

EU COHESION POLICY TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Now in its 19th year the European Week of Regions and Cities (11-14 October) – the annual Brussels-based event dedicated to cohesion policy – will again take place in a digital format, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with EU programmes for 2021-2027 high on the agenda.

The European Week of Regions and Cities has grown over the last 18 years' to become a unique communication and networking platform, bringing together regions and cities from all over Europe, including politicians, administrators, experts and academics.

In 2020, the first digital EU Regions Week reached more than 12,000 participants across 510 sessions. This confirmed the event's ability to maintain its relevance as a platform for discussing and showcasing the development of EU cohesion policy, and making decision-makers aware of the practical proposals by regions and cities for EU policy-making, despite the pandemic.

Now in its 19th year, the event is organised jointly by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

PURPOSE OF EU REGIONS WEEK

- * **To feed into the debate on EU cohesion policy** in a wider context, including recent research and views from third countries and international organisations.
- * **To discuss common challenges** for Europe's regions and cities and examine solutions by bringing together politicians, decision-makers, experts and practitioners of cohesion policy, stakeholders from business, banking, civil society organisations, academia, the EU institutions and the media;
- * **To provide a platform for capacity-building**, learning and exchange of experience and good practice for those implementing EU cohesion policy and managing its financial instruments;
- * **To facilitate co-operation and networking** between Europe's regions and cities.



A GREENER DIGITAL FUTURE

This year's event will further debate the European response to the health, social and economic challenges. It will focus on the capacity of national and regional governments to support European local communities with practical measures and public policies aimed at investing in a fairer, greener and more digital future.

In this respect, the new cohesion policy and EU programmes for 2021-2027, as well as the EU's response in tackling the Covid-19 crisis, will take centre stage. The EU Regions Week will also serve as a platform for fostering the ongoing debate on democracy and citizens engagement on the future of Europe and provide an opportunity for an important inter-institutional debate

on the Green Deal, before the UN Climate Change Conference 'COP26' in Glasgow on 1–12 November.

As 2021 is the 'European Year of Rail', the week's events will seek to promote rail as an environmentally friendly, innovative and safe mode of transport. The events will tap into all the advantages of a digital format, also providing an opportunity to debate, keeping communities connected, exchanging best practices and ideas between partners and participants.

Whether parts of the official programme take place in person (and which parts) will be subject to the assessment of the organisers and notified before the event, depending on the development of the pandemic and related health and safety measures.

#EURegionsWeek

For further information visit https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/about/nutshell_en