



European Week of  
Regions and Cities

Brussels

10-13 October 2016

# **14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS)**

## **Kick-off meeting**

**29 January, 11:00-12:30**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/)



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# "Regions and cities for sustainable and inclusive growth"

3 thematic strands 2016:

- (1) Sustained and sustainable economic growth**
- (2) Inclusive economic growth**
- (3) Making ESI Funds simpler**

Under each of these priorities, the event partners are invited to address challenges relating to ESIF programme management as well as to the cross-border, inter-regional or transnational dimension.



## Sustained and sustainable economic growth

- Opportunities for regions and cities to foster growth and create more employment, in the context of the **internationalisation** of Europe's economies.
- Factors attracting **new productive investment** in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- New opportunities linked to **innovation**: energy efficiency, low-carbon economy, the circular economy, exchanges on smart specialisation.



## Inclusive economic growth

- Development and implementation of **labour market and social inclusion policies** at local level for disadvantaged sections of the population.
- Social housing, public services and education, as well as measures to facilitate the setting-up of **micro-businesses** or small enterprises and to create an environment which is more "self-employment friendly".
- Share experiences in tackling the **refugee crisis**, including through the use of EU funds.



## Making ESI Funds simpler

- Experience, good practice in raising **efficiency and effectiveness** of programme management, ways to **simplify management** and build administrative and executive capacities.
- Best practice in **urban development**, in **integrated territorial investment** programmes and **community-led local development** and use of new financial instruments.
- Early results of the **ex-post evaluations** for the period 2007-2013.

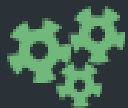
# OPEN DAYS 2015 at a glance



- **6,000** participants from **70** countries



- **177** partner regions and cities from 30 countries



- **140** workshops, debates, sessions



- **800+** speakers

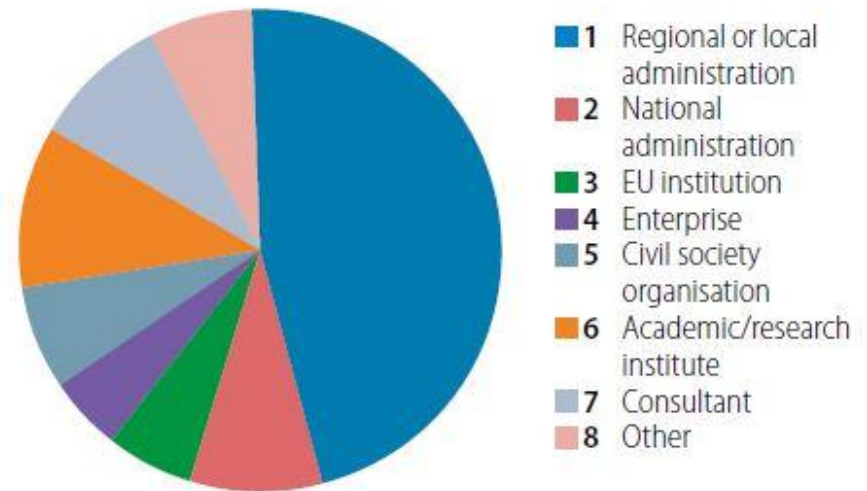


- **180+** local events

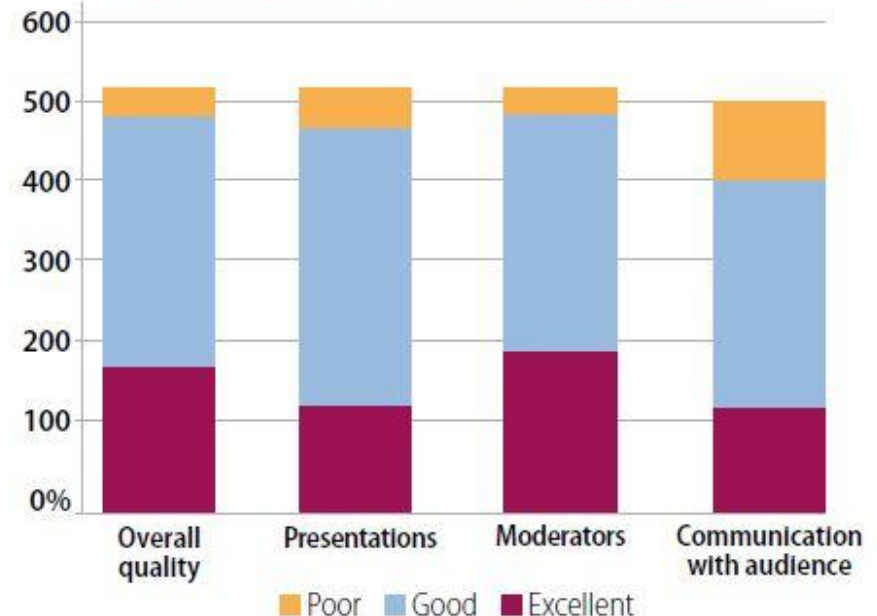


- OPEN Urban DAY attracting **800** participants

## OPEN DAYS participants: organisational affiliation



## Assessment of workshops and debates



## 10-13 October

The European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels. The annual four-day event is an inter-institutional platform for political communication, a means of capacity-building for regional and local stakeholders, and facilitates communication on EU affairs at local level. OPEN DAYS makes use of important moments in the EU agenda to get the message across to EU decision makers that regions and cities make a difference in effective EU policy-making and funding. The OPEN DAYS bring officials at EU, national, regional and local level together in order to exchange experiences and new ideas and to make sure that public money is well spent.



Opening session in the European Parliament  
Roundtable with journalists

10 October

11-13 October

More than 100 workshops and various networking activities



## December/January

Representatives from Europe's regions and cities gather in Brussels for the kick-off meeting of the OPEN DAYS – an annual event organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the European Committee of the Regions, during which event partners have the opportunity to showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance.

Regions and cities matter because sub-national public authorities in the EU are responsible for one third of public expenditure and two thirds of public investments. At the heart of EU funding, there are about 400 cohesion policy programmes and over 100 programmes in the field of rural development and fisheries policy, worth about 500 billion up until 2020, aimed at ensuring smart, sustainable and inclusive development in all regions and cities.



## July

The programme is published on the event website and online registration opens for around 6000 participants per edition.



# Programme



## September/November

### Local events "Europe in my region/city"

In an attempt to bring the messages of the OPEN DAYS closer to Europe's citizens, each participating region and city organises at least one local event on their home ground, to be held between September and November, under the heading "Europe in my region/city".

Many independent partners join this exercise of decentralised communication, and the European Cooperation Day events are also associated. According to estimates, the local events reach out to about 200,000 participants. Local events are organised around the annual thematic priorities of OPEN DAYS. They are aimed at the general public, potential beneficiaries of EU regional policy, expert audiences, academics and the media and can take various formats such as conferences, workshops, radio/TV broadcasts or exhibitions.



Opening Session  
10 October

*Brussels*

RegioStars  
Award Ceremony &  
Official Reception  
11 October

*Bozar*

EWRC  
University  
11 – 13 October

*EC/Charlemagne*

Master Class  
11 – 13 October

*CoR & other venues*

Local Events  
September –  
November

*All over Europe*



## Next steps



**Applications**  
(Regional partnerships,  
Meeting Place, EC,  
University)  
**by 1 April**

**Selection  
results by  
29 April**

**1<sup>st</sup> Partners'  
meeting (tbc)  
20 May**

**Final details  
by 6 June**

**Online  
registration  
opens 8 July**





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# RegioStars Awards 2016



1. Smart Growth
2. Sustainable Growth
3. Inclusive Growth
4. CityStar
5. Management

Launch 1st week of February, deadline April 15



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## Project "open doors"



Events in many Member States  
around Europe Day

## Photo competition



May – August 2016



## **DG REGIO: other events**

- 25-26 January** Launch conference of the **EUSALP Strategy**, Slovenia
- 12-13 May** 1st **EUSAIR Forum**, Dubrovnik
- 1-2 June** **Smart Regions** Conference, Brussels
- 3-4 November** **Danube Strategy** annual Conference, Slovakia
- 8-9 November** **Strategy Forum for the Baltic Sea Region**, Stockholm
- "Going local"** events in SK (16/3), EE-LV-LT (9/6), PT (27/6), HU, UK, DE



## Committee of the Regions

### CoR main events

- 9 Febr. **Boosting entrepreneurial spirit – pioneering regions and cities**, CoR conference  
as of Feb **CoR local events** (Citizens or Stakeholder Dialogues and seminars) can be applied for
- 6 April **European Migration Forum**, together with the EESC and the European Commission
- 28 May **Inter-institutional Open Day** (please apply by 1 April for stand at CoR)
- 30/31 May **Urban Forum**, Amsterdam, together with the Association of Dutch Municipalities, VNG
- 14 June **Regions and climate change** (follow-up of COP21)
- 8/9 July **6th European Summit of regions and Cities**, Bratislava, together with the Self-governing Region and the City of Bratislava
- 20/21 Oct. **7th European Conference on Public Communication** (EuroPCom), together with EP, Commission, Council, EESC and Presidency (tbc)



## Committee of the Regions

### CoR local events 2016

- Support for Citizens/Stakeholders' Dialogues, conferences or seminars
- Conditions: one or more CoR members as speaker(s); an open and participatory format; a link to the CoR's political priorities; partnership with other EU institutions, REPs, EPIOs, EDICs
- Who can apply? CoR members, local and regional authorities, EU regions, provinces and cities; national associations representing regional and local interests
- Once approved, the CoR can provide financial support to moderators, interpretation and media activities
- Apply via CoR's local events page (online on 10 February)



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**For more information and contact:**

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(a specific short URL for the event is requested)

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