European Committee of the Regions

EU annual report 2023
The State of Regions and Cities

Key recommendations

1

Continue and strengthen support to Ukraine by partnering with EU regions and cities for reconstruction and reform.

2

Ensure a multi-level governance approach to the energy transition. Only with increased EU funds can local and regional projects increase and improve their impact to meet the EU's climate ambition on the ground and strengthen acceptance for the green transition within local communities.

3

Invest significantly in climate adaptation and mitigation with a place-based strategy to preserve cohesion and resilience across regions and cities and in the face of the disruptive and asymmetric effects of climate change, as well as biodiversity loss.

4

Support sustainable local agriculture and partner with local and regional authorities to help make European food systems more resilient and sustainable.

5

Ensure more support to implement the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development goals at local and regional level.

6

Unlock investments for the green and digital transitions, supporting people and reducing inequalities, while also fostering the industrial competitiveness of European regions.

7

Reform cohesion policy with a mission and place-based approach, applying the principle of "do no harm to cohesion" across all policies.

8

A long-term approach to rural areas must equip them with investment in their green and digital transitions to effectively fight depopulation and attract young talent.

9

The EU must take advantage of citizens' trust in regional and local representatives to reinforce European democracy better and to a greater extent.

10

Involve local and regional authorities, with their experience and networks, to prepare for the next wave of enlargement.