Regions and Cities supporting
Europe2020
Europe's growth strategy

Delivering on
the Europe 2020 Strategy

Handbook for Local and Regional Authorities

smart   sustainable   inclusive

trends

cooperation

communication   networks   awards

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 how Europe 2020 can contribute to your life

Section 5

✓ how to share knowledge through territorial networks

Section 6

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

Delivering on the Europe 2020 Strategy

Handbook for Local and Regional Authorities

Background

This 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 stipulates that: "(…) 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=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015

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Foreword

The Europe 2020 Strategy is Europe's blueprint for a smart, sustainable and inclusive future, providing a 10 year roadmap for growth and jobs. All its instruments and policy goals have already been set: now we need to deliver. The Europe 2020 Strategy must be implemented in partnership with Europe's regions and cities because they are the actors who can close the 'delivery' gap. This is why making Europe 2020 a success is one of the key priorities of the Committee of the Regions in the years to come.

One of the CoR's priorities is "implementing Europe 2020 in partnership". This will involve a series of events focusing on the seven flagship initiatives and the exchange of best practices, which will end during the first half of 2014 with the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities, with a mid-term assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy. In this regard, numerous activities organised by the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform during this period will enable local and regional authorities to contribute to this bottom-up assessment.

National Reform Programmes should be drawn up and implemented together with local and regional authorities. We need to work in partnership, and develop a culture of 'multi-level' and 'multi-actor' governance in Europe. When drawing up and implementing your own '2020 vision,' your region and city must be able to count on other public authorities (including those at the European and national levels), social partners, universities and other civil society actors relevant to its future development.

Therefore, sound mechanisms need to be put in place to enable timely and structural cooperation with national level for annual reporting on progress towards the Strategy's headline goals. We will need to think outside the box and generate new alliances between regions and cities. Translating the five Europe 2020 headline objectives to take account of the territorial specificities of our regions and cities will require clear governance, monitoring and evaluation structures, fresh funding and a sound communication strategy. Moreover, to achieve efficient delivery on the ground, the signing of "Territorial Pacts" – enabling the implementation of Europe 2020 in partnership and the creation of greater synergies between public budgets at all levels – represents an opportunity that should be seized by every single EU Member State.

This "Handbook for delivering on the Europe 2020 Strategy" aims to inform local and regional authorities about the strategic potential of Europe 2020 for your area. It provides guidance and support to help you network your region and city in Europe and beyond, as well as hands-on best practices, inspiring EU initiatives and details of available funding. The new Cohesion and Structural Funds Regulations are geared towards achieving the Europe 2020 headline goals and EU socio-economic and territorial cohesion. The funds will therefore constitute important additional EU assistance and guidance in making your 2020 vision a reality within your region and city, too.

Now is the time to prepare for the next programming period of the funds and to contribute to the development of the future Partnership Contract between the Member States and the European Commission. You have the opportunity to share your ideas and good practices. Every local and regional authority in Europe has at least one jewel it can make shine, share and showcase to others.

Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

President of the
Committee of the Regions

As I said in the State of the Union address I delivered in the European Parliament in September last year, we are facing the biggest challenge in the history of our Union. The financial and economic crisis has hit the European Union hard. Overcoming the crisis and building a European social market economy fit for the 21st century is our overarching priority. To succeed we need stability and growth, solidarity and responsibility, leadership and ownership.

We need to create the right conditions to boost growth and support job creation through structural reforms and targeted investments. But we cannot have lasting and sustainable growth without a sound macroeconomic environment and financial stability. That is why the Commission has consistently worked towards a twin-track approach of stability and growth. We have not fallen for the illusion of quick fixes. We are doing the right thing through a root-and-branch reform of our budgetary and economic policies. Over these last two years, we have made significant progress in building a true economic union. It is now time to show the same determination in implementing our growth agenda as we have already shown in the pursuit of sound public finances.

Europe 2020 is our growth strategy. It was accepted in June 2010 by all Heads of State and Government. We are already two years into this strategy. Now we need to move up a gear by accelerating its delivery, while also using it as the right platform to accommodate any new growth initiatives. The budget proposed by the Commission for the period 2014-2020 is a budget to deliver Europe 2020, a pro-growth budget. This is where I count on you.

Europe 2020 will only succeed with full ownership and commitment from all levels, particularly from the regional and local levels. Regional and local authorities have key competences, and are often best placed, to implement the necessary reforms in crucial areas such as education, research, active labour market policies, energy efficiency and social inclusion. However, we need to close the implementation gap so that the decisions taken at the European level are concretely translated and can start to make a difference on the ground. We also need to ensure that local and regional bodies are better anchored and included in our new economic governance, and in the implementation of our growth policy.

The EU structural funds have a key role to play in helping to achieve our objectives. They can provide a significant growth stimulus in cities and regions. This is why we proposed that Cohesion policy after 2014 be even more closely aligned with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and our new economic governance, so that each euro is spent to its full potential to contribute to sustainable growth and quality jobs in Europe.

I very much welcome this handbook and thank the Committee of the Regions for bringing together in one place all the information to make Europe 2020 happen on the ground. 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

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 wich 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.

SMART GROWTH   SUSTAINABLE GROWTH   INCLUSIVE GROWTH

1. Digital agenda for Europe
2. Innovation Union
3. Youth on the move

4. Resource efficient Europe
5. An industrialized policy for the globalization era

6. An agenda for new skills and jobs
7. European platform against poverty and social exclusion

Section 3 presents the flagship initiatives and explains how local and regional authorities can profit from policy actions developed by the European Union.

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.
www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/studiesdownload.html?languageDocument=EN&file=74631

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.

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*

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://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf*

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?

Europe 2020 main related documents *http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/*

The seven Flagship Initiatives

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

2012 National Reform Programmes and Country Specific Recommendations

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

2011 National Reform Programmes and Country Specific Recommendations

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/economic_governance/sgp/convergence/programmes/2011_en.htm

The National Strategic Reference Framework for cohesion policy and the related Operation Programmes 2007-2013, which should contribute to implementing the Europe 2020 goals

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

Visit the Europe 2020 website for contact details of the government departments in charge of Europe 2020 in your country
See Chapter V for European associations of local and regional authorities
http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-your-country/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 AG S
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 on the Europe 2020 policy cycle and the role 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.

Click on the following link to consult the website of the Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, to join it and to find out more about its activities
http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/

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.

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

To download the latest (7th) edition of the Cohesion Report
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/reports/index_en.cfm

The Eurostat Regional yearbook 2011 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-11-001

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 may be a source of inspiration.

The Regions 2020 Report – An Assessment of future challenges for EU regions
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/regions2020/index_en.htm

Cities of Tomorrow - Challenges, visions, ways forward
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/citiesoftomorrow/index_en.cfm

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 crisis and the fiscal situation declined 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.

Project Europe 2030 – Challenges and Opportunities: A Report to the European Council by the Reflection Group on the Future of the EU 2030
www.reflectiongroup.eu/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/reflection_en_web.pdf

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

Europe 2020 policy cycle and the role of local and regional authorities

October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	October	November

LRAs develop their own Europe2020 vision

European Commission

Annual Growth Survey

LRAs cross-check EU growth-related priorities for the year to come

Policy guidance including country specific recommendations and possible "warning"

LRAs cross-check EU growth-related priorities for the year to come

Annual Growth Survey

Council of Ministers

Debate & orientations

Adoption of guidance

Mid October Peer review of draft budget

European Parliament

European Council

BEFORE: LRAs contribute to the CoR annual survey: Europe 2020 what is happening on the groundAFTER: LRAs discuss the results during the Open Days

Spring European Council – guidance of the 2012 European semester

June European Council Endorsement of guidance CSRS

BEFORE: LRAs contribute to the CoR annual survey: Europe 2020 what is happening on the groundAFTER: LRAs discuss the results during the Open Days

Member States

Adoption - National Reform Programmes (NRPs) & Stability and Convergence Programmes (SCPs)

Committee of the Regions

CoR Monitoring Report on Europe2020

CoR presents a message to the European Council

LRAs cooperate with their national governments on National Reform Programmes

CoR presents a message to the European Council

CoR Monitoring Report on Europe2020

■ EU institutions and Member States   ■ local and regional authorities (LRA)

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 Committee of the Regions White paper on multilevel governance
> *https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\const-iv\dossiers\const-iv-020*

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*

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.

> INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation 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.
>
> *http://www.interreg4c.eu/*

> EU 2020 going local is an Interreg IVC project involving a variety of partners across Europe which aims to bring Europe 2020 down to local and regional level and to implement the strategy through high-profile activities.
>
> *www.eu2020goinglocal.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, 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 multi-level 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 2011 there were 26 Groupings, distributed across 15 EU Member States.

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 is 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/expression/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 siginficantly 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

In 2007 – 2013 period, the EU budget funds Europe 2020 via three main funding instruments:

- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (€201 billion): regional development, economic decline in industrial or rural areas, competitiveness and co-operation;
- the European Social Fund (ESF) (€76 billion): employment, social inclusion and tackling discrimination;
- the Cohesion Fund (CF) (€70 billion): environment and transport.

The Funds have an overarching aim of "boosting growth and employment" and are made available for the regions.

More information *http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm*

2

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.

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.

> Growth fri   endly tax policies in Member States and better tax coordination in the EU (2011)
> *http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/ags2012_annex4_en.pdf*

Specific examples of local charging schemes that both generate local revenues and serve wider public policy objectives include:

- congestion charging for private car use in urban centres;
- charging for commercial and domestic waste collection and disposal has the advantage of ensuring the sustainability of the service and sending out a clear economic signal to polluters.

Opportunities offered by the European Investment Bank

The mission of the EIB is to further the objectives of the European Union by making long-term finance available for sound investment. 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. It works in the framework of a rolling three-year operational plan, approved by its Board of Directors and updated every year. The 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 are:

- support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);

- economic and Social Cohesion and Convergence i.e. supporting the economically less developed regions of Europe;
- protecting and improving the environment and promoting sustainable communities;
- implementation of the knowledge economy;
- development of Trans-European Networks (TENs);
- supporting the establishment of a sustainable, competitive and secure energy supply.

http://www.eib.org/

The next multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020: a budget for delivering the Europe 2020 Strategy

The European Union's cohesion policy, built into the Treaties since 1986, has been given the objective of reducing the gap in the different regions' levels of development, in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. The new proposal introduced a number of important changes to the way cohesion policy is designed and implemented. Based on the proposed General Regulation laying down the common provisions for the Cohesion and Structural funds put forward by the European Commission for the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, cohesion policy will be even more focused on Europe 2020 goals and targets – while not forgetting the objective of territorial cohesion.

A Common Strategic Framework will ensure focus and consistency in terms of the management of the Structural Funds. At national level, the CSF will be implemented by means of Partnership Contracts between the Commission and each Member State. Stakeholders participation in all stages of the drafting and implementation of the Partnership Contract is a key feature of this proposal. To ensure that this opportunity is fully grasped, the European Commission proposes a European code of conduct on the implementation of the partnership principle and will scrutinize whether this principle has been respected.

Art 5 on Partnership and multilevel governance in the proposed General Regulation laying down the common provisions for the Cohesion and Strutural Funds *http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm*

The partnership principle in the implementation of the Common Strategic Framework Funds - elements for a European Code of Conduct on Partnership
http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=67&langId=en&newsId=7956

Consult the Committee of the Regions' brochure on the future of EU cohesion policy as seen by region and cities
http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/brochures/Pages/The-future-of-EU-cohesion-policy-seen-by-regions-cities.aspx

RegioNetwork 2020
RegioNetwork 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/regionetwork2020

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

Catalonia 2020 Strategy – ECAT 2020 (Spain) builds on its first development strategy for the period 2005-2007 and its second strategy for 2008-2011. ECAT 2020 will tie in with the Europe 2020 strategy, taking the NRP as a reference point, and will develop flagship initiatives.

www.acordestrategic.cat/en/

Central Denmark: Globally competitive region - Business development strategy 2010-2020 (Denmark) is a partnership between employer organizations, education and research institutions, municipalities and the region. It has signed an agreement with central government on growth and business development linking together national, regional and local initiatives.

www.centraldenmark.eu/7260

Flanders (Belgium) has prepared its own Flemish Reform Programme Europe 2020.

http://vlaandereninactie.be/pact-2020-en/europe-2020/?lang=en

The Regional development programme for Skåne (Sweden) will be harmonised with the EU 2020 strategy in terms of its priorities and the period it covers (2014-2020). Before the programme is drawn up, the OECD will carry out a "Territorial Review" for Skåne, producing recommendations and policy implications. *www.skane.se/*

Styria Economic Policy 2020 – Growth through Innovation (Austria) involves the active development of business locations in line with three guiding themes (mobility, eco-tech and health-tech) focusing support instruments on the active development of business locations.

www.verwaltung.steiermark.at

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.

www.regio-achterhoek.nl/achterhoek-2020/achterhoek-2020.html

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.

www.mrr.gov.pl/rozwoj_regionalny/polityka_regionalna/ksrr_2010_2020/informacje_ podstawowe/strony/ksrr_2010_2020_inf_podstawowe.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.
✓ 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 Structural and Cohesion funds and get involved in the process of the elaboration and follow-up of your countries' Partnership Contract detailing the strategic orientations for the next programming period (2014-2020).
✓ Actively participate in the drafting, implementation, monitoring, revision and evaluation processes of the National Reform Programme.
✓ 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.

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 sub-section to each of the three Europe 2020 priorities and seven flagships initiatives in turn.

As the Europe 2020 priorities and flagship initaitives 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 objective of this flagship is to chart a course to maximise the social and economic potential of ICT, most notably the internet, a vital medium of economic and societal activity for doing business, working, playing, communicating and expressing ourselves freely. Successful delivery of this Agenda will spur innovation, economic growth and improvements in daily life for both citizens and businesses.

The Digital Agenda is divided into the following seven priority areas, which are further divided into 101 actions:

1. creating a Digital Single Market;

2. improving the framework conditions for interoperability between ICT products and services;

3. boosting internet trust and security;

4. guaranteeing the provision of much faster internet access;

5. encouraging investment in research and innovation;

6. enhancing digital literacy, skills and inclusion;

7. applying ICT to address social challenges such as climate change, rising healthcare costs and the ageing population. ICTs also have the capability to deliver better public services.

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

Key Performance Targets of this Flagship Initiative cover Broadband targets, the Digital Single Market, Digital inclusion, Public services, Research & innovation, Low Carbon Economy. See Annex 2, p. 40 in a " A Digital Agenda for Europe"
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52010DC0245R(01):EN:NOT
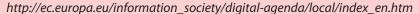
Monitoring DAE progress: The DAE includes 101 actions. An Annual Progress Report shows the state of play of the DAE. A record of the progress made in relation to individual actions may be found here
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/scoreboard/docs/101actionsoverviewtable.pdf
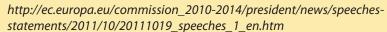
Going Local

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

Connecting Europe Facility

A plan to give Europe's transport, energy and digital networks a boost of EUR50 billion, it will help to build roads, railways, energy grids and pipelines and broadband networks, generating growth and jobs, making 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 the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative.

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/speeches-statements/2011/10/20111019_speeches_1_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/financial_operations/investment/europe_2020/index_en.htm

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 April 2012, 26 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

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Smart Specialization Platform (S3Platform)

This platform aims to help each region identify the high-value added activities which offer the best chances for strengthening its competitiveness and the policy-portfolio to be put in place to achieve this goal. This includes the governance set-up, stakeholder involvement and practices to draft their smart specialisation strategies.

http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/research-and-innovation/s3platform.cfm

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 (RS3) .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://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/smart_specialisation/smart_ris3_2012.pdf?uuid=e50397e3-f2b1-4086-8608-7b86e69e8553&groupId=10157

Introduction of eGovernment in the Vysočina region (Czech Republic)

Planned at national and local level, the project will roll out various forms of eGovernment in the Vysočina region via an integrated operational programme funding: a regional technology centre and network infrastructure, digital plan for the region's public administration, digitisation and data storage, the internal integration of the region's ICT and development of the region's data storage.

www.kr-vysocina.cz/it

Development of ultra-fast broadband in Région Auvergne (France)

As the first region in Europe to achieve 100% high speed broadband coverage, Auvergne has won the first round in the fight against the digital divide. The challenge now is to deploy fiber-optic cable fairly throughout the region, including in rural areas, to ensure that everyone can benefit from increased broadband speed.

www.auvergne-business.com/broadband

In relation to the "Digital agenda for Europe" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from 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 human-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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at
https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015

3.1.2 Innovation Union

This flagship initiative aims to improve the framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services creating growth and jobs. This involves refocusing R&D and innovation policy on the major challenges facing our society today such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health and demographic change and strengthening every link in the innovation chain, from 'blue sky' research to commercialization.

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

Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for research and innovation
This Practical Guide includes a full, up-to-date picture of the three main sources of funding (7th Research Framework Programme, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and Structural Funds), as well as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fisheries Fund, Lifelong learning programme and LIFE +
http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

Knowledge Alliances

The project encourages structured, result-driven cooperation ventures between universities and companies, bridging the gap between the two sectors.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/knowledge_en.htm

How the 7th Framework Programme helps regions to innovate

The Commission provides guidance on regional innovation strategies, highlighting success stories of the two FP7 Programmes "Research Potential" and "Regions of Knowledge", including fact sheets on the 204 projects funded so far. More projects will be funded in 2012 and 2013. The Regions of Knowledge Programme strengthens EU regions' research potential.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/index_en.cfm

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The Regional Innovation Committee of Crete (PSKK) (Greece)

Set up to advise regional authorities, the PSKK proposes and coordinates measures to promote innovation and strengthen competitiveness. A think-tank for the region on how to create a strong and evolving knowledge economy based on technological innovation, it aims to enhance Cretans' quality of life and promote sustainable development, with respect for the environment and local culture under Europe 2020.

http://www.tehnopol.ee/UserFiles/dokumendid/Baltic%20Dynamics%202011/innovation%20 support%20session/4_Artemis%20Saitakis.pdf

Barcelona Activa, City of Barcelona (Spain)

Barcelona Activa is a single reference point helping entrepreneurs and promoting entrepreneurship in the area. Its core activities include training, coaching, the organisation of networking events, and helping out with innovation – including practical IT advice in its advanced technology park.

www.barcelonactiva.cat

Clustering of specific scientific topics: Clean Tech, Medical Delta, City of Delft (Netherlands)

This project clusters specific scientific strongholds relevant to universities, research institutes and local and regional authorities in Delft, Rotterdam, Leiden and The Hague. These measures are planned and implemented in partnership between the municipalities, provinces, universities, research institutes, medical centers and various private companies.

www.delft.nl/delften/Business/City_of_Innovation

In relation to the "Innovation Union" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from 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.

Consult the Opinion 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

Lifelong Learning Programme: education and training opportunities for all

This programme allows people of all ages to take part in stimulating learning experiences, funding a range of measures including exchanges, study visits and networking activities. Aimed not only at individual students and learners but also at teachers, it has four sub-programmes: Comenius for schools; Erasmus for higher education; Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education/ training; Grundtvig for adult education. The EU has allocated almost EUR 13 billion to lifelong learning and worldwide exchanges for 2007-13.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/index_en.htm

What's in it for me: EU opportunities in education, culture and youth
This booklet provides brief information on some of the programmes covering education, training, culture, research and youth
http://ec.europa.eu/education/pub/pdf/general/what_en.pdf

Progress reports on education and training
Every two years, the Commission and the education ministers from the EU countries publish a joint report on the overall EU situation in education and training and assess the progress achieved towards the EU's common objectives. Using data from the Commission's annual progress reports, it delivers a series of key messages and recommendations for future approaches.
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/progress-reports_en.htm

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Strategies for improving participation in and awareness of adult learning
This guide details the role of stakeholders in adult education, 16 in-depth case studies on selected activities for raising awareness of adult learning and a list of activities that could be built upon and executed by different stakeholders in adult learning.
http://ec.europa.eu/education/more-information/doc/2012/adult_en.pdf

For best practices in education, training, youth, culture, multilingualism, citizenship, creativity and innovation
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/valorisation/best-practice_en.htm#Education

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/

The Vorarlberg "Opportunity Pool" (Austria): getting young people, people with immigrant backgrounds and the low-skilled into work, Land Vorarlberg

A state-wide counselling and support system, it provides individual support for young people under 20 who are on the threshold between school and work. It helps young people leaving compulsory education and dropping out of secondary, tertiary or higher education find suitable training courses or qualifications.

http://www.vorarlberg.at/

In relation to the "Youth on the Move" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from 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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at
https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015

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 bio-diversity 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
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/

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.

Commission Climate Change Adaptation White Paper 2009 *http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/documents/index_en.htm*
Adaptation Portal : *http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/index_en.htm*

European Spatial development perspectives (1999) *http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/pdf/sum_en.pdf*

Covenant of Mayors

Do you want to commit your city to reaching the European Union 20% CO_2 reduction objective by 2020? Join the Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors, with already more than 3900 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% CO_2 reduction objective by 2020.

www.eumayors.eu

Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP-P), City of Porto (Portugal)

Having signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2009, Porto aims to become an energy-efficient city and reduce dependence on the most CO_2 - intensive fossil fuels, cut CO_2 emissions in the city by 45%, increase use of renewable energies and promote energy efficiency.

www.eumayors.eu/about/signatories_en.html?city_id=301

Island committed to sustainable energy

The ISLE-PACT project is committed to developing Local Sustainable Energy Action Plans with the aim of meeting or exceeding the EU sustainability targets of 20/20/20 for the year 2020. The project is led by the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Energy.

www.europeanislands.net

ELENA - European Local ENergy Assistance

To facilitate the mobilisation of funds for investments in sustainable energy at local level, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank set up European Local Energy Assistance, which is financed through the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme. ELENA support covers a share of the cost of technical support that is necessary to prepare, implement and finance the investment programme, such as feasibility and market studies, structuring of programmes, business plans, energy audits, preparation for tendering procedures - in short, everything needed to make cities' and regions' sustainable energy projects ready for EIB funding.

http://www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/elena/index.htm

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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 co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/index.htm

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/

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
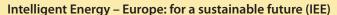
URBACT

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

CASH: Cities Action for Sustainable Housing

The aim of the CASH project is to put forward new solutions and promote new policies for the sustainable renovation of social and affordable housing units in the EU.

http://urbact.eu/en/projects/low-carbon-urban-environments/cash/our-project/

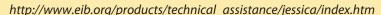**Intelligent Energy – Europe: for a sustainable future (IEE)**

This programme gives a boost to clean and sustainable solutions, supporting their use and dissemination and the Europe-wide exchange of related knowledge and know-how. Targeted funding is provided for creative projects which put this idea into practice.

http://ec.europa.eu/eaci/iee_en.htm

For information about energy efficiency or renewables, search the IEE database and find details of the 500+ projects which have been financed by the programme so far *www.eaci-projects.eu/iee/page/Page.jsp*

JESSICA is an initiative developed by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank, in collaboration with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). Under new procedures, Member States are given the option of using some of their EU grant funding, their so-called Structural Funds, to make repayable investments in projects forming part of an integrated plan for sustainable urban development. These investments, which may take the form of equity, loans and/or guarantees, are delivered to projects via Urban Development Funds and, if required, Holding Funds.

http://www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/jessica/index.htm

New ways to a green horizon: Marco Polo

Marco Polo is the European Union's funding programme for projects which shift freight transport from the road to sea, rail and inland waterways. Marco Polo helps to reduce the costs of transport to the environment, the economy and society.

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo.

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/

The Consumer Programme

The financial framework of Consumer policy with a total of EUR156.8 million in funding, the Consumer Programme 2007-2013 aims to ensure a high level of consumer protection, better consultation and better representation of consumers' interests and the effective application of consumer protection rules.

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/consumers/index.html

Healthy Eco Life in Zagreb and Maribor (Croatia and Slovenia)

Funded by the Health Programme, this project promotes healthy life styles among year 4 primary school children in urban areas in Zagreb (Croatia) and Maribor (Slovenia) creating an innovative program for health promotion. Children look after animals and do organic gardening through a variety of practical workshops.

www.healthy-eco-life.com/pages/projekt1E.html

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 from 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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at
https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015

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.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/

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 annually rewards up to three EU regions with the most outstanding political vision for boosting their entrepreneurial environment. This label recognises forward-thinking regions, irrespective of their wealth, size or competences. One of the main principles of the EER is to help regions to contribute to the implementation of the "Small Business Act for Europe".
http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx

European Entrepreneurial Regions label for the year 2013
The French region **Nord-Pas-de-Calais** distinguished itself with comprehensive regional innovation programmes setting clear targets, showing strong stakeholder cooperation, whilst also highlighting a clear commitment to the implementation of the "Small Business Act for Europe" (SBA) and demonstrating how the EER label would bring added-value to the regional policy. **Southern Denmark**'s application presented a detailed analysis of entrepreneurship-related weaknesses and areas for improvement, as well as a good action plan around three major themes, and clearly identified areas of business excellence, as well as presenting a very concrete EER 2013 project: the entrepreneurial one-stop-shop. The Austrian Land of **Styria** presented a comprehensive general strategy in the framework of the Europe 2020 targets, with a strong social dimension, specific measures for migrants, a commitment for its specialisation strategy and a strong focus for Public Private Partnerships. Furthermore, Styria suggested concrete ideas on how to foster cooperation among the EER regions. Since its inception, the EER label has been awarded to other six regions: Land Brandenburg (Germany), County Kerry (Ireland) and Murcia (Spain) for 2011; Catalonia (Spain), Helsinki-Uusimaa (Finland) and Trnava Self-Governing region (Slovak Republic) for 2012.

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*

The E-factory (SWEDEN)

This project has introduced a number of creative and innovative solutions to help boost entrepreneurship and create jobs in rural Uppsala County. Some 39 new companies and 179 new jobs have been created as a result while average revenues have increased by 30% in the municipality of Habo alone. Women entrepreneurs made up 53 percent of those involved.

www.regionuppsala.se

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 some 3000 members of staff in 600 regional partner organisations helping SMEs to find business or technology partners and advising them on how they can secure the necessary financing or Community funding.

www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

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*

The "European Union Support Programmes for SMEs" guide gives an overview of the main European funding opportunities available to SMEs *http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5778*

CIP - The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme financial instruments

The 2007-13 Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions through the Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme (EIP). Some 99% of SMEs receiving CIP funding are micro- or small enterprises. Each SME with a guaranteed loan creates 1.2 jobs on average.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/cip-financial-instruments/index_en.htm

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

Grenzoffensive' – cross-border initiative for SMEs (Austria, Czech Republic and Germany)

This project aims to cut the red tape facing local SMEs that wish to expand their operations across the border into the neighbouring regions of Upper Austria, South Bohemia and Bavaria. It has focused on facilitating the provision of cross-border services, in particular procedures for the posting of workers.

www.grenzoffensive.org

SME initiative by the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund to increase energy efficiency (Austria)

As part of the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund's initiative to increase energy efficiency in SMEs, this structured, nationwide system of incentives helps ensure that firms get more energy advice and that the recommended economic measures are implemented. Businesses receive 'energy efficiency cheques', which allow them to obtain qualified, independent energy efficiency advice.

www.klimafonds.gv.at

Reviving traditional cheese types with modern technology (Greece)

Cheese-making had almost been abandoned on the Aegean island of Ios until the decision to build a factory for the production of quality traditional cheese back in 2007. The project has helped 40 farming families and tourism entrepreneurs gain additional income from selling quality dairy products. Nominated for the European Enterprise Awards 2010 in the category: improving the Business Environment. *www.ios.gr*

JEREMIE - Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises

The JEREMIE initiative developed in cooperation with the European Commission, offers EU Member States, through their national or regional Managing Authorities, the opportunity to use part of their EU Structural Funds to finance small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by means of equity, loans or guarantees, through a revolving Holding Fund acting as an umbrella fund.

http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/jeremie/index.htm

Eco-innovation: when business meets the environment

The initiative contributes to the implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan which seeks to boost environmental technologies while strengthening economic growth and competitiveness. Priority is given to projects presented by small firms. Funding is made available in the form of grants. Information on the actions covered by the calls for proposals is available on the web page on the calls' main themes.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm

Ecobionet - industrial implementation of biodegradable and compostable packaging nets for agricultural and shellfish products (ecobionet) in Germany, Belgium and Spain

A project managed by AIMPLAS and funded by the Eco-Innovation Initiative. Its primary objective is to industralize the process and technologies for manufacturing various kinds of biodegradable/compostable nets. Four companies in Germany, Belgium and Spain are working together with AIMPLAS to implement new materials and processes to develop networks of biodegradable and compostable packaging.

http://eaci-projects.eu/eco/page/Page.jsp?op=project_detail&prid=1969

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/index_en.htm

Club EMAS (Spain) brings together organisations from all business sectors to improve the uptake and recognition of the EMAS environmental management system in Catalonia.

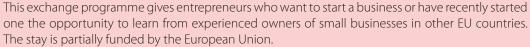*http://ec.europa.eu/environment/sme/cases/clubemas_en.htm*

The EcoBusinessPlan project, Vienna (Austria) promotes sustainability in small and large businesses in various sectors through efficient and economic management practices. Businesses receive consultancy to help implement EMAS environmental projects.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/sme/cases/ecobusinessplan_en.htm

The Green Business (Ireland) service offers Irish businesses advice on improving resource efficiency by reducing wastage of materials, consumables, water, energy.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/sme/cases/greenbusiness_en.htm

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

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In relation to the "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from 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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at *https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015*

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

European Employment Strategy

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, this strategy seeks to create 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, national governments (through the Employment Committee) and the EU institutions work together to produce the "employment package".

> **European Social Fund (ESF)**
> One of the EU's Structural Funds, the ESF was set up to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across the EU and to promote economic and social cohesion. Devoted to promoting employment in the EU, some EUR 75 billion will be distributed to EU Member States and regions under the ESF to achieve these goals.
>
> *http://ec.europa.eu/esf/*

> To find out more about which countries are involved as well as the priorities of the ESF *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/*

Lazio 2020 - Regional Strategic Plan for the Empowerment of the Labour Market (Italy)
This White Paper incorporates the Open Method of Coordination into a strategic planning document. The Lazio Department of Labour and Training has defined strategic guidelines that will become the framework for its own programming over the medium and long term.

http://www.strategiadilisbonalazio.it/Archivio/Documenti/Libro_verde_lazio_2020.pdf

Austria - Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs)
Contracted regional partnerships which aim to ensure better links between employment policy and other policies to improve the employment situation at local and regional level, TEPs have been created in all nine Austrian Federal Provinces since 2000 and at sub-regional level (NUTS III). The activities are co-funded as part of the Austrian Operational Programme for Employment 2007-2013 under the ESF.

www.pakte.at/index.html

Youth Opportunities Initiative

The Youth Opportunities Initiative is a set of measures to drive down youth unemployment in 2012 and 2013. Part of the EU's Youth on the Move education and employment initiative, it calls on Member States to prevent early school leaving; help youngsters develop the skills relevant to the labour market; ensure work experience and on-the-job training and help young people find a good first job.

For the latest developments on the EU Youth Opportunities Initiative – visit the Commission website *http://ec.europa.eu/social/yoi*

Young adult pack in Auvergne Region (France)
The young adult pack was jointly developed with all youth stakeholders in Auvergne with the active involvement of the local authorities concerned. *www.auvergne.org/synindex/pack-jeune.html*

Productive learning - Land of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Germany)
This project aims to reduce the number of early school-leavers and those leaving school with no qualifications. Focusing on school pupils who have few opportunities under the curriculum to foster and develop their skills, thereby jeopardising their school-leaving qualifications, the project will cost EUR 10 million (European Social Fund and Land funding) in 2005-2013. It will be funded by the Land after 2013.

www.bildung-mv.de/de/schule/entwicklung/produktives_lernen/

European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF)
With up to EUR 500 million available each year, the EGF co-funds measures to help workers who are victims of trade-related mass redundancies in a single business or sector in the same, or two contiguous regions, to find new jobs. Applications to the Fund are submitted by the Members States.

http://ec.europa.eu/egf

In the case of **Comunidad Valenciana Natural Stone (Spain)**, which received EUR 1 422 850 from the EGF, one of the main stakeholders was the Consorcio del Pacto Territorial por el Empleo del Valle del Vinalopó, composed of the mayors of the localities most hit by redundancies and a representative from the Vinalopó Valley partnership of municipalities, trade-unions and local level business organisations.

http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=582&langId=en&egfAppsId=53&furtherEgfApps=yes

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.

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

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. 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.

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 as well as Thematic Review Seminars in which representatives of local and regional authorities can participate.

http://www.mutual-learning-employment.net/

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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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at *https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015*

3.3.2 European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The aim of this flagship initiative is 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

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*

The European Anti Poverty Network has developed a toolkit on how social stakeholders can get involved in the development of 2012 National Reform Programmes *www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EUISG/Toolkit-NRP-NSR-Engagement-2012-Final.pdf*

Social innovation

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 (prod-

ucts, services and models) that meet social needs more effectively than alternatives and create new social relationships or collaborations

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://cor.europa.eu/en/news/forums/Pages/cc16249c-5074-4e33-a650-53202a43e73e.aspx*
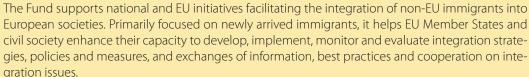
Integration of immigrants

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

Local Pact for Integration in Valencia (Spain)

This pact brings together public authorities at local, provincial and regional level to create a framework for boosting cooperation and providing coherence to the action developed in different areas to integrate immigrants in the region.

www.portaldelinmigrante.es/index.php?lang=en

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/

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://europa.eu/ey2012/ey2012main.jsp?langId=en&catId=970&newsId=1065&furtherNews=yes*

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.

The Health Programme 2008-2013

The Second Community Programme in the field of health 2008-2013 has a budget of EUR 321.5 million. Participation is open to a wide range of organisations including those active at regional level, such as research institutes, universities, public administrations, non-governmental organisations and commercial firms. National focal points are available to provide support for applications to the programme.

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

Pooling health resources on the Belgian-French border
Cooperation between the Belgian regions and French departments lies at the heart of this project, with patients living along the border gaining unrestricted access to their nearest health care institution, including emergency services, irrespective of the country in which it is located. Pooling together resources and complementing each other's medical capacities makes financial savings possible.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/projects/stories/details_new.cfm?pay=BE&the=45&sto=2199&lan=7&region=ALL&obj=ALL&per=2&defL=EN

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

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In relation to the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" flagship initiative, the CoR Opinion from 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.

Consult the Opinion in your language at
https://bvstoad.cor.europa.eu/BrowseDocuments.aspx?type=1&folder=cdr\ecos-v\dossiers\ecos-v-015

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.

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.

http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/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.

> **Showing what Europe 2020 can do for you**
> The 2010 EU exhibition "Discover what social Europe can do for you" visited three cities in the region of Alsace (France), attracting a large public. The main aim of this exhibition was to show the people of Alsace what Europe was doing for them. The European Commission held similar events in other regions as part of the Social Europe Circus Campaign and the Strasbourg exhibition attracted 25,000 visitors.
>
> For a video clip of the exhibition, go to: *www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeyddbOnmg*
>
> **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_estrateacutegiaeuropa2020.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/

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

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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
http://europa.eu/europedirect - or the European Commission representation in your country *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 136 members include regions with legislative powers, local and regional authorities without legisla-

tive powers and local government associations in the European Union. The Network was set up to facilitate 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

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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

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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 Lander, 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

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ENRD - European Network for Rural Development

Set up by the European Commission in 2008 to help Member States implement their Rural Development Programs (RDPs) 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/expertscall_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

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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

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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/

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/

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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

Sustainable growth

European entrepreneurial region label

A Committee of the Regions project that identifies and rewards EU regions with an outstanding entre-preneurial 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 innova-tion, economic viability and environmental concerns. Consisting of five awards, it rewards companies for management practices, products, processes, international business cooperation and biodiversity activi-ties 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

<p align="center">**Europe's highest award for clean urban transport: the CIVITAS Award**</p>

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

<p align="right">**Inclusive growth**</p>

<p align="center">**European Capitals of Culture**</p>

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

<p align="center">**European Award for Best Children's Online Content**</p>

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

<p align="center">**Access City Award**</p>

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

<p align="center">**European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage - EUROPA NOSTRA Awards**</p>

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

AEM – European Association of Elected representatives from Mountain Regions

AER – Assembly of European Regions

AGS – Annual Growth Survey

ALDE – Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

AREFLH – Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières, Légumières et Horticoles

AREV – Assembly of European Wine Regions

BSSSC – Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation

CALRE – Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies

CAP – Common Agricultural Policy

CASH – Cities Action for Sustainable Housing

CEB – Council of Europe Development Bank

CEMR – Council of European Municipalities and Regions

CF – Cohesion Fund

CIP – Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

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

COM – Communication

CoM – Covenant of Mayors

CoR – Committee of the Regions

CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

CSR — Country Specific Recommendation

CTP — Communauté de travail des Pyrénées

DAE – Digital Agenda for Europe

DG – Directorate General

EA – European Alliance Group

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

EC – European Commission

EER – European Entrepreneurial Region

EFTA — European Free Trade Association

EGF – European Globalisation adjustment Fund

EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

EIB — European Investment Bank

EIP – Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme

EUKN – European Urban Knowledge Network

ELENA – European Local ENergy Assistance

EMAS – Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

EMU – European Monetary Union

ENRD – European Network for Rural Development

EP – European Parliament

EPP – European People's Party

ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

ERNEST – European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism

ERRIN – European Regions Research and Innovation Network

ESF – European Social Fund

ESNC – European Satellite Navigation Competition

EU – European Union

EURADA – European Association of Development Agencies

EURES – European Employment Services

EU SDS – European Union Sustainable Development Strategy

EUSEW – EU Sustainable Energy Week

FOGAR – Forum of Global Associations of Regions

FP7 - 7th Framework Programme

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

GEPAS – Galileo-EGNOS Prize Award Scheme

ICC - Intercultural Cities

ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability

ICT — Information and Communication Technology

ICZM - Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IEE - Intelligent Energy — Europe

IWC - Istanbul water consensus

JEREMIE – Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises

LRAs – Local and Regional Authorities

MLG – Multilevel governance

MOT — Mission Opérationnelle transfrontalière

MP - Monitoring Platform

MS(s) – Member State(s)

NECSTouR – Network of European Regions for a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism

NPR(s) – National Progress Report(s)

NRG4SD – Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

NRP – National Reform Programme

OECD — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OMC - Open Method of Coordination

PES – Party of European Socialists

PPMI – Public Policy and Management Institute

RAs – Regional authorities

RACES initiative - Raising Awareness on Climate and Energy

R&D – Research and Development

RIS3 – Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation

SBA – Small Business Act

SCPs – Stability and Convergence Programmes

SEAP-P – Porto Sustainable Energy Action Plan

SGP – Stability and Growth Pact

SMEs – Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

SWOT (analysis) - Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats

TENs – Trans-European Networks

TFEU – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

UBC - The Union of the Baltic Cities

UN — United Nations

YotM - Youth on the Move

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

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 344 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 is a network of local and regional authorities aiming to assess the EUROPE 2020 Strategy from the point of view of EU Regions and Cities.
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

Committee of the Regions