



**European Committee
of the Regions**

8th High-Level Meeting of the Expert Group on Public Administration and Governance

**Session on Inclusive policy-making - participatory
approaches, 2 October 2024**

Inclusive policy-making – participatory approaches



1. CoR activities to foster participatory approaches
2. CoR network activities to share experiences and gain knowledge



European Committee of the Regions



- **EU advisory body**
- **Voice of 1.2 million local and regional representatives**
- **European democracy** – a priority
- **Participatory Democracy** high on political agenda



CoR activities to foster participatory approaches

Capacity building

1. **Two projects with Bertelsmann Foundation (2021-2024)** for local and regionally elected politicians and members of their administration
2. **Programme “Becoming a Participation Professional”** targeting Young Elected Politicians (2023-2024)



CoR activities to foster participatory approaches



Local Dialogues - a first step towards a more complex participatory and deliberative democracy approach



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General lessons learnt for the local and regional level

- **Capacity building essential but not enough**
- **Importance of human and financial resources**
- **Inclusiveness of the citizens' panel**
- **Transparency on the political follow-up**
- Awareness raising and leading by example to encourage others
- Need for political commitment and believe in return of investment
- Further Scientific research needed



Specific lessons learnt for young politicians at the local/ regional level

- CoR objective "**to plant the seed**"
- **Overwhelming interest** with 100 applications to “Winterschool”
- **Hybrid format** of capacity building works
- **Lack of human resources to follow up** closely after the capacity building



CoR network activities to share experiences and gain knowledge

Young Elected Politicians (YEP)

- Since 2019: nearly 1.000
- Active YEPs > 35 years nearly 570 (> 40 years nearly 800)
- 2024 cohort = 150 very active politicians (> 35 years)

European Network of Local and Regional Councillors (EU councillors)

- 2024: 3100
- Merger with BELC (Building Europe with Local Councillors)



CoR network activities to share experiences and gain knowledge

- Active partner of **Network for Citizen Participation & Deliberation in Europe**
- Support and high-level participation at **International Democracy Day** (19-20 September 2024)
- High-level participation at 5th **Citizen Participation and Deliberative Democracy Festival** (12-14 June 2024)



Citizens' participation high on the political agenda of the CoR

European Committee of the Regions is

- **close to local and regional level** and **with high outreach**
- a **platform** raising awareness & fostering capacity building
- **Open to new partnerships** to share experiences & knowledge
- **Supportive to new EC initiatives** announced in the guidelines
- **Dedicated to strengthen participatory approaches**



A new chapter for EU democracy



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