents to the survey were asked whether they thought that their respective country-specific targets were in keeping with the three headline ones. The majority (53%) of the respondents considered them appropriate for their local/regional situation. When it came to the relevance of industrial competitiveness policies, as presented in the National Reform Programmes, two-thirds of the LRAs considered that they do meet their local and regional needs.

Almost one-third of the respondents explicitly mentioned a desire for closer coordination between EU and national funding, particularly with a view to implementing their own strategies and achieving planned targets. When asked about the forthcoming Partnership Agreements under the new 2014-2020 cohesion policy, two-thirds of the survey participants saw them as an opportunity for better coordination between the different tiers of government. For the time being, almost two-thirds of the participants in this survey confirmed the presence of cooperation/coordination between their local or regional authority and the national government. However, almost one-third mentioned that there is room for improvement.

The findings of the survey report were presented by Michel Delebarre, CoR political coordinator of the Europe 2020 strategy, during the Industrial Policy conference. He stressed that it is always the human factor which counts the most. Antonio Tajani, European Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, highlighted the key role that regions play in the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy, as it is in the regions, where initiatives are taken and where the European funds are managed. A similar statement was made by Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, president of the CoR, who added that European strategies can only lead to more productivity if they are tailored to the right level of government.

#### **5.2.4 European platform against poverty and social exclusion**

Currently, one in four European citizens is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The goal of the "European platform against poverty and social exclusion" is to free at least 20 million people (compared to 2008 levels) from this risk by 2020.

The survey received 37 responses from 15 Member States. Overall, the survey provides evidence that the flagship initiative extensively recognises the multi-dimensionality of poverty and social exclusion, requiring coordinated, integrated and sustained counter-measures. According to the respondents, the most serious challenges are in the fields of providing affordable, decent housing (72% of the respondents) and fighting child poverty (36 %), with unemployment being seen as a main contributor to rising poverty and social exclusion levels (36%). The majority of respondents state that their city or region has experienced an increase in unemployment, especially long-term, due to the economic crisis. Specific population groups, such as the youth and the elderly, low-skilled workers, immigrants and people with disabilities,

have been particularly hard hit. Furthermore, the rise of child poverty and “legacy poverty” is seen as a looming threat to the future of certain population segments, condemning them to a life of poverty and social exclusion.

The general aims of the Flagship Initiative were considered relevant by more than 90 % of the respondents. The targets were generally perceived as well-designed and in line with the situation on the ground. An additional positive feature of the flagship initiative is the increased awareness of poverty and social exclusion, including a boost in visibility for Roma issues and child poverty. However, some respondents pointed out that the political targets are sometimes seen as too abstract or removed from specific local contexts. This makes them less relevant, unrealistic or missing the actual root causes of the problem they aim to resolve.

With regard to finance, the respondents state that a variety of funding sources are used to develop and implement policies and actions, although some planned future activities are in jeopardy due to fiscal reforms and austerity measures. Most of the respondents recommend giving a greater role to local and regional authorities. Other recommendations include the mainstreaming of poverty issues into all aspects of EU strategy and the combined use of European funds to find innovative approaches to address the multi-faceted character of poverty. According to the respondents, the Platform should be more concise and objectives should be more specific and measurable both at macro and micro levels for local authorities.

The CoR conference on "Poverty and social exclusion: What role for regions and cities?" focused specifically on social investment, the development of deprived urban neighbourhoods and rural areas, as well as trans-national cooperation between regions and cities. Speakers at the conference also addressed the need for a more systematic insight and enhanced EU policy coordination which takes account of regional and local responsibility for social services. The main conclusions also included the need for an improved social investment approach when tackling these problems, as well as a call for better implementation of EU programmes at all levels in order to avoid overlaps and red tape.

### **5.2.5 Digital Agenda for Europe**

The Digital Agenda for Europe was adopted to stimulate the digital economy and address social challenges through Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The flagship initiative aims to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and firms in Europe.

In the survey conducted by the CoR 2020 Monitoring Platform on the Digital Agenda for Europe, 31 replies were received from 13 Member States. For more than two-thirds (70%) of the respondents the biggest current challenges of the flagship initiative were the widespread provision of fast broadband internet and upgrading to next generation networks. In addition, almost three out of four respondents stated that improving digital literacy is perceived as one of the major difficulties in achieving the aims of the digital agenda. More than half of the participants (61%) reported that research and innovation in the

ICT sector, which helps to maintain the EU's competitive edge, is hampering the fulfilment of the flagship initiative's goals.

The objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe were regarded by the survey respondents as relevant and many of them commented on the positive features of the flagship initiative. Results from the survey showed general agreement on the creation of a single digital market, while progressive access to the internet and the improvement of digital skills were seen as important goals by the respondents. Close to two-thirds (58%) said that they were incorporating a digital agenda into their local or regional policies and initiatives.

As regards the potential weaknesses of the flagship initiative, there was a consensus on the need for more guidance by the European Union on how to implement the objectives set by the digital agenda. In addition, insufficient funds and their inefficient and over-bureaucratic handling were seen as reasons for the inadequate achievement of certain goals, such as the digital exclusion of rural areas, or the insufficient support for the development of next generation networks. Therefore, 48% of the respondents recommended specific changes to the digital agenda, asking for more guidance on concrete actions as well as simplified procedural requirements.

When it came to the sources of funding, 68% of the respondents stated that they were using both regional and EU funds simultaneously for actions within the scope of the Digital Agenda for Europe. The remaining 32% reported either EU funds or national/ regional funds to be the main source of financing. A further two-thirds of those responding stressed that their goals were being jeopardised by growing fiscal consolidation.

The CoR conference on the topic took stock of the local and regional impact of the digital agenda and addressed specific themes such as the development of digital strategies at regional and interregional level, digital entrepreneurship and e-governance. The panel discussions made it clear that there was no one-size-fits-all strategy in the digital agenda and underlined the importance of regionally tailor-made digital strategy. When it came to e-governance and e-participation, local and regional authorities were the "front office" for the public and played a key role in the innovation of public services. It was concluded that the Digital Agenda for Europe was not mostly about bytes, technology and virtual media, but rather a strategy which put citizens at the centre of things, by creating jobs, improving the quality of life and increasing civic participation.

#### **5.2.6 Resource-Efficient Europe<sup>37</sup>**

The Resource-Efficient Europe flagship initiative was adopted to "help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency".

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37

Survey run from 30 April to 11 July 2013; the conference was held on 2-3 September 2013 in Vilnius.

In the survey conducted by the CoR 2020 Monitoring Platform on the Resource-Efficient Europe initiative, 55 replies were received from 20 EU Member States and Turkey.

Overall, LRAs seem to be on their way to meeting the goals; however, some challenges need to be overcome in order to achieve certain objectives. For instance, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources are the main challenges perceived by LRAs (71%), followed by a more efficient use of resources (58%), the shift towards a low carbon economy (44%) and the modernisation of the transport sector (44%). This may be due to the fact that the transition from common energy systems to renewable ones is posing issues in its implementation, be it due to financial or technological constraints.

The need for innovative energy systems that cut costs and hence boost the economy is underlined by the importance LRAs (67%) attach to the identification and creation of new opportunities for economic growth and greater innovation. Another 58% of respondents list the fight against climate change and limiting the environmental impacts of resource use as the most important goals, while an additional 56% of respondents mention the aim of boosting economic performance while reducing resource use. A trend emerging with regard to reducing GHG emissions by 20% that is reported by LRAs is the promotion and expansion of public transport, with the aim of reducing traffic emissions.

Policies related to resource efficiency - especially in the field of low-carbon, resource-efficient energy systems – have been adopted at local level by 53% of the participants to the survey. Among the most difficult actions to be achieved under the flagship initiative, innovation and investment for resource-efficiency projects are reported by 51% of the respondents, whether through EU or private financing. LRAs also describe difficulties in reducing food chain resource inputs, due to the lack of guidelines by national governments.

Concerning the proposed changes to the flagship initiative, LRAs mention similar arguments, in particular the need for an extended budget and clear binding targets. Moreover, there is a clear call for better links between LRAs and the European policy framework, illustrating the low level of LRA involvement in this area.

The CoR conference on the topic took place on 2-3 September in Vilnius and addressed a number of issues such as the integration of renewable energies into the distribution network, the untapped potential of a circular economy, the need for better legislative and financial conditions to increase investments in energy and resource efficiency, the role of the Covenant of Mayors in meeting the 20/20/20 targets and its possible extension to resource efficiency, to name but a few.

Several voices stressed the need for a behavioural change towards sustainable consumption and production and for improved carbon literacy. In the move towards an improved awareness of efficient resource use in our daily lives, LRAs must support both technological and mind-set changes.

It was concluded that, due to LRAs' competences in areas such as land-use planning, public transport, environmental infrastructure, energy production, green buildings, sustainable water and waste

management, and the protection of ecosystems, the territorial dimension is essential to the success of the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy to achieve sustainable growth and that an integrated approach to the efficient use of all resources, and not just energy, is also necessary.

### 5.3 Good practices

The CoR's Monitoring Platform has been gathering good practices in each flagship initiative since September 2012. Different sources of collection have been at LRAs' disposal:

- **the online database:** examples of good practices have been submitted on the portal (<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/MonitoringFlagships/Pages/Good-Practices.aspx>) completing the form available on line;
- **the surveys:** good practices have been mentioned and described in the answers to the questionnaires (see Annex 7.3);
- **the exhibition catalogues:** the conferences have been accompanied by a thematic exhibition of good practices, collected in catalogues<sup>38</sup>.

The following boxes illustrate a few selected cases, chosen from the replies to the surveys on a geographical basis, which highlighted how Europe 2020 helped the respondents to set more ambitious goals in their policies.

The selection aims at showing examples of how multilevel governance, in different forms, can help in pursuing the Europe 2020 goals. This is the case, in particular, for three examples of formal partnerships between different tiers of government: the Territorial Employment Pact in the case of Vienna, involving municipal and provincial institutions; the interinstitutional cooperation protocol in the case of Buzau, involving central and county governments; and the agreement between national and local authorities, in the case of West Pomerania.

The above sources contain a wealth of other cases which are not mentioned here, obviously, just for reasons of available editorial space.

#### 5.3.1 Youth on the Move

Authority	<b>South Moravia Region (Jihomoravský kraj), Czech Republic</b>
Title	<b>The Youth in Action Programme in the Region of South Moravia - Bringing Europe to the practice of regional youth work and youth policy-making</b>
The proposed project aims to reinforce the European dimension in the practice of youth work and of youth policy-making in the region of South Moravia (CZ) and in the adjacent regions of the neighbouring countries (SK, AT).	

38

[http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/yotm\\_exhibition.pdf](http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/yotm_exhibition.pdf)

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/skillsandjobs-exhibition.pdf>

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/exhibition-catalogue.pdf>

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/1884%20fighting%20poverty%20catalog.pdf>

[http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/digital\\_agenda\\_exhibition\\_catalog.pdf](http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Documents/digital_agenda_exhibition_catalog.pdf)

Further objectives of the project include strengthening the synergies between European, national and regional implementation of the Youth in Action Programme, which is seen as model example relevant for the development of regional youth policies, increasing the capacities of regional organisations for youth work in a European context, reinforcing the networking of public bodies and NGOs across state borders and creating more opportunities for the development of young people and youth workers in the targeted regions.

The proposal intends to directly involve more than 250 young people, youth workers and decision-makers in 32 activities, such as youth exchanges and youth initiatives, European Voluntary Service, training events or monitoring and evaluation meetings. A special emphasis is given to the inclusion of young people from underdeveloped rural areas of the border districts, as well as of Roma youth and handicapped young people.

Moreover, a strong focus is given to the transfer of the project results and achievements to the area of regional youth policy. For this purpose, the implementation of the project activities will be monitored on an ongoing basis and the results as well as the data gathered during its evaluation will be fed into regional strategy planning and decision-making. Finally, a publication summarising the monitoring and evaluation findings and formulating concrete recommendations to decision-makers will be produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders.

**Multilevel Governance:** The project is based on a strong partnership involving the Jihomoravský kraj (Region of South Moravia) as the applicant, and the Lužánky Leisure Centre and eight other local and regional organisations active in international youth work as associated partners. The National Institute of Children and Youth complements this partnership as an expert institution on the development of youth work and youth policies.

EU funding EU programme YOUTH IN ACTION

website <http://www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz/>

Authority City of Solna, Sweden

Title Umbrella Project

The aim of the Umbrella Project was to establish contact with all young people under 20 living in the city of Solna, Sweden who had completed compulsory school, but were neither studying, working nor registered at the employment agency, and to assist them in finding a course of study or a job.

Some success has been achieved through the use of innovative methods to contact and motivate young people combined with good cooperation and coordination between relevant actors. An initial mapping of the target group was made and those contacted by a coach were offered contact with a guidance counsellor who discussed education alternatives, job opportunities and internship possibilities, as well as other options such as the European Voluntary Services (EVS).

During the project it became clear that for some people there are no suitable solutions, so the challenge is to find alternatives.

15 Umbrella participants have been involved in European youth activities with financial support from the Youth in Action programme, such as EVS and Youth Exchanges and have worked together with EVS volunteers from Spain and the United Kingdom, doing their voluntary services in Solna.

**Multilevel Governance:** The project organisations were made up of relevant actors at local, regional and national level who pooled resources to provide the most suitable solution for each individual.

EU funding EU programme YOUTH IN ACTION

website [www.solna.se](http://www.solna.se)

### 5.3.2 An agenda for new skills and jobs

Authority	<b>City of Vienna, Austria</b>
Title	<b>Wiener Arbeitnehmerinnen Förderungsfonds – Vienna Employment Promotion Fund (WAFF)</b>
<p>The aim is to promote active labour market policies with economic measures intended to foster a targeted promotion of human resources in the Vienna region, and especially helping people who have been excluded from the labour market for a long time to find their way back in. Measures are also based on flexibility, balancing economic development and social protection.</p> <p>The WAFF's main target groups are employees threatened by company downsizing and closures, the long-term unemployed, those receiving social benefits, women, young people and older workers.</p> <p>It provides further training courses for all employees in Vienna. The Weiterbildungskonto is a subsidy for further training and professional development measures granted by the Vienna Employment Promotion Fund. The maximum subsidy of 200€ covers about 50% of course fees and is available for German language courses that a person has already attended and paid for.</p> <p>Unemployed persons, parents on parental leave and people who receive emergency welfare benefit (Notstandshilfe) are eligible to receive a maximum amount of 300€.</p> <p><b>Multilevel Governance:</b> The WAFF (Viennese Employees Support Fund) is a partner in the Territorial Employment Pact Vienna, a partnership between the City of Vienna, the Employment Service Vienna, the Federal Agency for Social Affairs, local office for Vienna and interest groups of employees</p> <p>EU funding                      The WAFF's budget comes from the city council, private sector funds, and every WAFF project receives co-financing from the European Social Fund (ESF).</p> <p>website                              <a href="http://www.waff.at">www.waff.at</a></p>	

Authority	<b>Flemish Government, Belgium</b>
Title	<b>Vlaams Arbeidsmarktonderzoek voor de Toekomst (VLAMT – Research platform on future skills needs in the Flemish labour market)</b>
<p>A methodological approach has been developed combining continuous data analysis with ad hoc in-depth investigations into future skills needs, helping to see how job profiles are changing. The data was supplied by the Flemish labour market authorities and includes calculations of recruitment needs.</p> <p>The Public Employment Service has developed a matching system, which allows the vacancy analysis to be fine-tuned to the level of skills. As a result, instead of asking employers about the occupations they are seeking, the matching system asks which tasks and activities the recruit should be able to perform. The matching system then shows to what extent employers' requirements and job-seekers' profiles correspond.</p> <p>One of the advantages of this system is that this two-way skills requirement and job-seeker profile analysis ought to lead to a better matching process; the analysis gives real-time information on skills needs and could therefore also serve as an early warning system if a need for new skills arose.</p> <p>VLAMT also wants to increase transparency in the Flemish labour market. Such information can help to focus investments in training and education programmes on the needs of the labour market. The information obtained can also be used for career guidance and the activation of job-seekers. The final product of the VLAMT project</p>	

will be a methodological guidebook resulting from a sector study carried out by eight sector training bodies in 2013.

**Multilevel Governance:** Flanders has developed the concept of partnerships of excellence in order to provide an answer to the bottleneck problem of the Flemish labour market. Partnerships take the form of cooperation initiatives between education, training and learning stakeholders which pool efforts to provide a training pathway based on a specific need/bottleneck in industry.

In Flanders, one starting point has been to organise a regular dialogue between the relevant ministries to discuss policies at the macro-level to ensure that school leavers possess the skills needed to successfully enter the labour market. Partnerships between schools, enterprises and training centres have been created and the bridging of the worlds of skills development and innovation has been encouraged.

EU funding                      European Social Fund (ESF)

website                              <http://www.werk.be/vlamt>

### 5.3.3 An industrial policy for the globalisation era

Authority	Trnava Self-Governing Region, Slovakia
Title	<b>Joint partnerships between industrial companies and the education system – Development of clusters</b>
<p>Due to its competences in the field of secondary education, the region has established strong collaboration with the main companies in the region – PSA and Samsung – focusing on two areas: 1) practical training for students in the companies; and 2) a contractual basis for improving the skills and qualifications of the employees of the companies.</p> <p><b>ŽOS</b>, an engineering and electro-technical company has set an arrangement with the city's polytechnic vocational secondary school.</p> <p><b>Trnava Vocational Secondary School of Electrical Engineering</b> has secured partners for its training programme such as SPP, a. s., Slovenské elektrárne, a. s., Enermont s. r. o., Slovenské cukrovary, a. s., Západoslovenská energetika, a.s., Elektrokov Uniservis, and ŽOS, a. s.</p> <p><b>The secondary engineering school (SOŠ) in Skalica and the INA Skalica company</b> collaborate in providing work experience for students according to what employers now require from today's technical and vocational education systems.</p> <p>The Trnava region is also a co-founder of a number of <b>clusters</b> (automotive, electrical engineering, energy – West Slovakia Energy Cluster, Centrope; tourism), aiming at implementing and drafting projects and seeking new opportunities.</p> <p>The automotive cluster was also involved in the "automobilová akadémia", collaborating with the Automotive Industry Association of the Slovak Republic (which provides education and courses for companies in the automotive industry) and workshops for industry subcontractors.</p> <p>The West Slovakia electrotechnical cluster is involved in several projects, such as <b>DUO STARS</b> focusing on innovation, business environment, and training and digital platforms for tendering and finding orders for companies; the <b>Project to train employees of Jasplastik s.r.o. Matúškovo</b> focusing on manufacturing skills, IT technologies, languages and software skills for office and management staff; the <b>Development Project for JAS-Automotive</b>, addressing new forms of production in the plastics industry; the <b>Intelligent Energy Project</b> focusing on education, research and support for the use of renewable resources and intelligent forms of energy; <b>RECOM SK-AT</b> enables potential applicants for non-refundable subsidies – including in the private sector –</p>	

to get advice.

**Multilevel Governance:** On 15 December 2011, the Trnava region signed a new cooperation agreement with the ministry of the economy under the competitiveness and economic growth operational programme for 2012–2015

It works with and meets target groups to provide information to the public on behalf of the ministry of the economy, which is the managing authority for the operational programme, and provides illustrated documentation for the ministry's publicity campaigns about projects carried out in the region, as well as performing other tasks in line with the agreement.

EU funding                      European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

website                         <http://www.trnava-vuc.sk/sk>

Authority                      **West Pomerania Regional Authority, Poland**

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

The main goal is to establish cooperation between academia and business in order to promote the growth of R&D institutions in the Western Pomeranian voivodeship through the following policies:

1. the creation of institutional infrastructure to serve cooperative ventures between science and industry;
2. a higher quality of service with regard to knowledge transfer between academia and industry;
3. the creation of information infrastructure enabling cooperation between academia and industry;
4. adapting employment to make it easier to reconcile work and family life.

These objectives are to be achieved over the life of the project.

Support will be available for individuals from: (i) business institutions (especially technology transfer centres, science, technology and industry parks, technology incubators and companies, regional and local development agencies etc); (ii) the Institute for Corporate Responsibility, IOB; (iii) individuals receiving training under the aegis of the IOB; (iv) entrepreneurs; (v) academics from higher education; (vi) science bodies; (vii) NGOs; (viii) economic and vocational bodies bringing together entrepreneurs; and (ix) local or regional authority bodies or management bodies carrying out local and regional government tasks.

**Multilevel Governance:** Good coordination on strategic documents, so objectives and priorities are consistent at regional and national level.

With regard to operational measures, an example of full and fruitful cooperation is the Investors Assistance Centre operated by the Marshall's Office of the West Pomeranian Region, which was set up on the basis of an agreement with the Polish Foreign Information and Investment Agency. The centre not only cooperates at national level, but also very closely with local authorities in the region.

EU funding                      European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

website                         <http://www.wzp.pl/>

### 5.3.4 European platform against poverty and social exclusion

Authority	County Paying and Social Inspection Agency in Buzau (Agenția Județeană de Plăți și Inspecție Socială Buzău), Romania
Title	Social programmes for family, homeless, vulnerable groups
<p><u>Programmes for families</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social programmes for children and their families through projects aiming at the natural family reintegration of children under protective measures in a residential structure, with financial support;</li> <li>- Service reorganisation in residential centres of the "family homes" type, vocational counselling for young people in care, to enable them to live independently and find a job through vocational centres;</li> <li>- Increased access to social services through diversification of information and counselling for families at risk;</li> <li>- Conducting of information campaigns and counselling in schools, dropout prevention, child trafficking prevention, juvenile delinquency;</li> <li>- Active participation of the community in the management of social issues through the development of volunteer networks involving NGOs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Development of projects to achieve two shelters for the homeless</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involvement of local authorities to facilitate access to utility networks for disadvantaged families by involving community volunteers.</li> </ul> <p><u>Providing social benefits to all persons who meet the eligibility conditions laid down by law</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeting social assistance programmes to vulnerable groups;</li> <li>- Providing professional advice and guidance activities aimed at career planning and finding jobs for people with disabilities;</li> <li>- Providing home care for the elderly and other persons with similar needs;</li> <li>- Promoting the concept of "proactive aging" and involving older people in the community, promoting models of good practice in this regard.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multilevel Governance:</b> The programmes involve local authorities, community volunteers and NGOs. For one specific project ("Homes for the elderly") different levels of administration have been involved: central government – MMFPSPV for financing; the county - County Council and Agency for Social Inspections and Payments (AJPIS) for coordination; the Directorate-General for Social Support and Child Protection (DGASPC) for implementation.</p> <p>The terms for interinstitutional cooperation have been laid down; contact persons have been appointed, a cooperation protocol has been signed; a timetable of activities has been drawn up and specific tasks have been assigned;</p>	
EU funding	- (only national funds)
website	<a href="http://www.buzau.prestatiisociale.ro/">http://www.buzau.prestatiisociale.ro/</a>

Authority	<b>Wielkopolska Regional Government, Poland</b>
Title	<b>Development Strategy of the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship by 2020</b>
<p>"Wielkopolska 2020" includes the strategic objectives of "increasing resources and equalising the social potentials of the region" and "strengthening the economic potential of the region"; the latter includes the operational objective of developing the social economy.</p> <p>Various activities directly related to combating poverty and social exclusion are undertaken by the Regional Social Policy Centre in Poznań:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building social partnerships based on the rule of EU solidarity and partnership: implementation of partnership projects relating to the social economy, people with disabilities, older people;</li> <li>- providing information about, promoting and popularising activities relating to the European Years of combating poverty and social exclusion (2010), volunteering (2011) and intergenerational integration (2012);</li> <li>- direct actions to help people at risk of poverty and social exclusion;</li> <li>- providing support for the development of personnel working on social integration and enhancing the quality of operation of the system of social aid and integration;</li> <li>- social campaigns promoting volunteer work for the benefit of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and campaigns to combat discrimination and prejudice against the elderly and disabled.</li> </ul> <p>Other specific examples are the programme to promote equal opportunities among people with disabilities and tackle social exclusion, support for measures to promote employment among disabled people in the Wielkopolska region in the 2007-2013 period and the Wielkopolska programme to tackle family violence in the 2011-2020 period.</p> <p><b>Multilevel Governance:</b> The Wielkopolska programme to tackle family violence involves central, provincial and local levels of government, as it was developed by representatives of the departments of the Marshal's office, court representatives, the police, NGOs, local family assistance centres, crisis intervention centres and family crisis support centres.</p> <p>The programme to promote equal opportunities among people with disabilities and tackle social exclusion involved representatives from academia, selected social assistance institutions and NGOs working in the area of social support in the Wielkopolska region.</p> <p>EU funding                      European Social Fund (ESF)</p> <p>website                              <a href="http://www.wielkopolska-region.pl">www.wielkopolska-region.pl</a></p>	

### 5.3.5 Digital Agenda for Europe

Authority	<b>Basque Government, Spain</b>
Title	<b>AD@15 - Basque Digital Agenda 2015</b>
<p>The Basque government is carrying out a broad repertoire of policies to promote information and communication technologies (ICTs) included in the Basque Country in the Information Society Plan (PESI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Banda Zabala Project: The aim of the Banda Zabala project is to encourage new generation ultra-fast broadband networks to make them more easily available and easy to use by harnessing the multiplying effect of ICTs in the economic and social development of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.</li> </ul>	

- GAITEK Programme: The purpose of this initiative is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises through the promotion of projects based on R&D activities. These projects must meet the challenge of developing new products.
- 2015 Digital Agenda (AD15);
- Digital Agenda 2015 is the new interagency plan, led by the Department of Economic Development and Competitiveness, aimed at promoting and enhancing the information society in the Basque Country, with a time horizon of 2015.

The Digital Agenda is a tool that provides the strategic and budgetary framework for a comprehensive package of measures laid down by Basque government departments to promote the development of the information and knowledge society in the Basque Country (Euskadi).

It is based on four goals: (i) digital community; (ii) e-Enterprise; (iii) advanced and accessible digital services; and (iv) infrastructure.

The Basque government believes that information and communication technology (ICT) should be a key element in delivering value to society. This plan seeks to maximise the opportunity presented by ICT to improve competitiveness and the quality of life, maintaining and strengthening the commitment to them, with the aim of bringing Basque society to the levels of the most advanced European countries, and handle innovation.

**Multilevel Governance:** A total of 38 municipalities have managed to encourage the creation of local digital agendas and a further 13 will do so in 2013. Furthermore, the Basque Country has established its digital agenda at regional level. There have been several schemes for improving interoperability and e-government (for example, Open Government-Irekia, Open Data Euskadi, payments gateway).

EU funding                      Banda Zabal Project – cofunded (Structural Funds)  
                                          GAITEK Programme – cofunded (ERDF)  
                                          Digital Agenda - exclusively regional funds

website                            <http://www.euskadinnova.net/es/portada-euskadinnova/politica-estrategia/agenda-digital-euskadi-2015/113.aspx>

Authority                      **Tuscany region, Italy**

Title                              **Agenda Digitale Toscana**

Agenda Digitale Toscana (Tuscany Digital Agenda) addresses not only public authorities (municipalities, provinces, associations of municipalities, PA agencies) but also schools, universities, research centres fostering new solutions to boost innovation in products and services, as well as citizens and enterprises.

Agenda Digitale Toscana develops actions and projects focusing on four priorities: e.community; e.services; e-competitiveness, and infrastructures.

Through the digital agenda, the Tuscany region aims to develop infrastructure interoperability and support processes to standardise IT systems and software, with the active involvement of ICT businesses which supply goods or services to the public administration. Tuscany has also set up a regional platform to disclose public administration data in open format to make it available to public and private stakeholders interested in developing new applications and innovative e-government services.

The digital agenda will be implemented by the Programme for the Information and Knowledge Society 2012-2015 (Programma per la società dell'informazione e della conoscenza 2012-2015) which aims to boost innovation and economic growth through ICT, promoting smart communities, open data, e-government, cloud computing, digital technologies in public procurement, and last mile broadband to public facilities. In

particular the programme focuses on three main issues:

infrastructure and service platforms (RTRT Rete Telematica Regionale Toscana, TIX Tuscany Internet eXchange, interoperability, open data platform dati.toscana.it, broadband)

digital citizenship and competitiveness ("digital domicile")

digital simplification and e-administration

**Multilevel Governance:** The multilevel governance of the Agenda Digitale Toscana is based on a partnership between the region and the local authorities, supported by community networks such as the Rete Telematica Regionale Toscan and associations of local authorities (ANCI, URPT, UNCEM).

EU funding                      Structural Funds

website                          <http://www.regione.toscana.it/agendadigitale>

## 6. Appendices

### 6.1 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

### 6.2 EU 2020-related CoR opinions adopted in 2012-2013

#### Smart Growth

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (2014-2020) – Mr Witold Krochmal (PL/EA) ([CdR 98/2012](#))

- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and on on public procurement– Ms Catarina Segersen-Larson (SE/EPP) ([CdR 99/2012](#))
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the award of concession contracts – Henk Kool (NL/PES) ([CdR 100/2012](#))
- Data protection package – Ms Ursula Männle (DE/EPP) ([CdR 625/2012](#))
- Review of the Directive on re-use of public sector information and open data – Ms Anne Karjalainen (FI/PES) ([CdR 626/2012](#))
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Better governance for the single market – Mr Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) ([CdR 1529/2012](#))
- European research area – Mr Grigorios Zafeiropoulos (GR/EPP) ([CdR 1672/2012](#))
- Unleashing the potential of cloud computing in Europe – Mr Gabor Bihary (HU/PES) ([CdR 1673/2012](#))
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery - industrial policy communication update – Mr Claude Gewerc (FR/PES) ([CdR 2255/2012](#))
- Cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs – Mr Anton Rombouts (NL/EPP) ([CdR 2391/2012](#))
- Closing the innovation divide – Mr Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) ([CdR 2414/2012](#))
- EU guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty – Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES) ([CdR 240/2013](#))
- Cybersecurity strategy – Mr Robert Bright (UK/PES) ([CdR 1646/2013](#))
- Reducing the costs of deploying broadband – Mr Gabor Bihary (HU/PES) ([CdR 3597/2013](#))

### **Sustainable Growth**

- Opinion on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting Greenhouse gas emissions – Mr Neil Swannick (UK/PES) ([CdR 87/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on the Energy Roadmap 2050 – Mr Ugo Cappellacci (IT/EPP) ([CdR 88/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on regional-specific approaches to climate change in the EU based on the example of mountainous regions – Mr Luciano Caveri (IT/ALDE) ([CdR 89/2012 fin](#))
- Innovating for sustainable growth: A bioeconomy for Europe – Mr Rogier van der Sande (NL/ALDE) ([CdR 1112/2012](#))
- Opinion on Towards a 7th Environment Programme: Better implementation of EU environment law – Ms Nilgun Canver (UK/PES) ([CdR 1119/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on priority substances in the field of water policy – Ms Urve Erikson (EE/EA) ([CdR 1120/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on the implementation of the Soil Thematic Strategy – Mr Corrie McChord (UK/PES) ([CdR 1121/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on Adaptation to climate change and regional responses: the case of coastal regions – Mr Ugo Cappellacci (IT/EPP) ([CdR 1751/2012 fin](#))

- Opinion on renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market – Mr Wiltod Stepien (PL/EPP) ([CdR 2182/2012 fin](#))
- Opinion on the Clean Power for Transport Package – Ms Saima Kalev (EE/EA) ([CdR 28/2013](#))
- Opinion on Smart Cities and Communities – European Innovation Partnership – Mr Ilmar Reepalu (SE/PES) ([CdR 589/2013 fin](#))
- Opinion on the revision of the EIA Directive – Mr Marek Sowa (PL/EPP) ([CdR 591/2013 fin](#))
- Opinion on a 7th Environment Action Programme – Mr Jose Macario Correia (PT/EPP) ([CdR 593/2013 fin](#))
- Opinion on Making the Internal Energy Market Work – Mr PG Piet de Vey Mestdagh (NL/ALDE) ([CdR 595/2013 fin](#))
- Outlook Opinion on the review of key EU waste targets – Mr Michel Lebrun (BE/EPP) ([CdR 1617/2013 fin](#))

### **Inclusive Growth**

- White Paper - An agenda for adequate, safe and sustainable pensions – Paul Lindquist (SE/EPP) ([CdR 747/2012](#))
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: towards a job-rich recovery – Ms Marialuisa Coppola (IT/EPP) ([CdR 1186/2012](#))
- Amended 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 Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 – Mr Marek Wozniak (PL/EPP) ([CdR 2027/2012](#))
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived – Mr Ossi Martikainen (FI/ALDE) ([CdR 26/2013](#))
- Frontier workers: Assessment of the situation after twenty years of the internal market: Problems and Perspectives – Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE/PES) ([CdR 246/2013](#))
- Youth Employment Package – Mr Enrico Rossi (IT/PES) ([CdR 789/2013](#))

### **Cross-priority CoR Opinions related to Europe 2020**

- Communication from the Commission - The outermost regions of the European Union: towards a partnership for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – Mr Malcolm Mifsud (MT) (COTER-V-30)

### 6.3 List of respondents to the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform surveys

	Country	Respondent (LRA)	Flagship initiative	Local/Regional Initiatives reported in the survey
1	Austria	Amt der Oö. Landesregierung (Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government)	Youth on the Move	<b>Job Coaching</b> Project is intended to provide young people with advice and support when seeking jobs or apprenticeships. The aim is to prevent young people from building up false hopes or choosing unsuitable careers.
2	Austria	Association of Carinthian Industry (Industriellenvereinigung Kärnten)	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
3	Austria	City of Vienna	Youth on the Move	<b>Vienna Apprenticeship Guarantee</b> All young Viennese who are looking for an apprenticeship will receive one. <b>Vienna Qualification Packet</b> is in the works.
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	Labour market and employment policy is responsibility of the federal government but Vienna supports these efforts through the " <b>Wiener ArbeitnehmerInnen Förderungsfonds</b> " (Viennese Employees Support Fund).
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	introduction of <b>need-based social welfare for low-income people in Vienna in September 2010</b> and improvements in services offered and administrative protocols; greater support for under-age children; more services for job integration; (ii) goal to reduce recipients of need-based social welfare through better job placement and improved coordination between Viennese trainee guarantee and and labour market service centres; Qualifications Plan 2020 aims to increase educational skills by promoting school and job skills, continuing education for adults, and information and motivational actions. Specifically, the plan aims to:
4	Belgium	Antwerp city (Stad Antwerpen)	Digital agenda for Europe	<b>Digital communication strategy:</b> The aim is to give all users digital access to the city in as personalised and relevant a way as possible - so they can find out about services and products, be inspired or have a conversation with the city itself - wherever, whenever and however they want. Users can count on having a high-quality digital experience that is in line with international standards and trends. <b>Digi points:</b> To address the problem of digital illiteracy, free public access points are being introduced. These access points are provided in such places as libraries, community centres or schools in digitally deprived areas.

5	Belgium	Dynamo International – Street Workers Network	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>national programmes, often at ministerial level and sometimes in collaboration or responsibility-sharing with local authorities</p> <p>collaborations between different social services providers and including the private and charitable sector</p> <p>As part of the funding that Dynamo International receives through the PROGRESS Programme, the NGO takes part in activities providing support to associations of street workers (capacity building, etc) and conveys the voice of grassroots workers and vulnerable populations</p> <p>At the local level, several representatives from street worker associations (in Slovakia, Spain, Slovenia, etc.) highlighted outreach work and collaboration underway with other key actors in combating poverty and social exclusion. These networks of multi-disciplinary services help to prevent the causes which can lead to people finding themselves in situations of poverty and social exclusion.</p> <p>Platforms have sometimes been created (e.g. the Committee of local councils in Sofia, Bulgaria, that has preventive objectives particularly in terms of young people in vulnerable situations; a social platform in Lisbon).</p> <p>Subsidised initiatives are primarily geared towards offering a temporary remedy to urgent situations without dealing with the root of the problem</p>
6	Belgium	Flemish Government	Youth on the Move	-
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	Flanders has developed the concept of partnerships of excellence in order to provide an answer to the bottleneck problem of the Flemish labour market. Partnerships take the form of cooperation initiatives between education, training and learning stakeholders which pool efforts to provide a training pathway based on a specific need/bottleneck in industry.
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	The actions that the Flemish government implements in terms of poverty reduction are listed in the <b>Flemish Action Plan for Poverty Reduction</b> <sup>39</sup> .

39

A complete overview and list of actions can be found in the "European platform against poverty and social exclusion – Survey of the EU Local and Regional Authorities FINAL REPORT" available at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/European-Platform-against-Poverty-and-Social-Exclusion.aspx>

7	Belgium	German-speaking Community in Belgium	Youth on the Move	-
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	As part of the REK 1 of 16 projects is modelled according to the Agenda for New skills and Jobs, i.e., the <b>"Pact for Work and Economy"</b> . Another project <b>"Pathways to professional competency"</b> deals with the quality of the educational sector and the permeability of the different educational systems.
8	Bulgaria	Sofia Municipal Council, Social Affairs Department	Youth on the Move	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sciences plans to implement following projects between 2011-2014: <b>Pupil and student placements</b> <b>Updating higher education curriculae to meet requirements of labour market</b> <b>Jobs for young people in Bulgaria</b>
9	Bulgaria	Svishtov Municipality	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
	Croatia	Krapina-Zagorje County (Krapinsko-zagorska županija)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<b>Social and health measures of Krapina-Zagorje County, Plan for Health of Krapina-Zagorje County, Development Strategy of Krapina – Zagorje</b> Regular updating of Social indicators at regional level, Strategy for social inclusion of persons with disabilities; Action plan for employment of persons with disabilities and Human Resources Strategy - comprises various programmes and measures to reduce child poverty, to raise the active inclusion in society and especially in the labour market
10	Czech Republic	City of Pilsen (Statutární město Plzeň)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<b>Community Plan for the Development of Social Services in the City of Plzeň 2008-2015</b> , defines all the key target groups of service users and areas of care: Family, children and young people; Socially excluded areas and the homeless; People with disabilities; Senior citizens; Foreigners and immigrants; Community Plan provides for prefinancing, cofinancing, partnerships, in-kind contributions Other programmes: <b>"Integration of foreigners at local authority level – Tackling the issue of people migrating to the city of Plzeň for work"</b> , <b>"Distribution of school books and materials for children from socially disadvantaged families"</b> , <b>"Food help"</b> , <b>"Providing services for the homeless"</b> , <b>"Immediate humanitarian help to foreigners in difficult social circumstances"</b> and <b>"Education support and mentoring"</b> .
11	Czech Republic	Jihomoravský kraj	Youth on the Move	Implementation of <b>own Youth in Action programme</b> to support mobility and non-organised groups of young people
12	Czech Republic	Moravian-Silesian Region - Regional Authority (Moravskoslezský kraj)	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Moravian Silesian Employment Pact</b> The region's aim with its development strategy is to foster the competitiveness of the regionally-based economy.

13	Czech Republic	Olomouc Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Regional innovation strategy (RIS OK)</b> This aims to foster growth in the local economy's competitiveness and to create good quality jobs by systematically putting in place the right environment for the development of innovative entrepreneurship and research excellence in the region.</p> <p><b>Innovation Vouchers</b> A project called Innovation Vouchers has been instigated in Olomouc region to support collaboration between business and research. This involves companies receiving a subsidy to the tune of CZK 150 000 for working with a selected research institute.</p>
14	Czech Republic	Pardubice City Council (Magistrát města Pardubice)	An agenda for new skills and jobs	
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p><b>Eradication of the infant poverty and solution of the financial exclusion and over-indebtedness:</b> realised by NGO Civic advisory Pardubice through the expert social consultancy and through the project funded by Czech-Slovak Business Bank and ERA Post bank called "Debt consultancy." NGO Laxus within the the project "Back, differently" – OPLZZ: structural funds of the EU. The other providers deal with the issue in the frame of the basic advisory incorporated into their service. Long-term bad financial situation of some users has not been successfully solved yet. Focus is on the support of whole families, persons, than children themselves.</p> <p><b>Worthy living – homelessness:</b> solves the consequences of the loss of the place to live. SKP – CENTRUM NGO: Asylum house for men, City asylum house for woman and mother with children, Hospice for men and hospice for women, The house in the middle of the way, Accessible day centre, Field programme. Romodrom NGO: expert social consultancy for people sentenced to imprisonment and their families and the people coming from jail and their families. Laxus NGO within the project "Back, differently" – OPLZZ: Structural funds of the EU, within the expert social consultancy. City-council of the city Pardubice: programme Social Living. The helper in action NGO: within the sponsorial nurturing service (the help with the housekeeping economy).</p>
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
15	Czech Republic	Pardubice Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-

16	Czech Republic	Regional Authority of the Usti Region (Krajský úřad Ústeckého kraje)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	Region „Ústí nad Labem“ realise the individual projects focused on support of social service for prevention, so these can develop and can go ahead a better quality. Support of prevention social service from the city and region budget. Acceptance of the ordinances limiting the gambling and the hazard in some cities of the region. Effort of cities to introduce a possibility of "social living", or so-called permeable living. Effort of some cities to develop a concept of "social living".
17	Czech Republic	Vysočina Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
18	Estonia	Kose Council	Youth on the Move	-
19	EU	EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
20	EU	European Social Network (ESN)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	ESN's priorities over the last three years have been: Developing community care and integration of people with disabilities; Mental health and well-being; Child poverty and well-being; Long-term care and social inclusion for older people; Choice and control for service users; Impact of and responses to the economic crisis
21	Finland	Economic Development Agency of Suupohja Region	Digital agenda for Europe	-
22	Finland	Regional Council of North Karelia (Pohjois-Karjalan maakuntaliitto)	Digital agenda for Europe	-
23	Finland	Uusimaa Regional Council	Youth on the Move  An agenda for new skills and jobs	<b>European Entrepreneurial Region</b> Part of the European Entrepreneurial Year 2012 Youth entrepreneurship and employment are being promoted. Its summer job (Kesäduuni) campaign also aims to remove obstacles to young people entering the labour market. Efforts to prevent the exclusion of young people through the <b>Youth Guarantee scheme</b> , which local authorities are responsible for implementing. The Youth Guarantee is offered to young people aged under 25 or young graduates aged 25-29 who have been seeking work for three months, and entails drawing up an employment plan together with the young person under which they benefit from services to help them get into work.

24	France	Auvergne Region	<p>Youth on the Move</p> <p>An agenda for new skills and jobs</p>	<p><b>Young Adult Pack initiative</b> includes: Young Pack designers/small business owners; support for entrepreneurs under the age of 30; Acceptance of apprentices in high schools, to encourage apprenticeship training; Startups; Civil Service; Young Adult Pack Job Discovery; The New World Youth Card including partial funding for driver's licenses and school-related fees (mobility + education)</p> <p><b>AUDACE</b> To improve personal and professional skills of less skilled job seekers, the region with the support of the LEONARDO program offers eight week business internships in Europe. In 2011 Auvergne launched the "<b>Job Seeds</b>" initiative with three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to find out how employment will change in the traditional sectors, allowing us to safeguard existing jobs and adapt to future needs,</li> <li>• to identify the new skills that will be needed in these areas in the future in order to create local know-how required for these new jobs,</li> <li>• to define what promising types of new innovative activities will emerge and develop in the future, and what jobs they will create, in order to generate the necessary skills.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>AUDACE (audacity) project</b> aims to help less-skilled job-seekers improve their personal and professional skills. Under the project, the Region, with the support of the European programme 'Leonardo', offers 8-week business traineeships in Europe. These courses aim to provide a professional experience but also to empower job-seekers and their ability to geographical mobility. At the end of their training, a Europass Mobility certificate is awarded to participants so that they can demonstrate their enhanced experience on their CV.</p>
25	France	Council of the Picardie Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p>Since 2010, the Picardie region leads the <b>Plan of Educational Success</b>, an action against school dropout, which is a major challenge for the region. Regarding the goal of having at least 40% of 30 to 34 years with tertiary degrees the Region has adopted the <b>scheme of higher education and research</b> to promote and facilitate access to higher education.</p>
26	France	European P'ACTS Network	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
27	France	Lille Métropole	Youth on the Move	-
28	France	Urban Community of Dunkirk	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
29	Germany	Achim City (Stadt Achim)	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Ingenieur-Kompetenznetzwerk Oberflächentechnik (Surface Engineering Skills Network)</b> <b>Bamboo Technology Network Europe</b></p>

30	Germany	City Arnsberg (Stadt Arnsberg)	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
31	Germany	City of Nuremberg (Stadt Nürnberg)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<b>Action Plan Against Child Poverty in Nuremberg</b>
32	Germany	Mülheim an der Ruhr City	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Mülheim &amp; Business GmbH Economic Development Corporation</b> It is active in a number of regional and cross-regional networks to support businesses and also initiates its own networks offering targeted support to develop key sectors
33	Germany	Saxony-Anhalt (Sachsen-Anhalt)	Digital agenda for Europe	<b>Saxony-Anhalt 2020 Digital Strategy:</b> This strategy puts the focus on development of ICT infrastructure, to support the region with a future-oriented administration. <b>ICT innovation offensive:</b> This initiative is about identifying strategic themes for the economy and initiating cooperation, to highlight locational advantages internally and externally.
34	Germany	State of Rhineland-Palatinate	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
35	Greece	Crete Region (Περιφέρεια Κρήτης)	Digital agenda for Europe	-
36	Greece	Region of Western Greece	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Three-year business action programme 2012-2014</b> The region provides financial support for the implementation of targeted investment initiatives that promote regional cohesion within the framework of Investment Law 3908-2011 and Development Law 3299-2004. These support companies involved in all sectors: existing, new and emerging.
37	Hungary	EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	Youth on the Move	Programs to support 1. mothers so that they can get a job, 2. new job creation, 3. working parents, and 4. continued education of parents.
38	Hungary	INNOVA Eszak-Alfold Regional Innovation Agency	Youth on the Move	-
39	Hungary	Kantorjanos	Youth on the Move	Development of a <b>youth strategy</b>
40	Hungary	Municipality of Budapest	Youth on the Move	-
41	Hungary	Tolna County Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
42	Italy	Apulia Region (Regione Puglia)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	-
43	Italy	bioPmedd innovation cluster – Piemonte region	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-

44	Italy	Lombardy Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of educational and vocational training (ITS – Istruzione Tecnica Superiore)</li> <li>• Activation of higher technical education</li> <li>• Realisation of European projects of non-formal education (YiA)</li> <li>• Start up for young entrepreneurs and tutoring training</li> <li>• Initiatives to broaden the opportunities of access to working life (YiA)</li> </ul> <p>Initiatives to set up a Youth Guarantee scheme in Lombardy Region (VP/2012/012/0135)</p>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support to local actions, led by municipalities, for the implementation of network initiatives with other local actors to foster active search for employment by young people.</li> <li>2. Regional managed initiatives to encourage the recruitment of young people by enterprises.</li> <li>3. Regional managed initiatives for the start-up of business and the sustainability of new businesses over time.</li> <li>4. Support to apprenticeships.</li> <li>5. Application of the Skills Certification System.</li> <li>6. Initiatives for social and employment inclusion of vulnerable groups.</li> <li>7. Interventions for linguistic integration and social guidance.</li> <li>8. Interventions for the housing integration of migrants.</li> <li>9. Interventions for vulnerable groups (prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families).</li> </ol>
45	Italy	Province of Reggio Emilia	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p>In January 2009, the Province of Reggio Emilia set up the “<b>Unità provinciale anti-crisi</b>” (province anti-crisis unit), which groups municipalities, business associations, trade unions, charitable foundations and chambers of commerce to analyse the local situation and develop strategies on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social shock absorbers;</li> <li>• Professional training;</li> <li>• Support to enterprises;</li> <li>• “Osservatorio economico, legalità e sicurezza” (organisation for monitoring of economic activities, legality and security);</li> <li>• Poverty reduction and family aids.</li> </ul>
46	Italy	TULIP_Bologna - ONG Bologna local authority	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-

47	Italy	Tuscany Region	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Giovanisi Project</b> Giovanisi funded with € 350 that in just two years already involved 50 thousand young people: 3500 on paid internships with 2440 companies involved (and 40% of recruitment post-internship, contribution to the rent of the house (over 1000 applications satisfied and over 1000 questions in progress), Regional Civil Service (2000 young people started this experience on the over 5500 applications that will be met gradually), incentives for new businesses (more than 1000 applications for € 71 million in funding, of which 713 already funded; 635 applications for doing business in agriculture, and of these, 400 have already started the business).</p> <p><b>VISITO Tuscany</b> The Purpose of the project “VISITO Tuscany” is to investigate and realise technologies able to offer an interactive and customised advanced tour guide service to visit the cities of art in Tuscany.</p>
			Digital agenda for Europe	<p><b>Tuscany Digital Agenda:</b> The agenda focuses on three main issues: technological infrastructure and service platforms, competitiveness and digital citizenship, and digital simplification and administration.</p>
48	Italy	Umbria Region	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
			Digital agenda for Europe	<p><b>Strategic Plan for an Information Society:</b> The purpose is to set guidelines for developing cohesion and inclusion, knowledge growth, enhancing information and the cultural heritage, and coordinated development of public information systems based on regional models of institutional cooperation between all government authorities, so as to ensure the coordination of information and computer data among public administrations in the region.</p> <p><b>Regional ICT plan (PO2T-PT):</b> This plan was launched for the period 2008-2010 and updated for the period 2011-2013; its aim is to break down the first-level digital divide and create a next-generation fibre-optic infrastructure, for a total investment of EUR 7.5 million.</p> <p><b>RI-Umbria (one-stop shops):</b> This initiative offers digital identity management for citizens and business, access to e-services, as well as electronic payment facilities.</p>
49	Italy	Veneto Region (Regione Veneto)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>The planning and financing of the network of social and health inclusion services.</p> <p>The financing of social protection instruments in case of unemployment.</p> <p>Labour market integration projects for the disadvantaged.</p>

50	Latvia	Riga City Council (Rīgas pilsētas pašvaldība)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Riga's strategic guidelines and the activities set out in the city's long-term development strategy for the period up to 2025 and in the <b>Riga development programme</b>.</p> <p>The mission and vision for the city of Riga's social services and welfare assistance system and the strategic objectives set in 2008 as part of the strategy for the development of this system for the period from 2008-2013.</p> <p>In 2012, Riga City Council adopted the <b>City of Riga Action Plan</b> for implementing the 2012-2014 integration agenda (integration in the sense of fostering sense of belonging to Riga)</p> <p><b>City of Riga Health Strategy for 2012-2021</b> "Veselīgs rīdzinieks-veselā Rīgā" (Healthy inhabitants in a healthy city).</p>
51	Lithuania	TS-LKD Panevezio miesto skyriaus	An agenda for new skills and jobs	Region has <b>programmes for local employment initiatives, job creation subsidies and support for self-employment</b>
52	Netherlands	Barneveld Town Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	We are in the process of setting up a <b>new training centre in the poultry sector</b> at the Higher Vocational Education ("HBO") or Intermediate Vocational Training ("MBO") levels.
53	Netherlands	City of Delft	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p>An <b>agenda for action</b> has been launched by the Haaglanden regional platform for labour market policy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reaching out to employers</li> <li>• developing the social sphere</li> <li>• addressing youth unemployment</li> <li>• addressing unemployment in the over-45 age group</li> <li>• cooperation with the UWV (Employee Insurance Agency)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other measures:</b> Youth Unemployment Action Plan set up at regional level; Taskforce Jobs/Sheltered Employment Act: targeted measures to reduce dependence on benefits and sheltered employment by limiting access, combating fraud and getting people back into the workforce; The UWV Werkbedrijf (Public Employment Service of the Employee Insurance Agency) system combines the Sheltered Employment Act and the Work and Social Assistance Act to create a more effective approach.</p>
54	Netherlands	Hengelo Town Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
55	Netherlands	Province of Friesland (Provincie Fryslân)	Digital agenda for Europe	<b>A Next-Generation Access Network (NGA):</b> This document contains the framework and guidelines for rolling out an NGA to all households in the province's white areas. An investment plan is currently being drawn up on the basis of this document.
56	Netherlands	Province of Groningen	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<b>Groningen Economic Action Programme 2012-2015</b>
57	Netherlands	Purmerend Town Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	A <b>strategic agenda for the labour market and education/the economy</b> is being drawn up in cooperation with business and educational establishments.

58	Netherlands	City of Amsterdam (Gemeente Amsterdam)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>1. New lines of cooperation between the public and private sector: <b>Pact for Amsterdam</b>: a network for poverty reduction bringing together the city council, businesses, and civil society organisations. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to work, welfare, basic services (healthcare, housing etc.) and education: various social services, such as extra support for provision for the over 65s, education allowance, PC allowance, social lending scheme for education, public care insurance.</li> <li>• Better use of EU funds to stimulate social integration and combat discrimination: European Integration Fund (creation of language practice workshops), European Refugee Fund (project to promote labour market participation amongst refugees), European Social Fund (helping those ineligible for benefits into work, promoting employment of older workers (over 55)).</li> </ul>
59	Poland	Association of Catholic Families St. Wojciech (Adalbert) Parish in Radzionków	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Since 2005 we have participated in the <b>PEAD programme</b>, which supports the poorest residents of the European Union. Over the last seven years nearly 4 000 residents were able to benefit from the programme on a regular basis.</p>
60	Poland	Białystok Local Authority (Urząd Miejski w Białymstoku)	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Construction of the Białystok University campus</b>  <b>Podlaskie Regional Development Fund</b>  It provides investment advice and financial support in the form of loan funds  <b>Białystok Management Training Foundation</b>  It provides specialist marketing and management training and advice  <b>The Council of Economic Experts</b></p>
61	Poland	City of Strzelce Opolskie	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p>The main programme aimed at meeting the above-mentioned objectives is the <b>Human Capital Operational Programme</b>. Priority VI, VII and VIII.</p>
62	Poland	Elbląg County Authority	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>The Elbląg county e-region – services for businesses</b>  It is about the county is working to improve the business environment not least by carrying out an innovative project to introduce e-services for SMEs, entitled A broad range of e-services covering the economy, tourism, roads, analysis and statistics, urban planning, public procurement, surveying and the environment will simplify and shorten administrative procedures, making the authority more open and friendly to businesses.</p>

63	Poland	GDYNI City Council - RADA MIASTA GDYNI	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Gdynia Entrepreneurship Support Centre</b> Provides support for entrepreneurs - simplifying procedures, e-administration, highly accessible public services, expert knowledge and financial support.</p> <p><b>Stocznia Gdynia compensation programme</b> It has proven to be a major success – its assets were purchased by shipbuilding companies, laid-off workers were given the opportunity to continue working in the maritime sector (in addition to social security benefits in the form of severance packages, etc.) while the assets obtained from the sale of the shipyard covered the financial liabilities of its creditors.</p>
64	Poland	Kobylnica Town Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
65	Poland	Łódź City Council	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p><b>Łódź Integrated Development Strategy 2020</b> <b>Strategy for resolving social problems in Łódź 2011-2015</b> <b>The City of Łódź Educational Development Policy 2020+</b> <b>The 2007-2013 County Programme to promote employment and activate the local labour market in the City of Łódź</b> <b>Young People in Łódź</b></p>
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>2020+ Strategy for the Integrated Development of Lodz</b> <b>Cluster Development Strategy for Lodz</b> <b>Program for Young People in Lodz</b></p>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Measures to fight against poverty and social exclusion are based on the <b>Integrated Development Strategy for Łódź 2020 +</b> and the <b>Strategy for Solving Social Problems in Łódź for the period 2011-2015</b>. These include in particular: Activation and improvement of the quality of life for seniors; Active Seniors' District Centres; Community assistance to meet the basic necessities of the residents of Łódź; Promoting care for children and family; Help for the elderly and disabled persons; Social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; Help for people with mental disorders and their families; Preventing domestic violence; The fight against digital exclusion</p>
			Digital agenda for Europe	<p><b>Łódzkie Regional Development Strategy 2020:</b> This strategy concerns the development of e-services and access to broadband internet.</p> <p><b>Programme for the Development of an Information Society in the Łódź region:</b> The priorities of the Programme are the development of human capital for e-development, economic growth based on innovative ICT solutions, and citizen-friendly online services.</p> <p><b>Łódzkie region eHealth Strategy:</b> The aim is to cover the interaction between patients and health-service providers, institution-to-institution transmission of data, or peer-to-peer communication between patients or health professionals.</p>

66	Poland	Marshal Office of the Opolskie Region -	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Opolskie Regional Development Strategy up to 2020</b>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	-
67	Poland	Marshal Office of the Wielkopolskie Region	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	Supporting cooperation between academic and business circles in Wielkopolska Entrepreneurship – the road to learning creativity and teamwork Investor and Exporter Service Centre
68	Poland	Marshal's Office in Lodz	Youth on the Move	job start programmes improve and broaden skill sets
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>2020 Łódzkie Region Development Strategy</b> identify and support modern technologies (biotechnologies, nanotechnologies and high tech materials, mechatronics, ICT) for the textile, the energy, medical, pharmaceutical sector, cosmetics, agro-food, furniture, the building materials, the machinery and electronic machinery sector, green industries and the development of creative industries <b>Employment Promotion Act</b> Helping to get unemployed people into work based on the needs identified by employers. Organisation of subsidised employment, provision of on-the-job learning (work placements, vocational training for adults), training tailored to the needs of local employers; Giving opinions on educational courses in accordance with the needs of the local/regional labour market; Providing subsidies to people who wish to set up their own business, providing advice and training services to such persons.
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	In accordance with the objectives and tasks formulated in the updated National Reform Programme Europe 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers 25.04.2012r., various activities are carried out in the Lodz region in the areas covered by the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Tackling social exclusion is carried out in the following areas: A low cost housing, continuation of the programme of social housing and communal and protected flats, and houses for the homeless; The development of social enterprise for people at risk of social exclusion; The development of the social economy sector; Tackling social exclusion, including among children and adolescents; Social and economic rehabilitation of the disabled; Social integration of immigrants; Design of the system of social services responding to the new challenges of social exclusion; Construction of a coherent system of family support and child care
			Digital agenda for Europe	-

69	Poland	Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie region, Lublin (Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Lubelskiego w Lublinie)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Regional Social Assistance Centre in Lublin carries out the following actions and programmes<sup>40</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Social Policy Strategy for the Voivodeship of Lublin,</b></li> <li>2. <b>Voivodeship Programme for the Elderly</b></li> <li>3. <b>Voivodeship Programme of broadening, diversifying and modernising of assistance and social support for people with mental disorders</b></li> <li>4. <b>"Training and consultancy improving skills of the employees of social assistance and social integration institutions"</b></li> <li>5. <b>A long-term regional action plan for the promotion and popularisation of social economy and development of the institutions of the social economy sector and its surroundings in the region</b></li> <li>6. <b>Within the framework of the regional component of the Operational Programme Human Capital, the 7th Priority - "Promotion of social integration" – is carried out in the Lublin Voivodeship.</b></li> </ol>
70	Poland	Marshal's Office of the Mazowsze Region	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Mazowsze Regional Development Strategy and on the Regional Innovation Strategy</b></p> <p>It outlines the principal courses of action for development policy, including measures to boost the region's innovation potential</p> <p><b>Mazowsze Regional Operational Programme</b></p> <p>Creating conditions for the development of innovation potential and entrepreneurship in Mazowsze, which seek to create the conditions needed to develop innovative potential and to support the development of entrepreneurship, are of key importance in this respect.</p> <p><b>Mazowsze network of advice and information centres on innovation (MSODI)</b></p> <p>It is jointly funded by the EU and allows companies and R&amp;D institutions to improve knowledge of and raise awareness about such cooperation and to popularise innovation. MSODI's action also includes initiatives to facilitate contacts between the R&amp;D sector and industry.</p>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Systemic Projects within the framework of the Operational Programme Human Capital (OPHC)</b></li> </ol> <p>Following projects aiming at combating poverty and social exclusion have been realised in the Masovian Voivodeship under the framework of the OPHC: 1.1 In the area of social assistance and social integration; 1.2 In the field of education; 1.3 In the area of the labour market</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Voivodeship Programmes</b></li> </ol>

40

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				<b>3. The realisation of the objectives in strategic actions</b> 1. Implementation of the Strategy for the development of the Masovian Voivodeship by 2020 (current document update until 2030) 2. Implementation of the Voivodeship Strategy on Social Policy for the Masovian Voivodeship in the years 2005-2013 - annexed to the Strategy for Development of the Masovian Voivodeship until 2020 (document updated for the period 2014-2020) <sup>41</sup>
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
71	Poland	Mikołów City Council (Urząd Miasta Mikołowa)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	Creating of the <b>Centre of Social Initiatives</b> aiming at empowerment of vulnerable and socially excluded persons, helping them to get independent of the social welfare system and to return to the market. CSI realised a project "Your chance at your fingertips". <b>Social Welfare Centre in Mikołów</b> carried out the following projects financed from the ESF: "Contract your future" [Zakontraktuj swoją przyszłość] on social exclusion - and "Have a chance with us." [Miej szansę z nami] on children development. <b>The Municipality of Mikołów</b> , carries out a programme of cooperation with non-governmental organisations, in which one of the fields is "Strengthening social welfare and charitable activities" (activities mitigating the effects of poverty and organising leisure time for children and young people from families which are poor or threatened by social exclusion). Funding from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy obtained for two projects in the field of "Activities for professional and social integration and re-integration of people at risk of social exclusion" - 1) the improvement of housing conditions through engaging of the unemployed in the implementation of social contracts, 2) the organisation of workshops and events for families benefiting from the services of the Social Welfare Centre in Mikołów.
72	Poland	Regional Labour Office, Kielce	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<b>Human Capital Operational Programme</b> The Regional Labour Office is responsible for implementing <b>priorities VI "The Labour market open for all" and VIII "Staff for the regional economy"</b> , both of which are aimed at making regional businesses more competitive.
73	Poland	Szamotuły County	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<b>Wielkopolska System of Monitoring and Forecasting for Vocational Training. Partnership for the Development of the Wielkopolska labour market;</b> 2004-2014 <b>Local Development Plan</b> for Szamotuły county for the promotion of entrepreneurship and reduction of unemployment; <b>Education and Job fairs</b> bringing together employers and jobseekers and enabling young people to choose the right school.

41

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74	Poland	West Pomerania Regional Authority	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
75	Poland	Wielkopolska Regional Government (Samorząd Województwa Wielkopolskiego)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	Activities directly related to the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Voivodeship of Wielkopolska undertaken by the Regional Social Policy Centre in Poznań: I. Building Social Partnerships based on the Rule of EU Solidarity and Partnership: II. Information, Promotion and Popularisation of Activities relating to the Theme of the European Year of the Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010), of Volunteering (2011) and of Intergenerational Integration (2012) III. Direct Actions for People at Risk of Poverty and Exclusion. IV. Support for the Development of Personnel working on Social Integration and Enhancing Quality of Operation of the System of Social Aid and Integration V. Social Campaigns promoting Volunteer Work for the Benefit of People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion and Campaigns Combating Discrimination and Prejudice against Elderly and Disabled People.
76	Portugal	Alentejo Regional Delegation	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<b>National Strategic Reference Framework</b> (which constitutes the framework for applying Community economic and social cohesion policy in Portugal in 2007-2013) <b>National Reform Plan</b> (highlighting the re-launch of public service employment and the vocational training system targeting employability, amongst other specific initiatives which are being devised as part of the objective entitled 'Boosting Employment', as well as other measures and changes envisaged in cross-cutting, complementary areas outlined by the Portuguese Government to achieve the objectives defined for the five major Europe 2020 strategy objectives)
77	Portugal	Batalha Town Council (Câmara Municipal da Batalha)	Digital agenda for Europe	-

78	Portugal	Faro Municipality (Câmara Municipal de Faro)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Under school social work measures, a meal service is offered to all children attending pre-school and 1st Cycle, the menus being developed in collaboration with dieticians and meeting nutritional and hygienic criteria.</p> <p>In the absence of empty homes and in view of the need to respond to urgent situations, Temporary Accommodation Units (AATs) have been created (2 apartments for up to 6 people each)</p> <p>The rules of procedure of the Faro Social Network (CLASF) provides for the creation of Working Groups on specific issues. Three working groups have been created to respond to the priorities for action identified, the homeless, RIVA (clothing and food integrated response) and the elderly, with the aim of providing integrated responses to the specific needs of the groups in question.</p>
79	Portugal	Ferreira do Alentejo Municipal Council	Youth on the Move	-
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	Support for entrepreneurship and job creation by means of <b>business incubators</b> .
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	Local Contract Social Development, through training actions for vulnerable population groups to build skills.
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
80	Portugal	Madeira Autonomous Region	Youth on the Move	<p>EURES Network promoted by Madeira Employment Service</p> <p>Eurodyssy promoted by Regional Department for Youth and Sport</p> <p>Grundtvig, promoted by Regional Secretariat for Education and Human Resources</p> <p>Erasmus promoted by University of Madeira</p> <p>Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs promoted by Association of Young Entrepreneurs of Madeira (AJEM)</p> <p>Youth in Action, jointly promoted by Regional Department for Youth and Sport and National Youth in Action Programme Management Agency</p> <p>Leonardo da Vinci promoted by University of Madeira</p> <p>CIRCULUS promoted by University of Madeira</p> <p>Vocational Training Periods Abroad under Madeira Employment Service</p>
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			Digital agenda for Europe	<p><b>Madeira Action Plan for communication and information:</b> This action plan was developed on the basis of the national strategy and the global strategy for rationalising and reducing the ICT costs of public administration, based on 11 measures.</p> <p><b>RTDI &amp; I Action Plan:</b> This plan sets out a strategy for promoting research, technology development and innovation in various reference areas including health, environmental sustainability, energy, transport</p>

				and climate change, sustainable management and maintenance of infrastructure, industrial technology and innovation, IT technology and communication, tourism, and regional development and innovation.
81	Romania	Agency for Regional Development North-East (Agentia pentru Dezvoltare Regionala Nord-Est)	Digital agenda for Europe	-
82	Romania	County Paying and Social Inspection Agency in Buzau (Agenția Județeană de Plăți și Inspecție Socială Buzău)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	i. - Social programmes for children and their families through projects aiming natural family reintegration of children under protective measures in a residential structure, with financial support; ii. - Development of projects to achieve two shelters for homeless. iii. - Providing social benefits to all persons who meet the eligibility conditions laid down by law
83	Romania	Dâmbovița County Council (Consiliul Județean Dâmbovița)	Digital agenda for Europe	-
84	Romania	Harghita County Council	Youth on the Move	<b>Traineeship Programme</b> Intended to help university graduates and other students to apply for traineeships in various fields: engineering, administration, international relations, culture, sociology and economics.
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	County launched a <b>programme in 2012 to help young people find jobs and to pass on the technical skills</b> needed to find jobs to future generations. <b>Several thematic forums were organised</b> as part of this programme, during which young people could learn about jobs in the food industry, the arts, business start-ups and marketing areas.
85	Romania	Prahova County Council (Consiliul județean Prahova)	Digital agenda for Europe	<b>SIUGRC</b> (Integrated town planning system for managing relations with the general public): This project was set up to allow easier communication between citizens and Prahova County Council, and provides e-services such as information searching, downloading forms, consulting town planning and land-use documents, consulting legislation on town planning and land use, as well as tracking applications and sending notifications on personal dossiers.

86	Slovakia	Nitra Self-governing Region (Nitriansky samosprávny kraj)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>1. The programme of economical and social development of the Nitra Self-governing Region 2012-2013. Priority II. – Human resources, Specific goal 2 – Social development. Proceedings: 2.1 Assurance of availability and variability of social service, de-institutionalisation and humanisation of social service. 2.2 Assurance of availability and variability of health care. 2.3 Support of cultural, sport and communal life in the region. 2.4 Decrease of the occurrence of socially pathological cases.</p> <p>2. Concept of the development of the social service in the Nitra Self-governing Region.</p> <p>3. A call for tender on social programmes, to which apply accredited subjects providing social and advisory help for risk groups.</p>
87	Slovakia	Považany Municipality	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
88	Slovakia	Prešov Autonomous Region	Youth on the Move	-
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p><b>Active labour market measures</b> – a package of programmes to improve access of the jobless to the labour market and jobs and to make that market effective</p> <p><b>Passive labour market measures</b> – a package of programmes geared to maintaining the income levels of the unemployed</p> <p>(Active and passive labour market measures are provided by the state)</p> <p><b>Prešov Self-governing Region Plan for Economic and Social Development (PHSR PSK)</b>, Unemployment and education are covered in Priority 9 (Improving secondary vocational education) and Priority 10 (Averting long-term unemployment)</p>
89	Slovakia	Trenčín Self-governing Region	Youth on the Move	Policy (to 2013) of developing work with young people
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
90	Slovakia	Trnava Autonomous Region	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>DUO STARS</b></p> <p><b>ŽOS, a.s.</b></p> <p><b>Project to train employees of Jasplastik s.r.o. Matúškovo</b></p> <p><b>Development project for JAS-Automotive</b></p> <p><b>Intelligent Energy project</b></p> <p><b>RECOM SK-AT</b></p>
91	Spain	Area Council of Berguedà (Consell Comarcal del Berguedà)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Intervention programmes for people/families at high risk of exclusion</p> <p>Prevention programmes such as better coordination among primary care professionals</p> <p>Training and awareness programmes to help people take charge of their lives and build the necessary skills, while also raising awareness of poverty and social exclusion in the county at large.</p>

92	Spain	Association of Basque Municipalities (Asociación Vasca de Municipios)	Digital agenda for Europe	<p><b>2015 Digital Agenda (AD15):</b> At regional level, policies are being implemented under the 2015 Digital Agenda (AD15) by the Basque Government around four goals: digital community; e-enterprise; advanced and accessible digital services; and infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Local Innovation Agenda (AIL):</b> This initiative is intended to create added value through innovation in forms of government, and in the management and delivery of services by our local authorities, using ITC as levers for change.</p>
93	Spain	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	-
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
94	Spain	Autonomous Community of Valencia (Generalitat Valenciana)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>The <b>Valencia Region's 2nd Plan for Inclusion and the Prevention of Social Exclusion (PIPES)</b> is aims to help persons at risk of exclusion and poverty for the period 2011-2013. The Plan's overall aim was to eradicate poverty and ensure the proper attention to and protection of socially dependent individuals.</p> <p>The Plan was developed along five strategic lines:</p> <p>Line 1. - Working to achieve a more cohesive society</p> <p>Line 2. - Ensuring fairness in education</p> <p>Line 3. - Promoting access to employment</p> <p>Line 4. - Making progress on health as a social good</p> <p>Line 5. - Making use of R+D+i in tackling social inclusion</p>
95	Spain	Autonomous Government of Catalonia	An agenda for new skills and jobs	-
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>During 2012, the Department of Social Welfare of the Government i Família de Catalunya allocated more than 150 million euros to the fight against poverty.</p> <p>From April 2011 to February 2012 a set of measures and actions have been developed in conjunction with the various federations and associations exceling in the fight against poverty, then the Paper proposals have been assumed as an agreement for Government. The measures and actions<sup>42</sup> undertaken aim at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eradicating child poverty:</li> <li>• promoting active inclusion of vulnerable groups:</li> <li>• nsuring decent housing:</li> <li>• ending discrimination and improving social integration of</li> </ul>

42

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				people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, immigrants.
			Digital agenda for Europe	-
96	Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	Youth on the Move	Development of Spanish national youth independence network and other services and facilities for young people Regional initiatives and programmes such as school-work transition, youth formula, getting young people to move back to rural areas.
97	Spain	Basque Government	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	The main action to combat poverty in the Basque Country is made up of the <b>benefit system of income support set from late 80s</b> . It is currently configured for RGI benefits (including associated accessories, such as single parenthood or stimulus to employment), PCV and AES. In 2011, 79% of public spending on the contingency of social exclusion in the CAE corresponded to the benefits system.
			Digital agenda for Europe	<b>Banda Zabala Project:</b> The aim of the Banda Zabala project is to encourage new-generation ultra-fast broadband networks and to make them more easily available and easy to use by harnessing the multiplier effect of ICTs in the economic and social development of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. <b>GAITEK Programme:</b> The purpose of this initiative is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises by promoting projects based on R&D activities. These projects must meet the challenge of developing new products.
98	Spain	Government of Andalusia	Youth on the Move	-
			Digital agenda for Europe	<b>NEREA network:</b> This is a project of the Council of Innovation, Science and Employment of Andalusia, designed to interconnect the different public administrations in Andalusia. <b>AndaluciaCERT:</b> The regional ICT security blueprint aims to reinforce management and proactive response to the risks associated with cybercrime and security attacks, in coordination and collaboration with other bodies.
99	Spain	Government of the Canary Islands	An agenda for new skills and jobs	The Canary Isles Jobs and Training Strategy (2012-2014) includes three annual employment plans: <b>Plan 2012, Plan 2013 and the Youth Employment Plan</b> . Main measures are: 1. Regionalising Active Employment Policies 2. Training and Retraining Schemes for the Unemployed 3. Some Special Employment Projects: Young People 4. Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment
			Youth on the Move	<b>Canary Islands Education and Employment Strategy 2012-2014</b>

100	Spain	Economista	Digital agenda for Europe	-
101	Spain	Extremadura Regional Parliament	Youth on the Move	<b>3Es Plan</b> Employment, enterprise and entrepreneurship that allows young people to start their own business.
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	The Extremadura Government has adopted an ambitious plan to boost the region's production system, <b>PLAN 3E (Employment, Enterprise and Entrepreneurs)</b> . The plan focuses on entrepreneurs, innovative projects, exports, training as a mechanism for creating high-skill jobs, and changes in the regional labour market to foster a shift from public employment to private initiative.
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Strategic Plan "Employment, Enterprise, Entrepreneurs" (Plan 3E)</b> The strategic plans is stressing the need for a change in the mentality of our population in order to create a entrepreneurs mentality as opposed to the existing one (until the year 2011) where a 'civil servant' mentality was prevailing.
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	The programmes/actions already implemented or in process of implementation for (iii) are: the " <b>draft Law on Extremadura Basic Income</b> ", currently being processed in the parliament , the " <b>Draft Law on Extremadura Social Services</b> ", the " <b>Network of Extremadura Basic and Specialised Social Services</b> " addressed at the following vulnerable groups: Homeless, Roma, Immigrants, Returned migrants, LGBT Collective. As well as measures to promote voluntary work and the third sector.
			Digital agenda for Europe	
102	Spain and Portugal	European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation – Galicia-Northern Portugal (GNP-AECT)	An agenda for new skills and jobs	The Regional Government of Galicia and the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Northern Portugal (CCDR-N) are cooperating in this sector through <b>joint initiatives</b> , with a view to boosting the Euroregion's labour market.
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
103	Spain	Principality of Asturias	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<b>Institute for Economic Development of Asturias (IDEPA)</b> <b>Regional Company for the Promotion of Asturias, S.A. (SRP)</b> <b>ASTURGAR, SGR</b> <b>European Centre for Business and Innovation of Asturias</b> <b>Foundation for the Encouragement in Asturias towards Applied Scientific Research and Technology (FICYT).</b> <sup>43</sup>

43

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104	Spain	Vilanova i la Geltrú City Council (Ayuntamiento de Vilanova i la Geltrú)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	The actions of the <b>Action Plan for Social Inclusion</b> fully coincide with the objectives of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion.
105	Sweden	City of Solna	Youth on the Move	<p><b>Umbrella:</b> The aim of the Umbrella-project is to establish contact with all young people less than 20 years of age who have completed compulsory school, but are neither studying, working nor registered at the employment agency and assist them back to studies or to finding a job.</p> <p><b>Solna Youth Café – Eurodesk:</b> Solna Youth Café implements an extensive international mobility programme including Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Services etc. The café is also a contact point for the European Information Network Eurodesk and participating in the information campaign Information right now.</p> <p><b>The Young Business Idea of the Year:</b> The city and the local business community cooperate to encourage young people to start their own businesses. The winner of the award receives start-up capital for a limited company. All applicants receive guidance on business plans and accounting, administrative guidance as well as coaching.</p>
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Solna model</b></li> <li>• <b>Regional cooperation in adult education</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The young business idea of the year</b></p>
106	Sweden	City of Malmö	An agenda for new skills and jobs	<p>Municipality develops <b>annual action plan</b>, including measures to improve skills, matching of skills to labour market needs, new measures for disabled people, various business start-up incubators</p> <p><b>Malmö works with Copenhagen</b> to attract businesses and investors to the region</p>
			An industrial policy for the globalisation era	<p><b>Företagsamma Malmö</b> A program to get all administrations working in line with the enterprise policy strategy.</p> <p><b>Företagsakademien</b> The project is aimed at companies in the county of Stockholm which have up to 9 active members including owners.</p>
			Digital agenda for Europe	<b>Strategy for an eSociety:</b> This strategy aims at the full deployment of an eSociety including the following: e-business, e-health services, e-payments, e-procurement, e-education, e-banking, e-democracy, and e-billing.
107	Sweden	East Sweden Region	Youth on the Move	Region also has a <b>strategy for entrepreneurship</b> and is co-funding several initiatives in this area in schools
108	Sweden	Näringsliv Skåne	Youth on the Move	-
109	Sweden	NetPort Blekinge (South of Sweden)	Digital agenda for Europe	-

110	Sweden	Region Dalarna	Youth on the Move	<b>Employment for the Young</b> initiative <b>Stay in Dalarna</b> initiative
111	Sweden	Region Gävleborg	Youth on the Move	-
112	Sweden	Region Västra Götaland	Youth on the Move	<b>New Strategy for Growth 2014-2020</b> Currently being developed by region and 49 municipalities in it. It puts an emphasis on youth by strengthening relationships between schools and working life and better adaptation of education to meet labour market needs. Also focuses on implementation of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and docking it to EQF to increase mobility.
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	In December 2009 the national government commissioned our region to establish a <b>regional platform for competences and skills</b> . The purpose of this platform is to gain a better overview and knowledge concerning supply of education and the demand for skills and competences in coming years.
113	Sweden	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions -	An industrial policy for the globalisation era	-
114	Sweden	Västerbotten county	An agenda for new skills and jobs	The region of Västerbotten has been tasked by the government with setting up a <b>regional skills platform</b> . This work is being done in cooperation with stakeholders in the county, including employer associations, trade unions, job centres, the county authorities and education providers from secondary school to university level.
115	United Kingdom	Belfast City Council	Youth on the Move	<b>Investment Programme</b> To stimulate economy by investing in local communities
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<b>Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) through the Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU)</b> developed draft framework that highlights addressing poverty. BHDU started plans for addressing poverty and has developed poverty screening tool.
116	United Kingdom	COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)	Youth on the Move	<b>Workforce Plus</b> Local Employment Partnerships since 2006 In January 2012 the Scottish Government launched its <b>Youth Employment Strategy</b> <b>16+ Learning Choices</b> <b>Youth Employment Action Plans</b>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	In the broader policy framework of Achieving Our Potential, Scottish Local Authorities together with the Scottish Government and other Scottish partners have committed themselves to address the drivers of poverty and take a long term approach across a variety of policy areas and services. Places an emphasis on early intervention and prevention (especially child poverty). Scottish Local Authorities work to improve the well-being of children, most notably through the Early Years Framework. It is underpinned by <b>‘Getting it right for every child’ (GIRFEC)</b> , following the principles

				<p>of early intervention and co-ordinated and coherent support to young people and families.</p> <p>Scottish Councils are also working hard to tackle health inequalities, for instance in the Equally Well framework, a joint strategy by Local Government and the Scottish Government. A joint Task Force on Health Inequalities has drawn up a set of priorities to effectively address health inequalities from an integrated approach.</p> <p>Scottish local government is in fact engaging in a variety of activities including local employability partnerships, activity agreements, and participation as employers in national programmes (e.g. 'Get ready for work') as well as preventative work (16+ Learning Choices, Curriculum for Excellence). Local Employability Partnerships ('Workforce Plus') led by Councils with key stakeholders and local employers have worked to identify potential opportunities and future skills needs.</p> <p>Councils have also agreed on a living wage (well above national minimum wage) for local government employees with the lowest salary.</p>
117	United Kingdom	Preston City Council	Youth on the Move	<p><b>Education and Skills Act of 2008</b></p> <p>Enters into effect in 2013, it is compulsory for young people up to age 19 to be in education, training or in a job (with training)</p> <p><b>Youth Contract scheme</b></p> <p>Available to firms in Preston, take-up unknown and investigated at present</p>
			European platform against poverty and social exclusion	<p>Preston City Council is an accredited Living Wage employer</p> <p>The Council is exploring ways of re-establishing a credit union within the city to enable its residents to access cheaper loans as a credible alternative to payday lenders</p> <p>Preston City Council is investigating installing District Energy Systems within the city.</p> <p>A collective energy switching scheme (PeoplePower) has just been piloted in Preston and across Lancashire. The aim of this scheme is to encourage residents to reduce their energy bills by switching providers.</p> <p>Council is requiring 30% affordable housing on developments of 15 units or more.</p> <p>The council is also in the process of negotiating a City Deal with the UK Government, which would entail significant infrastructure investments</p> <p>The Council has a small fund for community grants which is targeted at community and voluntary sector organisations which deliver services to combat poverty and social exclusion. Through its Community Engagement Officers, the Council works with specific deprived wards within the city.</p> <p>Food banks</p> <p>The Council together with other partners has recently set up a Social</p>

				Forum. The aim of the Forum is to enable a two-way dialogue between Preston City Council and forum members concerning equality.
118	United Kingdom	Scarborough Borough Council	Youth on the Move	Working with schools and businesses to develop <b>Yorkshire Coast Employability Charter</b> to provide young people with a passport detailing all employability related achievements in a form useful to employers Reinvigoration of <b>Job Brokerage Service</b> to support the forthcoming construction and other jobs
			An agenda for new skills and jobs	Develop an <b>Employability Charter</b> that will both improve relationships between businesses and educational institutions and smooth transition from school to work Re-energise <b>Scarborough Job Match</b> , a job brokerage service that links local businesses looking for staff with local people looking for work. Will focus on SMEs
119	United Kingdom	Cookstown District Council, Northern Ireland	Digital agenda for Europe	<b>Universal Service Commitment:</b> The UK government is aiming to ensure that 90% of homes and businesses in each local council area have access to superfast broadband and that everyone in the UK has access to at least 2Mbps by 2015.
120	United Kingdom	Employment and Learning Department of Northern Ireland	An agenda for new skills and jobs	The <b>‘Success through Skills – Transforming Futures’</b> strategy articulates the overarching vision for the development of skills in Northern Ireland. Its aim is in line with the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs as it seeks to enable people to access and progress up the skills ladder, in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the skills level of the workforce</li> <li>• Raise productivity</li> <li>• Increase levels of social inclusion by enhancing the employability of those currently excluded from the labour market ; and</li> <li>• Secure Northern Ireland’s future in a global marketplace</li> </ul>
121	United Kingdom	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH)	European platform against poverty and social exclusion	Local councils setting up schemes for emergency payments for people in severe hardship such as extra funding to food banks, vouchers or household goods. Consultation/engagement with people in social housing so they understand impact of new <b>"Spare Room Subsidy"</b> that may make many relocate to smaller social housing. Local authorities working on individual basis - no Yorkshire and Humber-wide scheme. Involve Yorkshire and Humber is an organisation working with LGYH and Councils to support and help people deal with new reforms.
122	United Kingdom	Sunderland City Council	Digital agenda for Europe	Sunderland has an established <b>Digital Inclusion programme</b> , under which 60 community-based venues have been set up providing access to ICT facilities and digital skills training in the community.

## 6.4 List of members of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform – August 2013

### Austria



**Oberösterreich** (Upper Austria)  
**Mörsbisch am See**  
**Steiermark** (Styria)  
**Wien** (City of Vienna)

### Belgium



**Brussels Capital Region**  
**Vlaanderen** (Flanders)  
**Région wallonne** (Walloon Region)  
**Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens** (German-speaking Community in Belgium)

### Bulgaria



**Стара Загора** (Municipality of Stara Zagora)

### Cyprus



**Ένωση Δήμων Κύπρου**  
 (Union of Cyprus Municipalities)

### Czech Republic



**Liberecký kraj** (Liberec Region)  
**Olomoucký kraj** (Olomouc Region)  
**Moravskoslezský kraj** (Moravian-Silesian Region)  
**Zlín** (City of Zlín)

### Germany



**Arnsberg**  
**München** (City of Munich)  
**Staatskanzlei des Landes Brandenburg** (State of Brandenburg)

### Denmark



**Ballerup** (Ballerup Municipality)  
**Midtjylland** (Central Denmark)  
**Næstved** (Næstved Municipality)  
**Sjælland** (Zealand)  
**Syddanmark** (South Denmark)

### Estonia



### Pärnu linn (Town of Pärnu)

#### **Tallinn**

**Tartu Maavalitsus** (Tartu Municipality)

### Greece



**Αναπτυξιακή Ηρακλείου Α.Ε.** (Development Agency of Heraklion)

**Δήμος Αφάντου** (Municipality of Afandou)

**Δήμος Ασπρόπυργος** (Municipality of Aspropyrgos)

**Δήμος Λαμίων** (Municipality of Lamia)

**Δήμος Μυκόνου** (Municipality of Mykonos)

**Δήμος Τήλου** (Municipality of Tilos)

**Νομαρχιακή Αυτοδιοίκηση**

**Δράμας-Καβάλας-Ξάνθης** (Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi)

**Η Κρήτη** (Region of Crete)

**Γραφείο Περιφερειάρχη Αττικής** (Region of Attica)

**Περιφέρεια Νοτίου Αιγαίου** (South Aegean Region)

### Spain



**Andalucía** (Autonomous Community of Andalusia)

**Principado de Asturias** (Principality of Asturias)

**Barcelona** (Province of Barcelona)

**Castilla y León** (Community of Castille and León)

**Catalunya** (Autonomous Community of Catalonia)

**Comunidad autónoma de la Región de Murcia**

(Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia)

**Guipúzcoa** (Guipuzcoa Province)

**Madrid** (City)

**Madrid** (Region)

**Navarra** (Navarre Region)

**Puerto Lumberras** (City)

**Segovia** (City)

**Valencia** (Region)

### Finland



**Helsinki Region**

**Itä-Suomi** (East-Finland)

**Oulun Kaupunki** (City of Oulu)

**Pohjois-Suomi** (North Finland)

### France



**Aquitaine** (Region)

**Basse-Normandie** (Lower Normandy Region)

**Bretagne** (Brittany Region)

**Département de la Savoie** (Savoie Department)

**Dunkerque** (Dunkirk)

**Île-de-France** (Region)

**Lorraine** (Region)

**Limousin** (Region)

**Nord-Pas de Calais** (Region)

**Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** (PACA Region)  
 (Region)

### Hungary



**Észak-alföldi régió** (Northern Great Plain Region)

**Nyugat-dunántúli Régió**

(West-Pannon Region)

### Ireland



**Border Midland and Western Region**

**Dublin Region**

### Italy



**Comune di Bolzano** (Municipality of Bolzano)

**Comune di Capodrise** (Municipality of Capodrise)

**Comune di Cremona** (Municipality of Cremona)

**Comune di Firenze** (Municipality of Florence)

**Comune di Milano** (Municipality of Milan)

**Comune di Morro d'Alba** (Municipality of Morro d'Alba)

**Comune di Lecce** (Municipality of Lecce)

**Comune di Pordenone** (Municipality of Pordenone)

**Comune di Roma Capitale** (Rome Capital City)

**Comune di Recale** (Municipality of Recale)

**Comune di Rossano** (Municipality of Rossano)

**Comune di Sora** (Municipality of Sora)

**Comune di Taleggio** (Municipality of Taleggio)


**Comune di Urbino** (Municipality of Urbino)

**Langhe Monferrato Roero**

**Provincia di Arezzo** (Arezzo Province)


**Provincia di Pisa** (Province of Pisa)

**Provincia di Roma** (Province of Rome)  
**Provincia di Torino** (Province of Turin)  
**Regione Abruzzo** (Abruzzo Region)  
**Regione Basilicata** (Basilicata Region)  
**Regione Emilia-Romagna** (Emilia-Romagna Region)  
**Regione Lazio** (Latium Region)  
**Regione Liguria** (Liguria Region)  
**Regione Lombardia** (Lombardy Region)  
**Regione Piemonte** (Piedmont Region)  
**Regione Puglia** (Apulia Region)  
**Regione Marche** (Le Marche Region)  
**Regione Sicilia** (Sicily Region)  
**Regione Toscana** (Tuscany Region)  
**Regione Umbria** (Umbria Region)


**Lithuania**   
**Vilniaus miesto savivaldibė**  
 (Vilnius City Municipality)

**Latvia**   
**Rīgas reģions** (Riga City & Region)


**Luxembourg**   
**Esch-Uelzecht** (Esch-sur-Alzette)


**Malta**   
**Nadur**

**Netherlands**   
**Association of Dutch Municipalities – VNG** (Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten - VNG)  
**Delft**  
**Den Haag** (The Hague)  
**Enschede**  
**Eindhoven**  
**Lingewaard**  
**Noord Nederland**  
 (Northern Netherlands Provinces)  
**Provincie Gelderland**  
**Provincie Overijssel**  
**'t Hof van Twente**

**Poland**   
**Łódź** (City of Lodz)  
**Ostrołęka** (City of Ostrołęka)  
**Województwo Dolnośląskie** (Lower Silesian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Kujawsko-Pomorskie** (Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Łódzkie** (Lodz Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Małopolskie** (Małopolska Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Mazowieckie** (Masovian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Opolskie** (Opole Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Pomorskie** (Pomeranian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Śląskie** (Silesian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Świętokrzyskie** (Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Warmińsko-Mazurskie** (Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Wielkopolskie** (Greater Poland Voivodeship)  
**Województwo Zachodniopomorskie** (West-Pomeranian Voivodeship)

**Portugal**   
**Associação de Desenvolvimento da Alta Estremadura (ADAE)**  
**Câmara Municipal da Covilhã** (Covilhã Municipality)  
**Câmara Municipal da Ferreira do Alentejo**  
 (Ferreira do Alentejo Municipality)  
**Câmara Municipal de Lisboa** (Lisbon Municipality)  
**Câmara Municipal de Tavira** (Tavira Municipality)  
**Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (OesteCIM)** (West Intermunicipal Community)  
**Comunidade Intermunicipal do Pinhal Litoral (CIMPL)**  
**Região Autónoma da Madeira** (Madeira Autonomous Region)

**Romania**   
**Braşov** (Municipality of Brasov)  
**Cluj-Napoca** (Municipality of Cluj-Napoca)  
**Oraşul Cugir** (Town of Cugir)  
**Timișoara** (Municipality of Timisoara)


**Sweden**   
**Göteborg stad** (City of Gothenburg)

**Jämtland**  
**Malmö stad** (City of Malmö)  
**Mellersta Norrland** (Mid-Sweden)  
**Östsam** (East Sweden)  
**Solna stad** (City of Solna)  
**Sörmland**  
**Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting (SKL)** (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR))  
**Upplands-Bro kommun** (Upplands-Bro Municipality)  
**Västra Götalandsregionen** (Region Västra Götaland)

**Slovenia**   
**Skupnost občin Slovenije** (Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia)

**Slovakia**   
**Bratislavský samosprávny kraj** (Bratislava Self-Governing Region)  
**Košický kraj** (Košice Region)  
**Prešovský kraj** (Prešov Region)  
**Trenčiansky kraj** (Trenčín Region)  
**Trnavský samosprávny kraj** (Trnava Self-Governing Region)  
**Žilinský kraj** (Zilina Region)

**United Kingdom**   
**Belfast City**  
**Cornwall**  
**East of England**  
**Lancashire**  
**Leicestershire**  
**Nottingham**  
**Preston City Council**  
**Scarborough Borough Council**  
**South East England**  
**Warwickshire**  
**West Midlands**  
**Yorkshire & Humber**

  
**EGTC Duero-Douro**  
**EGTC Pyrenees-Mediterranean**

EUROPEAN UNION



**Committee of the Regions**

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat, 101 \_ 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel \_ BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
Tel. +32 2/282 22 11 \_ Fax +32 2/282 23 25  
<http://www.cor.europa.eu>