



YEPs Monthly Newsletter
All you need to know about CoR's activities and events!
Issue 6 | February 2024



MONS BELGIUM
18 / 19 MARCH 2024
10TH EUROPEAN SUMMIT OF REGIONS AND CITIES
THE BEATING HEART OF EUROPE
Logo: 2024 Belgium Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Do not forget to register for the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities on the 18-19 March in Mons, Belgium.

In a few weeks only, the city of Mons will welcome [the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities, on 18-19 March 2024](#), as part of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Thousands of mayors, councillors, regional ministers and high-level European and global decision makers will meet, exchange best practices, create new networks, and debate concrete and innovative local solutions to the global challenges faced by people and territories.

Join us in shaping a better future for Europe and our planet.

As part of the YEP Programme, you may be eligible for reimbursement.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Insider's look Winter School on participatory democracy in Brussels



We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the **three-day Winter School** in Brussels, where more than 20 YEPs gathered from 14 to 16 February to deepen their knowledge on participatory democracy as part of their active participation in four online trainings of the "Becoming a Citizen Participation Expert: A Capacity Building Programme", launched by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung as part of the [A new chapter for EU democracy](#) initiative.



Our YEPs engaged in interactive sessions and workshops by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and IKU, acquiring tools to strengthen community ties and develop their own projects on citizens' engagement.

A key moment was the exchange with Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the CoR, discussing our collective future and the significance of honesty and engagement in building trust.

Another highlight was introducing the [together.eu](#) platform by the European Parliament, aimed at motivating voting **on the road towards the EU elections in June 2024**.

Highlights from the 159th Plenary session



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Debate on the EU elections

Together with representatives of youth organisations and CoR members, five YEPs, Kateryna Musiienko (EPP/UA), Sophie Hütteman (PES/DE), Agata Puchalska (ECR/PL), Máirín McGrath (EA/IE) and Kathrin Werth (Greens/IT) took the floor during the debate on 1 February and discussed how to engage young Europeans on the ground.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

The debate emphasized the need to engage young Europeans in politics, addressing their concerns such as housing and employment, and encouraging them to vote in the **2024 European elections**. Despite growing political activism among youth, they feel underrepresented and concerned about issues like affordability and the environment. Suggestions to increase youth participation include lowering voting and candidacy ages, introducing youth quotas, and improving civic education. The debate highlighted the role of local regions in connecting EU policies to young citizens' needs and discussed initiatives like the YEP Programme to involve youth in EU decision-making. The upcoming elections, with lowered voting ages in some countries - Belgium, Germany, Malta and Austria will allow their citizens to vote from the age of 16, and in Greece the voting age is 17 -, present an opportunity to further involve young people in shaping the EU's future.

[WATCH THE DEBATE HERE](#)



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Debate on lessons learned from COP28

The YEP and Mayor of Vöcklabruck, Peter Schobesberger (PES/AT), intervened during the "Debate on lessons learned from **COP28**: the critical role of local and regional leaders for global climate action" at the 159th plenary session on 31 January, where he presented the Vöckla-Ager hydrogen project, which aims to make the district heating supply completely free of natural gas and its associated emissions. "Vöcklabruck is the region where renewable hydrogen can celebrate its birth," he underlined.

[Y] Factor The CoR on the Ground - Local and Regional Success Stories



In honor of the 30th anniversary of the CoR, the [Y] Factor project seeks to showcase via 19 posters the impactful stories where CoR members and 8 members of the YEP Programme have positively influenced their regions, emphasising tangible achievements at the grassroots level.

[CHECK OUT THE POSTERS](#)



together.eu, initiated by the European Parliament's DG Communication, is a non-partisan community designed to bolster European democracy by encouraging voting ahead of the 2024 European elections. It unites citizens and organizations across the EU in efforts to increase electoral participation, offering resources and tools for engagement and to stimulate and drive citizens to go and vote on the elections days. As the elections draw near, together.eu aims to expand its community and impact, inviting everyone to contribute to strengthening democracy through informed and increased voter participation.



The together.eu website is where all our activities happen. Anyone can sign up to receive our emails with ideas on how to help promote the European elections, ranging from small actions that are relatively quick and require little effort to more ambitious endeavours such as organising events and activities. A dedicated section will enable users to download all digital and print materials for events, campaigns, training, and creative initiatives, including Parliament's official EE24 campaign assets. This resource centre is available to all users (i.e. also non-together.eu members) without a specific login.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Social Media Corner!

Do you have best practices in your municipality, city or region?

Share with the YEP community on our [Facebook](#) or [WhatsApp](#) groups and learn from others!

[FACEBOOK](#)

[WHATSAPP](#)

Get in touch with our Social Media Team for our masterclasses, one-to-one consultations and others.

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