



EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS & CITIES



#EURegionsWeek



Call for Side Events

of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2022

Why apply?

Would you like to be associated with this year's European Week of Regions and Cities? The call for applications to become partners is closed but you can still apply to organise a side event! Read below to find out all you need to know.

What is a side event?

A side event is an hybrid/online initiative organised in the form of local dialogue or information session. The events are connected to the European Week of Regions and Cities 2022 on account of its **thematic priorities** (Green transition, Territorial Cohesion, Digital transition, Youth empowerment), format (**hybrid** or **fully digital**) and organisers (European Committee of the Regions and European Commission - DG REGIO, hereafter: the #EURegionsWeek organisers).

Side events are not part of the four days official programme of the European Week of Regions and Cities but if organised between **10 October and 10 November 2022** can be part of a dedicated programme within this year's priorities. The aim is to look back at the cohesion policy's main achievements over the past two decades, with a focus on the role of cohesion policy in Europe's sustainable recovery.

Note: In line with the hybrid format of the #EURegionsWeek 2022, side events can be organised by partners in a hybrid or fully digital format. The format can be confirmed on a later stage based on the willingness of the organiser and taking into account the COVID sanitary measures in place in the country where the hybrid side event would take place.

The organisation of side events is subject to the sanitary measures in place in the country where the side event takes place. Organisers are responsible to check and comply with these measures in place for the organisation of their events.

Who can apply?

- Applicants must be from/or have an established residence in:
 - an EU Member State.
 - a country contributing to/participating in an EU programme;
- Managing Authorities of EU funds.
- EU institutions (institutional partners): directorates-general of the European Commission and EU agencies; legislative work departments and political groups of the European Committee of the Regions; the European Parliament (especially its Committee on Regional Development/REGI/and the European Parliamentary

Research Service/EPRS/); the rotating EU presidency; and the European Economic and Social Committee.

- Local and regional authorities.
- European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs).
- Companies involved in public-private partnerships.
- Associations with relevant content/actions to the #EURegionsWeek and with their established residence in an EU Member State or a country contributing to/participating in an EU programme.

What should be the focus of side events?

- **The impact of cohesion policy on citizens' life**

This year, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the #EURegionsWeek (2003-2022), side events will contribute to reflect on the main achievements of cohesion policy over the past two decades, showcasing its impact on the quality of citizens' lives and the social and economic convergence across European regions. Special attention will be dedicated to the role of cohesion policy in Europe's sustainable recovery, as the most effective tool for solidarity in response to emergency and the aftermath of crises, as shown with regard to the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- **Consequences brought by the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Europe**

Side events will also be an opportunity to discuss the consequences of the current emergency following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Key challenges have emerged in Europe in terms of management of migration flows, soaring of energy prices, solidarity, peace and security. The European Union has been called to showcase a remarkable level of unity and speedy responses that has made Europe stronger. Regions, cities, towns and villages are mobilising their capacities in terms of humanitarian support to assist Ukrainian refugees, in line with the Cohesion Policy CARE instrument (Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe). The REACT-EU is another tool available for Member States to support projects and assist people fleeing Ukraine. In line with the overall aim of a green, digital and resilient post pandemic recovery: what role do regional and local authorities play to address these challenges? How can the young generation contribute to the local debate on the European way of life that entails solidarity, peace and security? What is the role of cohesion policy as effective tool for solidarity and what are the implications for European policies on these four thematic clusters?

European Year of Youth

2022 is the European Year of Youth which aims to highlight the key role played by the European youth in building a greener, more inclusive and digital Europe. Young people have been highly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with serious consequences for their educational and professional career. Side events will contribute to promote youth participation in local democracy and to highlight the need of mainstreaming a youth perspective in all European policies as well as to meet young people's expectations, put their rights into practice and meet their needs.

Which format?

Side events can be organised in a hybrid or fully digital format as:

- a) **Workshop**: this is a participatory event where speakers and participants interact with each other in a lively and open debate. The goal is to ensure that local and regional elected representatives contribute to the debate on the main themes of the #EURegionsWeek 2022 taking into account the feedback of people in the communities they are elected to represent. It is therefore essential that these events are designed in such a way that all members of the wider community can engage in the debate, especially those whose voices are traditionally under-represented in democratic processes. Workshops should be accessible to all members of the community. Organisers should therefore ensure the following when developing the concept and programme for their event:
- The event should be participatory in nature, allowing the involvement of participants in an active way (e.g. small group exchanges, discussions, questions and answers sessions, etc.). The event should last max. 90 minutes and at least half of the event should be dedicated to exchanges with the audience.
 - Panels of speakers (no more than 4 speakers and 1 moderator) must be gender balanced, and reflect the diversity of the local community.

By considering these points, local organisers can create events, which will truly help people at local and regional levels to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe.

b) "info sessions (followed by Q&A)" as working sessions aiming at presenting and discussing EU policies and programmes with particular attention to the new programming period 2021-2027. The format is defined following a short and dynamic scenario where few speakers (max 3 speakers and 1 moderator) have a short presentation, followed by an open questions debate with participants (30 min of interventions + 30 min Q&A).

Priority will be given to proposals with CoR members as organisers or speakers or involving local and regional politicians, including YEPs, EU councilors

How to apply?

Please fill in and submit the [online application](#) by the **30 June 2022**. Your application will need to specify to what extent the event relates to one of the 2022 thematic priorities, proving its attractiveness for European Week of Regions and Cities participants

Please include also a short description, the event's agenda with names and/or profiles of your speakers, specifying if any CoR members/local and regional politicians are involved and clarify their qualification and political group's affiliation.

Please note that applications will be subject to evaluation by event's organisers and only a limited number of side events will be selected.

What are the responsibilities of the Side event organisers?

Overall organisation – Side events' organisers are entirely responsible for the content, organisation, management of their event (including the online platform and registration system to the event, the agenda and invitation of speakers and moderator) and promotional actions (via social media, press, and web). The #EURegionsWeek organisers may in no way be considered responsible for any organisational, logistical or content-related aspects of the side events.

Digital tools – Both for hybrid or fully digital side events, we encourage organisers to use Zoom as digital platform, in line with the official #EURegionsWeek sessions, setting up also an online registration system, if needed. Please note that the credentials, license, the technical support and registrations of participants for digital sessions fall under the responsibility of side events' organisers.

Should you need support on this aspect, please contact EURegionsWeek@cor.europa.eu

Feedback – Whilst applying for the side event, organisers agree to give feedback on the scope and content of their event to the #EURegionsWeek organisers (attendance, profile of participants and feedback on content) via a report template to complete and send back to the #EURegionsWeek organisers **within one week after the date of their event – by 17 November 2022 at the latest** (the online report form will be available on the side events section of the #EURegionsWeek website).

What EURegionsWeek organisers will offer?

Promotion – Free promotion and wide-range visibility are key benefits that can be derived from the European Week of Regions and Cities umbrella.

The #EURegionsWeek organisers will ensure promotion and visibility of the event via:

- The special section of the [#EURegionsWeek website dedicated to side events](#)
- European Week of Regions and Cities eNewsletter (Info Flash)
- social media promotion
- assistance in harvesting and reporting.

Branding – Organisers are allowed to use the dedicated branding and templates for side events of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2022. Organisers will provide with the report template.

Possibility to cover the participation up to 2 CoR members as speaker upon request (please confirm the name of CoR members in your application).

Target groups – Side events' target groups are largely identical to those of the European Week of Regions and Cities. Organising a side event in a hybrid or fully digital mode gives the opportunity to capture a broader audience of regional policy practitioners and policy makers, with an interest for regional or urban policy related issues. Some organisers are holding a side event as an annual *rendez-vous* in connection to the yearly edition of the

European Week of Regions and Cities. These side events subsequently benefit from the physical and online presence of the key regional/local stakeholders and have a chance to link their event to a broader European framework.

In summary:

Thematic priorities: Green transition, Territorial Cohesion, Digital transition, Youth empowerment.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include the consequences of the Ukraine invasion on the four thematic areas of this year's edition.

Period of execution: 10.10- 10.11 2022

Format: side events can be organised digitally as:

- a) **Workshops**
- b) **"info sessions (followed by Q&A)"**

Priority will be given to proposals with CoR members as organisers or speaker and to proposals involving local and regional politicians, including YEPs, EU councilors.

Reporting: the results of the side events will be reported by its organiser via an online report. The key messages will contribute to the follow up on the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Support from the #EURegionsWeek organisers:

- Support for communication (event promotion via dedicated webpage, social media, press coverage, ad hoc branding- downloadable package via #EURegionsWeek official website- age side events)
- Possibility to cover the participation up to 2 CoR members as speaker upon request (please confirm the name of CoR members in your application)
- Report template

Side event's organisers tasks:

- Develop and manage the overall event, concept, format and programme
- Invite speakers and moderator
- Provide registration tool for participants (if needed)
- Promote the session at large via their communication channels
- Produce a report based on a provided template (available on the event's website) to send back to the #EURegionsWeek organisers with the main results of the debate.

Contact: EURegionsWeek@cor.europa.eu