

The Committee of the Regions and its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives. The mission of its 353 members from all EU Member States is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities:

www.cor.europa.eu



The CoR's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, a group of over 170 cities and regions from the 28 EU Member states, monitors how Europe 2020 is implemented on the ground, promoting the exchange of good practices.

To become a member of the Monitoring Platform visit our website:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020>

or contact the Platform at **europe2020@cor.europa.eu**



The electronic version of this handbook is available at:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020>

EUROPEAN UNION



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Committee of the Regions

Delivering on the Europe 2020 Strategy

Handbook for Local and Regional Authorities



Second edition, 2014

I am looking for information about:



EU policy instruments and tools



EU funding



Good practices



Useful publications/links/sources of information



Europe 2020 headline targets

What can I find in the Handbook?



Section 1

- ✓ Information about Europe 2020 and its policy cycle
- ✓ Where to find the main documents



Section 2

- ✓ How other regions and cities have already developed their Europe 2020 agenda



Section 3

- ✓ EU policy and financial tools to boost smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- ✓ Examples of local and regional policies under the three pillars of the strategy



Section 4

- ✓ Spread information across the European Union about your Europe 2020 ideas
- ✓ Promote your local and regional projects in Europe 2020 areas, e.g. sustainable energy, business environment, education, employment
- ✓ Inform citizens about how Europe 2020 can contribute to their lives



Section 5

- ✓ How to share knowledge through territorial networks



Section 6

- ✓ Awards of excellence for cities and regions, linked to Europe 2020

Catalogue number QG-01-14-165-EN-C

ISBN 978-92-895-0773-8

DOI 10.2863/98247

Except for the cover, this publication is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Delivering on the Europe 2020 Strategy

Handbook for Local and Regional Authorities

Second edition, 2014

Background

This second edition of the handbook is part of the follow up to the adopted Committee of the Regions' Opinion on the Role of LRAs in achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Opinion states: "(...) the Committee of the Regions urges the Commission to launch jointly with the CoR a broader communication campaign in order to raise the awareness of Europe 2020 on the part of local and regional decision-makers and the public. For this purpose, the CoR proposes that a "Handbook on the Europe 2020 strategy for cities and regions" be drawn up with the Commission in order to clearly explain how they can contribute to the implementation of the strategy, while showing the various sources of financing".

To read the opinion:

<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cd\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015>





Disclaimer

This updated handbook has been drawn up by the Committee of the Regions in collaboration with the European Commission. It provides an overall, non-exhaustive picture of the information and good practices currently available on the Europe 2020 Strategy. The first (2012) edition of the handbook was revised and updated between September 2013 and January 2014, leading to the publication of the present document.

Examples have been selected from the practices gathered via the surveys of the Committee of the Region's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform or through existing databases of good practices managed by the European Commission. The examples presented in this handbook have not been verified on the ground.

This handbook does not seek to present any guidelines on how to implement the Europe 2020 Strategy, nor does it address the requirements of the Strategy. Its purpose is to inform and to support local and regional authorities with the implementation of the Strategy, and to capitalise on good examples and on the power of shared knowledge and mutual learning. Neither the Committee of the Region, nor the European Commission, nor any person acting on behalf of these institutions shall be responsible for any use which might be made of this publication.

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Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

President of the
Committee of the Regions



Foreword

The Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, launched in June 2010 to provide a 10 year roadmap for growth and jobs, will soon reach its mid-term. The Committee of the Regions has supported the strategy from the beginning, notably the balance between smart, sustainable and inclusive growth objectives. However, the CoR has also stressed that the Strategy's successful implementation depends on the full involvement of Europe's regions and cities as real partners. They are key actors who can close the existing 'delivery gap' by providing place-based solutions to development challenges. In 2012, to support the involvement of local and regional authorities in Europe 2020, the Committee of the Regions – together with the European Commission - issued the first edition of the "Handbook for delivering on the Europe 2020 Strategy", more than 1000 copies of which were distributed EU-wide.

This second edition of the Handbook builds on the success of the first edition. It informs local and regional authorities about the strategic potential of Europe 2020 in their area. It provides guidance and support to help regions and cities to network with each other in Europe and beyond, as well as hands-on best practice, inspiring EU initiatives and details of available funding for measures to boost growth and jobs. Especially this latter part on EU funding initiatives has been substantially revised to take account of the provisions of the new 2014-2020 EU Multiannual Financial Framework. 2014 marks the launch of new programmes and funds from which local and regional authorities can and should substantially benefit to play their part in delivering on growth and jobs. The updated handbook shows in a practical way how to make best use of the potential of Europe's regions and cities, making Europe 2020 work and deliver more and better results for all Europeans.

The Handbook is part of a comprehensive contribution from the Committee of the Regions to the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Athens in March 2014. At this summit, the Committee of the Regions also will present its new "Territorial Vision for Growth and Jobs" and a comprehensive assessment report to rethink the Europe 2020 strategy midway through its implementation. Local and regional authorities across Europe massively contributed to consultation and discussions on this mid-term assessment of the strategy in 2012-2013. The Committee organised several workshops and seminars on the governance architecture of Europe 2020 and carried out detailed surveys on the whole spectrum of policies covered by the Strategy. Eight conferences, on seven Flagship Initiatives and on the contribution of the cultural sector and creative industries to the Europe 2020 goals, were held by the Committee between December 2012 and January 2014 and attracted more than 1,500 participants.

Moreover, a broad survey on rethinking Europe 2020 involved the participation of more than 1,000 local and regional authorities. All evidence collected through this process points to the lack of a genuine territorial dimension in Europe 2020 and the need to strengthen multilevel governance and partnership approaches to reaching the strategy's targets and to delivering growth and jobs to the people of the EU.

Making sure that local and regional authorities have genuine ownership of Europe's growth and jobs strategy is more than ever one of the key priorities of the Committee of the Regions. Together we can make the delivery of Europe 2020 a success.

Foreword

The Europe 2020 strategy was launched in 2010 as an integrated approach to delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Notwithstanding the unprecedented context of immense political and economic challenges, Member States adopted ambitious Reform Programmes to correct the imbalances that had developed over the past years. Many of our citizens had to make huge sacrifices but our efforts are now bearing fruit.

The EU is now entering a phase of recovery. But our efforts do not end here. We need to firmly embed this recovery by persevering with our endeavours. We must complete our reforms to strengthen our economy on a sustainable basis. Let's remind ourselves that this is the only manner in which we will address the biggest problems of our time: unemployment, especially amongst the youth, and social fraction.

It is also important that recommendations that are made for Member States under the European Semester are not seen as proclamations from Brussels but as concrete plans of action that are integrated into the Member States' own Reform Programmes. This means that we need to step up our efforts to strengthen the ownership of the Strategy and the recommendations that are addressed to Member States. The Commission stressed in its 2014 Annual Growth Survey that it is very important to involve all actors concerned more in the process to ensure key reforms are understood and accepted.

This is not about a process that just involves Brussels and European capitals. The process goes a lot deeper. Growth happens locally. In many Member States, regional and local authorities hold key competences in areas such as labour market policies, training, social inclusion, entrepreneurship and innovation. They are thus critical to the practical workings of all reforms be they in areas such as the green economy as a whole or its various constituents such as public transport, renewable energy, waste management and recycling. As these are the very domains that will create sustainable growth and employment, it goes without saying that the regions need to engage with their national governments in designing as well as implementing the National Reform Programmes.

At the EU level, the EU budget will fully support the delivery of the Europe 2020 Strategy. With the new financial framework now in place, the EU funding, and this includes the structural funds, will be primarily targeted at the Europe 2020 objectives; this has the further advantage of ensuring that the funding is in line with the country-specific recommendations made each year.

I very much welcome the second edition of this handbook and thank the Committee of the Regions for facilitating a better understanding of the workings of the Europe 2020 strategy at the grassroots' level. I am confident that it will be an important tool for municipalities and regions to succeed in achieving our common goal of boosting sustainable growth and competitiveness for our citizens and our businesses.



José-Manuel Barroso

President of the
European Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Barroso', with a horizontal line extending to the right.



Europe 2020: what is it all about?

1

1.1 Europe 2020 is Europe's growth strategy for the current decade

Europe 2020 is the European Union's main strategy for putting Europe's economy back on the path to growth. In our ever-changing world, we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. These three mutually reinforcing priorities should help the EU and the Member States to deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

Specifically, the European Union has set five ambitious objectives – in the fields of employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy – which are to be achieved by 2020. Each Member State has adopted its own national targets in each of these areas. Concrete actions at EU and all levels of governance underpin the strategy.



Five headline targets

To monitor the progress made and quantify the objectives to be met by 2020, five headline targets have been agreed at EU level which are translated into national targets within each EU country, reflecting different situations and circumstances.

Europe 2020 Targets at EU level	
1. Employment	• 75% of 20-64 year-olds to be employed
2. R&D / innovation	• 3% of the EU's GDP (public and private combined) to be invested in R&D/innovation
3. Climate change / energy	• greenhouse gas emissions 20% lower than 1990 (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) • 20% of energy from renewables • 20% increase in energy efficiency
4. Education	• Reducing school drop-out rates below 10% • At least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing tertiary education
5. Reducing poverty and social exclusion	• Lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion



To access all the Europe 2020 indicators on the Eurostat website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators

Seven EU Flagships and other EU-level instruments

The EU has identified new engines for boosting growth and jobs. These areas are addressed by seven inter-linked flagship initiatives. The EU and national authorities must coordinate their efforts under each initiative.





The EP study on "How to Integrate the EU Flagship Initiatives into Cohesion Policy" explores the coherence of the seven Flagship Initiatives with Cohesion Policy with a view to the 2014–20 programming period and identifies ways of integrating the Flagship initiatives into the future Common Strategic Framework:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/how-to-integrate-the-eu-flagship-initiatives-into-cohesion-policy-in-the-current-and-future-funding-periods-pbBA3112738/>

EU-level instruments, notably the single market, financial levers and external policy tools, are fully mobilised to tackle bottlenecks and deliver the Europe 2020 goals. In particular, the EU Structural and Investment Funds 2014–2020 are designed to help achieve the objectives of Europe 2020.

The individual efforts of all the countries are coordinated and focused according to a yearly cycle of economic policy coordination called the European Semester.

To learn more about the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–2020: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index_en.cfm

To learn more about the European Semester: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/index_en.htm

Visit the official EU Single Market website: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/index_en.htm

To read more about the EU's budgetary system: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/budg_system/index_en.cfm

To read more about EU trade policy: http://europa.eu/pol/comm/index_en.htm



How does the Europe 2020 “policy cycle” work and where can I find updates?

In the first half of the year, known as the European Semester, Member States report (in April) on both the progress achieved under their National Reform Programmes (NRP) and on their prospective budgetary measures under their Stability and Convergence Programmes. When updating these documents, Member States are invited to take into account the priorities of the European Commission's Annual Growth Survey (AGS), as endorsed by the Spring European Council. The progress achieved is monitored by the European Commission and subsequently discussed by the Council of Ministers. The European Council then endorses Country Specific Recommendations (in June) that are relevant for your region and city, too. During the second part of the year, Member States implement the measures outlined in their updated NRP together with the regions and cities, taking due account of the Country Specific Recommendations.

Find out more about the policy cycle:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/priorities/economic-governance/index_en.htm

Consult the Commission's latest AGS at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/reaching-the-goals/monitoring-progress/annual-growth-surveys/index_en.htm

and compare your country's updated National Reform Programme and Country Specific Recommendations:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

See the graph at the end of the section for the overview of the Europe 2020 policy cycle and the role of local and regional authorities.



National Reform Programmes

Under the Europe 2020 Strategy, all Member States must prepare a National Reform Programme, the sister document of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). While the SGP covers public finances, the NRP addresses structural economic and employment policies. Both are based on the same macroeconomic environment. The NRP identifies bottlenecks and socioeconomic responses in the following areas: macro financial stability; external equilibrium and competitiveness; labour market, social protection and inclusion. The situation in each area is analysed and a policy put forward to address the problems identified. Each Member State sets its own national targets and details actions to achieve them in the National Reform Programme, which should be prepared and delivered with subnational involvement.

Check out and compare your country's targets agreed at EU level:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators

Check out and compare your country's progress towards the Europe 2020 headline goals:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators

What are the basic Europe 2020 documents and where can I find them?



Key Europe 2020 documents: <http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/>

The seven Flagship Initiatives: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/reaching-the-goals/flagship-initiatives/index_en.htm

2013 National Reform Programmes and Country Specific Recommendations:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

Visit the Europe 2020 website for contact details of the government departments in charge of Europe 2020 in your country:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-your-country/index_en.htm

See Chapter 5 for European associations of local and regional authorities.

How does the Committee of the Regions contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy?

In line with its institutional role, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) – the Assembly of European local and regional authorities – puts forward local and regional points of view on EU legislation. It does so by presenting reports (i.e. opinions) on Commission proposals. The CoR has issued Opinions on all Flagship

Initiatives. The Committee of the Regions issues also political statements prior to each key development in the Europe 2020 policy cycle.

Visit our website to consult CoR Opinions on Europe 2020:

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



The Committee of the Regions has also established a Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform which gathers information on the ground through surveys, studies and meetings covering the local and regional contribution to designing and implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy at local and regional level. Once a year the CoR publishes a Monitoring Report on Europe 2020.

At the beginning of 2014 the Monitoring Platform had 173 full members, including the two most recent additions from Croatia.

Visit the website of the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform to join the Platform or to find out more about its activities, including the results of a broad-reaching consultation on Europe 2020 with over 1000 responses from local and regional authorities:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/>



To download the latest (4th) CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Report (2013):

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/SiteCollectionDocuments/4th%20MR.pdf>

1.2 Challenges and trends for the year 2020

My country's vision and the progress it has achieved are clear, but how far is my region from meeting the Europe 2020 targets?

The European Commission publishes country factsheets measuring the performance of individual Member States in meeting their agreed targets under the Europe 2020 Strategy. Where available, regional data are also highlighted. Each factsheet shows the country's national target, the EU target and the highest and lowest targets adopted by other countries. In addition, it measures how far that country is from the target it has set itself and compares this to the EU and the most and least ambitious country.

To see the performance of your region: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm



Comparative maps and further information can be found in the European Commissions' progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion. This report assesses how regions and cities can contribute to the three types of growth under the Europe 2020 Strategy and measures the distance separating the cities and regions from the NRP's national 2020 targets. This distance to target depends on the disparities within the country, the NRP and the expected speed of change.



To download the latest (8th) edition of the Cohesion Report (June 2013):
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/reports/index_en.cfm



Smarter, greener, more inclusive? Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy (2013) is the first of a new type of Eurostat flagship publication providing statistical analyses related to important European Commission policy frameworks or economic, social or environmental phenomena. It focuses on statistics related to the Europe 2020 strategy and presents the long-term trends together with other relevant statistical data which enable a better understanding of the driving forces behind the headline indicators. It provides statistical support for the Europe 2020 strategy and backs up the monitoring of its headline targets.

To download the full report:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-02-13-238

The Eurostat Regional yearbook 2013 gives a detailed picture of a large number of statistical fields in the EU's Member States, EFTA and candidate countries.

Consult the statistics on your region:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-HA-13-001



ESPON Atlas

The ESPON ATLAS provides local data, including maps that illustrate major trends, potential and challenges facing regions and cities, and allows policymakers to compare and benchmark them in terms of the Europe 2020 Strategy targets.

To download ESPON Atlas:
http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Publications/ATLAS2020/194650_ESPON_ATLAS_-_Final_version.pdf



Regions' performance in the EU and in other OECD countries

OECD Regions at Glance 2013 provides evidence on how regions and cities contribute to national growth and the well-being of societies. The report includes region-by-region indicators on a wide range of policies which highlight regional disparities. It also offers indications as to how a region's contribution to aggregate development could be increased.

To download the report:
http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/urban-rural-and-regional-development/oecd-regions-at-a-glance_19990057

How might my region develop by the year 2020 if we make the necessary transformation happen?

Taking informed decisions based on facts and figures demonstrates good governance. Developing a 2020 vision for your region requires long term planning based on sound territorial foresight and careful analysis of the trends and future challenges facing the region. The bold decisions taken today could

therefore be the springboard that your region needs to develop into a thriving and connected region. The following reports and initiatives may be a source of inspiration:

How to strengthen the territorial dimension of 'Europe 2020' and the EU Cohesion Policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/challenges2020/2011_territorial_dimension_eu2020.pdf



Cities of Tomorrow - Challenges, visions, ways forward:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow_final.pdf



Specific trends in densely and thinly populated areas:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-HA-11-001-16/EN/KS-HA-11-001-16-EN.PDF



The impact of the crisis and the fiscal situation at regional level: <http://urbact.eu/fileadmin/corporate/doc/News/CEMR%20CCRE.pdf>



A number of Future Reports inform on how the European Union as a whole may develop in an ever globalising world.

Global Europe 2050 Report: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/global-europe-2050-summary-report_en.pdf



The New Pact for Europe Strategic Options for Europe's Future:

http://www.newpactforeurope.eu/documents/1st_report_new_pact_for_europe.pdf



ET2050 - Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe: http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/ET2050.html



An Action Plan for Europe 2020: Strategic Advice for the Post-Crisis World:

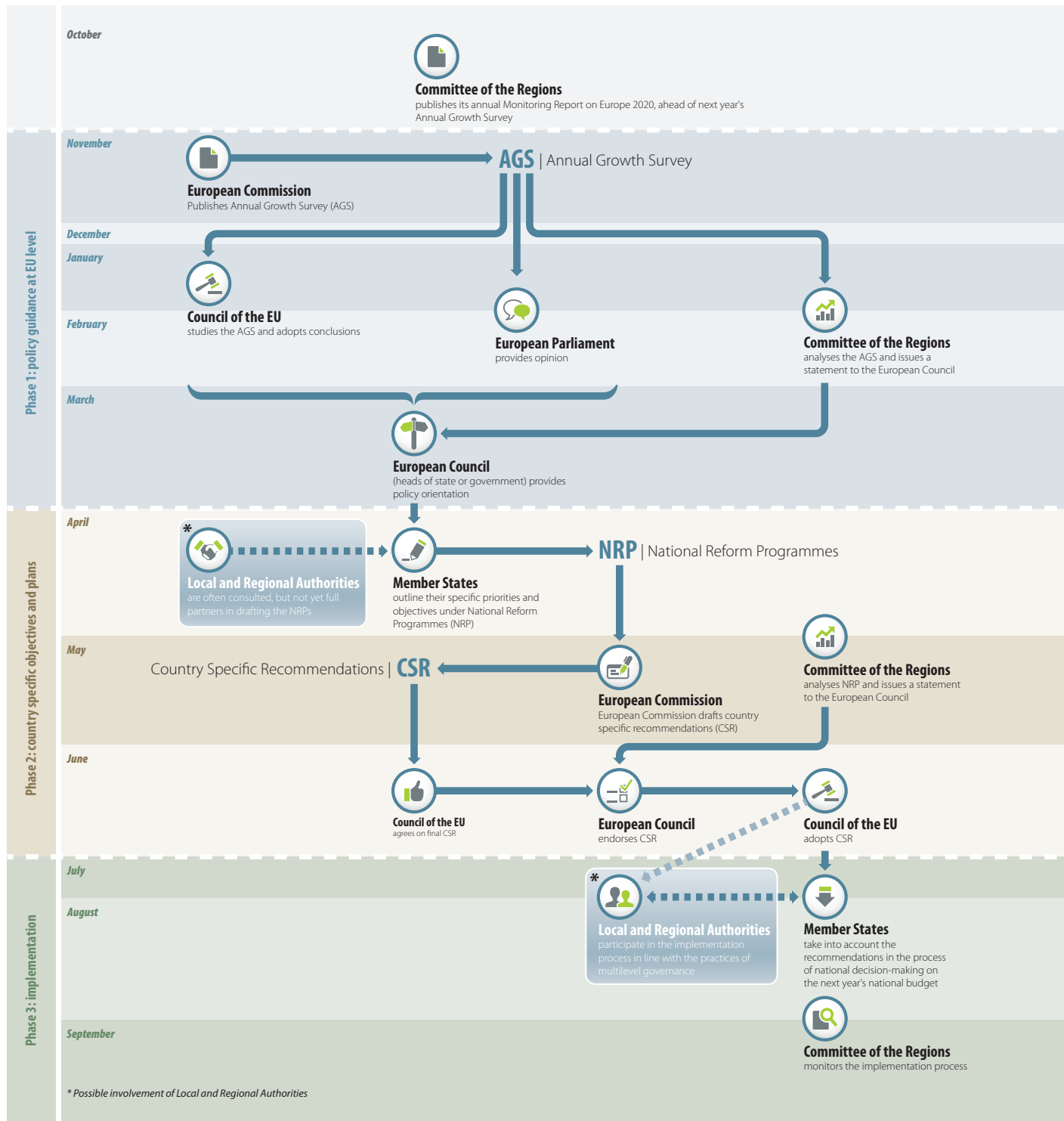
<http://www.lisboncouncil.net/publication/publication/65-an-action-plan-for-europe-2020-strategic-advice-for-the-post-crisis-world.html>



Four scenarios for the reinvention of Europe: http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR43_REINVENTION_OF_EUROPE_ESSAY_AW1.pdf



European Semester & involvement of local and regional authorities



Developing Europe 2020 vision in EU regions and cities

2

2.1 No one can act alone: multilevel governance and National Reform Programmes

The strategic restructuring of our economies and creating jobs and growth requires long term planning and partnership between Member States, regions, cities, socio-economic partners and civil society.

Policy coordination, budget synchronisation and a shared commitment towards the joint implementation of our shared 2020 Agenda for sustainable, smart and inclusive growth are a top priority. To achieve the Europe 2020 Strategy headline goals on time, we need to work together and share the same policy agenda. Multilevel governance helps ensure that all the relevant actors can cooperate with – and not work against – one other. All stakeholders should promote this intelligent system of multilevel governance to ensure that all relevant partners can connect, engage in dialogue and cooperate together to

address common challenges on the ground. However, establishing a new culture of cooperation of this kind will require both time and persistence. It needs to start 'bottom-up' in Europe's regions and cities.



The CoR's work on multilevel governance, including scoreboards, best practices and the CoR White Paper on Multilevel Governance:
<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/governance/Pages/multilevel-governance1.aspx>

In the context of Europe 2020, setting-up intelligent multilevel governance coordination structures will provide all actors involved in the delivery of the National Reform Programme with the necessary tools and mechanisms to pool together their budgets and expertise and to exchange good practices. The regions and the cities therefore need to be structurally involved in the entire policy cycle (drafting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) related to the annual reporting on the NRP at EU level.

Territorial Pacts on Europe 2020

The Committee of the Regions proposed the adoption of Territorial Pacts on Europe 2020 in all Member States. The Territorial Pact is defined as an agreement between a country's different tiers of government (local, regional, national). Parties signing up to a Territorial Pact undertake to coordinate and synchronise their policy agendas in order to focus their actions and financial resources on the Europe 2020 Strategy goals and targets.

To read more: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/TerritorialPacts.aspx>



Europe 2020 - what about the outermost regions?

On 20 June 2012 the European Commission presented its Communication on The outermost regions of the EU: towards a partnership for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (COM (2012) 287). The CoR adopted an opinion on this communication at its 99th plenary session, held on 31 January and 1 February 2013 (CdR 1685/2012). The objective of the policy for the outermost regions of the EU in the light of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to help the outermost regions to become more self-reliant, economically more robust and better able to create sustainable jobs, by harnessing their potential around the unique assets that each outermost region possesses, with particular focus on sectors with high added-value such as research and innovation:

European Commissions website with up-to-date information related to outermost regions:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/outermost/index_en.cfm

2.2 Develop your own Europe 2020 vision

To develop your region in line with the Europe 2020 priorities – and ensure that the specific needs and challenges of your territory are taken into account – you should consider developing your own 2020 vision, drawn up in partnership in accordance with the multilevel governance principle outlined above.

First conduct a territorial SWOT-analysis

Before drawing up your 2020 vision it is useful to know how your region or city compares statistically with other territories with a similar profile. A territorial SWOT-analysis mapping the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats for your region and its immediate neighbourhood can be very helpful for addressing future challenges and should take full account of the latest objective statistics available and build upon the strengths of your region. Results of the SWOT-analysis will provide the basis for your '2020 vision'.

How to draw up a territorial SWOT analysis: www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Related%20Documents/PL_PRES_BR_territorial_dimension.pdf



Ask the right questions

To help you develop your 2020 vision based on the results of the SWOT analysis:

- ✓ Which actions in line with my territorial needs and my country's National Reform Programme, can I further develop to ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in my territory?
- ✓ What contribution would these actions make to the country's Europe 2020 targets set out in the National Reform Programme?
- ✓ Which stakeholders should be involved in these measures? And how can they be involved in a timely and structural manner?
- ✓ In particular, how should the different levels of government involved (EU, national, regional, local) work in partnership towards achieving the shared goals?

To allow you to track progress, the NRP could serve as an example for your territory. It should set out preferable 'breakthroughs', headline targets, milestones, key performance indicators and a monitoring and policy evaluation process. All stakeholders will need to cooperate and take part in achieving the set goals. This can lead to organisational or institutional reform.

See the OECD experience on public governance, monitoring and evaluation: www.oecd.org/topic/0,3699,en_2649_34141_1_1_1_1_37405,00.html



Institutional capacity building and developing your expertise

To make full use of its potential, your region should allocate the necessary human resources and technical know-how to territorial foresight and monitoring. EU funds can provide important assistance for institutional capacity building.

Looking for examples of how to improve your administrative capacity?

In Search of Local Public Management Excellence Seven Journeys to Success – published by the European Institute for Public Administration: http://www.epsa2013.eu/files/In_Search_of_Local_Public_Management_Excellence_Seven_Journeys_to_Success_2013.pdf



Powering European Public Sector Innovation: Towards A New Architecture. Report of the Expert Group on Public Sector Innovation – published by the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/PSI_EG.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none





INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial cooperation objective and is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The overall objective of the INTERREG IVC Programme is to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments. A project builds on the exchange of experiences among partners who are ideally responsible for the development of their local and regional policies. The new interregional cooperation programme 2014-2020, known as INTERREG EUROPE, is being developed. A public consultation on the draft programme was launched on 10 January 2014 and closes on 21 March 2014:

<http://www.interreg4c.eu/>



INTERACT provides practical support, training and advice to European territorial cooperation programmes on management techniques, financial issues, European regulations, communication, strategic orientation and policy development:

<http://www.interact-eu.net>

EGTC – A tool to empower regions and cities

EGTC stands for European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. The EGTC, established by Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006, amended by Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013, enables public entities from different Member States to come together to create a new body with legal personality under European Law. The EGTC can be a tool for multilevel governance and for implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy, boosting competitiveness and sustainability. It can implement many actions with or without EU funding. By the end of 2013 there were 42 Groupings, distributed across 19 EU Member States. From 22 June 2014 onwards, private not-for-profit organisations providing public services will be allowed to participate in an EGTC, and also entities from EU neighbouring countries, provided they are authorised to do so.



The portal of the EGTC Platform of the CoR contains an official list of the Groupings that have been set up and specific information about how to create new EGTCs: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc>



Erasmus for local and regional elected representatives

The European Commission launched, in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament's Preparatory Action entitled Erasmus for local and regional elected representatives. Its aim was to increase European elected representatives' knowledge and expertise on EU Cohesion Policy through ad hoc training and transnational learning activities:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/tender/pdf/expressions/erasmus2012/tor.doc

2.3 Concentrate efforts to implement your Europe 2020 vision

The Europe 2020 goals need sufficient investments. Quality of expenditure is no less important than quantity.

From a financial point of view, cohesion policy can significantly contribute to the Europe 2020 goals, yet numerous, other sources of financing are also available at local, regional and national levels, including:

- local authorities' own resources;
- local partners' resources;
- municipal and regional subsidies;
- public-Private Partnerships.

The European Cohesion Policy

The reformed cohesion policy for 2014-2020 will make up to EUR 366.8 billion available to invest in Europe's regions, cities and the real economy. It is the EU's principle investment tool for delivering the Europe 2020 goals: creating growth and jobs, tackling climate change and energy dependence, and reducing poverty and social exclusion. The main elements of the new cohesion policy are presented at the end of this section.

Local and regional responses

Municipalities and regions have a variety of different responsibilities in terms of designing and delivering specific policy responses to the three high level European challenges identified in the following sections (i.e. smart, sustainable and inclusive growth). In addition, they also often have other powers which can have a significant impact on setting the framework conditions or the approach taken to deliver successful sectoral initiatives.

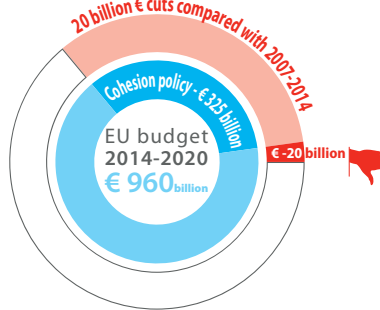
ESIF 2014-2020: Local and Regional Authorities as partners

The European Code of Conduct on Partnership requires Member States to strengthen cooperation between their authorities responsible for spending EU structural and investment funds and project partners in the 2014-20 programming period, and so help to ensure that this money is spent effectively. The Code of Conduct is a legally binding regulation and comprises a set of standards to improve consultation, participation and dialogue with partners such as regional, local, urban and other public authorities, trade unions, employers, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination during the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which include: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).



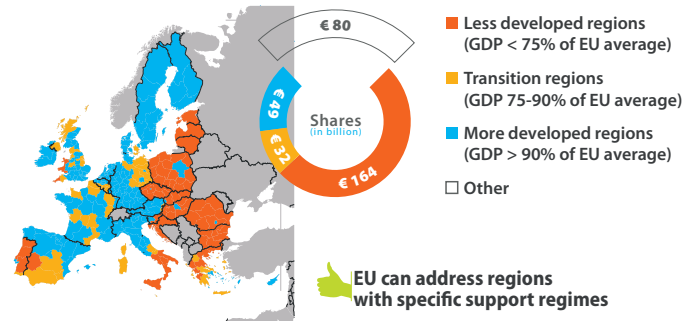
Regions and cities & the reform of the cohesion policy

Less money



👍 Cohesion policy
1/3 of EU budget

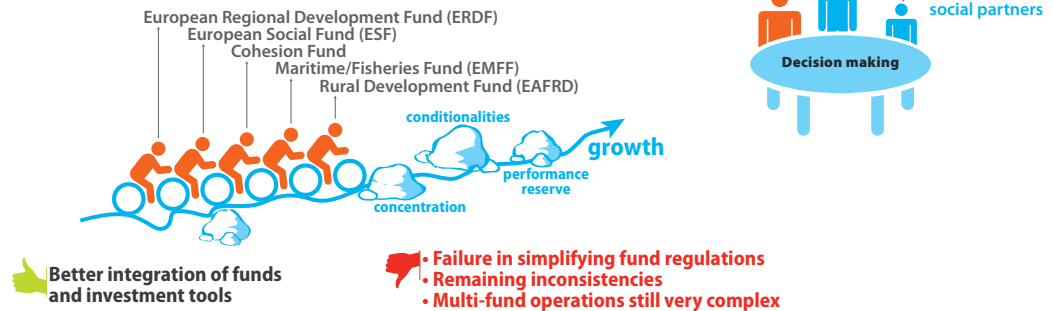
All EU regions benefit



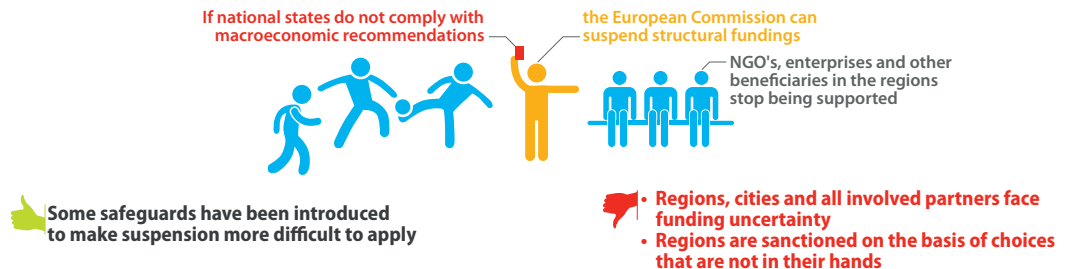
Stronger role for regions and cities

👍 Mandatory inclusion of regions and cities at the key tables where decisions are made

Common rules



Suspension of fundings



The Code of Conduct on Partnership gives therefore regional and local authorities a central role in the preparation, design, implementation and monitoring of the regional strategies and programmes. This will help to ensure that future strategies and programmes reflect regional needs, and investments have maximum impact.

More synergies between EU, national and subnational budgets? See the CoR opinion on this subject adopted at the 99th CoR plenary session, 31 January-1 February 2013 (CDR 1778/2012): <http://www.toad.cor.europa.eu/corwipdetail.aspx?folderpath=BUDG-V/004&id=21684>

Consult the European Policy Centre study drawn up for the Committee of the Regions on the MFF 2014-2020: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/mff-analysis.pdf>



Procurement policy

European Directives set out an EU framework for transparent public procurement, which is transposed by the national authorities. Under these rules, the procurement authorities at local and regional level can play a decisive role in ensuring the smart use of procurement procedures to help achieve wider EU objectives. EU policy initiatives, toolkits and guides are available to promote the strategic use of procurement procedures to serve cost effective solutions while taking account of other policy concerns.

E-procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/e-procurement/index_en.htm

Innovative procurement through pre-commercial procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/tl/research/priv_invest/pcp/index_en.htm

Green procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/other_aspects/index_en.htm#green
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

Opening procurement to SMEs: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/other_aspects/index_en.htm#smes

Social and Ethical procurement: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/other_aspects/index_en.htm#social



Setting local bylaws and simplification

Local and regional public authorities often have the power to set or regulate certain activities in their area by setting bylaws or issuing permits. In addition, the enforcement of rules set at EU and national level is sometimes the responsibility of the local or regional authorities. Such measures represent an important part of the framework for economic and social development at local or regional level. Public authorities need to be aware of the impact of their choices in this field.

- European rules on the energy performance of buildings may be well transposed at national level yet the aims of these rules may nonetheless be thwarted if public authorities are unable to ensure effective verification of compliance;
- it is possible that local or regional requirements for reporting or monitoring go well beyond or are different to similar National or EU requirements in the same policy area. Gold plating or delays in the procedures for registering SME may increase the information or bureaucratic burden on SMEs.

Taxation and charges

While national tax arrangements clearly predominate, local and regional public authorities can play an important role in setting or collecting taxes or charges. Where these taxation or charging responsibilities are significant, it is important to ensure that local or regional taxes or charges are consistent with wider objectives.



Tax reforms in EU Member States in 2013. Tax policy challenges for economic growth and fiscal sustainability

The report presents tax reforms implemented in EU Member States in 2012 and in 2013. It also discusses selected tax policy challenges that are relevant for improving Member States' tax systems. These challenges encompass the potential contribution of taxation to consolidating public finances – in addition to expenditure control – and the growth friendliness of the tax structure: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2013/pdf/ee5_en.pdf

Opportunities offered by the European Investment Bank

The EIB is the long-term financing institution of the European Union. Its mission is to help implement the EU's policy objectives by financing sound business projects. To finance these projects, the Bank borrows on the capital markets and operates on a "not for profit maximising" basis. The EIB's 2012-2014 operational plan responds to an environment in which Europe has the difficult task of addressing the impact of the economic crisis while accelerating its transition to a smarter, greener and sustainable economy. The priority objectives for the EIB's lending activities set out in the Bank's operational plan include: support for SMEs, economic and social cohesion and convergence, protecting and enhancing the environment, implementation of the knowledge economy and the development of trans-European networks. In 2012 the EIB started the pilot phase of the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative. It was launched to test the project bond concept during the remaining period of the previous multi-annual financial framework 2007-2013:

<http://www.eib.org/>



Innovative Financial Instruments

The EU has a key role to play in helping to restore confidence in the economy, by creating framework conditions to help mobilise the limited public and private resources available to stimulate key investments at local and regional level, and address the ongoing shortfall in availability of finance and credit for SMEs. In April 2013, the CoR adopted an own-initiative opinion on Synergies between private investment and public funding at local and regional levels – Partnerships for economic growth and prosperity (CDR 272/2013), in which it outlines the rationale behind, justification for, and benefits of Private-Public Partnerships and Innovative Financial Instruments, and discusses the role of the European Investment Bank and the bottlenecks hindering use of public private partnerships and innovative financial instruments. European Commission's website on Innovative Financial Instruments:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/financial_operations/investment/innovative_financial_instruments/index_en.htm



RegionNetwork 2020

RegionNetwork 2020 is an on-line professional networking platform for cooperation and the exchange of good practice between European regions. The site allows users to: set up and contribute to thematic groups; share examples of good practice; create profiles for a region; create profiles for an individual and follow the activities of regions and individuals:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regionnetwork2020>

2.4 Practices and examples of delivering in partnership on Europe 2020

Over time, the LRAs have developed a range of interesting mechanisms and governance structures to suit their competences, financial means and geographical size. Many public authorities have treated Europe 2020 as an opportunity to pursue the development of their region in a sustainable, smart and inclusive way.

Regional experiences



Flanders in Action (ViA) Flanders' regional strategy, ViA, adds a further, Flemish dimension to the Europe 2020 strategy, as a Flemish Reform Programme is drawn up annually indicating the measures taken by Flanders to achieve the five Europe 2020 objectives:

http://www.vlaandereninactie.be/sites/default/files/brochure_flanders_in_action.pdf

Catalonia 2020 Strategy (ECAT2020) Taking into account both the Europe and the seven flagship initiatives and the needs of the Catalan economy, ECAT 2020 identifies six priority areas; it also includes measures established under the sector-specific plans drawn up by Catalan government ministries to bring the Europe 2020 Strategy to Catalonia:

http://www20.gencat.cat/docs/economia/70_Economia_Catalana/arxius/ecat2020/ECAT2020_en.pdf

Region of South Denmark's strategy 2012-2020 The region has put together an economic development strategy 2012-2020 through the Growth Forum, starting from its own regional potential and setting regional goals and targets. It is based on a commercial and political partnership involving the business community, knowledge and education institutions, unions and employers' organisations, local authorities and the region of Southern Denmark:

<http://syddanmark2020.dk/en/>

Wielkopolska 2020 strategy The Wielkopolskie Voivodship has developed a very comprehensive strategy with regard to EU 2020, which includes a vision for growth, the territorial dimension, an implementation system with horizontal rules, instruments (financial, legal, institutional), and monitoring: http://www.umww.pl/attachments/article/11584/2.SRWW_wersja_ang.pdf

North Sea Region 2020 The North Sea Region has developed its own strategy to support the implementation of EU 2020, following it closely. The strategy sets out priority actions in order to achieve Europe 2020 objectives and each of the priorities supports several of the Flagship Initiatives:

<http://www.northseacommission.info/index.php/strategy-and-development/north-sea-region-2020>

Local experiences



Solna (Sweden) has aligned its city budget and action plans with Europe 2020: www.solna.se

Eskilstuna Municipality (Sweden) has developed its own strategic targets with measurable indicators on the basis of the Europe 2020 strategy: <http://www.eskilstuna.se/>

Achterhoek 2020 (Netherlands)

Eight municipalities and one water board are working with a variety of umbrella associations, a Chamber of Commerce and numerous civil society organisations to preserve the region's vitality going forward to 2020. It is a cooperative model, set out in a covenant: <http://achterhoek2020.nl/>

Member State experiences



Territorial Contracts law (Poland)

Under the 2010-2020 National Regional Development Strategy, territorial contracts between regional and central government are one of the main financial instruments for regional development: http://www.mir.gov.pl/english/Regional_Development/Regional_Policy/NSRD/strony/nsrd_2011.aspx

Territorial Pacts to deliver on Europe 2020 (Romania)

The NRP for 2011-2013 refers to territorial pacts. The authorities plan to establish 'pilot territorial pacts' with local administrations particularly keen on contributing to national EU 2020 targets: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nrp/nrp_romania_en.pdf

Policy learning and recommendations

- ✓ Define your own 2020 vision, based on a territorial SWOT analysis and inspired by integrated policymaking, coordinating different sectoral policies.
- ✓ Actively participate in the drafting, implementation, monitoring, revision and evaluation processes of the National Reform Programme.
- ✓ Translate your country's National Reform Programme into regional and local specific targets, taking into account your specific starting point.
- ✓ Elaborate a 2020 investment agenda by aligning your budget as far as possible with the financing priorities of your 2020 vision.
- ✓ Make full use of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 and get involved in the process of the drafting of and follow-up to your countries' Partnership Agreement, detailing the strategic orientations for the whole programming period (2014-2020).
- ✓ Invest in capacity building and dedicate adequate human resources to the follow-up of your 2020 vision, developing key performance indicators to ensure policy monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- ✓ Develop sound multilevel governance coordination structures enabling ownership in a timely and structural manner that involves all relevant public and private actors.
- ✓ Whenever possible, give multilevel governance a contractual content - for instance through a 'Territorial Pact' identifying actions to be taken by each tier of government, funding and deadlines - in order to coordinate and synchronise their policy agendas.
- ✓ Learn from best practices from other regions and cities, especially those most similar to you.

GROWTH





EU tools and good practices from EU regions and cities

3

The following section outlines the main EU initiatives and sources of funding, devoting a separate subsection to each of the three Europe 2020 priorities and seven flagships initiatives in turn.

As the Europe 2020 priorities and flagship initiatives are mutually reinforcing, this division has been made to help readers go through the structure of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

3.1 Smart growth

What is smart growth?

The first pillar of Europe 2020 is about smart growth, which means boosting the EU's competitiveness by improving its performance in:

- education (encouraging people to learn, study and update their skills);
- research/innovation (creating new products/services that generate growth and jobs and help address social challenges);

- digital society (using information and communication technologies).



EU-level targets for smart growth

1. Combined public and private investment levels to reach 3% of the EU's GDP along with better conditions for R&D and Innovation
2. 75% employment rate for women and men aged 20-64 by 2020 by getting more people into work: women, young people, older and low-skilled people, legal migrants
3. Better educational attainment – in particular:
 - reducing school drop-out rates to below 10%;
 - at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds with tertiary education.



Readers can consult all EU-level targets as well as their own country targets:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/targets/eu-targets/index_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf

EU policies for smart growth

As part of Europe 2020, the EU has designed three flagship initiatives for supporting smart growth: Digital Agenda for Europe, Innovation Union and Youth on the Move.

3.1.1 Digital Agenda for Europe

The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to reboot Europe's economy and help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. The review of this flagship initiative, published on 18th December 2012, identifies 7 key areas for further efforts to stimulate the conditions to create growth and jobs in Europe:

1. Create a new and stable broadband regulatory environment;
2. New public digital service infrastructures through Connecting Europe Facility loans;
3. Launch the Grand Coalition for Digital Skills and Jobs;
4. Propose EU cyber-security strategy and Directive;
5. Update the EU's copyright framework;
6. Accelerate cloud computing through public sector buying power;
7. Launch new electronics industrial strategy – an "Airbus of Chips":

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm



Monitoring progress made on the Digital Agenda for Europe: An annual progress report shows the state of play of the DAE:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/scoreboard/docs/101actionsoverviewtable.pdf

Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/europe-2020-conference-digital-agenda.aspx>



Going Local

By reporting on the progress of the Digital Agenda, this exercise identifies challenges for the future and stimulates action and commitments by the main stakeholders in each Member State. Some 1900 stakeholders have taken part in the Going Local exercise, which is valuable for triggering the first wave of stakeholder discussions after the launch of the DAE and for stimulating engagement:

<http://daa.ec.europa.eu/going-local>



Connecting Europe Facility

A plan to give Europe's transport, energy and digital networks a boost of over EUR 30 billion, it will help to build railways, cross-border roads, energy grids and pipelines, digital service infrastructures and broadband networks, generating growth and jobs and making life, work, and travel easier for millions of EU citizens and businesses. It will also make Europe's economy greener by promoting cleaner modes of transport, high-speed broadband connections and facilitating renewable energy use. The financing will be assisted through innovative financial instruments, such as the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative.



The Green Digital Charter

This initiative was launched at the end of 2009 to encourage cities to reduce the carbon footprint of their ICT and to roll-out ICT solutions leading to more energy efficiency in areas such as buildings, transport and energy. As at January 2014, 28 cities have signed up to the Green Digital Charter and many others are interested in committing to: working with Green Digital Charter signatories on ICT and ICT energy efficiency ; deploying five large-scale pilot projects per city within five years of their signature; decreasing ICT's direct carbon footprint per city by 30% within 10 years:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sustainable_growth/green_digital_charter/index_en.htm



Smart Specialization Platform (S3Platform)

This platform aims to help regions and Member States draft their smart specialisation strategies through peer reviews, guidance material, training courses, seminars on specific themes, a website and a newsletter:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



Guide to Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation

This guide has been conceived as a methodological guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies on how to prepare for and how to design, draft and implement a national/regional research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation (RIS3). Rather than an all-encompassing, prescriptive document, the guide is to be understood as a general orientation document which will evolve as the concept develops. Indeed, the document will be improved and updated on a regular basis:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3pguide?sessionid=YtPYSLbTL96RbPSLf1VyLqRw0vTMqbKszbk7GTv7wNnCkymG2Pz5!1379442331!1384897363150>



Your City, Your Money - Cologne participatory budgeting, Cologne (Germany)

Since 2008, the City of Cologne has been consulting with its citizens about how to spend and save money. Via the website buergerhaushalt.stadt-koeln.de, the citizens of Cologne can publish their proposals on how the city council should allocate the money in its budget. Participatory budgets are not only a new development in enhancing democratic governance, but also a modernised form of administration:

www.buergerhaushalt.stadt-koeln.de

Digital technology as a driver for sustainable economic development, Auvergne (France)

In 2012, the Auvergne region started a programme supporting the digital development of businesses, funded jointly by the French state and EU funds, associating the Cybermassif network and its ICT resource centres. The region and French state are now launching a governing body on the digital economy in Auvergne in order to guarantee the synergy between existing initiatives, encourage new ones and keep track of the impact they have on competitiveness and employment:

<http://www.auvergne.fr/thematique/numerique>; <http://www.osez-le-numerique.fr/>

Virtual Bus: Mobile Internet training and research unit (Cyprus)

The Virtual Bus research project was run by the University of Nicosia and Virtual IT to identify and implement long term methods and techniques to reduce the digital gap between the rural and urban areas in Cyprus. The Virtual Bus toured around the island's rural areas training citizens and SMEs in the use and exploitation of ICTs and disseminating information on related projects:

www.virtualbus.com.cy

In relation to the Digital Agenda for Europe flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ create local digital agendas to speed up the optimal use of ICT through orchestrated local, regional and European cooperation;
- ✓ improve interoperability and e-government by developing new applications such as people-centred e-services, e-learning, e-health, e-voting, e-administration, intelligent transport systems and regional information modelling in urban planning;

- ✓ promote the Digital Single Market as a cornerstone of the Digital Agenda for Europe and supporting large-scale pioneering projects drawing on top European expertise involving all the various stakeholders;
- ✓ ensure equal and affordable broadband access everywhere and lead pilot projects aimed at closing the accessibility gap;
- ✓ develop joint solutions for data protection and security issues on the use of ICT products and services, essential for ensuring public trust in those products and services and the take-up of the opportunities offered.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to the Digital Agenda for Europe

The CoR adopted several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: European single market for electronic communications (CdR 5960/2013); Trans-European Telecommunication Networks (CdR 399/2011); Data Protection Package (CdR 625/2012); Cloud Computing (CdR 1673/2012); Cyber Security Strategy (CdR 1646/2013); The European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015 (CdR 65/2011).

Consult relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>



3.1.2 Innovation Union

The overall aim of this flagship initiative is to re-focus research and development (R&D) and innovation policy on the challenges facing our society, such as climate change, energy, health and demographic change. The Innovation Union contains over thirty action points and has evolved greatly since its launch in 2010. New building blocks, such as the Smart Specialisation Platform and five European Innovation Partnerships, have been launched. The Innovation Union will further develop in line with the programmes made available under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm

A pocket guide on the Innovation Union:
<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/innovation-union-pbKI3213062/>



Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary:
<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/eu2020-innovation-union.aspx>



Monitoring progress made on the Innovation Union

An Annual Innovation Union Scoreboard shows the state of play of the flagship initiative in the Member States:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index_en.htm





Regional implementation of the flagship initiative is monitored and presented in the Regional Innovation Union Scoreboard:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/regional-innovation/>



Regional policy for smart growth of SMEs

This is a guide for managing authorities and bodies in charge of the development and implementation of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation. This guide provides thoughts, tips and ideas on how to enhance R&D and innovation activities and how to strengthen enterprise competitiveness. It draws on SME specific policy experiences and spans a wide range of policies, including research, innovation, cluster, state aid, internal market, education and training policies. It shows that SME competitiveness in Europe relies heavily on innovation and thus the successful design and implementation of a National/Regional Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS³):

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/sme_guide/sme_guide_en.pdf



Amsterdam Smart City, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Amsterdam Smart City is a unique partnership between businesses, authorities, research institutions and the people of Amsterdam. Together, its goal is to develop the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area into a smart city with investments in capital and communication infrastructure fuelling sustainable economic growth and a high quality of life, in combination with an efficient use of natural resources:

<http://amsterdamsmartcity.com/>

CoCoSi, Slovenia

The Competence Centres initiative is based on public-private partnership and is 85% cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund. Seven competence centres aim to be a sustainable and efficient tool for implementing smart specialisation strategies and achieving EU and Horizon 2020 goals in Slovenia:

<http://www.cocosi.si/>

CATE – Cluster for Accelerator Technology, Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak region

Cluster for Accelerator Technology (CATE) is an Interreg-project in the region of Oresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak. Two world-class particle accelerators, the European Spallation Source, ESS, and the MAX-IV facility, are to be built in southern Sweden. They will primarily be used for research in the fields of material sciences, life sciences and medicine:

www.cateproject.org

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the European Framework Programme for research and innovation. It succeeds FP7 and covers the period 2014-2020. Horizon 2020 supports research and innovation projects and programmes in ground-breaking basic research, strategic and applied research, demonstration projects and close-to-market activities. Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union. In principle, Horizon 2020 combines all research and innovation funding previously provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The total budget of Horizon 2020 will be EUR 70.2 billion for the period 2014-2020.



Horizon 2020 main webpage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Horizon 2020 Online Manual:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/guide.html>

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology, EIT

The capacity of a society to innovate is crucial in an increasingly knowledge-intensive economy. The EIT aims to enhance Europe's ability to innovate. The EIT achieves its goal by fully integrating all three sides of the "knowledge triangle" - higher education, research and business - in so-called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). While the EIT's Headquarters are situated in Budapest, in Hungary, the EIT is not concentrated in one campus like a traditional institute, instead operating through the KICs. To date, three KICs have been launched. Each of the EIT's KICs operates across a limited number of hubs called "co-location centres".



European Institute of Innovation and Technology: <http://www.eit.europa.eu>

Climate-KIC: climate change mitigation and adaptation: <http://www.climate-kic.org/>

EIT ICT Labs: next generation information society: <http://www.eitictlabs.eu/>

KIC InnoEnergy: sustainable energy: <http://www.kic-innoenergy.com/>





EIT Strategy for 2014-2020

The EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and the EIT's amended Regulation, adopted by the European Parliament and Council in December 2013, define the framework for the EIT's operations for the period from 2014 to 2020. The EIT will contribute considerably to the objectives set out in Horizon 2020, in particular by addressing societal challenges in a way that complements other initiatives in these areas. Five new KICs will be launched, addressing the following themes:

innovation for healthy living and active ageing (2014); raw materials - sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution (2014); Food4Future - sustainable supply chain from resources to consumers (2016); added-value manufacturing (2016); and urban mobility (2018).

In relation to the Innovation Union flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ develop partnerships to serve as platforms for increasing the knowledge base of regional decision makers and promoting societal innovations;
- ✓ establish a Smart Specialisation Platform to support and encourage regions to adopt strategies prioritising competitive advantages and potential cooperation with other regions;
- ✓ support collaboration between business and academia by creating Knowledge Alliances, with a focus on bridging innovation skills gaps;
- ✓ strengthen the scientific base for policy-making via a European Forum on Forward Looking Activities involving local and regional authorities and other public and private stakeholders to improve the evidence base for policies;
- ✓ develop innovation platforms as well as strengthening the activities of the knowledge triangle (synergy between research, education and innovation activities);
- ✓ close the organisational gaps between Europe's local and regional bodies through partnerships and cooperation projects, geared to an Innovation Union, that are forward-looking, durable and encourage structurally and organisationally smaller bodies to join together in applying specialist skills in a stable and structured manner.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to the Innovation Union

CoR adopted several opinions related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: European Research Area (CdR 1672/2012); Closing the innovation divide – how can local and regional authorities best use EU programmes to better link research, innovation and regional development (CdR 2414/2012); Horizon 2020 (CdR 402/2011); Creative Europe (CdR 401/2011).



Consult relevant CoR Opinions in your language at:

<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015>

3.1.3 Youth on the move

This flagship initiative aims to enhance the performance of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people onto the labour market by:

- helping students and trainees study abroad;
- equipping young people better for the job market;
- enhancing the performance/international attractiveness of Europe's universities;
- improving all levels of education and training (academic excellence, equal opportunities):

<http://europa.eu/youthonthemove>

Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/pl/news/events/Pages/europe-2020-conference-youth-on-the-move.aspx>



Erasmus+

The EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for 2014-2020 (Erasmus+) aims to boost skills and employability and modernise education, training and youth work. The seven year programme has a budget of EUR 14.7 billion. This represents a 40% increase on recent spending levels and shows the EU's commitment to investing in these areas.

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. In addition to providing grants for individuals, Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among education, training and youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe. It will also support national efforts to modernise education, training and youth systems. In the field of sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of education, training and youth, and it will for the first time provide support for sport. As an integrated programme, Erasmus+ offers more opportunities for cooperation across the education, training and youth sectors and is easier to access than its predecessors, with simplified funding rules:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus>



To learn about the Youth Employment Package and the Youth Guarantee, please see section 3.3.1 on the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs.

To learn about EU grants for students and teaching professionals to study or to work abroad, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/move/study/index_en.htm



eTwinning

An online Community for schools in Europe, teachers can register and use the eTwinning online tools (Portal and Desktop) to find each other, meet virtually, exchange ideas and examples of best practices, team up in Groups, learn together in Learning Events and engage in online-based projects: www.etwinning.net/



Birmingham Apprenticeship Scheme, Birmingham (UK) This scheme addresses youth unemployment by working with local firms to create 166 enhanced apprenticeships. It includes a one year wage subsidy paid to the employer for each apprentice and training for a nominated workplace coach/mentor for each apprentice to support the development of each young person's employability: www.birmingham.gov.uk/eat

The Youth in Action Programme, South Moravia region (Czech Republic) The project proposal aims to reinforce the European dimension in youth work and youth policymaking in the region and in the adjacent regions of the neighbouring countries (SK, AT). 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. Special emphasis is given to the inclusion of young people from underdeveloped rural areas of the border districts, as well as Roma youth and young people with disabilities: <http://www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz/>

In relation to the Youth on the Move flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ focus on key competences for the knowledge society, such as learning to learn, languages and culture, entrepreneurial and innovation skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to fully exploit the potential of ICT;
- ✓ link formal, informal and non-formal education and training to labour market needs to enhance young people's employability, unleash their potential and develop both personally and professionally;
- ✓ create opportunities for mobility for as many young people as possible, whatever their background, economic situation or geographical location;
- ✓ further develop European instruments and tools to facilitate and boost learning mobility in all parts of the education system;
- ✓ support the inclusion of the Europass (the European CV template) in the future "European skills passport" in order to promote mobility;
- ✓ adopt cooperation initiatives between public authorities seeking the best solutions for preparing students effectively for the responsibilities of adult life, developing closer cooperation between vocational training establishments, employers and universities with a view to optimum educational progression, including in the field of vocational education, involving employers in identifying

educational problems and developing solutions for these;

- ✓ stress that the foundations of good health and mobility are laid down early in life and provide the conditions for a good quality of life.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to the Youth on the Move

The CoR adopted several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: European higher education in the world (CdR 5961/2013); Youth Employment Package (CdR 789/2013); The role of local and regional authorities in promoting growth and boosting job creation (CdR 1186/2012); Erasmus for All (CdR 400/2011).

Consult this and other relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>



3.2 Sustainable growth

What is sustainable growth?

The purpose of the sustainable growth priority is to make Europe one of the world's greenest economies and a more competitive low-carbon economy that makes efficient and sustainable use of resources.

Sustainable growth also means protecting the environment, reducing emissions and preventing biodiversity loss. It also involves helping consumers make well-informed choices, capitalising on Europe's leadership in developing new green technologies and production methods, introducing efficient smart electricity grids, harnessing EU-scale networks to give our businesses (especially small manufacturing firms) an additional competitive advantage. Improving the business environment, in particular for SMEs, and helping consumers make well-informed choices, are also important.

EU level targets for sustainable growth

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



Readers can consult all EU-level targets as well as their own country targets at:
http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/targets/eu-targets/index_en.htm; http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf



These targets have been translated into two flagship initiatives to boost sustainable growth: A Resource Efficient Europe and an industrial policy for the globalisation era.

3.2.1 Resource efficient Europe

This flagship initiative aims to support the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy that offers opportunities for sustainable growth. Based on the European Commission's Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe, it sets out a vision for the structural and technological change needed up to 2050, with milestones to be reached by 2020. These milestones illustrate what Europe needs to do to be on course for resource efficient and sustainable growth:

<http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/>

Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/ressource-efficient-europe-conference.aspx>

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)

The EU SDS sets out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It recognises the need to gradually change our current unsustainable consumption and production patterns:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

Spatial planning and land use management

Spatial planning, including spatial development guidelines, decisions on the zoning of land for development purposes and land use management all play a fundamental role in orientating and locking society into land use patterns. Such decisions or practices have a clear medium and long term impact. Spatial planning is very often not decided at national level.

In order to reduce any negative impact in the short, medium or long term, public authorities must take social and environmental considerations into account in their spatial planning and land management decisions alongside economic considerations. Specific examples of the relevance or influence of practices in this field include:

- approving plans for major urban redevelopment projects (commercial property and private housing) which have no public transport links will clearly have a negative impact in terms of social inclusion and sustainable urban mobility;
- designating land located on natural flood plains for commercial or residential development in return for short term profits can lead to unsustainable developments which may not be covered by insurance against natural risks.



Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0112:EN:NOT>

Covenant of Mayors

Do you want to commit your city to reaching the European Union 20% CO₂ reduction objective by 2020? Join the Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors, with already more than 5400 signatories is a mainstream European movement supported by the Committee of the Regions involving local and regional authorities who voluntarily commit to increasing their energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO₂ reduction objective by 2020:

www.eumayors.eu



The Covenant of Mayors in Abruzzo (Italy)

Abruzzo is the only region in Italy in which 305 cities have all joined the Covenant of Mayors' regional administration and all provincial administrations act as coordinators. To date, a total of 618 actions have been carried out, mainly in schools, including an increase in the efficiency of existing plants, an increase in the efficiency of public street lighting systems, the implementation of photovoltaic and thermodynamic solar plants, the construction of insulating walls, the replacement of boilers, casings and windows, and the installation of temperature controllers on heating systems:

www.eumayors.eu; www.regione.abruzzo.it



The Istanbul water consensus (IWC)

The IWC is a global compact signed on a voluntary basis by Local and Regional Authorities willing to adapt their water infrastructure and services to the emerging challenges they are increasingly facing such as climate change, rapid urban growth, depletion and pollution of water resources or ageing infrastructure. By signing the document, LRAs commit to preparing action plans and developing targets and related indicators to monitor progress toward these targets. The implementation phase is supported by a number of Champion Cities acting as drivers and guides for implementation on particular challenges. The IWC document and the list of current signatories are available at:

www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org



The LIFE programme

As the EU's funding instrument for the environment, LIFE's main objective is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by cofinancing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>





PURE - From Treated Wastewater to Alternative Water Resources in Semi-Arid Regions (Greece)

Funded by the European Commission as part of the Life+ Environment Policy and Governance Programme, PURE is a demonstration project aimed at upgrading treated wastewater to alternative water resources in semi-arid regions:

www.pure-hersonissos.gr/



EVUE (Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe), City of Lisbon (Portugal)

Lisbon City Council has adopted resource efficiency policies through the Lisbon strategic plan (2010-2024), including the Energy-Environment Strategy, in compliance with the Covenant of Mayors; they were both revised by the Urban Master Plan, which entered into force in 2012 for a period of 10 years. They include several measures such as the Solar Action Plan, the Integrated Municipal Ecological Structure, the Lisbon 2020 biodiversity project and the EVUE (Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe) project under URBACT:

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/low-carbon-urban-environments/evue/homepage/>
www.cm-lisboa.pt/en/city-council



The Quality of life in Europe's cities and towns

This report reveals the perplexing realities of urban Europe today, reiterates a number of global concerns and defines a vision for progress towards a more sustainable, well designed urban future:

www.eea.europa.eu/publications/quality-of-life-in-Europes-cities-and-towns



For best practices in urban sustainable development, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/about-the-award/policy-guidance/best-practice-publications/index.html>



URBACT

A European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development, it allows cities to work together to develop pragmatic solutions integrating a range of economic, social and environmental dimensions, share good practices and learn lessons from EU urban policy professionals:

<http://urbact.eu>

INEA

EU programmes related to the management of infrastructure and research projects in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications are managed by the newly established Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA). INEA is the successor to the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency (TEN-T EA), which was created by the European Commission in 2006 to manage the technical and financial implementation of its TEN-T programme. INEA officially started its activities on 1 January 2014 with the task of implementing parts of the following EU programmes: Connecting Europe Facility (CEF); Horizon 2020 and two legacy programmes in their last phases: TEN-T and Marco Polo 2007-2013. INEA brings expertise and high quality programme implementation to promote synergies between activities for the benefit of the project promoters, the Commission and the stakeholders: <http://inea.ec.europa.eu/>



The CIVITAS Initiative

The primary aim of the CIVITAS Initiative ("City-Vitality-Sustainability", or "Cleaner and Better Transport in Cities") is to help cities introduce ambitious transport measures and policies for sustainable urban mobility: www.civitas-initiative.org



CIVITAS MIMOSA, Bologna (Italy)

Thanks to CIVITAS MIMOSA, Bologna has become a pilot site for new activities that help the city improve its urban transport. It won the 2010 CIVITAS Technological Innovation award for an intelligent transport system integrating traffic monitoring and rule enforcement:

www.civitas.eu/index.php?id=66&sel_menu=35&city_id=92



The Reference Framework for European sustainable cities

An on-line toolkit to help actors of urban management and development improve sustainability, it offers a multi-purpose decision-making and communication tool to promote sustainable urban development: www.rfsustainablecities.eu/



Climate Living in Cities Concept (CLICC), Malmö (Sweden)

This is part of Malmö's overall plan to reduce energy use per capita in the city by 20% by 2020. The objective of CLICC is to refurbish three post-war compounds, which comprise 1200 households, and reduce their household carbon emissions by 50% by 2014.

Refurbishment measures include replacing traditional heating with a new system that generates warmth from used air, fitting new radiators and installing photovoltaic panels:

www.clicc.se





CIVITAS DYN@MO, Koprivnica (Croatia)

The City of Koprivnica has adopted policies aiming to hardwire sustainable development into all aspects of planning and implementation, though sustainable urban planning and land use; energy efficiency construction measures; the use of renewable energy sources; the efficient use of water; sustainable wastewater management; sustainable transport and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, for instance, has been developed under the CIVITAS DYN@MO project:

<http://www.civitas.eu/content/development-and-adoption-sustainable-urban-mobility-plan>



Generation Awake

The European Commission has launched a pan-European campaign on resource efficiency 'Generation Awake. Your choices make a world of difference', to raise awareness about the need to use natural resources wisely, and encourage citizens to think about the impact their purchases have on the planet: www.generationawake.eu



Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM):

ICZM aims to support the sustainable and efficient use of natural, socio-economic and cultural resources in coastal areas through the integrated management of all policy processes affecting the coastal zone across sectors.

The Commission has set up the Ourcoast (<http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast/index.cfm?menuID=3>) web-based platform with a database of about 350 concrete ICZM cases:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>



Click on these links for information about EU action in the area of sustainable growth:

- Air Pollution: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/index.htm>
- Noise: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/>
- Clean Urban Transport: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/clean/index_en.htm
- European Energy strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm
- Green public procurement: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index.htm>
- Research on sustainable issues: http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=cultural
- Sustainable Construction: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/lead-market-initiative/sustainable-construction/>

In relation to the Resource efficient Europe flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ motivate producers and consumers to adopt more climate-friendly and resource-efficient behaviour;
- ✓ improve governance on climate change – local and regional authorities need to be involved as key players in the efforts to combat and mitigate climate change and promote the more sustainable use of resources;

- ✓ adopt local or regional climate and energy strategies which foresee more green procurement for public budgets, including projects using funding from the Member States and the European Union;
- ✓ use roadmaps and action pacts to mobilise political support and promote investment in climate-friendly infrastructure, energy system renewal and environmental public services.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to the Resource Efficient Europe:

The CoR adopted several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: EU strategy on adaptation to climate change (CdR 3752/2013) Energy Efficiency in cities and rural districts (CdR 85/2012); Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market (CdR 2182/2012); Green Paper on a European strategy on plastic waste in the environment (CdR 3751/2013); Energy Roadmap 2050 (CdR 88/2012); A mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions (CdR 87/2012); The review of key EU waste targets (CdR 1617/2013); Shale gas (CdR 1616/2013); The Clean Power for Transport package (CdR 28/2013); Energy efficiency (CdR 188/2011); Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond (CdR 7/2011); The role of regional and local authorities in promoting sustainable water policy (CdR 5/2011).

Consult relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>



3.2.2 Industrial policy for the globalisation era

This flagship initiative sets out a strategy that aims to boost growth and jobs by maintaining and supporting a strong, diversified and competitive industrial base in Europe, offering well-paid jobs while becoming less carbon-intensive. On 10 October 2012 the Commission adopted an update of the Industrial Policy flagship initiative, entitled A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery.

Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/europe-2020-conference-industrial-policy.aspx>



Achieving the ambitions of a strong, diversified and competitive EU industrial base requires mutually reinforcing policies through the flagship initiatives developed under the Europe 2020 strategy and strategies such as the strategy on the EU's Single Market Act:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

The Small Business Act for Europe (SBA)

The SBA was launched in 2008 to improve the business environment for SMEs and to promote their competitiveness. In February 2011 a review of the SBA was adopted to take stock of progress achieved and propose new actions in line with the Europe 2020 strategy priorities to respond to the new challenges facing SMEs:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/index_en.htm



The SBA Good Practices database offers a series of more than 800 good examples of public authority action to improve the business environment of SMEs: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/database/SBA/index.cfm?fuseaction=welcome.detail>



The SME Performance Review is one of the main tools used by the European Commission to monitor and assess Member States' performance in implementing the Small Business Act. It offers an Annual Report, specific studies and detailed Country SBA Fact Sheets: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/index_en.htm



European Entrepreneurial Region

The EER is a scheme developed by the Committee of the Regions which rewards up to three EU regions with the most outstanding ;political vision for boosting their entrepreneurial environment each year. The EER label recognises forward-thinking regions, irrespective of their wealth, size or competences. One of its main objectives is to help regions to contribute to the implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA):

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx>



European Entrepreneurial Regions label for the year 2014

Putting a strong focus on continuous innovation and creativity, **Flanders** (Belgium) is implementing an outstanding strategy that combines SBA principles with several Europe 2020 objectives. In 2014, Flanders is organising a series of entrepreneurial events that capitalise on the EER label. Monitoring activities using EER-specific indicators are also carried out. The **Marche region** (Italy) is implementing a "new deal" that is based on renewed regional development and new growth sectors and that aims to create a business-friendly and entrepreneurial \area. In its plan the region incorporates some of the key SBA principles, such as responsive public administration, and links SME policies to the use of Structural Funds. The **province of North Brabant** (Netherlands) aims to become Europe's "heart of innovation" through the use of a smart specialisation strategy and a thorough plan that both tackles weaknesses and builds on the region's existing strengths. Already performing rather well, the region is strongly committed to further stepping up its efforts to do better and to provide even more tailored support to existing and future businesses. In previous years, the EER label has been awarded to nine more regions: the Brandenburg Land (Germany), County Kerry (Ireland) and the Murcia region (Spain) in 2011; Catalonia (Spain), Helsinki-Uusimaa (Finland) and Trnava self-governing region (Slovak Republic) in 2012; Nord-Pas-de Calais (France), Southern Denmark and Styria (Austria) in 2013: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx>



The European Small Business Portal compiles information provided by the EU on and for SMEs, ranging from practical advice to policy issues, from local contact points to networking links: http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/index_en.htm

IndustriLAB, Picardie (France)

IndustriLAB is a research and innovation centre which provides training and instruction on technologies. It is aimed at all industrial sectors, networks and SMEs, focusing on four key strategic areas: development of innovative products; high industrial performance; future robotics; new industrial practices: www.industrilab.fr



Enterprise Europe Network

Providing entrepreneurs with integrated high quality services, this network advises SMEs on EU legislation and programmes and helps identify funding opportunities. It can call upon the expertise of more than 600 regional partner organisations across the EU and beyond, helping SMEs to find business or technology partners and advising them on how they can secure the necessary financing or Community funding: <http://een.ec.europa.eu/>



The Network of SME Envoys

This network co-ordinates, evaluates, and reports on SBA implementation (see above) at EU, national and, where appropriate, regional level. It includes the national SME Envoys, nominated by each EU Member state, and the European SME Envoy:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/sme-envoy/index_en.htm



The brochure "Thinking Big for Small Businesses – What the EU does for SMEs" provides information on the key policies and EU measures supporting SMEs: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5256

Intellectual Property support for SMEs

Intellectual property can boost both competitiveness and innovation in enterprises. For SMEs it can be a challenge to protect their intangible assets owing to their limited time and human and financial resources. The European Commission has developed a system of IPR support to allow SMEs to find cost-efficient protection solutions. Local and regional development authorities, innovation support and other local partners can rely on this IP support system to provide help to local micro, small and medium-sized businesses in need to protect their intellectual assets. Local authorities can develop joint support initiatives with national IP offices and organise joint events with the other listed support measures.



The Transatlantic IPR portal provides on a single website joint EU and US web based IP help tools: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/ipr/index_en.htm



IPorta IPorta is a network of European National Patent and Trademark Offices (NPTOs) and a continuation of the IPeuropAware project. Through the cooperation of participating offices, it aims at improving the cooperation between NPTOs in order to improve IP support services and IP knowledge of SMEs and business intermediaries at a national level:

<http://www.innovaccess.eu/>

The European IPR Helpdesk provides free, down-to earth IPR advice and services to European SMEs and researchers working in Europe and transnationally. The project aims to enable European SMEs and Horizon2020, FP7 and CIP beneficiaries to be aware of and use in practice IPR in their activities, and to ensure that their innovation strengthens European competitiveness:

<http://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/>

The ASEAN, China and MERCOSUR IPR SME Helpdesks provide free, practical first-line IPR advice and services to European SMEs working in or with the respective target regions (south-East Asia, Greater China and Latin America). The projects aim to enable European SMEs to make the best IPR decisions for their business, and ensure that the creativity and innovation that SMEs bring to the marketplace remain a cornerstone of European competitiveness. Similar services are also provided in India*:

<http://www.asean-iprhelpdesk.eu/> (South-East Asia);

<http://www.china-iprhelpdesk.eu/> (China, Hong-Kong, Macao and Taiwan);

<http://www.mercosur-iprhelpdesk.eu/> (Latin America);

<http://www.ebtc.eu/ipr/> (India)*

* - paid for services on a cost plus basis.



COSME

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) running from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of EUR 2.3 bn. COSME will support SMEs in the following areas: better access to finance for SMEs; access to markets; supporting entrepreneurs; more favourable conditions for business creation and growth:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/cosme/index_en.htm



EASME - support to SMEs

A number of EU programmes for SMEs in the 2014-2020 programming period will be managed by the newly created Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The Agency builds on the experience of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI). As from January 2014 onwards, the Agency manages on behalf of the European Commission most parts of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME). It will also be in charge of the SME instrument, the new and innovative instrument for support to SMEs within the Horizon 2020 programme. Other programmes to be managed by the Agency are the Energy and Climate societal challenges within Horizon 2020 and the Programme for Environment and Climate action (LIFE). Later in 2014 the Agency will also be responsible for significant parts of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF). With the new Agency, SMEs have a dedicated institution aiming to improve the competitiveness of enterprises.

EASME homepage: <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/>

More information on structural funds and SMEs: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/business/index_en.cfm

The Young Entrepreneur Programme, County Kerry (Ireland)

This programme benefits secondary school pupils, with a view to helping to identify, inform and recognise the next generation of business leaders. It complements traditional learning with workshops, case studies and contact with key business leaders on top of participants' own ideas. To date, over 3000 students have completed the programme: www.shannondevelopment.ie

The ACC1Ó programme, Catalonia (Spain)

This programme aims to increase the number of SMEs who export regularly and provides one year of support to help SMEs succeed in export markets. In 2012, 469 companies started the programme, which has been running since 2001 achieving great results: 65.8% of the companies which participated in the programme in 2010-2011 achieved export sales during the first year of the programme. The main export markets were France, Belgium and the US:

<http://accio.gencat.cat/cat/>

Joint partnerships between industrial companies and the education system, Trnava Region (Slovakia)

Thanks to its secondary education powers, the region has established strong cooperation with the main companies in the region – PSA and Samsung – focusing on two areas: 1) practical training for students in the companies; 2) contractual basis to improve the skills and qualifications of the employees of the companies: <http://www.trnava-vuc.sk/sk>



The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a tool for companies and other organizations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. If SMEs agree to improve their environmental performance, local authorities can provide subsidies and exemptions from legislative obligations: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>



Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

This exchange programme gives entrepreneurs who want to start a business or have recently started one the opportunity to learn from experienced owners of small businesses in other EU countries. The stay is partially funded by the European Union:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/erasmus-entrepreneurs/index_en.htm

In relation to the "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ promote industrial modernisation through European strategic projects to achieve a global driver effect in terms of effective knowledge and technology sharing (in areas such as green transport and energy-efficient buildings);
- ✓ ensure the cross-fertilisation of ideas and business models via initiatives such as the "European Entrepreneurial Region" to encourage LRAs to promote new developments in the area of SMEs and entrepreneurial culture;
- ✓ promote the concept of regional innovation ecosystems and develop closer cooperation between the productive fabric and universities and technology centres in order to create new growth and jobs;
- ✓ adopt measures to help reconcile work and family life, by improving the quality of public services, e.g. sufficient full-day childcare places, and promoting a family-friendly working environment based on flexible working hours and employment models.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to An industrial policy for the globalisation era:

The CoR adopted an opinion on the update of the flagship initiative: "A stronger European industry for growth and economic recovery - Industrial policy communication update" (CdR 2255/2012) and several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: Action plan for a competitive and sustainable steel industry in Europe (CdR 5279/2013); Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (2014-2020); (CdR 98/2012); Review of the "Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe" (CdR 151/2011).



Consult relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>

3.3 Inclusive growth

What is inclusive growth?

Inclusive growth in EU regions and cities means raising Europe's employment rate and more and better jobs, especially for women, young people and older workers. It is about helping people of all ages anticipate and manage change through investment in skills & training. It aims to modernise labour markets and welfare systems. Lastly, it helps ensure that the benefits of growth reach all EU areas.

The EU level targets for inclusive growth include:

1. 75% employment rate for women and men aged 20-64 by 2020– achieved by getting more people into work, especially women, young people, older and low-skilled people and legal migrants.
2. better educational attainment – in particular:
 - reducing school drop-out rates to below 10%;
 - at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing tertiary education (or equivalent);
 - at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.



To consult EU-level targets and your country targets, click on the relevant link:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/targets/eu-targets/index_en.htm; and http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf



Two Flagship Initiatives support inclusive growth: An Agenda for new skills and jobs and the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

3.3.1 Agenda for new skills and jobs

This flagship initiative aims to create the conditions needed to modernise labour markets in order to raise employment levels and ensure the sustainability of our social models. This means empowering people through the acquisition of new skills to allow our current and future workforce to adapt to new conditions and career shifts, cut unemployment and raise labour productivity:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=958>

Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Pages/europe-2020-conference-agenda-for-new-skills-and-jobs.aspx>



European Employment Strategy

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, this strategy promotes the creation of more and better jobs throughout the EU. It provides a framework (the "open method of coordination") for EU countries to share information, discuss and coordinate their employment policies. Each year, during the European Semes-

ter, national governments (through the Employment Committee) and the EU institutions work together to produce country-specific recommendations (CSRs). On the basis of a shared assessment of the employment and social challenges in the EU (Annual Growth Survey and the Joint Employment Report) and in each Member State, as well as of the policies adopted to tackle them (Staff Working Documents), CSRs offer policy guidance on the main employment objectives and policies to pursue over the following year.



Employment Package

The Employment Package has been the response of the European Commission to the worsening of the economic crisis. Adopted in April 2012, it is a mid-term strategy to promote the objectives of supporting job creation, restoring the dynamics of European labour markets, and improving EU governance through the identification of priority areas of action and the proposal of new measures at EU level to support national efforts to combat the job crisis:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1039&langId=en>



European Social Fund (ESF)

One of the EU's Structural Funds, the ESF was set up to raise standards of living across the EU through employment and to promote economic and social cohesion. For the new, 2014-2020 programming period, more than EUR 70 billion euro will be devoted to investing in human capital through the ESF to achieve these goals:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/>

To find out more about which countries are involved and the priorities of the ESF, see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=440&langId=en>

ESF projects can affect the lives of millions. Click here for examples:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=466&langId=en>



The Community of Practice on Inclusive Entrepreneurship is a learning network of ESF Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies at national and regional level in Europe. The COPIE partners share a common concern for broadening entrepreneurship and making support systems work better across disadvantaged populations to help them engage in setting up businesses: www.cop-ie.eu/



"Tallinn works", Tallin (Estonia)

The Tallin works recovery package was launched in 2008 by the Tallinn municipality and the City of Tallinn to fight the economic downturn and unemployment. It includes providing free legal advice to employees, an annual jobs fair, subsidised jobs, job-seekers clubs and free public transport since 2013: www.tallinn.ee/freepublictransport

Vienna Employment Promotion Fund (WAFF), Vienna (Austria)

This aims to promote active labour market policies with economic measures targeted at employees threatened by company downsizing and closures, the long-term unemployed, those receiving social benefits, women, young people and older workers. The WAFF is a partner in the Territorial Employment Pact Vienna: www.waff.at



Youth Employment Package

The Youth Employment Package integrates the Youth on the Move initiative with a set of measures to help Member States tackle youth unemployment and social exclusion. It includes a Recommendation to Member States on introducing the Youth Guarantee (see below), a proposal for a Quality Framework for Traineeships, and the development of a European Alliance for Apprenticeships. To reinforce and accelerate the implementation of these measures, the Youth Employment Initiatives provide additional financial support to regions with a youth unemployment rate above 25% in 2012 with a budget of EUR 6 billion for the period 2014-2015, complementary to the European Social Fund. For the latest developments on the EU actions for Youth Employment visit the Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1036&langId=en>



Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee is a new approach to tackling youth unemployment which ensures that all young people under 25 get a good-quality, concrete and tailored offer for a job, apprenticeship, traineeship or continued education within 4 months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. Following their commitment in this regard, EU countries have developed Implementation Plans which will be operational in 2014. Regions and local authorities will be called upon to participate in the implementation of national measures. The European Commission supports the funding of these schemes through the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Package, and facilitates the sharing of best practices between governments through the Mutual Learning Programme.

For more information visit the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079>



Youth Entrepreneurship Strategies (YES)

This project has developed a method for charting requirements for youth entrepreneurship promotion, in both regional development policies and education systems. A joint interregional analysis has been transformed into one national and six regional action plans with policy recommendations for each region/nation, thus providing the next steps for boosting the number of entrepreneurs: www.young-entrepreneurs.eu





The VaSkooli project - training guarantee model, City of Turku (Finland)

The VaSkooli project was implemented in the Turku and Salo regions in south-west Finland between 2004 and 2008. The training guarantee aims to reduce the number of drop-outs, enhance graduation levels and facilitate the transition from school to work. By increasing support, guidance and co-operation, together with new pedagogical solutions, the Turku Vocational Institute has been able to increase its graduation rate from 63% (2004) to 75% (2010): www.koulutustakuu.fi



European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF)

With up to EUR 150 million available each year, the EGF co-funds measures to help workers who are victims of trade-or crisis-related mass redundancies in a single business or sector in the same or adjacent regions to find new jobs. Applications to the Fund are submitted by the Members States:

<http://ec.europa.eu/egf>



Progress Microfinance Facility

Launched in 2010, this facility increases the availability of microcredit – loans below EUR 25 000 – for setting up or developing a small business. It does not directly finance entrepreneurs, but enables selected EU microcredit providers to increase lending, by issuing guarantees, thereby sharing the providers' potential risk of loss and by providing funding to increase microcredit lending.

Microfinance support will continue and be extended in 2014 under the third strand of the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). Apart from increasing access to microfinance it will also aim to build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers and support the development of social enterprises. For detailed information on the Progress Microfinance Facility see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=836>

Explore the new structure of the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) by visiting the site: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>



The Instituto de Crédito y Finanzas Región de Murcia (Spain) is a microcredit provider with a senior loan of up to EUR 8 million which is expected to generate up to EUR 20 million in microloans thanks to the leverage effect. Its aim is to support microentrepreneurs, including the self-employed, in one of Spain's poorest regions. The ICREF plans to launch the microfinance A.G.I.L (Immediate Liquidity Management Support) programme to promote self-employment and consolidate an entrepreneurial culture: www.icrefrm.es/

EURES (European Employment Services)

Its aim is to provide information, advice and recruitment/placement (job-matching) services for workers and employers and all people interested in taking advantage of the principle of the free movement of persons. A Job Mobility Portal, it also has a human network of more than 850 EURES advisers who are in daily contact with jobseekers and employers across Europe. It plays a key role in cross-border regions, helping to solve various problems related to cross-border commuting. There are currently over 20 EURES cross-border partnerships, involving more than 13 countries. From January 2014, EURES activities will be financed through the ESF, its focus will move towards placement and recruitment activities, while service provision will open to other partner organisations:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp>



Mutual Learning Programme and employment policies

The Mutual Learning Programme helps Member States to learn from each other's experiences and enhances the transferability of good practices via peer reviews, learning exchanges and thematic events, in which representatives of local and regional authorities can participate. These events are periodically organised through the European Employment Policy Observatory:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1047>



Your first EURES job, Province of Rome (Italy)

Your first EURES job is a targeted job mobility initiative to help young people aged 18-30 to find work and to help employers find workers in any of the 27 EU Member States:

<http://www.provincia.roma.it/iniziativa/your-first-eures-job-la-provincia-di-roma-ti-porta-europa;>

https://www.portafuturo.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/yfej_guide_it.pdf



In relation to the "An Agenda for new skills and jobs" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ develop conditions for job creation and local measures to manage industrial and economic change;
- ✓ promote strategic partnerships between local and regional authorities, educational institutions and enterprises enhancing regional innovation ecosystems and reconciling them with flexicurity policies;
- ✓ encourage local action on digital literacy, early school leaving, lifelong learning, and empowerment of the silver generation;
- ✓ develop stronger business-university linkages.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to An Agenda for new skills and jobs:

The CoR adopted several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: the EU Social Investment Package (CdR 1999/2013); Strengthening the Social Dimension of the EMU (CdR 6863/2013); Steps forward in implementing national Roma integration strategies (CdR 5280/2013); The employment package (CdR 1186/2012); European Social Fund (CdR 6/2012); Child poverty (CdR

333/2011); Towards a European agenda for social housing (CdR 71/2011); European Agenda on Integration (CdR 199/2011); EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (CdR 335/2011); Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (CdR 26/2011).



Consult relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>

3.3.2 European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

This flagship initiative is designed to help EU countries reach the Europe 2020 headline target of lifting 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion, in order to raise awareness and recognise the fundamental rights of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, enabling them to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=961>



Visit the CoR website to consult the proceedings of a conference held on this flagship initiative and read more about it from the local and regional perspective. Available materials include the conference proceedings, a background note, a catalogue of best practices and a photo gallery and a video summary: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/events/Pages/poverty-social-exclusion.aspx>



European Semester

The Europe 2020 poverty target acts as an incentive for developing a stronger focus on social issues each year in the European Commission's Annual Growth Survey, and the European Union also addresses social country-specific recommendations to Member States with the aim of achieving more social cohesion and equality through adequate, accessible and financially sustainable social protection systems and social inclusion policies: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm



The Social Investment Package is an integrated policy framework which takes account of the social, economic and budgetary divergences between Member States. It gives guidance to Member States on more efficient and effective social policies to respond to the significant challenges they currently face, which test the sustainability and adequacy of national social systems:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1044&langId=en>



The Knowledge bank is an information repository of facts and data on Social Protection and Social Inclusion for future policy development and cooperation between Member States:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1065&langId=en>

Social Open Method of Coordination

Thanks to the open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion, the EU provides a framework for national strategy development, coordinating policies between EU countries on issues relating to poverty and social exclusion, health care and long-term care, as well as pensions. This involves agreeing common objectives and common indicators, which show how progress towards these goals can be measured:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=en>

The Social Europe guide is a bi-annual publication which provides a concise overview of specific areas of EU action in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion. It illustrates the key issues and challenges, explains policy action and provides examples of best practices from EU Member States: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=6041&visible=1>

Social innovation

Social innovation means developing new ideas, services and models to better address social issues. It invites input from public and private actors, including civil society, to improve social services. Social innovation is about new ideas that work to address pressing unmet needs. Put simply, it involves innovations that are social in both their ends and in their means. Social innovations are new ideas (products, services and models) that meet social needs more effectively than alternatives and create new social relationships or collaborations

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1022&langId=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/social-innovation/index_en.htm

To promote social innovation in your region and city, go to: www.socialinnovationeurope.eu/

For examples of local and regional social innovation projects, go to: www.cor.europa.eu/socialinnovation

Social Innovation for Active Inclusion: Collection of good practices

EUROCITIES Cities for Active Inclusion has published a collection of innovative strategies and projects used in cities to promote social inclusion, with input from each of the nine network members – Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm: <http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/activities/projects/Cities-for-Active-Inclusion>

Integration of immigrants

The Europe 2020 Strategy recognises the potential of migration for building a competitive and sustainable economy. In the Communication on the European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, the European Commission demonstrates its commitment to involving local and regional authorities in the definition of integration policies under EU programmes and plans to establish a “strategic partnership” with the CoR and local government associations to this end.



The European Web Site on Integration provides a collection of good practices and a wide variety of tools and useful information (including funding opportunities) to make integration work: <http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/index.cfm>



The European Fund for the Integration of Third-country nationals

The Fund supports national and EU initiatives facilitating the integration of non-EU immigrants into European societies. Primarily focused on newly arrived immigrants, it helps EU Member States and civil society enhance their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate integration strategies, policies and measures, and exchanges of information, best practices and cooperation on integration issues:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm



Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners

The Handbook covers concrete policy examples on: 'the mass media and integration', 'awareness-raising and migrant empowerment', 'dialogue platforms', 'acquisition of nationality and practice of active citizenship', 'immigrant youth, education and the labour market':

http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12892



The European Anti-Poverty Network produced a toolkit designed to help national networks and European organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion to engage with the 2013 drafting of the National Reform Programmes and the Questionnaires on the National Social Reports. It aims at providing brief, to-the-point information about the processes and the opportunities for engagement, by clarifying the key elements, timeline, and strategic actors of the new process, as well as providing links and suggesting different ways of involvement:

www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EUISG/Toolkit-NRP-NSR-Engagement-2012-Final.pdf



Me2 – Integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market, Malta

The ME2 project, implemented by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services in Malta, deals with the issue of integrating disabled people into the labour market through work placements, teaching new trainers about the specific needs of their students and offering sheltered employment to the severely disabled: https://secure3.gov.mt/socialpolicy/family/fsws/fsws_eu/eu_me2/eu_me2



Social programmes for family, homeless, vulnerable groups, Buzau (Romania)

The County Paying and Social Inspection Agency in Buzau has been very active in developing social programmes for targeted groups; they include family reintegration of children under protective measures, "family homes", drop-out prevention, child trafficking prevention, juvenile delinquency, social assistance to vulnerable groups, professional advice and guidance activities for people with disabilities, home care for the elderly, "proactive aging": <http://www.buzau.prestatiisociale.ro/>

The EU and Roma people

The European institutions and EU countries have a joint responsibility for improving the social inclusion and integration of Roma via all instruments and policies for which they are responsible. To step up a gear and ensure that national, regional and local integration policies focus on Roma, the Commission has adopted a Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies by 2020:

<http://ec.europa.eu/roma>

To see how local and regional authorities can get involved in implementing the EU Framework consult the publication on “Working together for Roma inclusion: The EU Framework explained” available online in the EUBookshop:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/working-together-for-roma-inclusion-pbDS3011315/>



ACCEDER, Supporting access to employment for the Roma, Spain

The Acceder programme covers the Roma community in 13 regions and over 40 city councils in Spain. It helps mainly unemployed and unskilled young Roma to access the labour market through work placements and to develop their skills:

http://www.gitanos.org/publicaciones/memoria07English/pdf/activities_02.pdf



Demographic change

To support the debate on demographic change, the Commission publishes a biennial European Demography Report setting out the main facts and figures on demographic change and discussing appropriate policy responses:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=502&langId=en>



Ageing in Europe: EU support to local and regional actors

This brochure presents EU funding opportunities for regional and local initiatives promoting active ageing and solidarity between generations. It shows what resources are available and presents numerous examples of projects that have received EU funding:

http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/brochure_activeageing_en.pdf



Health

Keeping people healthy and active for longer has a positive impact on the productivity and competitiveness of EU regions. Programmes funded as part of the EU's public health policy support and complement Member States' initiatives for their citizens' health and well-being. The strength of EU action lies in its capacity to tackle issues that cannot be addressed as effectively by Member States acting alone.



Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020

Following the ongoing negotiations, it is now expected that the new Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020 will be adopted in spring 2014. The new, third multiannual health programme is designed to help EU countries respond effectively to economic and demographic challenges facing their health systems and enable their citizens to stay healthy for longer. The programme aims to support and complement the work of Member States to achieve the following four objectives: developing innovative and sustainable health systems; increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens; promoting health and preventing disease; protecting citizens from cross-border health threats. Once the programme is adopted, the 2014 Annual Work Programme will be published by the Commission and the calls for proposals will be launched by the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency. The new programme will have a budget of € 449.394 million over seven years:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/index_en.htm



European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

Launched by the European Commission to enable Member States and regions to address demographic challenges, the Partnership identifies actions which aim to improve the health status and quality of life of EU citizens, particularly elderly; support the long-term sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems and enhance the competitiveness of EU industry through an improved business environment:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing

In relation to the “European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion” flagship initiative, the CoR opinion adopted in October 2011 identified a particular need to:

- ✓ develop a local and regional social inclusion agenda to make local social services more effective and accessible to all;
- ✓ use legal competences and programmes tailored to local needs in the sectors of education, housing, urban planning, social services, and security and cultural activities, focusing on young people and children;
- ✓ promote e-inclusion, the social economy, volunteering and Corporate Social Responsibility;
- ✓ assess the reforms undertaken, in particular with regard to the extent, costs and impact of societal innovations.

Other relevant CoR opinions related to the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The CoR adopted several opinions directly related to the flagship initiative. The most relevant are: the EU Social Investment Package (CdR 1999/2013); Strengthening the Social Dimension of the EMU (CdR 6863/2013); Steps forward in implementing national Roma integration strategies (CdR 5280/2013); The employment package (CdR 1186/2012); European Social Fund (CdR 6/2012); Child poverty (CdR 333/2011); Towards a European agenda for social housing (CdR 71/2011); European Agenda on Integration (CdR 199/2011); EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (CdR 335/2011); Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (CdR 26/2011).

Consult relevant CoR opinions in your language at:
<https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/>





Communicate your Europe 2020 successes and involve your citizens

4

4.1 Regions and cities communicating Europe 2020 at EU level

Open Days: Presenting your Europe 2020 case in Brussels

Organised by the Committee of the Regions and the Commission's DG for Regional Policy, the Open Days European Week of Regions and Cities is the key annual event for regional and local authorities to showcase their capacity for creating growth and jobs and implementing EU cohesion policy, highlighting the importance of the local level for good European governance. The 12th European Week of Regions and Cities will take place on 6-9th October 2014:

www.opendays.europa.eu/

European Conference on Public Communication

During EuroPCom, public communication professionals from all over Europe get together to improving government communication and raise awareness of EU policies.

Video summary of the 2013 EuroPCom:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3GTnah0HRM&feature=youtu.be>

Main page for all editions of EuroPCom conferences:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/europcom/Pages/european-conference-on-public-communication.aspx>

4.2 Regions and cities communicating Europe 2020 back home

Open Days local events

Many LRAs organise Europe 2020 local events, e.g. as part of the Open Days event. To bring the message closer to the citizens, each participating region and city must organise at least one event locally between September and November.



To see a list of local events to take place during the upcoming or latest edition of the Open Days:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2014/index.cfm



Perspectives, challenges and tools at stake for the development of territorial projects? Club Europe Sud Rhône-Alpes, Valence, 28-29 November 2013, France

Organised at the initiative of Michèle Rivasi, MEP, and Joël Roques, President of the Drôme Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with participation by Bernard SOULAGE, Member of the CoR and Vice-President of Rhône-Alpes region, and Henri Malosse, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, the two-day conference-debate in Valence gave the floor to local representatives and socioeconomic players. It underlined the challenges of local development linked with European construction and policy:



Social media and Europe 2020 in your region and city

Portugal's "Estratégia Europa 2020" communication campaign is organised by the European Information Centre in cooperation with an e-learning centre and several universities. The initiative includes interactive activities such as 25 workshops across the country (Braga, Porto, Aveiro, Coimbra and Lisbon), webcasts on a dedicated YouTube channel, a Facebook page and a national multimedia competition:

http://www.tecminho.uminho.pt/showPage.php?url=0_estrategiacutegiaeuropa2020.html&zid=579

4.3 Communicating on Europe 2020 priorities

Smart growth

European e-Skills Week

The European e-Skills Week is a European campaign focused on showing people how to get jobs through e-skills. Building on the success of the previous edition, the organisers drive awareness of the need for e-skills and their benefits: <http://eskills-week.ec.europa.eu/web/guest/home>

Digital Agenda Assembly

This wide stakeholder debate on the progress as tracked in the digital scoreboards brings together Member States, EU institutions, citizens' representatives and industry to assess progress and emerging challenges: <http://daa.ec.europa.eu/>

Innovation Union Convention

The Innovation Convention is an essential part of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, and it provides a platform to debate and inform policies that will contribute towards the building of a research and innovation eco-system in Europe that can support this objective:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/ic2014/index_en.cfm

Sustainable growth

The Green Week is the biggest annual conference on European environment policy and a unique opportunity to debate and share best practices. Alongside the Green Week sessions and workshops, it features an exhibition on green business solutions, NGO activities, local and regional authorities, European and international bodies: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is a core activity of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign. Each year, hundreds of organisations host Energy Day events and activities promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources: <http://eusew.eu/>

The RACES initiative: Raising Awareness on Climate and Energy aims to raise maximum awareness on climate change in the cities concerned. Mainly aimed at addressing the issues of climate change (CC) and sustainability, it focuses on urban climate and mitigation and adaptation strategies. The CC information and communication campaign focuses on teachers and families, who are key information multipliers. It is supported by a family tutoring scheme: <http://www.liferaces.eu/>

The European SME Week promotes enterprise across Europe in line with the "Small Business Act" for Europe. The European SME Week aims to provide information on how the EU and national, regional and local authorities support micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses, to encourage more people, especially young people, to consider becoming entrepreneurs: <http://ec.europa.eu/sme-week>

Inclusive Growth

The European Employment Forum

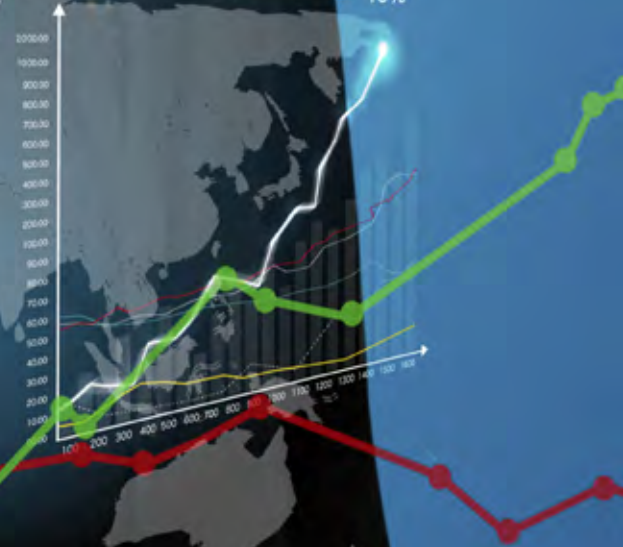
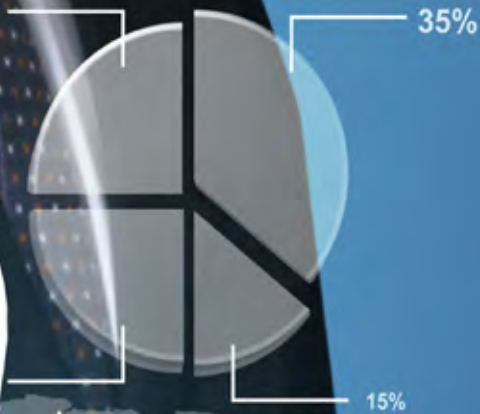
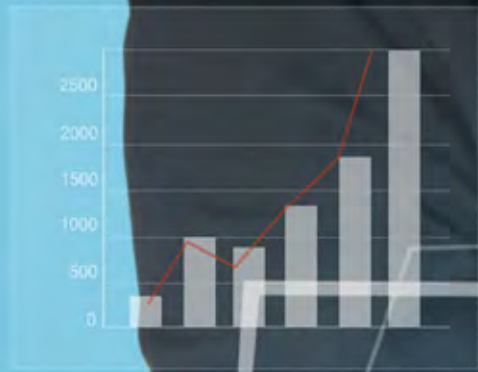
An annual conference and exhibition focusing on the major social and economic issues surrounding employment, creating an effective discussion and meeting forum: www.employmentweek.com/

The EU information service: EuropeDirect

To obtain printed information about Europe 2020 and other EU policies in your language, please contact your local EuropeDirect office at:

<http://europa.eu/europedirect> - or the European Commission representation in your country at: http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm





Network your region and city - shared knowledge is more powerful

5

5.1 Committee of the Regions' networks

Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform

The CoR's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform is a network of local and regional authorities which aims to assess the EUROPE 2020 Strategy from the point of view of EU Regions and Cities. It supports the diffusion of multilevel policymaking for growth and jobs by facilitating the exchange of information and good practices between local and regional policy makers. The Platform helps the EU and its Member Countries to address challenges and obstacles, mainly by means of monitoring exercises at the territorial levels feeding into the CoR's consultative activity. All regions and cities and their associations can contribute to the CoR's work on Europe 2020 by taking part in the surveys of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/>

Subsidiarity Monitoring Network

Its 146 members include regions with legislative powers, local and regional authorities without legislative powers and local government associations in the European Union. The Network was set up to facili-

tate the exchange of information between local and regional authorities in the European Union and EU level on EU legislative and political proposals which, once adopted, will have a direct impact on these authorities and the policies for which they are responsible. The network acts as an access point enabling its partners not only to obtain information but also to express their views, throughout the EU legislative process but also ahead of this process, within impact assessments:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/subsidiarity>

EGTC - Platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

The EGTC Platform brings together the political and technical representatives of all existing EGTCs, EGTCs currently being set up, members of the Expert Group as well as associations and other experts and stakeholders. Its aim is to allow all stakeholders to exchange their experiences and good practices, to improve communication on EGTC opportunities and challenges, to facilitate the exchange of experiences on EGTCs at territorial level and to share knowledge of best practices in the area of Territorial Cooperation:

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc>

5.2 Territorial associations at EU level

AEBR – Association of European Border Regions

Created in 1971 by 10 European border regions, the AEBR advises and works on behalf of European border and cross-border regions, including those outside the EU, to highlight their problems, opportunities and activities and represent their interests vis-à-vis national and international parliaments, authorities and institutions: www.aebr.eu/en/index.php

AEM - European Association of Elected representatives from Mountain Regions

Set up in 1991, the AEM brings together elected representatives and local and regional authorities from mountain areas and similar organisations. It groups together members from some 12 000 local communities, 100 provinces and 50 regions from 11 Member States. It works continuously to raise the European institutions' awareness about the challenges of mountain areas and to promote the more effective coordination of policies with a territorial impact: www.promonte-aem.net/

AER - Assembly of European Regions

Established in 1985, the Assembly of European Regions is the largest independent network of regions in the wider Europe. Bringing together more than 250 regions from 35 countries and 16 inter-regional organisations, AER's mission is to promote the principle of subsidiarity and regional democracy, to increase the regions' political influence within the European institutions, to support the regions in the process of European enlargement and globalisation and to facilitate interregional cooperation across the wider Europe and beyond: www.aer.eu/home.html

CALRE - Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies

CALRE groups together 74 presidents of regional legislative assemblies: the parliaments of the Spanish communities, Italian regional councils, the federated states of Germany and Austria, the regions of l'Açores and Madeira, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Åland Islands and Belgium's community and regional chambers: www.calrenet.eu/

CEMR - Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Founded in Geneva in 1951 by a group of European mayors, CEMR is Europe's largest organisation of local and regional government. It works to promote a united Europe based on local and regional self government and democracy: www.ccre.org/en/

CPMR - Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

Since 1973, 160 Regions located along Europe's shoreline have worked together to ensure that the EU institutions and national governments take account of their common interests in all policies with a high territorial impact: <http://www.crpm.org/index.php>

EUROCITIES

A network of major European cities, its members are all elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. Through six thematic forums, a wide range of working groups, projects, activities and events, the network offers members a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas:

www.eurocities.eu

REGLEG - Conference of European regions with legislative powers

REGLEG is a political network for EU regions with legislative powers. It comprises representatives of regional governments who work together on issues of common concern. Members are committed to the idea of active participation in policy formation in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity:

www.regleg.eu

5.3 Thematic associations at EU level

ALPEADRIA

The Alps-Adriatic Working Community was founded in 1978 and numbers eight members today: Burgenland, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Carinthia, Croatia, Slovenia, Styria, Vas, Veneto. The Community aims to develop its role as a bridge between regions in the EU Member States and in the accession countries, thanks to their geographical location and commercial and cultural potential, through intensive and project-oriented cooperation: www.alpeadria.org

ARCO LATINO

Arco Latino is an association of Spanish and Italian provinces and French departments in the western Mediterranean, which extends across the south of Europe from the Algarve to Sicily. Founded in 1999 and officially established as an association in June 2002, Arco Latino provides a space for cooperation among local authorities where integrated action can be carried out to strengthen economic and social cohesion in member regions: www.arcolatino.org

AREFLH – Assembly of European regions producing fruit, vegetables and plants

The assembly's principle mission is to discuss ideas and to outline strategies for defending and protecting the interests of the sector. Its mission centres on three main objectives: to represent, defend and promote the common interests of Fruit and Vegetable and Horticulture producing Regions in the European and global economy and within the enlarged European Union; to organize and promote dialogue and cooperation between regions, to develop synergies, to instigate actions and common programs to consolidate and raise the profile of fruit, vegetable and horticultural activity in the regions: www.areflh.org

AREV – Assembly of European Wine Regions

AREV brings together 75 regions from the European Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Each region includes both regional representatives from the wine industry and political representatives from the regional institutions. AREV approaches all institutions and bodies that are directly or indirectly responsible for European or global wine policy, intervening and participating in all issues related to wine: www.arev.org/

ARGEALP

ArgeAlp is the Working Community of the Alpine Regions and is currently made up of nine Länder, Provinces, Regions and Cantons from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. Its aim is to address common problems and identify joint solutions in the cultural, ecological, social and economic field through cross-border cooperation and to strengthen a joint sense of responsibility for the region of the Alps:

www.argealp.org

ARGE DONAULÄNDER

Founded in 1990, the Working Community of the Danube Regions aims to promote co-operation among its members to ensure the development of the Danube area in the interests of its inhabitants and to foster peaceful co-operation in Europe: www.argedonau.at

BSSSC - Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation

Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) is a political network for decentralised authorities (subregions) in the Baltic Sea Region. The organisation was founded in Stavanger, Norway in 1993. Its participants are made up of regional authorities (directly below national level) in the 10 Baltic Sea states: Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Russia:

<http://www.bsssc.com/>

CLIP - European network of cities for local integration policies for migrants

A network of 30 European cities working together to support the social and economic integration of migrants. CLIP has four research modules: housing – segregation, access to, quality and affordability of housing for migrants; equality and diversity policies in relation to employment within city administrations; intercultural policies and intergroup relations; ethnic entrepreneurship. It also provides a platform to create consortia between cities to apply for assistance under European programmes:

www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/populationandsociety/clip.htm

CTP – Communauté de travail des Pyrénées

The Working Community of the Pyrenees was set up in 1983 to create a structure for cross-border cooperation in the region. In 2005, the CTP established a Consortium under Spanish law to promote the management of funds and European programs. It currently groups together three French regions (Aquitaine, Midi-Pyrénées, Languedoc-Roussillon), four Autonomous regions of Spain (Catalogne, Aragon, Navarre, Euskadi) and the Principality of Andorra: www.ctp.org

EARLALL - The European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning

The European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning currently involves the co-operation of 23 regional and local authorities and aims to influence European policy and co-operate in projects in the area of lifelong learning: www.earlall.eu

ENRD - European Network for Rural Development

Set up by the European Commission in 2008 to help Member States implement their Rural Development Programs (RDs) in an efficient manner, the ENRD serves as a platform for sharing ideas on how rural development policies work in practice and how they can be improved in all Member States. It supports National Rural Networks (NRNs), Member State Authorities, Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) and rural development organisations at European level: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/home-page_en.cfm

ENSPIRE EU Network

Launched in November 2011, this Network aims to research and transfer initiatives that can help inspire members of disadvantaged communities to become entrepreneurs or develop an entrepreneurial mindset. The project seeks to inform professionals who commission entrepreneurial initiatives in their area and looks at how to inspire people from hard to reach communities to become entrepreneurs, specifically those people who are disadvantaged, disconnected from the labour market or who have been discouraged by the education system: www.enspire.eu/home

ERNEST - European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism

An ERA-NET project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme, this project addresses the issue of the sustainable development of the tourism sector through coordination and collaboration among regional research programmes: www.ernestproject.eu/coalap/pages-ernest/home.jsf

ERRIN - European Regions Research and Innovation Network

A dynamic network of more than 90 EU regions and their Brussels-based offices, ERRIN facilitates knowledge exchange, joint action and project partnerships to strengthen its member regions' research and innovation capacities and enhance their EU programme success. Its members meet regularly to exchange information and know-how about EU funding and project opportunities, present regional good practice, build transnational consortia and develop joint projects: <http://errin.eu/en/>

EUKN - European Urban Knowledge Network

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) shares knowledge and experience about how to tackle urban issues. The key objective is to enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise on urban development throughout Europe, bridging urban policy, research and practice: www.eukn.org/

EURADA - European Association of Development Agencies

With a membership of about 150 regional development agencies from across the EU, including agencies from almost every EU Member State, EURADA gathers and disseminates economic development best practices for its members and places a particular focus on the Europe 2020 strategy:

<http://www.eurada.org/>

HABITACT – European Exchange Forum on Local Homeless Strategies

HABITACT aims to increase cooperation between European cities and welcomes any city interested in European exchange. HABITACT is a self-funded network developing its activities through membership fees and is open to all local practitioners in EU/EEA countries who work in the area of homelessness. These can be managers of local authority shelters/accommodation or civil servants working in different local authority departments such as housing, health, social inclusion, social welfare, etc.: www.habitact.eu/

ICC - Intercultural Cities

Launched in 2008 as a joint pilot initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, ICC sets out to examine the impact of cultural diversity and migration from the perspective of Europe's cities and to identify strategies and policies which could help cities work with diversity as a factor of development. It is seeking to engage at different levels with politicians and civil servants across a range of policy portfolios, with NGOs and migrant associations, public service, education and culture professionals, and with business and the media: www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/experts_call_en.asp

MOT – Mission Opérationnelle transfrontalière

Established in April 1997, MOT is an inter-ministerial and associative structure whose main objective is to facilitate the implementation of cross-border projects. Its network is made up of some 60 members, ranging from local authorities, cross-border bodies and federations to large enterprises and states. Its activities can be divided into four main headings: operational assistance, networking and training, support in defining overall strategies and European activities: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

NECSTouR - Network of European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism

NECSTouR is a European network grouping together 28 Tourism Regional Authorities and 30 representatives of the academic and business sectors. It aims to develop and strengthen a coherent framework for the coordination of regional development programmes and research on sustainable and competitive tourism following the communication of the European Commission entitled "Agenda for European sustainable and competitive tourism": www.necstour.eu/necstour/home.page

NEREUS - Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies

NEREUS aims to explore the benefits of space technologies for European regions and their citizens and to spread their applications. NEREUS is a strong voice for the regional dimension of European Space Policy and programs as well as end-user needs: www.nereus-regions.eu/

NEURUS

NEURUS is an international consortium of universities for the collaborative study of urban and regional development issues. The acronym NEURUS is derived from the consortium's original title when it was set up in 1998: the Network for European and U.S. Regional and Urban Studies, consisting of six universities. NEURUS is based on a concept of research and education befitting an age of growing territorial integration. Through the use of internet technologies, student exchange, distance learning, periodic transcontinental seminars, and traditional forms of research collaboration, NEURUS aims to make the resources and expertise of multiple universities available to researchers and students at any of its partner institutions:

www.sre.wu.ac.at/neurus/homepage/Index.html

RECEVIN - European Network of Wine Cities

RECEVIN, the European Network of Wine Cities, is made up of more than 800 towns located in areas where viticulture represents an important part of the local economy and which are protected by the quality guarantee of their wines.

It aims to promote “wine culture”, defend the interests of local government before agencies at national and international level, especially the European Institutions: www.recevin.net

REVES- European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy

REVES represents and promotes the common values of its members before the European and international institutions. It aims to establish a dialogue with the Institutions to develop a social and solidarity based-economy, to exchange expertise and know-how, and to implement innovation in the fields of inclusion, participation and the empowerment of local communities. It brings together representatives of cities and regions as well as social economy organisations: www.revesnetwork.eu

UBC - The Union of the Baltic Cities

The Union of the Baltic Cities is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing the shared potential of over 100 member cities for the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region: www.ubc.net

5.4 Territorial associations at world level

FOGAR - Forum of Global Associations of Regions

An international non-profit association made up of geographical, thematic and cultural networks from the regions, FOGAR focuses on two major themes: sustainable development and climate change with the NRG4SD network (Network of regional governments for sustainable development) and food security, the first Millennium Development Goal: www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/index.php

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI is an association of over 1220 local government Members who are committed to sustainable development. It is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations who have made a commitment to sustainable development. Its members come from 70 different countries and represent 570 million people. ICLEI provides technical consulting, training and information services to help build capacity, share knowledge and support local government with the implementation of sustainable development at local level: www.iclei.org

NRG4SD - Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

A non-profit international organisation representing sub-national governments and associations at global level which promotes sustainable development, the Network comprises a series of working groups. Its activities help to position the Network members in international initiatives and identify project proposals for interregional cooperation: [*www.nrg4sd.org/*](http://www.nrg4sd.org/)

UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments

UCLG represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. The organisation's stated mission is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community:

[*www.cities-localgovernments.org/*](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/)

EXCELLENCE



Demonstrate your excellence – apply for awards

6

RegioStars Awards

The RegioStars Awards aim to identify good practices in the area of regional development and to highlight original and innovative projects that are attractive and inspiring for other regions. The awards are part of the Commission's Regions for Economic Change initiative:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/regions_for_economic_change/regiostars_en.cfm

Smart growth

Smart EU Prize for Women Innovators

The European Commission launched this competition to reward women innovators who have achieved and marketed outstanding innovations. Open to all women who have participated in EU Framework Programmes, it aims to inspire and raise awareness of the need for more women innovators and entrepreneurs:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=women-innovators

Galileo-EGNOS Prize Award Scheme (GEPAS)

Its main objective is to help more regions and businesses develop GNSS applications. The overall prize pool offered to individual winners includes participating regions and sponsors of the European Satellite Navigation Competition (ESNC): www.galileo-masters.eu/index.php?kat=about.html&anzeige=gepas.html

European Capital of Innovation (iCapital)

With this prize the European Commission acknowledges the outstanding achievement of a city in building up an innovation ecosystem, i.e. a system which links the citizens (People) with a built environment (Place) and public organizations and policy-makers (Public) through business (Private). The EUR 500 000 award will be given to the winning city to scale up its achievement:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=icapital

European Prize for Innovation in Public Administration

This award is designed to recognise and promote the most innovative, forward-looking public initiatives which benefit citizens, firms, or the education and research sector:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=admin-innovators&pg=home

Sustainable growth

European entrepreneurial region label

A Committee of the Regions project that identifies and rewards EU regions with an outstanding entrepreneurial vision – whatever their size, wealth or competences:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx>

European Enterprise Promotion Awards

These Awards aim to recognise innovation and reward the success of public bodies and public-private partnerships promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship at national, regional and local level:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/european-enterprise-awards/index_en.htm

European Business Awards for the Environment

Organised every two years, the scheme rewards European companies that successfully combine innovation, economic viability and environmental concerns. Consisting of five awards, it rewards companies for management practices, products, processes, international business cooperation and biodiversity activities that contribute to economic and social development without detriment to the environment:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards/index.html>

European Green Capital Awards

Set up in 2009 to improve our European urban living environment – and thus the environment as a whole. The award aims to provide an incentive for cities to inspire one other and share best practices, while engaging in friendly competition:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

European Capitals of Biodiversity

Many European cities, towns and villages have a rich biodiversity thanks to a high variety of ecosystems, providing manifold living spaces: gardens, parks, rivers, old buildings and others. Launched in 2010, the UN International Year of Biodiversity, the competition sees municipalities compete with one another in the area of biodiversity: www.capital-biodiversity.eu/2.html

Europe's highest award for clean urban transport: the CIVITAS Award

The CIVITAS Award is an opportunity to highlight the successes of the most outstanding, ambitious and innovative solutions in the area of sustainable urban mobility. Winners are showcased as examples of excellence before the press to inspire others and stimulate the further development of sustainable mobility initiatives in Europe: www.civitas.eu/index.php?id=41

Inclusive growth

European Capitals of Culture

Launched in 1985, this initiative has become one of Europe's most prestigious and high-profile cultural events. A city is not chosen as a European Capital of Culture solely for what it is, but for what it plans to do for a year that must be exceptional:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm

European Award for Best Children's Online Content

Inspired by research that shows that children who access positive content experience have a lower risk of harmful experiences, it is a pilot project, organised by 14 Safer Internet Centres, which is awarded in two categories (adult and youth submissions):

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/events/competition/link_sip/index_en.htm

Access City Award

Organized in partnership with the European Disability Forum, the Access City Award sets out to showcase and reward cities of over 50 000 inhabitants which take exemplary initiatives to improve accessibility in the urban environment: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/disabilities/award/index_en.htm

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage - EUROPA NOSTRA Awards

Exemplary heritage achievements in Europe are awarded in the following four categories: conservation projects, research, dedicated service to heritage conservation by individuals and/or groups, and education, training and awareness raising within Europe's cultural heritage sector:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc623_en.htm

Acronyms

AEBR – Association of European Border Regions	EFTA – European Free Trade Association	JEREMIE – Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises
AEM – European Association of Elected representatives from Mountain Regions	EGF – European Globalisation adjustment Fund	LRAs – Local and Regional Authorities
AER – Assembly of European Regions	EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	MLG – Multilevel governance
AGS – Annual Growth Survey	EIB – European Investment Bank	MOT – Mission Opérationnelle transfrontalière
ALDE – Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	EIP – Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme	MP – Monitoring Platform
AREFLH – Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières, Légumières et Horticoles	EUKN – European Urban Knowledge Network	MS(s) – Member State(s)
AREV – Assembly of European Wine Regions	ELENA – European Local ENergy Assistance	NECSTouR – Network of European Regions for a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism
BSSSC – Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation	EMAS – Eco-Management and Audit Scheme	NPR(s) – National Progress Report(s)
CALRE – Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies	EMU – European Monetary Union	NRG4SD – Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
CAP – Common Agricultural Policy	ENRD – European Network for Rural Development	NRP – National Reform Programme
CASH – Cities Action for Sustainable Housing	EP – European Parliament	OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CEB – Council of Europe Development Bank	EPP – European People's Party	OMC – Open Method of Coordination
CEMR – Council of European Municipalities and Regions	ERDF – European Regional Development Fund	PES – Party of European Socialists
CF – Cohesion Fund	ERNEST – European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism	PPMI – Public Policy and Management Institute
CIP – Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme	ERRIN – European Regions Research and Innovation Network	RAs – Regional authorities
CLIP – European network of cities for local integration policies for migrants	ESF – European Social Fund	RACES initiative – Raising Awareness on Climate and Energy
COM – Communication	ESNC – European Satellite Navigation Competition	R&D – Research and Development
CoM – Covenant of Mayors	EU – European Union	RIS3 – Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation
CoR – Committee of the Regions	EURADA – European Association of Development Agencies	SBA – Small Business Act
CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe	EURES – European Employment Services	SCPs – Stability and Convergence Programmes
CSR – Country Specific Recommendation	EU SDS – European Union Sustainable Development Strategy	SEAP-P – Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan
CTP – Communauté de travail des Pyrénées	EUSEW – EU Sustainable Energy Week	SGP – Stability and Growth Pact
DAE – Digital Agenda for Europe	FOGAR – Forum of Global Associations of Regions	SMEs – Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
DG – Directorate General	FP7 – 7th Framework Programme	SWOT (analysis) – Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
EA – European Alliance Group	GDP – Gross Domestic Product	TENs – Trans-European Networks
EARLALL – The European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning	GEPAS – Galileo-EGNOS Prize Award Scheme	TFEU – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
EC – European Commission	ICC – Intercultural Cities	UBC – The Union of the Baltic Cities
EER – European Entrepreneurial Region	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	UN – United Nations
	ICT – Information and Communication Technology	YotM – Youth on the Move
	ICZM – Integrated Coastal Zone Management	
	IEE – Intelligent Energy – Europe	
	IWC – Istanbul water consensus	