



Young Elected Politicians Let's meet up!

Apply now for the 2020 programme

#EULocal #YoungLocalLeaders

Young Elected Politicians programme – call for applications further extended

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the extraordinary measures in place, the call deadline is now extended until 31 May 2020 and the 2020 YEP programme has been modified.

If you already applied to the call, you do not need to do this again.

Please read below for detailed information.

Apply to join the 2020 YEP Programme

The YEP 2020 Programme is structured around the three themes listed below. Applicants are invited to select the theme they prefer: European Cohesion Policy, Green Deal and the Future of Europe.

1. Cohesion Policy

Cohesion policy is about reducing disparities between the various regions, ensuring a harmonious development for all EU regions and cities.

The recent developments under the coronavirus crisis show how much we need the EU to help our local communities by urgently putting the European Union's budget and intervention capacity at work for citizens and business.

Cohesion remains the EU's most powerful investment tool, enabling EU, national, regional and local actors to work together and react in times of crisis. At the same time, it is crucial to simplify and accelerate the use of cohesion policy funding on the ground.

Together with other measures, cohesion policy funds will be a vital lifeline to those facing unprecedented challenges on the ground and to help putting European economy back on track.

Through the #CohesionAlliance, the CoR has taken a lead in voicing EU regions and cities priorities for the next decade, showing the opportunities offered by place-based investment policies to implement the new European policy agenda.

EU funding decentralised to regions and cities is a more effective way not only to tackle the health impacts in the short term, but also to lay the foundations for an economic recovery over the whole period of the next multiannual financial framework MFF.

Would you like to learn more about the Cohesion Policy and other measures helping to put European economy back on track? Would you like to help them work for your region and city?

If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on 12 to 15 October 2020 for the [EU Week of Regions and cities](#).

2. Green Deal

The Green Deal is the set of measures announced by the European Commission whereby all new EU policies will be screened to be as environmentally friendly as possible so that the EU can become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

The transition to climate neutrality will be complex, but will open up huge opportunities for development and will have a remarkable impact on quality of life for all Europeans.

The COVID-19 outbreak is nowadays a global risk. It is induced by nature, while climate change is a global risk induced by mankind. We need to work our way towards reducing these risks which are essentially inter-linked. The climate crisis is also a human-health crisis. Air pollution is the most obvious example.

In the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a need for economic recovery. We should promote green economic recovery, not a recovery fuelled by carbon. This way we can continue towards a green economic transition.

This transition will happen locally. Each village, town or city will have to be on board. Every region will have to act accordingly and ensure that there are effective multilevel governance mechanisms in cooperation with national governments.

To this end, for example, the European Commission has launched consultation on the Climate Pact, aimed at ensuring the involvement of all levels of government and stakeholders in the Green Deal.

The CoR would like to hear your views, and engage with you in discussion how to pave our way towards Green Communities, boost implementation

of the Green Deal in post-Covid-19 economic reality and feed into its activities on the Climate Pact.

Do you want to take the opportunity to share your experience on the ground with other European politicians?

If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on 12 to 15 October 2020 for the [EU Week of Regions and cities](#).

3. Future of Europe

The new President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, announced in her Political Guidelines a two-year 'Conference on the Future of Europe', with a view to give Europeans a greater say on what the European Union does and how it works for them.

The Conference is now in its early stages of implementation, and regions and cities have an important role to play, as they are the closest to the public.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the launch of the Conference – which was expected to take place on Europe Day (9 May 2020) – has been postponed to a further date.

Democracy is at the heart of the EU construction and, once this pandemic will be behind us, it will be crucial to restore the democratic dialogue and to ensure that local and regional politicians can meet again to strengthen citizens' trust.

It will also be important to share experiences, and to provide good practices and lessons learnt about how local and regional politicians engaged in the fight against the coronavirus at local and regional level.

This will also be the time to reflect on how democracy should be protected more than ever as a source of political and social resilience.

Do you want to shape the future of European democracy? Are you willing to bring the EU closer to the citizens in your region or city?

If you want to apply for this theme, you need to be available to travel to Brussels on 12 to 15 October 2020 for the [EU Week of Regions and cities](#).

Criteria

You must:

- hold a democratic mandate as an elected politician at regional or local level in a Member State of the European Union
- not be older than 40 years old on the first day of the first event you will attend
- not hold a mandate as CoR member or alternate
- have a good level of English (as some events will take place in English only)
- complete this application form and submit it no later than 31 May.

Important Note:

Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of and direct commitment to the subject area for which they apply. They must also make sure that they will be available to travel to Brussels from 12 to 15 October 2020.

Selected candidates will participate in tailor-made programmes and will have the opportunity to meet and network with other politicians at local, national and European level.

The CoR will reimburse travel costs and pay a flat-rate subsistence allowance of EUR 274.

Candidates will be selected with an eye to ensuring balance in terms of gender, regional and local representation, political affiliation and nationality.

They will be informed of the selection results in due time to make their travel arrangements.

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