



European Committee
of the Regions

Network of Regional Hubs for EU Policy Implementation Review

The future of the Green Deal: Taking stock and looking ahead



RegHub

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***"The future of the Green Deal: taking stock and looking ahead":
Report on the RegHub consultation***

Content

1. Key takeaways from the consultation	1
2. Introduction to the consultation	3
2.1 What is this consultation for?	3
2.2 What is the scope of the consultation?	3
2.3 Why did we organise the consultation this year?	3
2.4 What is the European legal background?	4
2.5 What is the bigger picture?	4
2.6 The structure of the consultation	4
3. Analysis of consultation results.....	5
3.1 General overview and results on the "Green Deal Framework"	5
3.2 Crosscutting comparison and deep dives	12
3.3 Needs and envisaged solutions	29
<i>Annex I: List of stakeholders.....</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Annex II: Text of the consultation</i>	<i>40</i>

1. Key takeaways from the consultation

Cities and regions are leading in implementing the European Green Deal – also thanks to the direct support from the EU

Local and regional authorities are leading the way in implementing the European Green Deal (hereafter 'Green Deal'), and local climate neutrality plans are in some cases more ambitious than the EU timetable. Cities in particular have committed to becoming climate neutral well before 2050, and the EU's '100 Climate Neutral Cities by 2030' mission is a driving force towards this goal. Cities and regions benefit from participation in EU initiatives (e.g., Covenant of Mayors, EU missions, Green Deal Going Local) and call for increased and continuous direct dialogue with the EU institutions.

Green Deal implementation evolves at different speeds, depending on the sustainability area

Local and regional authorities are largely aware of the Green Deal's overarching goal (climate neutrality by 2050) and the European Commission's plans for implementation in other areas - particularly transport, pollution, nature and biodiversity conservation, energy saving, clean production and efficiency.

Regions and cities are particularly successful in certain areas of sustainability, such as energy production, efficient buildings and waste management, where clear targets are often set and results go beyond national and/or EU targets.

Special attention is needed for food and circular economy sectors

In some areas of sustainability, particularly in the food sector, there was a clear need for comprehensive strategies and clearly defined targets. Most actions at local and/or regional level currently relate to small projects aimed at raising awareness of healthy eating and food waste, without a comprehensive strategy to reduce the environmental impact of entire supply chains. This would often go beyond regional and/or local responsibilities. An overall strategy in this area that clarifies what a sustainable food system means and includes specific targets would be highly desirable.

In contrast to other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which regions and cities are calling for more funding, they state that the food sector primarily needs support for innovation, governance mechanisms, capacity building through EU initiatives, overarching strategies and clear targets.

This also applies to the circular economy. Many local and regional authorities are focussing on waste reduction and management, with some of them already going beyond the respective national and/or EU targets. However, a circular economy approach requires the prevention of waste production, which in turn requires a rethinking of entire production processes that goes beyond local and/or regional competences and requires the involvement of the private sector. In this area, the focus should shift from waste management and reduction to waste prevention at all levels: Capacity building at EU and national level as well as peer-to-peer programmes would be very helpful.

Adaptation advances at local and regional level, but national framework is sometimes still missing

Many Member States do not yet have comprehensive plans and/or specific targets for adapting to climate change. However, regions and cities are in the process of developing adaptation strategies or have already introduced them. Quantitative targets are lacking at all levels. The Nature Restoration Act and

the Biodiversity Strategy could be a good driver here, as could the possible adoption of a global target for adaptation to climate change.

The instability of the regulatory framework is creating hurdles and uncertainties in implementation

Local and regional authorities often call for a more stable legal framework that allows them to plan the implementation of EU legislation through sub-national initiatives. This is particularly true in the energy sector, where targets for energy efficiency, clean renewable generation and energy savings have been amended several times during the Commission's current mandate, including in light of the unforeseen Russian invasion of Ukraine. While a rapidly changing regulatory framework responds to equally rapidly evolving macroeconomic trends and crises of various kinds, some mechanisms should be put in place to either ensure the stability that administrations and the private sector need for long-term investment or to provide them with the means to cope with a more volatile framework.

Financial and non-financial resources are crucial for the success of the Green Deal on the ground

Regions and cities are struggling to implement Green Deal policies - to varying degrees and depending on the specific sustainability area. The main obstacles are a lack of financial resources and support for innovation, a lack of qualified staff and the inability to hire experts directly, difficulties in considering cross-cutting SDGs and the impact of policies, and a low awareness of the urgency of environmental issues among citizens and public administration staff.

Political and administrative awareness regarding the importance of some Green Deal sustainability areas needs to be reinforced

Some key issues such as adaptation or energy efficiency are still not seen as priorities, particularly in some Member States: Awareness should be raised here. In parallel, local and regional authorities, involving citizens and departments/branches of sub-national governments, should prioritise according to local/regional specificities. Indeed, a lack of prioritisation could lead to inaction. However, macro-economic issues can no longer be postponed (e.g., climate neutrality and adaptation, protection of the biosphere, reduction of inequalities).

A strong Green Deal needs citizens fully on board

Most local and regional authorities believe that while the objectives of the Green Deal can be widely shared, the EU lacks a clear and understandable involvement of initiatives in mainstreaming citizens to educate and sensitise them to the climate crisis.

2. Introduction to the consultation

2.1 What is this consultation for?

Local and regional authorities and their stakeholders are at the forefront of implementing EU policy. The CoR's Network of Regional Hubs ([RegHub](#)) collects data on the implementation of those policies through effective and targeted stakeholder consultations and presents them to the EU institutions. The ultimate goal of such consultations is to improve existing legislation and its implementation at the local and regional level.

The consultation gauged the Regional Hubs' (hereafter 'Hubs') level of awareness and involvement in the implementation of [Green Deal policies](#) at regional and local level. In doing so, it tries to discover missing pieces, synergies and redundancies. The consultation identifies what works, what does not and what can be done to make it better and easier for regions and cities to achieve the green transition and contribute to reach the ambitious EU targets.

The CoR will use the results in its work and share them with its rapporteur on the revision of the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation.

2.2 What is the scope of the consultation?

The consultation covers the Green Deal as a whole, as an overarching framework, as well as the following sectors, as defined by the European Commission:

- Climate adaptation
- Clean energy production
- Efficient buildings
- Sustainable transport
- Biodiversity protection
- Sustainable food
- Zero Pollution
- Circular economy

2.3 Why did we organise the consultation this year?

We are approaching the end of the EU mandate and are just ahead of the European elections. This is why 2023 is the right moment to kick-start the reflection on the state of play of the Green Deal and look ahead at what could and should be improved in the future. Simultaneously, the EU is going to finalize the [Fit for 55 package](#) this year. In 2024, the European Commission will have to revise the [Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation](#), which was designed to be the overarching governance mechanism of the Energy Union within the Clean Energy Package, before the release of the Green Deal. Regions and cities play an essential role in its implementation. The success of this reflection will therefore depend on an effective engagement of all levels of governance.

2.4 What is the European legal background?

In December 2019 the European Commission released a [Communication on the European Green Deal](#), outlining an ambitious set of EU policies aiming at ensuring that the EU becomes a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

Several new pieces of legislation as well as several revisions of the existing ones stemmed from this initial communication. On top of the enhanced sectoral targets on clean energy, climate protection and environmental preservation, the Green Deal is promoting increased synergies among policies and more integrated actions. It also requires additional planning efforts, that may bring a duplication of efforts and inconsistencies, if not well designed.

2.5 What is the bigger picture?

The climate neutrality goal proposed in the Green Deal and then enshrined in the Climate Law is part of the EU commitments at global level, as Party to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and signatory to the Paris Agreement. This global goal will only be achieved by empowering local and regional authorities: Cities and regions are at the forefront of climate change and therefore they are also at the forefront of climate solutions.

2.6 The structure of the consultation

The consultation is made up of eight sections (*Climate adaptation, Clean energy, Efficient buildings, Sustainable Transport, Biodiversity/Ecosystems, Sustainable food, Pollution reduction, Circular Economy*) plus a general initial section on the Green Deal Framework and final remarks. The consultation consisted in 86 single-choice and multiple-choice questions and related open-boxes for eventual specifications, and three open questions (Q14 and Q15 in the Green Deal Framework section, Q89 in final remarks). The concrete sections are listed below:

- Green Deal Framework Q1-15;
- Climate adaptation Q16-24;
- Clean energy Q25-33;
- Efficient buildings Q34-43;
- Sustainable Transport Q44-52;
- Biodiversity / Ecosystems Q53-61;
- Sustainable food Q62-70;
- Pollution reduction 71-79;
- Circular Economy 80-88.
- Final remarks Q89

The replies have been analysed both in quantitative and in qualitative terms. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) supported the in-depth analysis of the consultation replies.

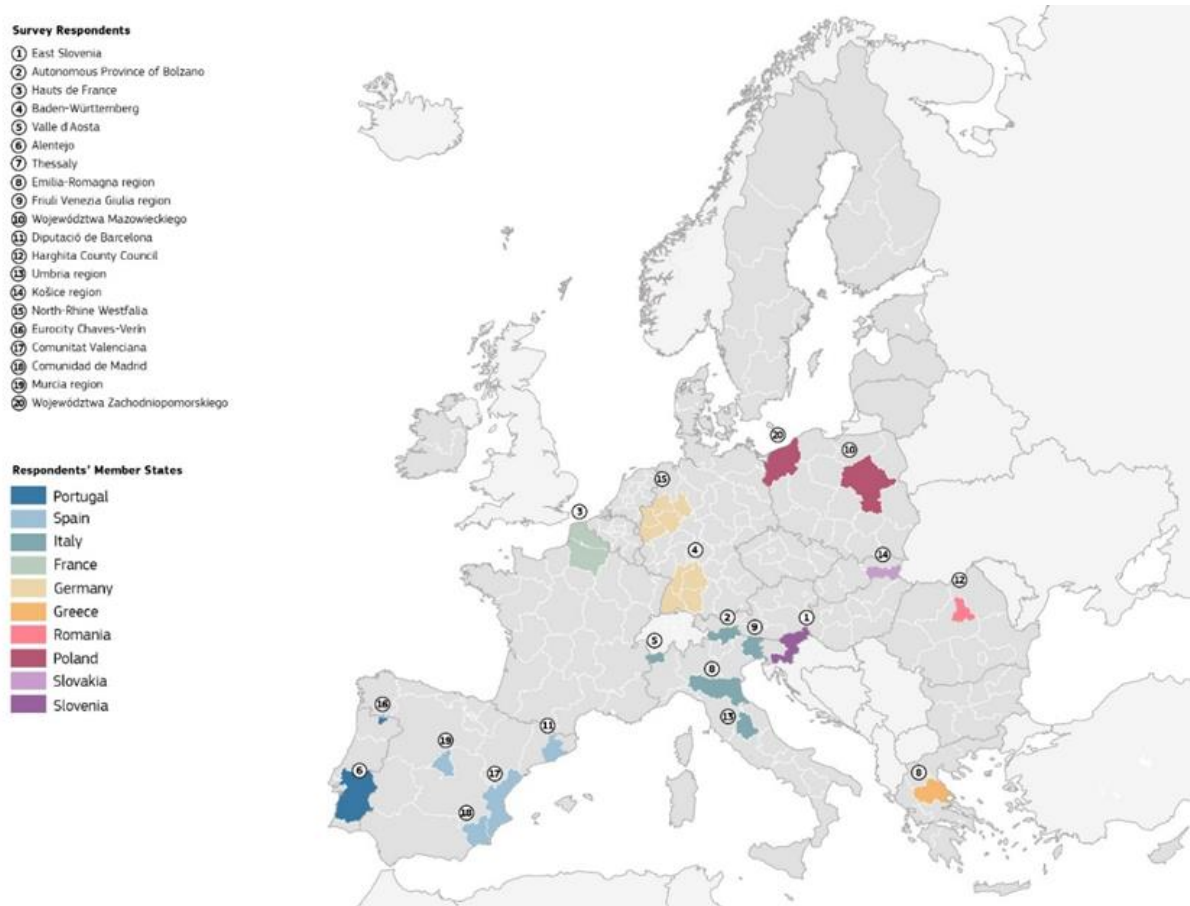
3. Analysis of consultation results

3.1 General overview and results on the "Green Deal Framework"

Respondents

20 RegHub members (respondents), representing EU local and regional authorities, replied to the survey (see Fig. 1), covering **10 Member States** and 72 021 668 EU citizens, i.e., 16% of the EU-27.¹

Climate neutrality ambitions

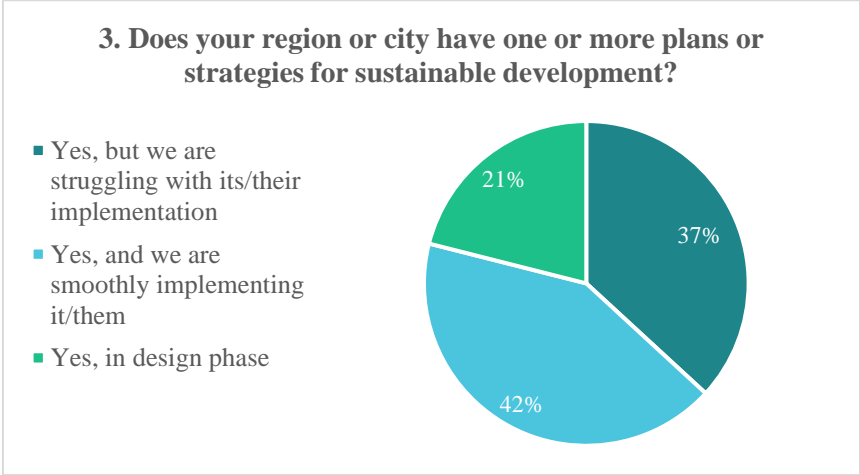
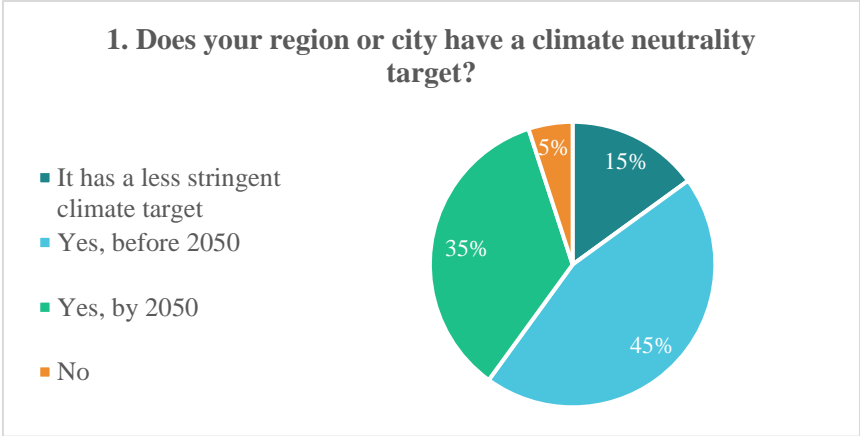


80% of respondents (Q1) have a climate neutrality target for 2050 or even before (45%). Mazovia, West Pomerania and the Community of Madrid answered they do not. West Pomerania and the Community of Madrid further declare that no neutrality target is currently in place in their region, with one of them specifying that emission reduction targets still exist. Mazovia is currently working on its Energy & Climate Action Plan, but does not specify if it will contain any carbon neutrality targets.

Typical barriers to the establishment of a carbon neutrality target (Q2) are a high meteorological variability and the lack of funding at the level of local and regional authorities.

All respondents have a strategy for sustainable development (Q3), but more than one third of respondents claims to be struggling with its actual implementation while 21% are still designing it.

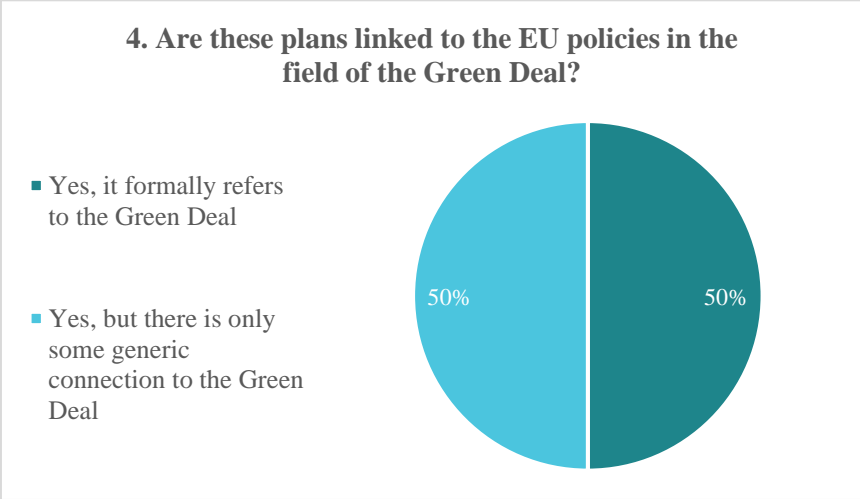
¹ Source of demographic data: Wikipedia, Eurostat, National Statistics Institutions.



Implementing the Green Deal

All sustainable development plans reported by the Hubs refer to the Green Deal (Q4 and Q5). Half of them, however, only contain generic connections to the EU policy. In particular:

- **Emilia Romagna** and **Valle d’Aosta** claimed that the objectives of their plan explicitly refer to the SDGs and, thus, the Green Deal;
- **Umbria** mentioned that its plan refers to the Green Deal in all its parts;
- **Alentejo** acknowledged that linking strategies to policies might be beneficial for gathering funding opportunities.



65% of respondents claim to have concertation mechanisms to implement the Green Deal (Q6), while the **Community of Madrid** and **Eastern Slovenia** do not have any concertation mechanism, because for them it seems to be not a priority (Q7). Several interesting case studies emerged:

- **Emilia-Romagna** established a Regional Working Group of the Pact for Work and Climate to enable a consultation between all institutional, political, economic, and social forces. In this framework, the Municipality of Bologna promotes dialogues with professional associations, trade associations and facilitates participatory processes for sharing the final choices made by the administration.
- In **Umbria**, consultation mechanisms are implemented through specific forums at territorial level, grouping municipalities and keeping open discussions between the region of Umbria and local authorities.
- In **Thessaly**, a sustainable strategy monitoring committee has been set up, in which stakeholders are represented and an effort is being made to actively involve citizens.

The **Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano** claimed that, although a specific unit coordinates the sustainable development implementation, they encounter major difficulties when dealing with cross-sectoral issues.

18 out of 20 respondents declare they are currently involved in national and/or EU initiatives to implement the Green Deal (Q13). The most cited initiatives are:

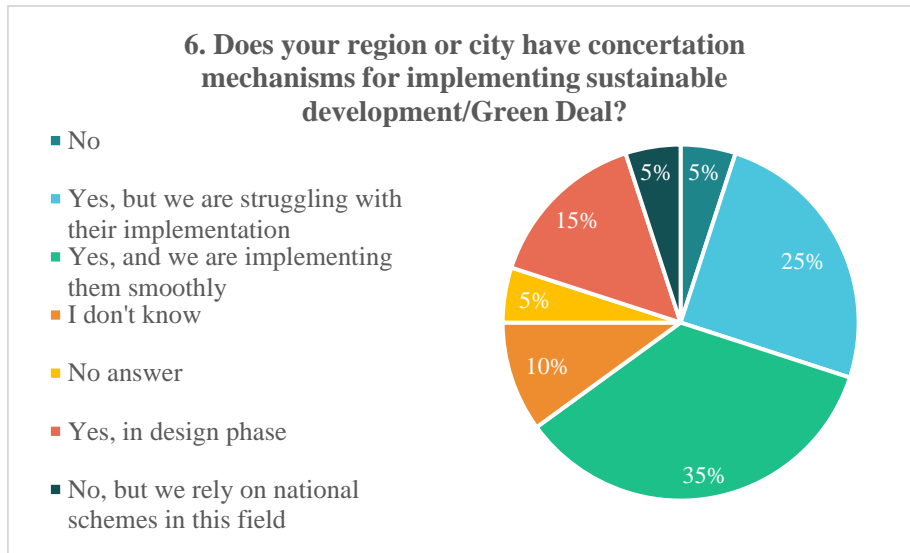
- Covenant of Majors²;
- EU missions (100 carbon neutral cities by 2030³ and Adaptation to Climate Change⁴);
- Interregional collaborations (like in **Umbria** for land governance, adaptation to climate change and the interregional ecological network) including through clusters of regions across Member States (like **Friuli Venezia Giulia** in Italy, collaborating with Slovenia and Croatia to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen technologies and produce hydrogen for energy-intensive industries and transport), and the Green Deal Going Local Initiative⁵ by the CoR (mentioned by **Thessaly**).

² [Covenant of Mayors - Europe | Covenant of Mayors - Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ [Climate-neutral and smart cities \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁴ [Adaptation to climate change \(europa.eu\)](#)

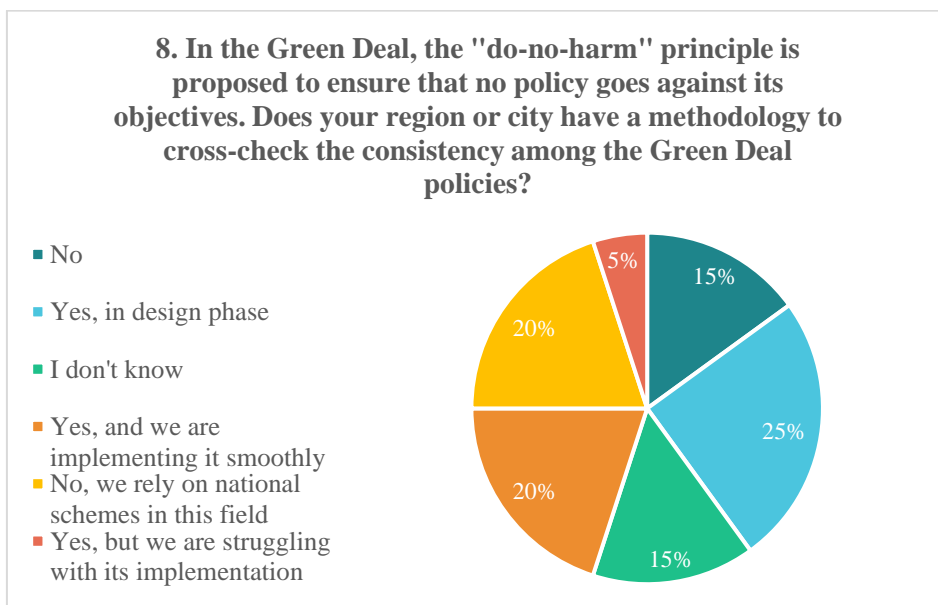
⁵ [Green Deal Going Local \(europa.eu\)](#)



50% of the respondents claim that a methodology to crosscheck the consistency among sustainable development policies has been set up. Reportedly, 20% of these methodologies rely on national schemes (Q8). **Friuli Venezia Giulia** complemented that mainstreaming the “do-not-significantly-harm” principle (DNSH) might be difficult to implement if it does not become mandatory – like it is the case in some National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) (Q9).

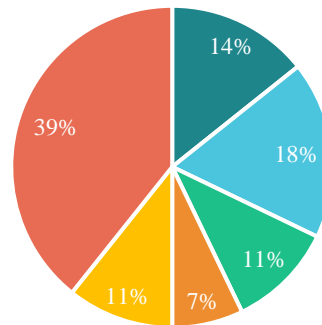
Other respondents report to have adopted other methods like:

- A qualitative check;
- A matrix setting out all the objectives of the regional strategy for sustainable development and the other plans/programmes, which are then crosschecked to verify consistency;
- DNSH methodology as prescribed for NRRPs;
- A set of indicators provided by the regional sustainable development strategy.



9. If your region or city does not have such a methodology, please explain why (one or more options)

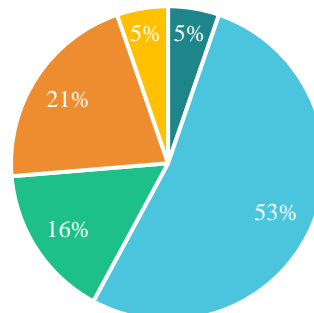
- It is not a priority
- We directly implement a national scheme
- Other
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- No answer



Less than 1% of local and regional budgets is currently financing the design and/or implementation of sustainable policies, as reported by many respondents. 50% of the respondents declare that they do not have this information. **Valle d'Aosta** suggests to set up a monitoring system to link budgets and expenses to the SDG targets in the regional finance reporting via their informative systems (Q10).

10. Which percentage of its budget does your region or city dedicate to the design and/or implementation of sustainable/Green Deal policies?

- No answer
- I don't know
- < 1%
- 1% - 10%
- 20% - 30%



75% of respondents claim that regional or municipal policies and actions in the field of Green Deal/sustainable development have been affected by the energy and raw materials crisis (Q11). In the open-boxes, respondents specifically report increased food production costs and the need for more financial support to agricultural sector.

The crisis was also seen as a potential driver towards a more sustainable development since it contributed to raising public awareness, speeding up the implementation of planned actions, introducing additional or new sustainability solutions, boosting the Green Deal and highlighting the need for energy sobriety. Furthermore, investments have accelerated given the emerged needs, as well as the planning and implementation of energy saving actions.

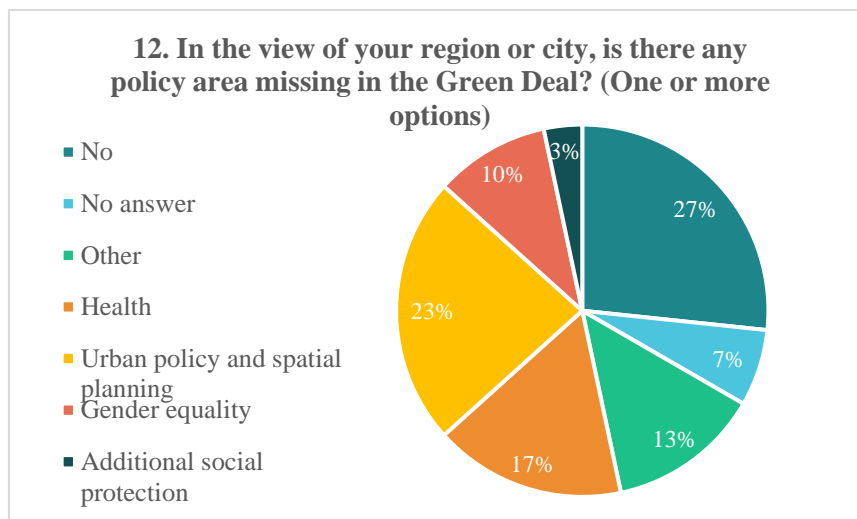
Major gaps, challenges, and solutions to the Green Deal

40% of respondents declare that the Green Deal has no major gaps regarding policy and sustainability fields to be further covered by the EU (Q12). Among those responding 'Yes' (it has gaps), seven claim that more attention should be paid to:

- **Urban policies,**
- **Spatial planning,**
- **Health issues.**

Some respondents, point out specific aspects:

- **Umbria** pointed out the need for more attention to citizens' wellbeing and the concept of a "healthy environment", in which social aspects should be considered as of primary importance. According to the Hub, energy efficiency policies alone are not enough, since they should also focus on user comfort inside buildings. The region is making efforts in this direction.
- In line with this, the **Barcelona Provincial Council** stresses that the Green Deal deals with very technical aspects, but does not incorporate the social component, i.e., the need to change habits and behaviour and devise supporting actions for environmental education.
- **Thessaly** suggests that quality in Education is urgent to be faced and would grant further alignment of EU policies to the SDGs, while the **Barcelona Provincial Council** also highlights the need to officially incorporate Culture as part of the Green Deal to address the climate emergency from a cultural perspective and promote awareness on its effects.
- Still on raising awareness, **Mazovia** suggests to run EU education campaigns at the local level, while the **Barcelona Provincial Council** claims that, related to the food sector, policy must look beyond food production and set the focus on the consumer as a lever of change for the entire food system. In this respect, the focus should be on training and educating consumers.
- Although it acknowledged the importance of health issues, **Valle d'Aosta** claims that understaffing and effects of COVID-19 pandemic are still major barriers.
- In **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, stakeholders highlight the need for better considering land take and regional rail (passenger) transport. They further report a lack of awareness about the Green Deal policies' potential to ensure crosscutting sustainable development.
- **Mazovia** highlights the need for effectively implementing urban blue and green infrastructure and policies for better cooperation among economic sectors – in particular agriculture, industry, and services.



The respondents identified major crosscutting barriers to the Green Deal (Q14) in addition to specific sectoral challenges in each region (e.g., industrial emissions, setting up renewable energy plants, coastal management, land consumption, seisms etc.). **Table 1** shows those barriers along with the solutions proposed by respondents (Q15). Barriers are listed according to frequency.

Barriers (Q14)	Solutions (Q15) linked to barriers when possible
<p>Inadequate financial resources</p> <p>Limited expertise, staff, capacity, and resources within the administration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More financial resources • Better access to funding mechanisms via simple and transparent instruments • Conditioning budgets to the achievement of goals • Targeted financing from state funds • Transfers to local authorities for the recruitment of dedicated staff, with higher technical and scientific skills
<p>Lack of awareness among citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising measures and campaigns for LRA employees and citizens to spread a culture of sustainability • Introduce culture and education as main objectives of the Green Deal to better align it with SDGs • EU legislation to reinforce scientific research and innovation and investment in education policies
<p>The presence of regional and local specificities that existing policies tend to neglect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better EU legislation and more stable regulatory framework, considering regional specificities and their competitiveness on the global market • Mapping of regional potentials for the development of the bioeconomy • Interregional partnership and regional clusters to better face urgent issues
<p>Absence of a fast climate policy mainstreaming in all government branches to accelerate climate ambitions and meet Green Deal targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster legislation and transposition of European Directives in the areas of exclusive national competence to be able to adapt to rapid changes • Revision of legislation on urban planning and spatial planning, with a view to zero land take • Full cooperation of authorities, from the EU to the local level • Greater collaboration in the formulation of strategic and sector planning between national governments and LRAs

Barriers (Q14)	Solutions (Q15) linked to barriers when possible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of regional potentials for the development of the bioeconomy • Focus on managing a transformation of processes/transition phase
Lack of coordination among local authorities towards a common goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening links among regional/local policies and the Green Deal through regular exchanges between LRAs and the EU • Full cooperation of authorities, from the EU to the local level • Greater collaboration in the formulation of strategic and sector planning between national governments and LRAs • Interregional partnership and regional clusters to better face urgent issues • Focus on managing a transformation of processes/transition phase
Lack of strategies and operational tools for the transition to sustainable food systems, food security and economic viability of farm products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the profitability of the agri-food sector • Mapping of regional potentials for the development of the bioeconomy • Focus on managing a transformation of processes/transition phase
Continuously evolving policy and legislative framework at national and regional level	
Lack or limited sharing of data by third parties for effective analysis and monitoring of plans and interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging networking between the regional stakeholders • Structures dedicated to the monitoring and evaluation of projects, in consultation with research bodies
Clear discrepancy between declarations and actions, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underestimation of the importance of the Green Deal • lack of confidence in effective implementation (due to lack of adequate resources) • belief that failure to implement the Green Deal will not have negative consequences 	
Unclear and/or conflicting targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolving conflicting goals and ensuring policy coherence • Focus on managing a transformation of processes/transition phase
(Expected) Competition disadvantages for companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation mechanisms and encouragement of good practices • Focus on managing a transformation of processes/transition phase

3.2 Crosscutting comparison and deep dives

Sustainability policies and policy coherence

More than 50% of respondents report to have a sustainability policy, either already in place or in design phase. The sustainability areas in which most respondents have policies are:

- 95% adaptation (Q16)
- 90% biodiversity (Q53)
- 90% sustainable transport (Q44)

- 90% clean energy production (Q25)
- 85% energy efficiency (Q35)

However, local and regional authorities are struggling with the implementation of sustainability policies, to different extents, depending on the policy area. The fields in which respondents are implementing their regional on municipal policies the smoothest way are:

- 45% sustainable transport (Q44)
- 40% clean energy production (Q25)
- 40% pollution reduction (Q71)

The sustainability areas in which respondents are struggling most to implement policies are

- 50% biodiversity (Q53)
- 40% adaptation (Q16)

The sustainability area in which respondents are relying most on national policies, is food (Q62), while respondents appear to not rely on national regulations for adaptation, clean energy production, sustainable transport, and circular economy (Q80).

Some respondents specify concrete policy initiatives and the main criticalities they have been encountering during their implementation. For instance, the respondents reported some issues such as:

- Lack of funding for ecosystem services and the ownership of sites;
- Public resistance;
- Uncertain regulatory framework due to continuous regulatory changes taking place at European and national level and undermine long-term planning;
- Slow implementation at regional level due to delays in the adoption of certain legislative acts, especially those falling within the competence of the national level;
- Issues with actions promoting clean energy production as they involve analysing and assessing all the environmental, economic, and societal crosscutting impacts;
- Impossibility to install Photovoltaic systems in historic centres;
- Difficulties in striking a balance in PV installation and countryside land protection.

In the field of efficient buildings, many respondents reported that local or regional ambitions are higher than those at national level. Municipal strategies find no corresponding strategy at higher level and funding is not sufficient since relying on national incentives.

Nevertheless, some good practices emerged:

- The **Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano**, has the Casa Clima⁶ agency for energy-efficient and sustainable construction and renovation;
- **Hauts-de-France**, a Public Energy Efficiency Service⁷;

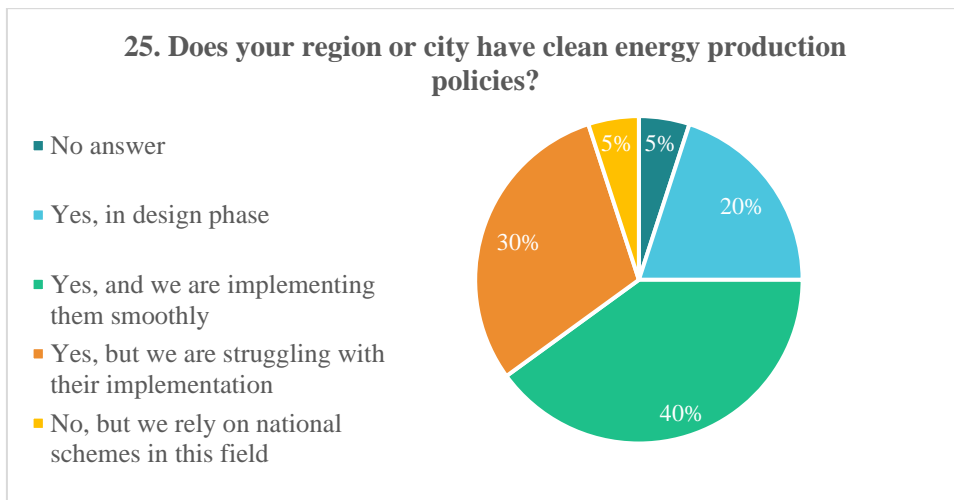
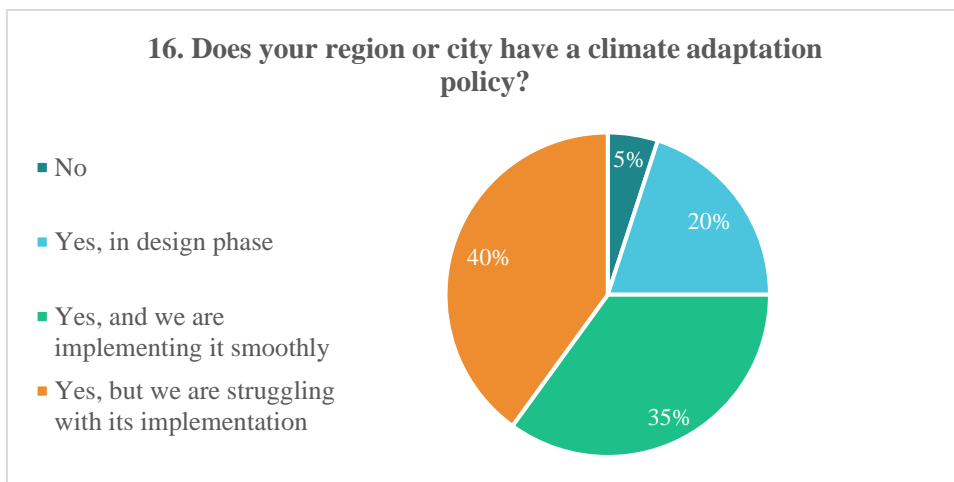
⁶ [Home \(agenziacasaclima.it\)](http://agenziacasaclima.it)

⁷ <https://www.pass-renovation.hautsdefrance.fr/a-european-project/>

- **Alentejo** is working on the “mobility as a service” to optimize routes in public transport;
- And many respondents are smoothly implementing cycling path plans.

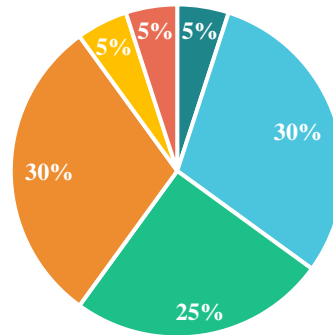
In the *food* sector, respondents are mostly working on awareness-raising measures and specific EU-funded projects.

The **Barcelona Provincial Council** points out that circular economy initiatives in the field of industrial symbiosis face major obstacles, namely: prohibitive investment costs, the embryonic nature of many projects, lack of prioritisation by municipal governments and the fact that a part of the investments take place on private lands or rooftops. Many respondents claim that waste management is easier to implement than comprehensive circular economy plans, because it needs to be implemented at the EU and Member State level first.



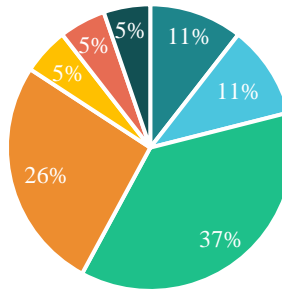
34. Does your region or city have a policy for efficient buildings related to its own buildings?

- No answer
- Yes, in design phase
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No



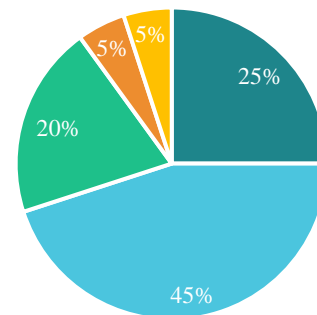
35. Does your region or city have a policy for efficient buildings applying to residential an/or non-residential buildings?

- No answer
- Yes, in design phase
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know



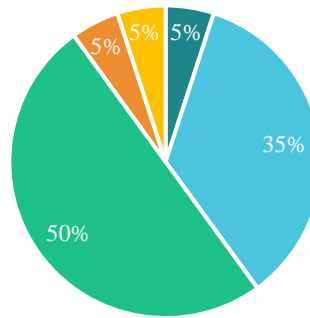
44. Does your region or city have a sustainable transport policy?

- Yes, in design phase
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- No
- I don't know



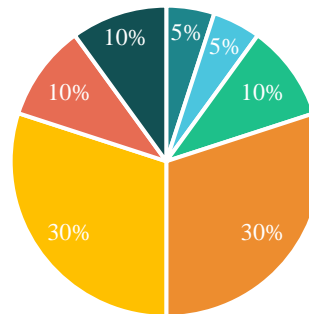
53. Does your region or city have a biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration policy?

- Yes, in design phase
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No



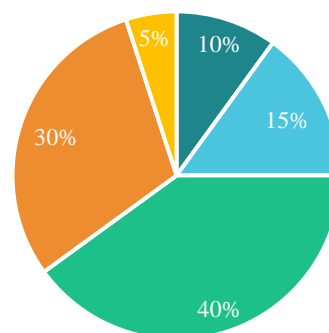
62. Does your region or city have a sustainable food policy?

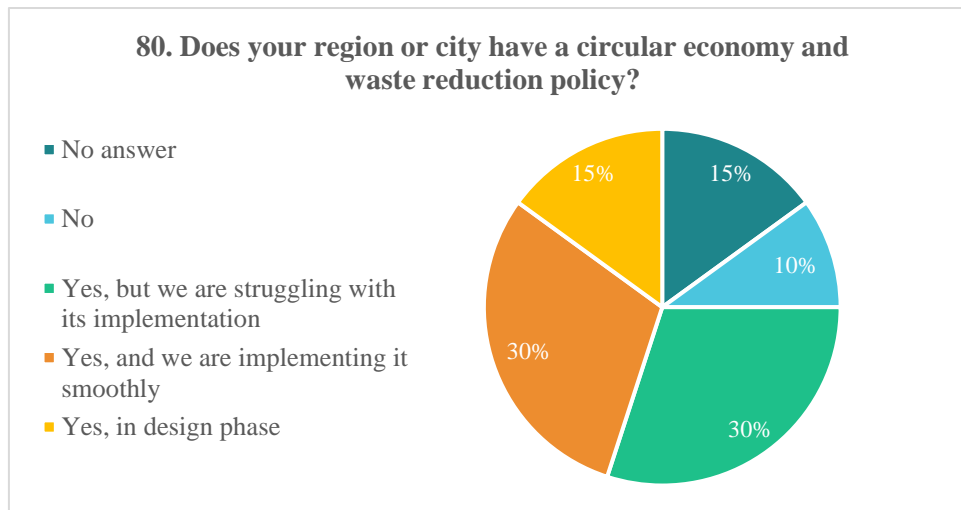
- No answer
- I don't know
- No
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, in design phase
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation



71. Does your region or city have a pollution reduction policy?

- No
- No answer
- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field





Sustainability targets and monitoring systems

At least half of the respondents have policy targets in all sustainability areas. The fields in which most of them have specific targets are:

- 90% clean energy production (Q28)
- 90% transport (Q47)
- 85% biodiversity (Q56)
- 80% circular economy/waste reduction (Q83).

In the area of **clean energy production**, 85% respondents have targets at regional level (exclusively or in combination with local and/or national level targets). Only 50% of respondents have targets in the food area (Q65) and 15% respondents reports to have no target at all.

The sustainability area in which respondents rely most on national-level targets only is **biodiversity** (25%) For the pollution reduction target (Q74), 20% of respondents claim to have targets at all levels (local, regional, national). For adaptation (Q19), 30% of respondents have targets at local level (exclusively or in combination with regional and/or national level targets).

The respondents specified some of the adopted plans and targets and mentioned further interesting aspects:

In the field of **adaptation**, in the **Community of Valencia**, all municipalities are required have climate action plans. In **Friuli Venezia Giulia** the Regional Strategy on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation aims at reaching climate neutrality by 2045 while reducing territorial vulnerability. **Alentejo** mostly relies on national strategies to improve the level of knowledge on climate change, implement adaptation measures, and promote the integration of adaptation into sectoral policies. In **Emilia-Romagna**, Bologna and other municipalities have adopted plans structured along several areas of intervention (e.g., urban heat waves, extreme rainfall events and hydrogeological instability, water scarcity and quality).

As for the area of **clean energy production**, most local and regional authorities are working on implementing Photovoltaic system plants. **Baden-Württemberg** is willing to achieve climate neutrality by 2040 with energy saving targets in all sectors. In the Labour and Climate Pact, approved by **Emilia-Romagna**, there is a target of 100 % renewable energy production by 2035.

As for the *efficient building sector*, **Hauts-de-France** has regional saving targets for:

- Private housing stock, minimum 35% energy saving for energy renovation work, in line with the national target;
- Social housing stock, the energy renovation work must make it possible to achieve energy class B.

Baden-Württemberg aligns its transport strategy with the Green Deal targets. It reduces emissions from the transport sector through five key actions:

- One car over two will be climate-neutral,
- One in two tons is transported climate neutrally,
- One in two journeys will be made walking or cycling,
- One-fifth fewer cars will drive in cities and rural areas, and
- The use of public transport will be doubled.

The **Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano** has specific targets, for instance increasing the number of kilometers travelled in local public transport by 70% by 2030 and 100% by 2037, reducing motorised private transport by 40%, increasing the share of zero-emission vehicles in new registrations to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2035, and by increasing the percentage of cycling to 20 % of all journeys.

Alentejo and **Umbria** are working on *mobility as a service concept* (see previous section), with **Alentejo** promoting hydrogen vehicles as well. As for the biodiversity SDG, the **Barcelona Provincial Council** is specifically committed to achieve it and has strategic plans for the conservation of habitats, flora, and fauna, as well as specific conservation plans for parks – although facing many obstacles in their implementation. **Alentejo** has 30 objectives and 104 implementing measures for restoring nature and actuating biodiversity conservation policy.

In the area of *food*, **North Rhine-Westphalia** claims that there is no shared definition of 'sustainable food system', and that this might constitute a major barrier towards the implementation of policies in such field. **Baden-Württemberg** is focusing on organic farming, with more ambitious targets than the national level (40% vs. 30% of organic farming by 2030). Regional sustainable food objectives in **Emilia Romagna** include increasing the share of utilised agricultural area cultivated with low-input practices, including, but not limited to, organic farming practices, integrated production, conservation farming, sustainable management of grassland and ecological infrastructure (target: 45% by 2030). This objective is linked to the Farm to Fork objective of achieving 25% of utilised agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. Many of the respondents are working on promoting locally produced food and raising awareness of consumers.

As for *pollution reduction*, many respondents are embracing national-level targets.

As for the *circular economy* area, **Thessaly**'s strategy is to promote recycling, green point projects, recycling corners, and information and awareness-raising actions at local and regional level. **Umbria** and **Emilia Romagna** claim to have higher targets than the national level (75% vs 65% of separate collection of total waste in Umbria, 80% in Emilia-Romagna).

According to the respondents, setting targets in certain sustainability areas is often considered too technical and/or costly or still not a priority. Regarding *adaptation* (Q21), the main reasons not to have a target are:

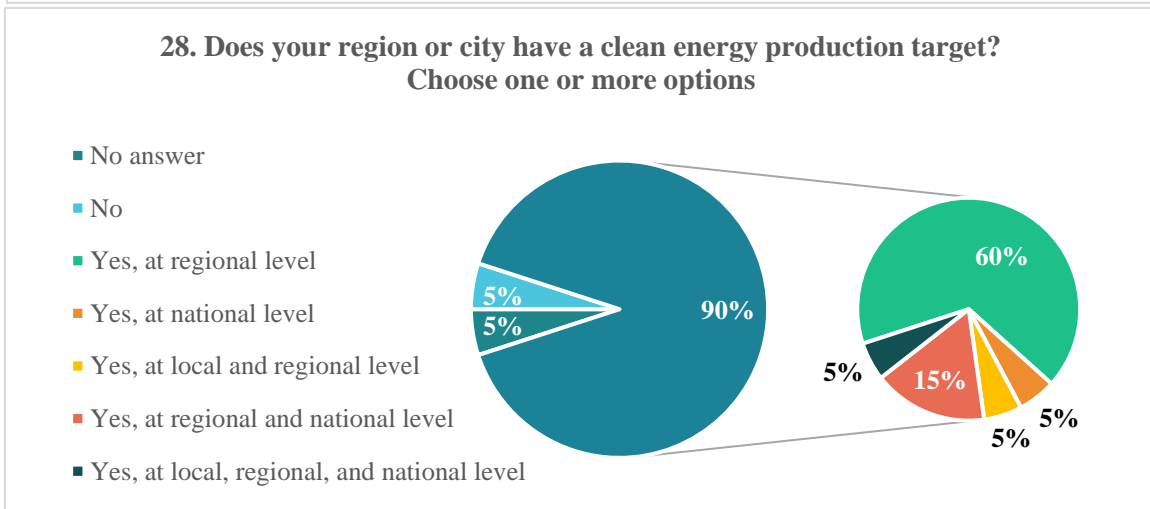
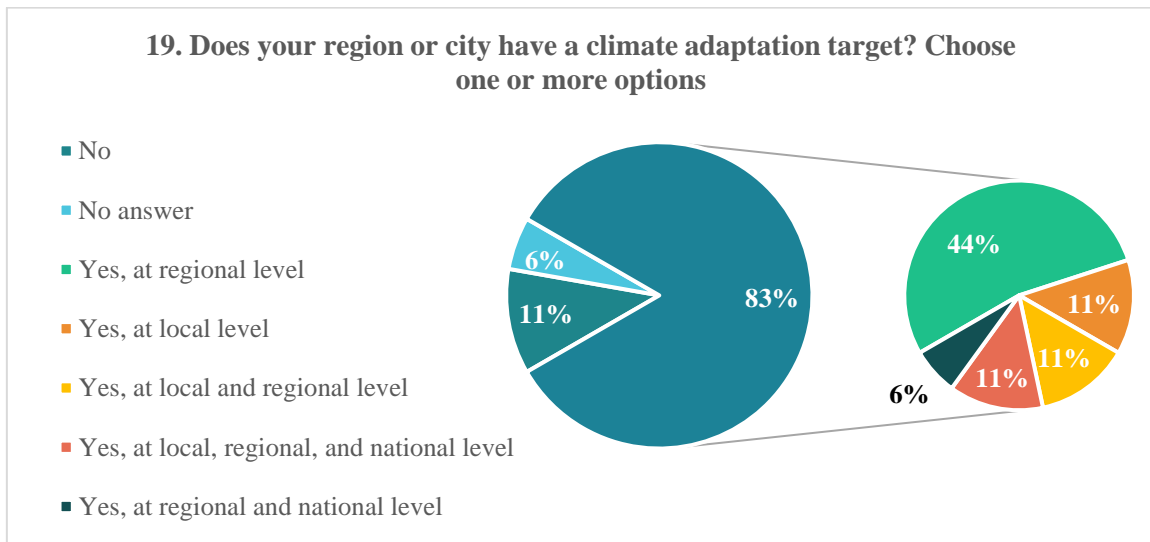
- A field is not recognised as a priority
- Cross-cutting actions and strategies are rather used than specific quantitative targets

Regarding *efficient buildings* (Q40), the main reasons for not having a target – in addition to not recognizing the upgrade of own buildings as a priority – was the lack of competence on other building renovations.

Some respondents do not have proper *biodiversity targets*. Mostly because this is dealt with by the national level (Q58).

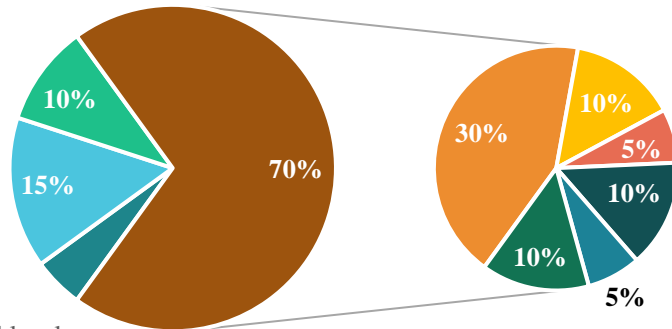
As for the area of *food* (Q67), respondents claim that no target is in place because:

- Too much food is imported
- Some strategies have no real targets
- The local level has no power in this field.



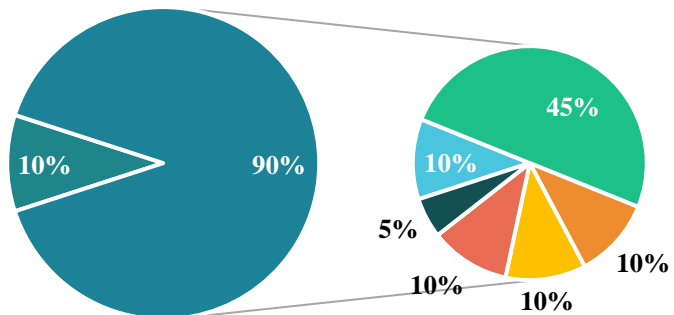
38. Does your region or city have a target for efficient buildings? Choose one or more options

- I don't know
- No
- No answer
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at regional and local level
- Yes, at local and national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at local and regional level



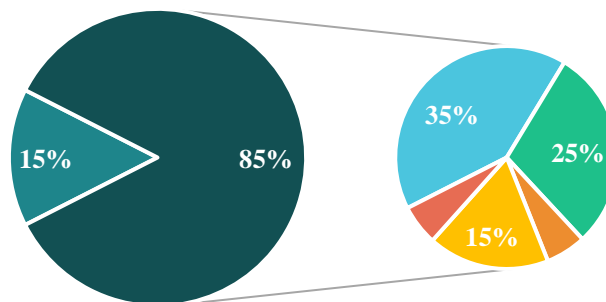
47. Does your region or city have a sustainable transport target? Choose one or more options

- No
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at regional and national level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at national level



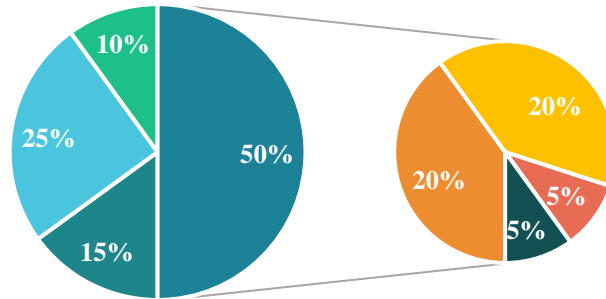
56. Does your region or city have a biodiversity preservation target? Choose one or more options

- No
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at regional and national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at local and regional level



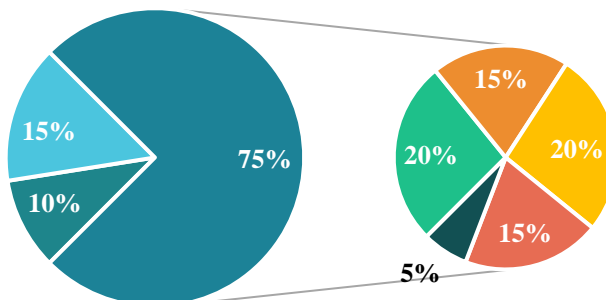
65. Does your region or city have a sustainable food target? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- I don't know
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at regional and national level



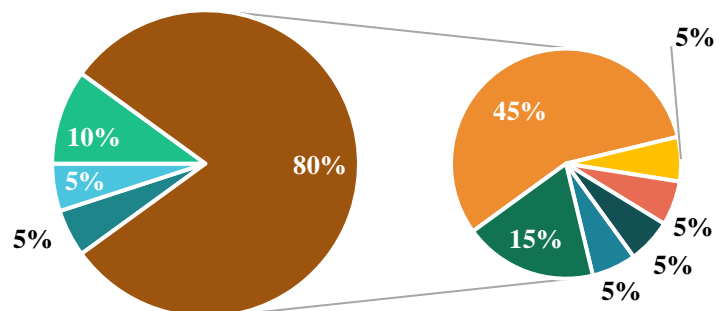
74. Does your region or city have a pollution reduction target? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at regional and national level
- Yes, at local level



83. Does your region or city have a circular economy target? Choose one or more options

- I don't know
- No
- No answer
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local and national level
- Yes, at regional and national level



Regarding the *monitoring systems* for the aforementioned targets, the sustainability areas in which most of the respondents indicate to have one in place (at local and/or regional and/or national level) are:

- 85% adaptation (Q20)
- 85% biodiversity (Q57)

Sectors for which monitoring systems are less frequently mentioned are food (Q66), where only 45% of respondents report to have a system in place, and efficient buildings (55%) (Q39).

The sustainability areas in which respondents have most local monitoring systems, alone or in combination with regional and/or national ones, are pollution reduction (Q75) (9 out of 20 respondents), circular economy (Q84) and adaptation (5 out of 20).

Overall, the respondents seem to have more local or regional monitoring systems in place than national ones. The sustainability areas in which respondents have most regional monitoring systems, alone or in combination with local and/or national ones), are:

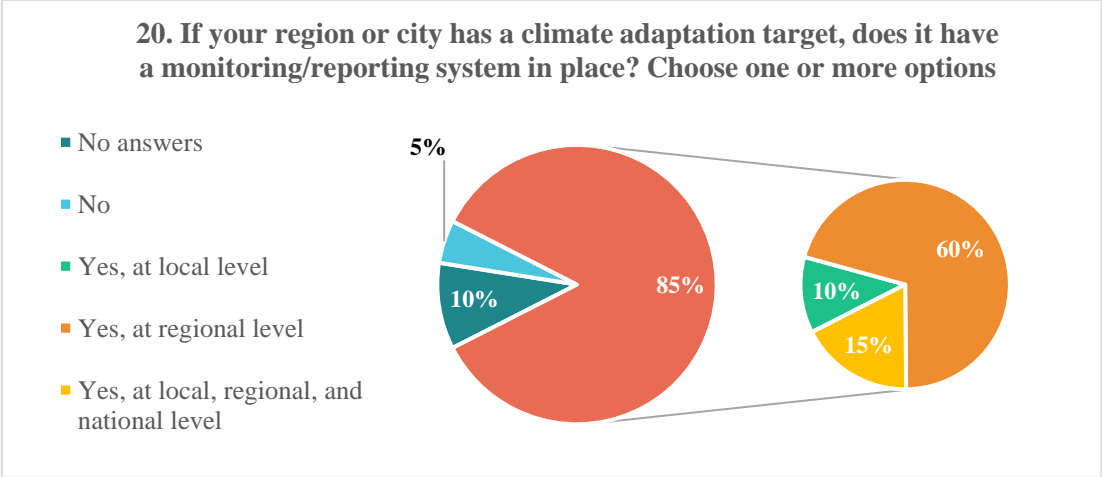
- adaptation (75%)
- biodiversity (65%)
- pollution and transport (60%)

Respondents seem to rely little on national systems for monitoring. There are only a few respondents indicating the national level as the only level of monitoring (Q29).

In the area of *food*, 6 out of 9 responding “Yes” claim to rely on regional systems only, 8 out of 9 on regional systems in combination with local and/or national systems, and 1 out of 9 on national systems only.

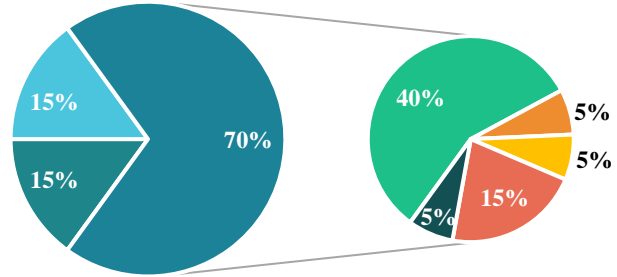
In the area of *efficient buildings*, 5 out of 11 responding “Yes” claim to rely on regional-level systems only, 3 out of 11 on local-level systems only, 1 out of 11 on national-level systems only and 2 out of 11 on a combination of those.

In the *transport* area (Q48), most of local and regional authorities responding “Yes” (13 out of 20) rely on regional-level systems, either alone (8 out of 13) or in combination with local and/or national-level systems.



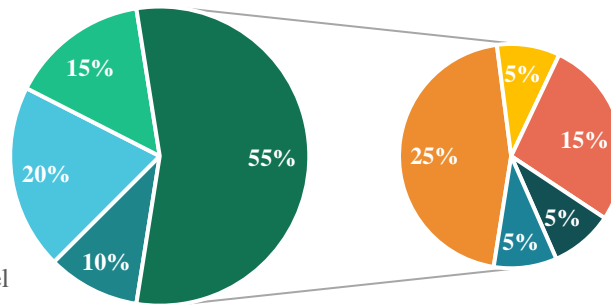
29. If your region or city has a clean energy production target, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at regional and national level



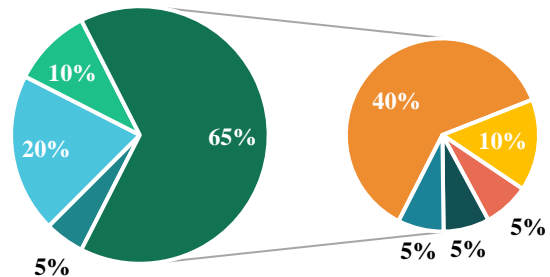
39. If your region or city has a target for efficient buildings, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- I don't know
- No
- No answer
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional and national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level



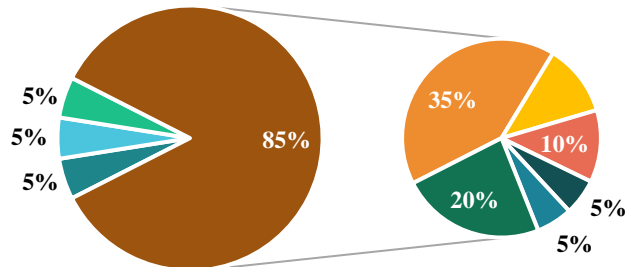
48. If your region or city has a sustainable transport target, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No answer
- No
- I don't know
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at regional and national level
- Yes, at national level



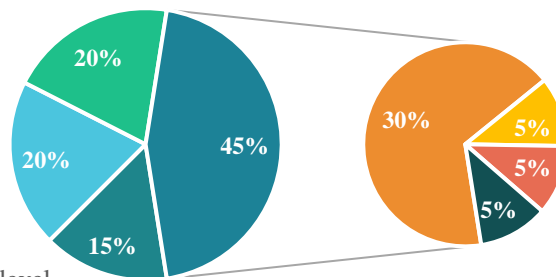
57. If your region or city has a biodiversity preservation target, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- I don't know
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at local and regional level



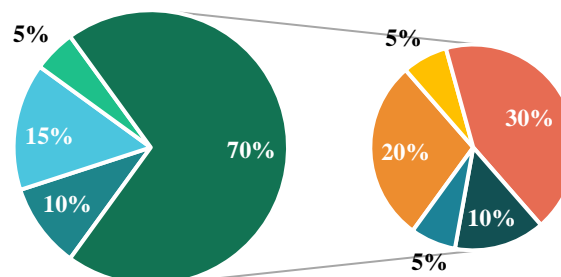
66. If your region or city has a sustainable food target, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- I don't know
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level



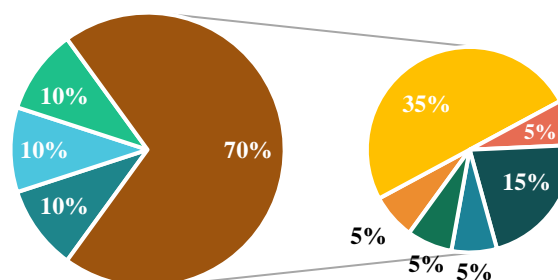
75. If yes, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No
- No answer
- I don't know
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local, regional, and national level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local and national level



84. If your region or city has a circular economy target, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place? Choose one or more options

- No
- I don't know
- No answer
- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at local and regional level
- Yes, at local and national level
- Yes, at regional and national level



Financial support

All respondents benefit from EU funds for implementing policies in all sustainability areas. EU funds are the primary source of financing in all areas: respondents claim to receive EU support (alone and in combination with national, regional, private, and other financing mechanisms) in support of local and regional strategies. For instance, 17 out of 18 respondents received EU support for implementing adaptation policies (Q22), and 18 out of 19 in the efficient buildings area (Q41) (of which, 4 responded “EU funds” only in both cases).

Private funds seem to only play a marginal role. No respondent claims to receive private funds in support of circular economy policies (Q86), pollution reduction (Q77), and food (Q68).

The sustainability areas in which respondents are receiving most private support are energy production (Q31) and efficient buildings (Q41), with 5 and 3 local and regional authorities receiving support from private funds respectively. Two stakeholders are receiving private funding for adaptation, one for transport (Q50) and one for biodiversity (Q59).

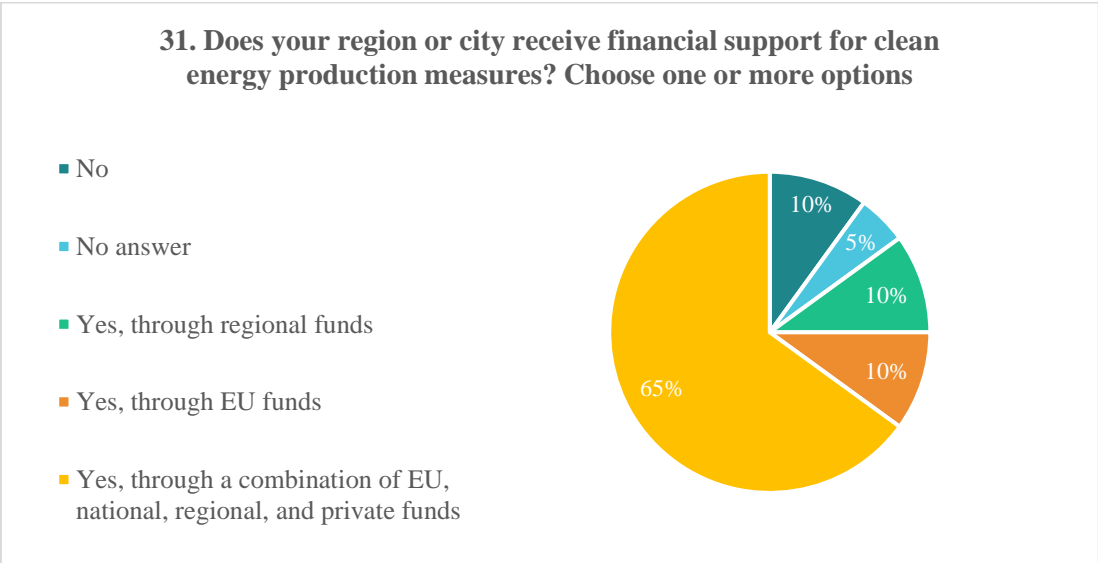
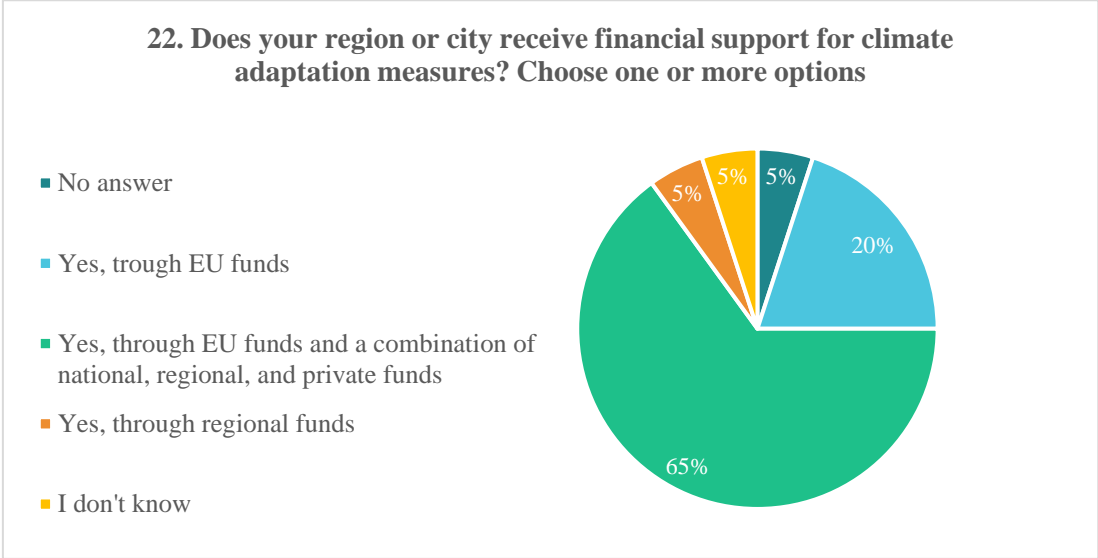
The SDG for which respondents have been receiving support from national funds either mostly, alone or in combination with EU and/or regional and/or private and/or other funds, are:

- Transport (14)
- Efficient buildings (13)
- Clean energy production (11)
- Biodiversity and pollution (10)
- Adaptation (9)
- Food (7)
- Circular economy (6)

Only 45% of respondents claim to receive financial support for implementing circular economy and waste reduction policies. In coherence with a major lack of policies and targets in the food sector, only half of respondents receive financial support in this area.

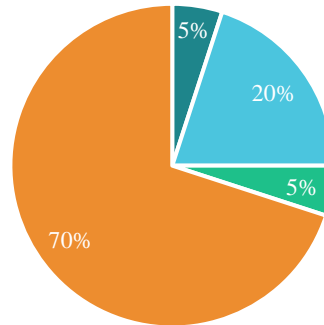
The sustainability areas in which respondents seem to count most on regional funds are biodiversity and transport (13 respondents): in all cases (13 out of 13), the regional funds are combined with EU funds. 12 respondents claim to receive regional funds for clean energy production and efficient buildings, 11 for adaptation, 9 for pollution reduction, 8 for circular economy, 7 for the food area.

Respondents did not provide additional information on private and “other” funds. Most respondents receive support from Member States' national recovery plans, while most of EU funds are supporting municipal-level specific projects or regard FESR.



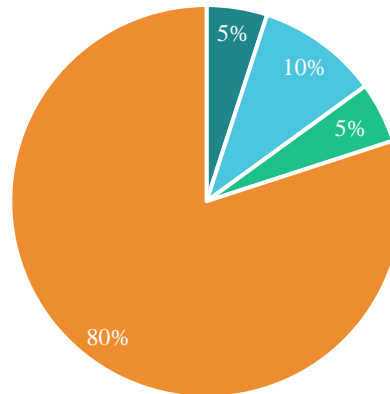
41. Does your region or city receive financial support for efficient buildings measures? Choose one or more options

- No
- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through a mix of EU, national, regional and private funds



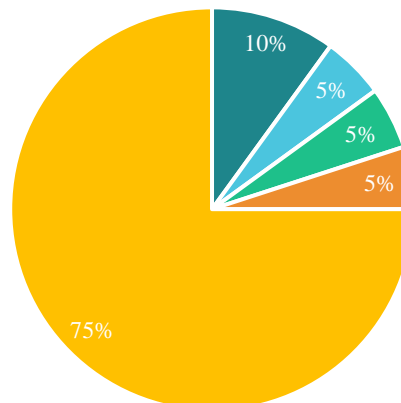
50. Does your region or city receive financial support for sustainable transport measures? Choose one or more options

- No answer
- No
- Yes, through national and regional funds
- Yes, through a combination of EU, national, regional, private and other funds



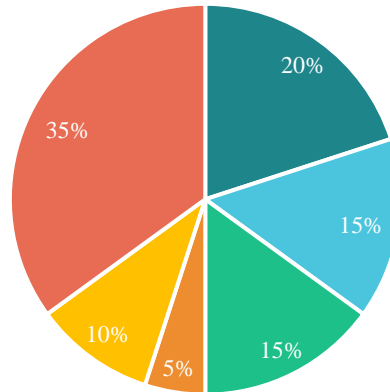
59. Does your region or city receive financial support for biodiversity preservation measures? Choose one or more options

- No
- I don't know
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through a combination of EU, national, regional, and private funds



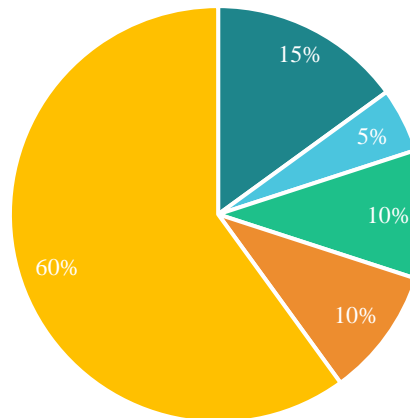
68. Does your region or city receive financial support for sustainable food measures? Choose one or more options

- No
- I don't know
- No answer
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through a combination of EU, national, and regional funds



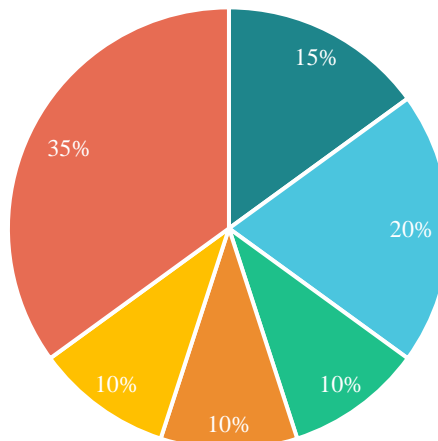
77. Does your region or city receive financial support for pollution reduction measures? Choose one or more options

- No
- I don't know
- No answer
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through a combination of EU, national, regional funds



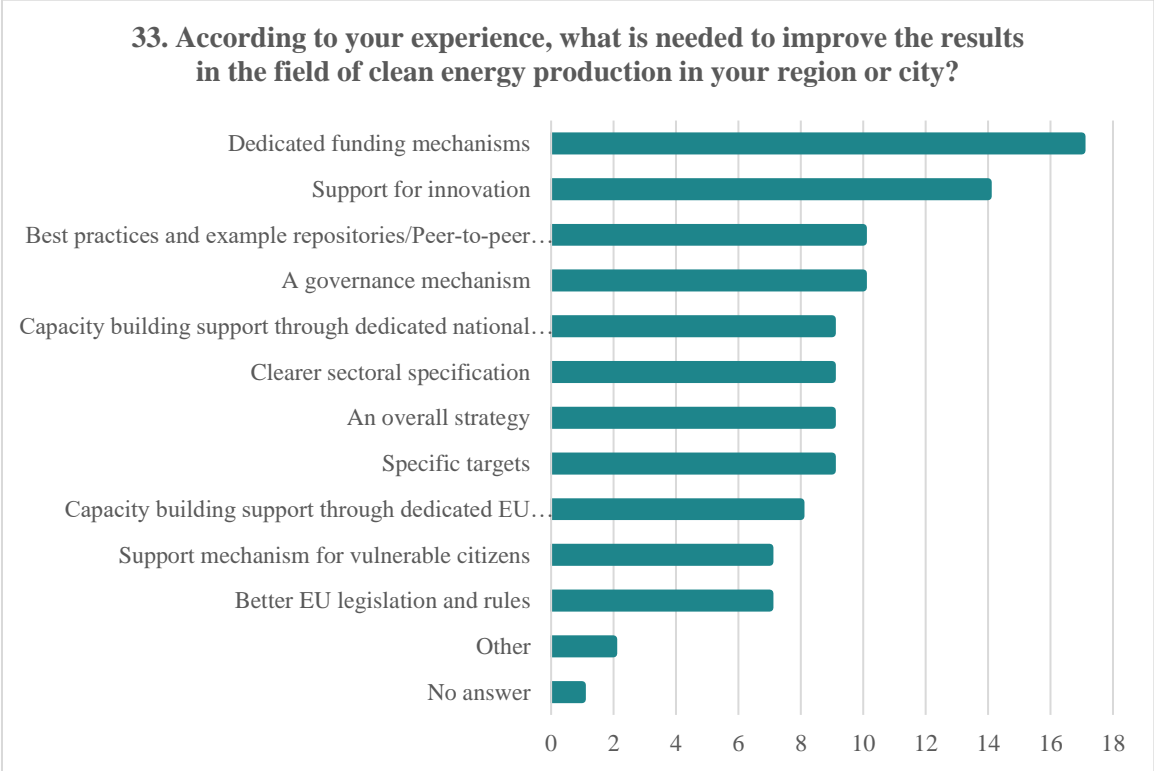
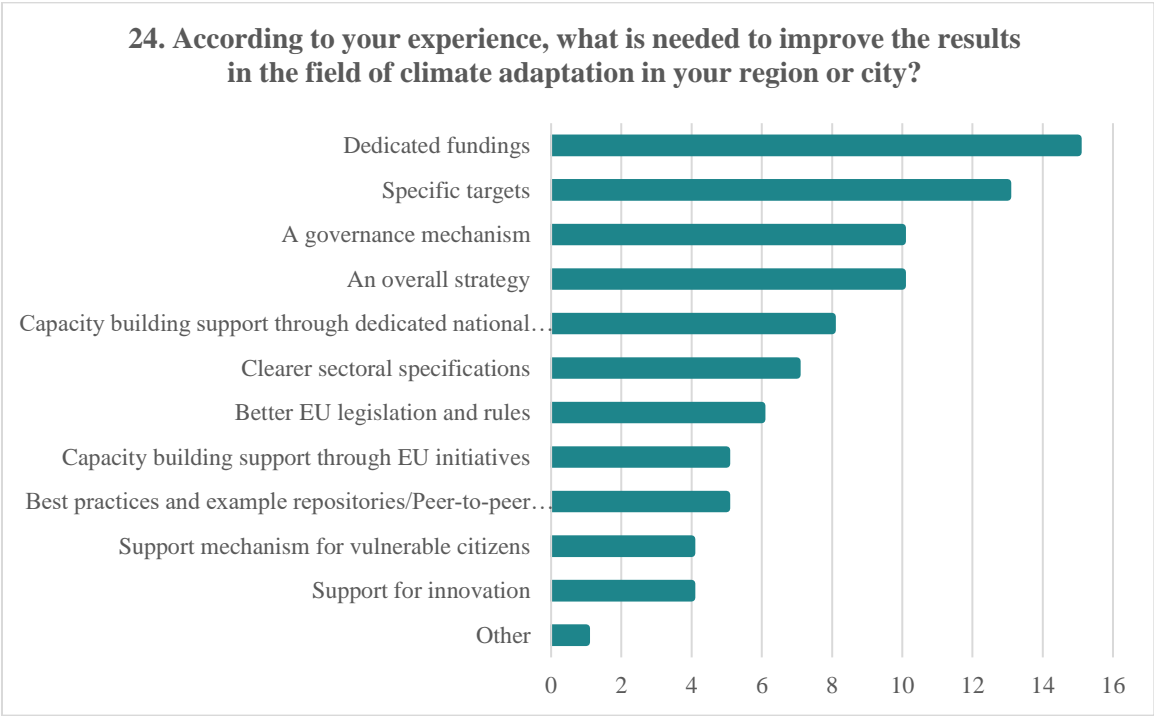
86. Does your region or city receive financial support for circular economy and waste reduction measures? Choose one or more options

- I don't know
- Nothing
- No
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through a combination of EU, national, and regional funds

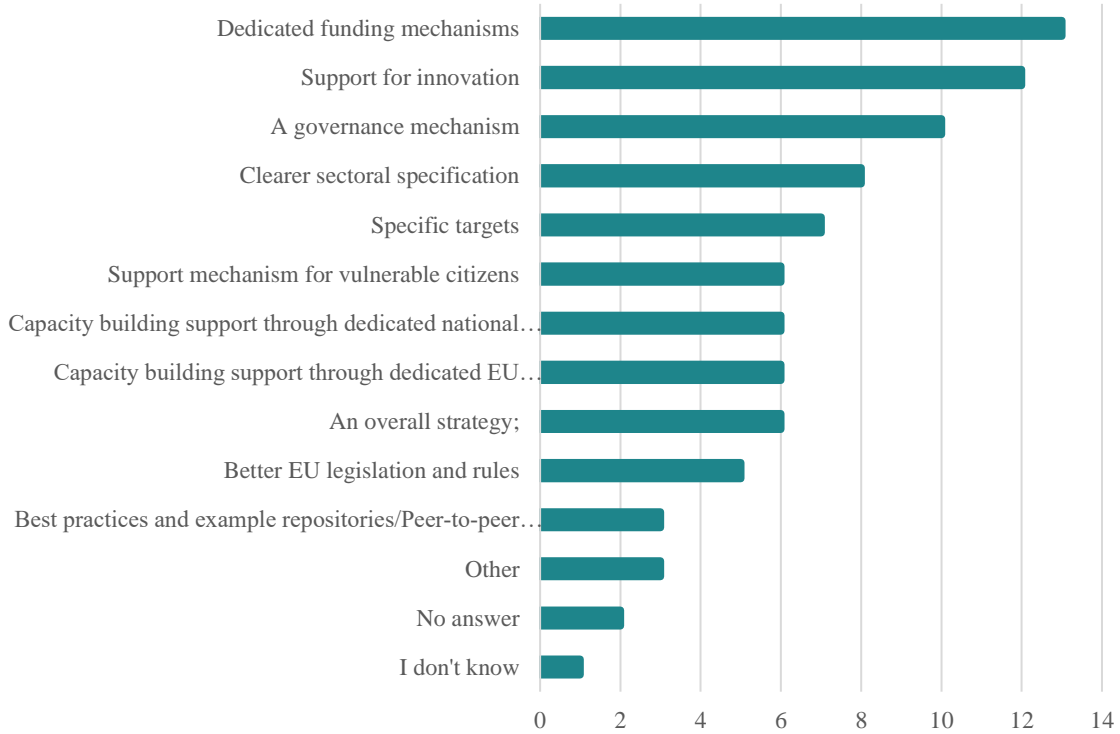


3.3 Needs and envisaged solutions

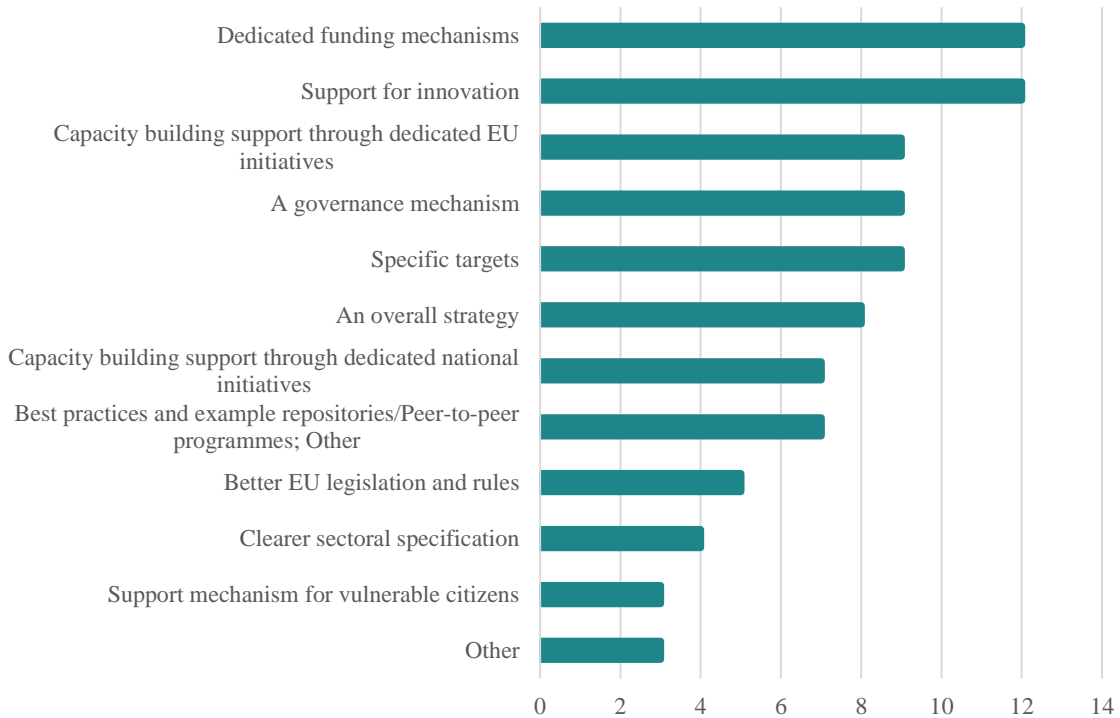
The following bar charts report on what the respondents think is further needed to advance in each sustainability area. More insights can be gathered by looking at what they provided as concrete proposal or solutions. As such, this section complements section 4 of this report and **Table 2** on page 33 highlights respondents’ points of view per sustainability area.



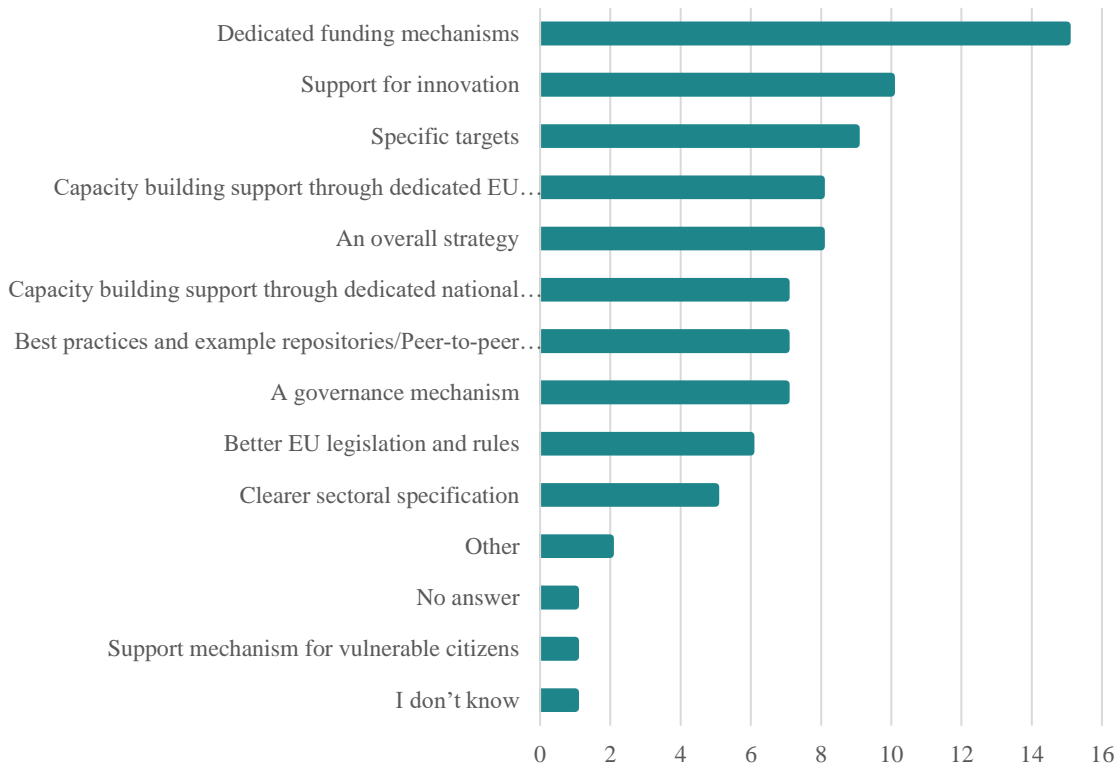
43. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of efficient buildings in your region or city?



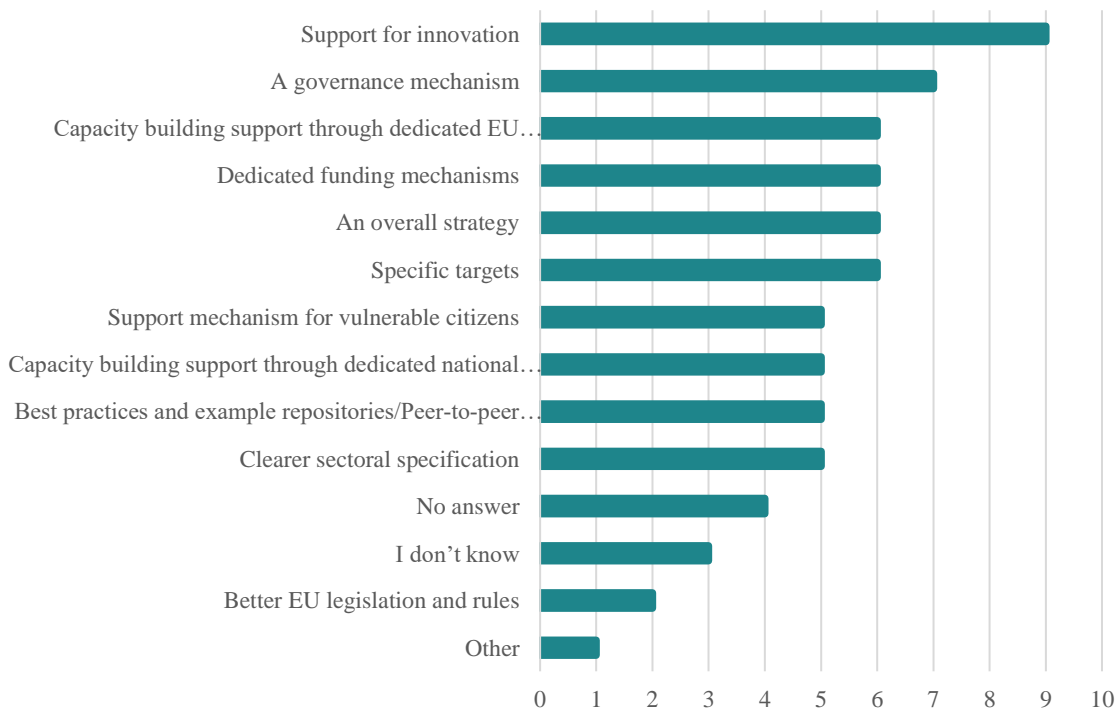
52. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of sustainable transport in your region or city?



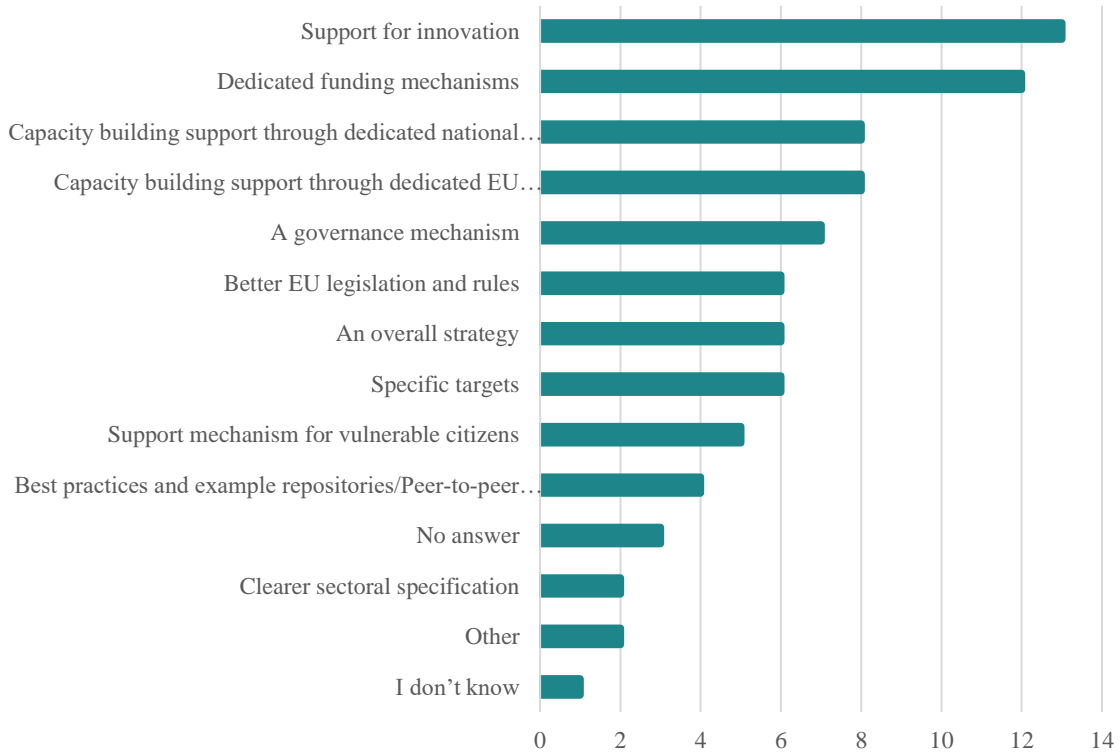
61. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of biodiversity preservation in your region or city?



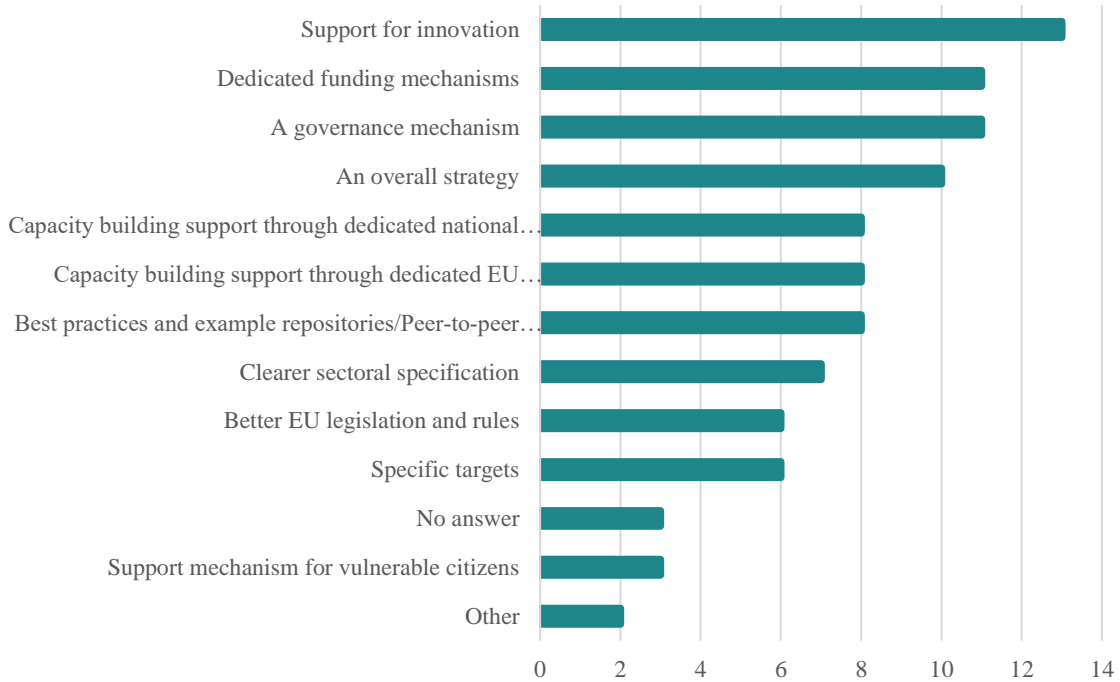
70. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of sustainable food in your region or city?



79. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of pollution reduction in your region or city?



88. According to your experience, what is needed to improve the results in the field of circular economy and waste reduction in your region or city?



Consultation Section and Questions	Proposals/solutions put forward by respondents
Climate adaptation (Q24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement quality weather stations ('climate sentinel') • Implement indicators for the climate analysis of the territory and define impact chains • Update and improve climate projections on the sea state and knowledge of rainfall in mountain areas • Carry out a systematic mapping of sectoral impacts and assessing climate risks • In the field of research, information and communication carry out a systematic mapping of available expertise, knowledge and tools within the Region, regional agencies, scientific and research bodies • Promote the development of new knowledge based on the latest methodological developments in support of climate planning • Improve the technical training of all bodies and operators involved • Improve the capacity to coordinate the structures of the administration and local actors • Promote dissemination campaigns and rising awareness • A more comprehensive and system view is needed • Build a network of contacts and collaborations between Directorates/Services/Regional Offices, working primarily on communicating issues and making all potential actors aware of the risks of inactivity • Setting a time scheduling for implementing climate policy • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Clean energy production (Q33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people living in rural areas are not left behind • Solving conflicts in legislation allowing biogas development (digestate could be used as compost in agriculture, but agricultural legislation is very restrictive in this case) • Promote stakeholder engagement through effective and science-based communication to raise awareness among citizens (companies and families) • Promote an exemplary role of public buildings, which would, on the one hand, make it possible to achieve reductions in building management costs and, on the other hand, test and promote best practice locally • Take serious action on research and innovation • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Efficient buildings (Q43)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear link between supply and demand, bringing together professional sectors and project owners • Better training for LRA staff from a technical and legal point of view • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Sustainable Transport (Q52)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better training for LRA staff from a technical and legal point of view • Since many of the actions on sustainable mobility have repercussions on private transport and vulnerable citizens, these policies have low popularity and LRAs could fail to implement them. Therefore, they should be accompanied by a programme of aid and incentives for the population in general and the most vulnerable in particular, for example, in terms of discounts on public transport, aid for the renewal of vehicles, etc. • Simplification of legislation and reduction of bureaucracy, especially at national level • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Biodiversity (Q61)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding implementation of the necessary measures proposed in the different strategies

Consultation Section and Questions	Proposals/solutions put forward by respondents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From an economic point of view, tax benefits and direct contributions should be granted to those residing or working in protected areas or Natura 2000 sites • Prioritise environmental measures in Natura 2000 protected sites • Promote partnership among cluster and neighbor regions, since biodiversity conservation cannot be limited by regional boundaries • Development of practicable, affordable approaches for monitoring, supervision, and control measures to fulfil reporting obligations • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Sustainable food (Q70)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people living in rural areas are not left behind • Solving conflicts in legislation allowing biogas development (digestate could be used as compost in agriculture, but agricultural legislation is very restrictive in this case) • Adopting a systemic vision for food policy to look beyond food production and set the focus on the consumer as a lever of change for the entire food system • In this respect, the focus should be on training and educating consumers, in order to promote food awareness among citizens, and to assess the impact of their food consumption choices on their environment and on their health • Rise awareness on advantages of locally produced food • Encouraging networks between public and private stakeholders to harmonize policies and projects • A comprehensive definition of sustainable food system is needed
Pollution reduction (Q79)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As for the air pollution, a comprehensive strategy is needed at the MS level. For example, State rules would be useful to support certain interventions, such as bans on the use of biomass boilers • As for the air pollution, a comprehensive national strategy to ensure coordination for regions affected by such problems • As for the water pollution, overcoming the fragmentation of competences by an effective cross-sectoral coordination system capable of ensuring optimal and equitable management resources would be desirable • More support to scientific research • Investment in training and education and effective awareness raising, involvement and empowerment actions • Raise citizen awareness and support research and innovations
Circular economy and waste reduction (Q88)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise citizen awareness • Incentivize the competitiveness of secondary raw materials • Design a comprehensive public information system on waste and by-products for the industrial sector • Simplify the legislation and procedures applicable to industrial symbiosis • Raise citizen awareness

Annex I: List of stakeholders

- Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano**
- Administrative Office for the Environment, Provincial Environmental and Climate Protection Agency, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen
 - Special Commissioner for Sustainability, Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano
 - Detection, Planning, Monitoring Sector - Nature Office, Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano
 - Department for Economics, Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano
 - Green Mobility Sector, South Tyrolean Transport Structures SpA (STA)
 - Bolzano Chamber of Commerce
 - IDM (Innovators, Developers, Marketers) South Tyrol
- Hauts de France**
- Directorate for the Third Industrial Revolution
 - Biodiversity Department
 - Department of Planning and Housing
- Baden-Württemberg**
- Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector Baden-Württemberg
 - Ministry of Transport Baden-Württemberg
 - Ministry of Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg
- Valle d'Aosta**
- Natural Resources and Forestry Department, Aosta Valley Autonomous Region
 - Biodiversity, Sustainability and Protected Natural Areas Department, Environment Department, Aosta Valley Autonomous Region
 - Sustainable Energy Development Structure, Economic Development and Energy Department, Aosta Valley Autonomous Region
 - Infrastructure and Roads Department, Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta
 - Transport and Sustainable Mobility Department, Autonomous Region of Aosta Valley
 - Environment Department, Aosta Valley Autonomous Region
 - Municipality of Saint-Nicolas
 - Municipality of Verres
 - Municipality of Valsavarenche
 - Municipality of Hone
 - Municipality of Pontboset
 - Gressoney-La-Trinité Municipality
 - ARPA Aosta Valley
 - Fondation Grand Paradis
 - Associated service between the Aosta Valley Chamber of Enterprises and Professions and Unioncamere Piemonte
 - Gran Paradiso Park Authority
 - Mont Avic Natural Park
 - Coldiretti Aosta Valley
 - Aosta Valley Legambiente Association
 - Fondazione Clément Fillietroz ONLUS, Astronomical Observatory of the Aosta Valley Region

- Alentejo**
- Initiative Alentejo/Europe
- Thessaly**
- Municipality of Alonissos
 - Municipality of Zagora
 - Municipality of Trikkaion
 - Directorate of Technical Projects PE Magnesia & Sporades, Region of Thessaly
 - Association of Thessalian Enterprises and Industries (STEV)
 - Special Advisor to the Mayor of Almyrus Municipality of Almyrus
 - Special Service for the Management of the Cretan Programme
 - Municipality of Skopelos
 - Environment Department of the Trikkala Region, Region of Thessaly
 - Chamber of Commerce of Magnesia
 - Development & Organisation Department Municipality of Elassonas
 - Special Service for the Management of the Thessaly Programme
 - Technical Works Directorate of the Regional Unit of Larissa Region, Region of Thessaly
- Emilia-Romagna**
- Emilia-Romagna Region Environmental Protection and Circular Economy Sector
 - Emilia-Romagna Region Energy and Green Economy Area
 - Emilia-Romagna Region Planning, Territorial Development and Production Sustainability Sector
 - Emilia-Romagna Region Transport, infrastructures and sustainable mobility sector
 - Municipality of Bologna
 - Municipality of Piacenza
 - National Association of Ecological Guards (A.N.G.E.V.)
- Friuli Venezia Giulia**
- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development Directorate, Energy Transition Service
 - ARPA FVG, Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Friuli Venezia Giulia
 - Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development Directorate, Waste and Polluted Sites Management Service
 - Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Agro-food, Forestry and Fisheries Resources Directorate, Biodiversity Service
 - Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Agro-food, Forestry and Fishery Resources Directorate, Production Quality Enhancement Service
 - APE FVG, Friuli Venezia Giulia Energy Agency
 - Confindustria Udine
 - University of Udine
 - Agrifood & Bioeconomy FVG Foundation
 - Regional Table of River Contracts
 - AIAB FVG, Organic Agriculture Association of Friuli Venezia Giulia
 - Cormons Energy Community
 - Friuli Collinare Energy Community

- Mazovia Marshal Office**
- Department of Environmental Policy, Geology and Hunting
 - Department of Corporate Supervision and Investment
 - Department of Real Estate and Infrastructure
 - Department of Waste Management, Emissions and Integrated Permits
 - Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Barcelona Provincial Council**
- Climate Change and Sustainability Technical Office of the Environmental Services Department of Barcelona Provincial Council's Climate Action Department
 - Technical Office for Environmental Education and Promotion of the Environmental Services Department of the Climate Action Area of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Facilities, Urban Infrastructure and Architectural Heritage Services Department of the Infrastructure and Natural Spaces Area of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Public Health and Consumer Services Department of the Department of Equality and Social Sustainability of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Department of Culture Services of the Department of Culture of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Management of Road Infrastructure and Mobility Services of the Infrastructure and Natural Spaces Area of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Productive Fabric Service of the Economic Promotion and Employment Services Department, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Trade of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Directorate of Building and Logistics Services of the Human Resources, Finance and Internal Services Department of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Housing Office of the Housing, Urban Planning and Activity Services Department of the Infrastructure and Natural Spaces Area of Barcelona Provincial Council
 - Natural Areas Services Department of Barcelona Provincial Council
- Harghita County Council**
- Local public administrations
- Umbria**
- Environmental sustainability assessments and authorisations Service, Umbria Region
 - Hydrogeological, hydraulic and seismic risk, soil protection Service, Umbria Region
 - Energy, environment and waste Service, Umbria Region
 - Service Infrastructures for mobility and local public transport, Umbria Region
 - Service Forests, mountains, naturalistic and wildlife systems, Umbria Region
 - Service Rural development and planning of agricultural activities, production guarantee and controls, Umbria Region
 - Service Sustainable agriculture, phytosanitary services, Umbria Region
 - Service Water resources, public waters, mining and land reclamation, Umbria Region
 - Regional Agency for Environmental Protection Umbria (ARPA)
 - Municipality of Foligno - Environment and Green Service

Košice Self-governing region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development, Košice Self-governing Region • Regional Development Agency
North Rhine-Westphalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for the Environment, North Rhine-Westphalia • Municipalities of North Rhine-Westphalia • North Rhine-Westphalia Chamber of Commerce
Eurocity Chaves-Verín, EGTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate General for Environmental Quality, Sustainability and Climate Change • Directorate General for Regional Planning and Urbanism • Community of Monterrey Municipalities • Municipality of Verín • Municipality of Oimbra • Vilardevós Council • Municipality of Monterrei • Municipality of Castrelo do Val • Borough of Laza • Council of Cualedro • Council of A Gudiña • County of Mezquita • Council of Riós • Council of Viana do Bolo • Vilariño Council • Community of Conso-Frieiras • Council of Ourense • Council of Xinzo • Council of Allariz • Borough of Baltar • Borough of Bande • Borough of Lobios • Borough of Entrimo • Borough of Vilar de Barrio • Council of Lugo • Council of A Coruña • Municipality of Santiago • Borough of Pontevedra • Municipality of Vigo • Municipality of Chaves • Municipality of Boticas • Municipality of Ribeira de Pena • Municipality of Valpaços • Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar • Municipality of Bragança • Municipality of Montalegre • CIMAT • CCDR-N • Arcos de Valdevez Town Council • Caminha Town Council • Melgaço Town Council • Monção Town Council

- Paredes de Coura Town Council
 - Ponte da Barca Town Hall
 - Ponte de Lima Town Hall
 - Valença do Minho Town Council
 - Viana do Castelo Town Hall
 - Vila Nova de Cerveira Town Hall
 - Braga City Council
 - Alfândega da Fé Town Hall
 - Macedo de Cavaleiros Town Council
 - Mirandela Town Council
 - Vinhais Town Hall
 - Barcelos City Council
- Community of Valencia**
- Directorate General for Climate Change, Community of Valencia
 - Directorate General for Ecological Transition, Community of Valencia
 - Directorate General for Ecological Innovation in Construction, Community of Valencia
 - Architecture and Building Quality Service
 - European Funding Support Service, Regional Ministry of Infrastructures
- Community of Madrid**
- Directorate General of Circular Economy, Department of the Environment
 - Canal de Isabel II (Public company in charge of water adduction, distribution and purification services in the Community of Madrid)
 - Administrative Services Area & Studies Sub-Directorate
- Murcia**
- Regional Ministry of Development and Infrastructures
 - Regional Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries,
 - Regional Ministry for the Environment, Mar Menor, Universities and Research
- West Pomerania Marshal Office**
- Szczecin City Hall,
 - Pyrzyce City Council
 - Stargard City Council
 - Przelewice Municipality Office
 - Koszalin City Council
 - Swinoujscie City Council
 - Pyrzyce District Office,
 - County Office in Police, the Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship (Departments of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Rural Development)

Annex II: Text of the consultation

[NEXT PAGE]

RegHub consultation on

"The future of the Green Deal: taking stock and looking ahead"

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

1. What is this survey for?

Local and regional authorities (LRAs) and their stakeholders are at the forefront of implementing EU policy. The European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) [RegHub](#) is a network, which aims to collect data on their implementation experiences through effective and targeted consultations, in order for EU institutions to benefit from this valuable input - your input. The ultimate goal of such surveys is to strengthen the focus on improving existing legislation and its implementation at the local and regional level.

This survey intends to gauge your level of awareness and involvement in the implementation of [Green Deal](#)-related policies at regional and local level, trying to discover missing pieces, synergies and redundancies. We want to find out what works, what does not and what can be done to make it better and easier for your regional or local authority to achieve the green transition and contribute to reach the ambitious EU targets.

We will use the results in the CoR's work, sharing them with the rapporteur on "*A multilevel governance for the Green Deal. Towards the revision of the Governance regulation*", Mr Joško KLISOVIĆ (HR/PES). The results will also feed into the CoR 2023 Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities.

2. What is the scope of the survey?

The survey will cover the Green Deal as a whole, as an overarching framework, as well as the following sectors, as defined by the European Commission:

- Climate adaptation
- Clean energy production
- Efficient buildings
- Sustainable transport
- Biodiversity protection

- Sustainable food
- Pollution reduction
- Circular economy

3. Why are we launching this survey now?

We are approaching the end of the EU mandate and are just ahead of the European elections. This is why 2023 is the right moment to kick-start the reflection on the state of play of the Green Deal and look ahead at what could and should be improved in the future. Simultaneously, the EU is going to finalize the [Fit for 55 package](#) this year. In 2024, the European Commission will have to revise the [Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation](#), which was designed to be the overarching governance mechanism of the Energy Union within the Clean Energy Package, before the release of the Green Deal. Regions and cities play an essential role in the implementation of the Green Deal. The success of this reflection will therefore depend on an effective engagement of all levels of governance.

4. What is the European legal background?

In December 2019 the European Commission released a [communication on the European Green Deal](#), outlining an ambitious set of EU policies aiming at ensuring that the EU becomes a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

Several new pieces of legislation as well as several revisions of the existing ones stemmed from this initial communication. On top of the enhanced sectoral targets on clean energy, climate protection and environmental preservation, the Green Deal is promoting increased synergies among policies and more integrated actions. It also requires additional planning efforts, that may bring a duplication of efforts and inconsistencies, if not well designed.

5. What is the bigger picture?

The climate neutrality goal proposed in the Green Deal and then enshrined in the Climate Law is part of the EU commitments at global level, as Party to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and signatory to the Paris Agreement. This global goal will only be achieved by empowering LRAs: cities and regions are at the forefront of climate change and therefore they are also at the forefront of climate solutions.

6. Deadline and contact

This survey will be open until 30 May 2023.

For further questions please contact RegHub@cor.europa.eu.

I. Contact details and stakeholder information

* Hub

* Last name

* First name

* Function/position

* Email

* **Stakeholder identification**

Please mention all consulted stakeholders (name, position, department, institution) and the question(s) for which they were consulted.

II. The European Green Deal Framework

The [European Green Deal](#) is the EU's strategy for reaching climate neutrality by 2050, in order to deliver on the Paris Agreement commitments. To get there, the EU pledged to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and presented a set of legislative proposals under the [Fit for 55 package](#). Most of the proposals are now adopted and will need to be implemented in the coming years, with local and regional authorities being at the forefront of this exercise.

1. Does your region or city have a **climate neutrality target**?

- Yes, by 2050
- Yes, before 2050
- It has a less stringent climate target
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

2. If your region or city does **not** have a climate neutrality target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

3. Does your region or city have a one or more **plans or strategies for sustainable development**?

- Yes, and we are smoothly implementing it/them
- Yes, but we are struggling with its/their implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain (also let us know if you have more than one strategy):

Conclusion/Synthesis:

4. If your region or city has a plan or strategy for sustainable development, is it linked to the EU policies in the field of the Green Deal?

- Yes, it formally refers to the Green Deal

- Yes, but there is only some generic connection to the Green Deal
- No, there is no connection to the Green Deal
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

5. If the plan or strategy for sustainable development is **not** linked to the EU policies in the field of the Green Deal, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- Its too costly
- Its too technical
- Its not considered useful
- Its not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

6. Does your region or city have **concertation mechanisms** related to the implementation of sustainable development/Green Deal?

- Yes, and we are implementing them smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with their implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

7. If your region or city does **not** have concertation mechanisms related to the implementation of sustainable development/Green Deal, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement a national scheme
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

8. In the Green Deal, the "do-no-harm" principle is proposed, as mechanism to ensure that no policy goes specifically against its objectives. Does your region or city have a **methodology to cross-check the consistency** among the different Green Deal policies?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain (also, if you are implementing the methodology only for EU Structural Funds):

Conclusion/Synthesis:

9. If your region or city does **not** have a methodology to cross-check the consistency among the different Green Deal policies, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement a national scheme
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

10. Which **percentage of its overall budget** does your region or city dedicate to the design and/or implementation of sustainable/Green Deal policies indicatively?

- < 1%
- 1% - 10%
- 10% - 20%
- 20% - 30%
- > 30%
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

11. Have your region's or city's policies and actions in the field of Green Deal/sustainable development been affected by the **energy and raw materials crisis**?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

12. In the view of your region or city, is there any **policy area missing** in the Green Deal?

Choose one or more options

- Health
- Gender equality
- Additional social protection
- Urban policy and spatial planning
- Other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain (you may also refer to the role of recent crises, if relevant):

Conclusion/Synthesis:

13. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of the Green Deal?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

14. Please summarise here the **main challenges** your region or city faces when implementing Green Deal policies. You may also mention specific characteristics of your region or city that play a role.

750 character(s) maximum

Conclusion/Synthesis:

15. Please share your comments on **what would be needed** to reinforce your region's or city's capacity to implement Green Deal policies.

750 character(s) maximum

Conclusion/Synthesis:

III. Climate adaptation

Climate change adaptation is the process of adjusting to current or expected effects of climate change. In the [EU strategy on adaptation](#), the EU commits to become climate resilient by 2050 with 4 objectives. In order to reach this target, cities and regions needs to be involved in the design and empowered in the implementation of adaptation actions, as they are first impacted by climate change.

16. Does your region or city have a **climate adaptation policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation

- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

17. If your region or city has a climate adaptation policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

18. If your region or city does **not** have a climate adaptation policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

19. Does your region or city have a **climate adaptation target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

20. If your region or city has a climate adaptation target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

21. If your region or city does **not** have a climate adaptation target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful

- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

22. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for climate adaptation measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

23. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of climate adaptation policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

24. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of climate adaptation in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

IV. Clean energy production

The energy sector is responsible for more than 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the share of [renewable energy](#) is therefore a key to reach climate neutrality. Renewable-energy production has a strong local dimension and more [support at the local and regional level](#) is needed to, among others, develop energy communities that would incentivise collective self-generation and self-consumption, facilitate permitting process and reduce administrative barriers, and offer clean energy sources to the transport, building and industrial sectors.

25. Does your region or city have **clean energy production policies**?

- Yes, and we are implementing them smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with their implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

26. If your region or city has clean energy production policies, are they connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

27. If your region or city does **not** have clean energy production policies, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

28. Does your region or city have a **clean energy production target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

29. If your region or city has a clean energy production target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

30. If your region or city does **not** have a clean energy production target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

31. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for clean energy production measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

32. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of clean energy production policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

33. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of clean energy production in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

V. Efficient buildings

Buildings still account for 40% of the EU's total energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions. Achieving a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050 is therefore needed. The European Commission. The Commission has published the strategy "[A Renovation Wave for Europe](#)" to boost renovation in the EU and has increased the targets in the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) and the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#).

34. Does your region or city have a **policy for efficient buildings related to its own buildings**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

35. Does your region or city have a **policy for efficient buildings applying to residential an/or non-residential buildings**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

36. If your region or city has a policy for efficient buildings that applies to residential and/or non-residential buildings, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plans interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

37. If your region or city does **not** have a policy for efficient buildings applying to residential and/or non-residential buildings, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority

- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

38. Does your region or city have a **target for efficient buildings**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

39. If your region or city has a target for efficient buildings, does it have a monitoring/reporting system in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

40. If your region or city does **not** have a target for efficient buildings, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

41. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for efficient buildings measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

42. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of efficient buildings policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

43. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of efficient buildings in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

VI. Sustainable transport

Transport currently accounts for a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Deal seeks a 90% reduction in these emissions by 2050. In cities and regions, a combination of measures is needed to address air quality, emissions, urban congestion and noise. These include improving sustainable public transport and promoting active modes of transport such as walking and cycling. To achieve this, the Commission presented a '[Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#)' with an Action Plan of 82 initiatives that will guide the work for the next years.

44. Does your region or city have a **sustainable transport policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation

- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

45. If your region or city has a sustainable transport policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

46. If your region or city does **not** have a sustainable transport policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

47. Does your region or city have a **sustainable transport target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

48. If your region or city has a sustainable transport target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

49. If your region or city does **not** have a sustainable transport target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful

- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

50. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for sustainable transport measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

51. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of sustainable transport policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

52. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of sustainable transport in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

VII. Biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration

As part of the Green Deal, the [biodiversity strategy for 2030](#) is the EU's plan to put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030. It contains specific commitments and actions to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, building on existing nature laws. As part of the strategy, the Commission has enlarged existing [Natura 2000 areas](#) and proposed the EU's first ever [Nature Restoration Law](#) with binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species, among other initiatives.

53. Does your region or city have a **biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

54. If your region or city has a biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

55. If your region or city does **not** have a biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

56. Does your region or city have a **biodiversity preservation target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

57. If your region or city has a biodiversity preservation target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

58. If your region or city does **not** have a biodiversity preservation target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

59. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for biodiversity preservation measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

60. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of biodiversity protection and ecosystems restoration policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

61. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of biodiversity preservation in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

VIII. Sustainable food

Our food systems today account for nearly one-third of global GHG emissions, consume large amounts of natural resources, and result in biodiversity loss and negative health impacts. The European Commission has introduced the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly and will propose a legislative [framework for sustainable food systems](#) (FSFS) by the end of 2023.

62. Does your region or city have **a sustainable food policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

63. If your region or city has a sustainable food policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

64. If your region or city does **not** have a sustainable food policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

65. Does your region or city have a **sustainable food target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know

No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

66. If your region or city has a sustainable food target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

67. If your region or city does **not** have a sustainable food target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

68. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for sustainable food measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

69. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of sustainable food policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

70. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of sustainable food in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives

- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

IX. Pollution reduction

Pollution harms our health and our environment and is the largest environmental cause of multiple mental and physical diseases. To tackle this, the European Commission adopted a [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) as a key deliverable of the European Green Deal, with actions on [air](#), [water](#) and [soil protection](#), measures to protect citizens against [hazardous chemicals](#) and measures to address pollution from large [industrial installations](#). Local and regional authorities have a fundamental role in implementing these policies on the ground.

71. Does your region or city have a **pollution reduction policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

72. If your region or city has a pollution reduction policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national

- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

73. If your region or city does **not** have a pollution reduction policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

74. Does your region or city have a **pollution reduction target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

75. If your region or city has a pollution reduction target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

76. If your region or city does **not** have a pollution reduction target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

77. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for pollution reduction measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds

- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

78. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of pollution reduction policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

79. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of pollution reduction in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
-

I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

X. Circular economy and waste reduction

The European Commission adopted the new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) (CEAP) as one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal. The Plan introduces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages [sustainable consumption](#), and aims to ensure that [waste](#) is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

80. Does your region or city have **a circular economy and waste reduction policy**?

- Yes, and we are implementing it smoothly
- Yes, but we are struggling with its implementation
- Yes, in design phase
- No, but we rely on national schemes in this field
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

81. If your region or city has a circular economy and waste reduction policy, is it connected to a national or regional strategy or plan?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, national
- Yes, regional
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different strategies or plan interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

82. If your region or city does **not** have a circular economy and waste reduction policy, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- We directly implement the national/regional policy
- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

83. Does your region or city have a **circular economy target**?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- I don't know
- No

Please explain if and how the different targets interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

84. If your region or city has a circular economy target, does it have a **monitoring/reporting system** in place?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, at local level
- Yes, at regional level
- Yes, at national level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain if and how the different monitoring/reporting systems interact or are connected:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

85. If your region or city does **not** have a circular economy target, please explain why:

Choose one or more options

- It is too costly
- It is too technical
- It is not considered useful
- It is not a priority
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

86. Does your region or city receive **financial support** for circular economy and waste reduction measures?

Choose one or more options

- Yes, through EU funds
- Yes, through national funds
- Yes, through regional funds
- Yes, through private funds
- Yes, other
- No
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

87. Is your region or city involved in any **national or European initiative** for the implementation of circular economy and waste reduction policies?

- Yes
- No
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

88. According to your experience, **what is needed to improve the results** in the field of circular economy and waste reduction in your region or city?

- Specific targets
- An overall strategy
- A governance mechanism
- Clearer sectoral specification
- Support for innovation
- Capacity building support through dedicated EU initiatives
- Capacity building support through dedicated national initiatives
- Dedicated funding mechanisms
- Best practices and example repositories/Peer-to-peer programmes
- Support mechanism for vulnerable citizens
- Better EU legislation and rules
- Other
- I don't know

Please specify/explain:

Conclusion/Synthesis:

XI. Final remarks

89. Please flag any **additional issue, best practice or action**, which you want to our attention and that can help improving the implementation of the Green Deal or serve as an example.

750 character(s) maximum

Conclusion/Synthesis:

Privacy protection

By filling out and submitting your answer(s) to this survey, you give your consent to the European Committee of the Regions for collecting and processing the answer(s) and personal data it contains, and for transferring the answer(s) and personal data to third parties involved in the analysis and dissemination of the survey results.

The purpose thereof is to serve the aims of the RegHub network, including the drafting of a report that will be published and shared with relevant EU institutions as well as European, national, regional and local political representatives, administrations and stakeholders that are relevant for the topic covered by the survey. The personal data is collected and processed according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

The follow-up of the survey requires that your personal data be processed in a file, which will be kept for a maximum period of 5 years. You have the right to access that file and the right to correct any inaccurate or incomplete personal data or to request the deletion of your personal data by sending an email to econ-survey-cor@cor.europa.eu.

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European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives such as regional presidents or city-mayors from all 27 Member States, representing over 446 million Europeans.

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