

19th EURegionsWeek 2021



Event Overview¹

The European Week of Regions and Cities (#EURegionsWeek), is a major annual Brussels-based event dedicated to regional policy. The event serves as a platform for discussing and showcasing the development of the EU cohesion policy, and for contributing decision-makers being more aware of the importance of regions and cities in the EU. The University Sessions of the event are organized by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), advised by the Regional Studies Association European Foundation (RSA Europe, which is a major partner at the event), the cooperation of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA), and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).

This year's event, the 19th EURegionsWeek was held on 11-14 October 2021 with success and recorded the highest number of 17.600 participants. With its 591 partners, 30 stands, 1261 speakers and moderators, 142 video testimonials, the program of the 19th event highlighted how cohesion policy and funding helped communities to navigate the COVID-19 crisis in countless ways - and how these are crucial for promoting long-term growth once the pandemic eases. More than 4000 messages (exchanged on the user-friendly platform, encouraging interaction, messages) fed the discussion around the four themes of this edition: cohesion, green, digital, and Citizens' engagement.

The Opening session was the first high-level debate of the week, hosted as a TV show, and attracted 1.400 live followers via the streaming available on the event's platform and 2.000 views via social media channels. Several VIP panelists, including the President of the European Committee of the Regions, the European Commissioner, and the EP REGI Chair, joined the debate and focused on the transition from emergency to sustainable recovery. Many CoR members contributed as well, via live and remote interventions.

In a ceremony underscoring the importance of a free press in upholding EU values, two young journalists from the Youth4RegionsCompetition, one from Ireland and the second from Spain, were chosen as recipients of this year's Megalizzi-Niedzielski prize. The prize was jointly awarded by the Commissioner and Chair of the EP REGI Committee.

Finally, the Closing session harvested the results of this year's edition. During this session, 4 short videos summarizing the event were played and the 1323 responses of the EURegionsWeek 2021 #TheVoiceOfTheWeek online survey were unveiled. All recordings of sessions and high-level events are available in English, French, and German.

The #EURegionsWeek has also served as a platform for fostering the ongoing debate on democracy and citizen's engagement in the context of the Conference on the #FutureofEurope. The organizers invite all interested citizens to feed the debate, share ideas, and post comments to continue the Citizens' Dialogue.

More information about the review of the event is available at the URL: <https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities>.

¹ Event overview edited by Dimitrios Tsiotas, RSII