



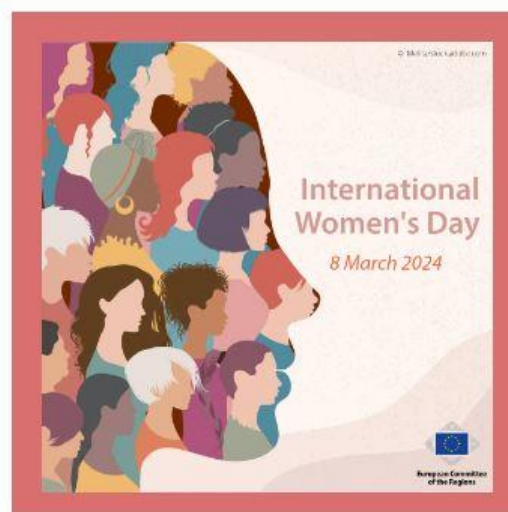
YEPs Monthly Newsletter
All you need to know about CoR's activities and events!
Issue 7 | March 2024

International Women's Day

As we celebrate International Women's Day, it is with great enthusiasm that we dedicate this issue of our newsletter to championing the ongoing efforts in the realm of gender equality and political empowerment.

This day is not just a global celebration but also a call to action to break down barriers and pave the way for a more equitable world. Explore the stories, engage with the content, and join us in the movement for gender equality.

Happy International Women's Day!



For more women in politics

We are excited to announce that our dedicated webpage, "For More Women in Politics," has been freshly updated. Dive into the latest research, stories, and strategies aimed at amplifying female voices in the political sphere. The CoR calls for better gender balance in politics at all levels of government, including at local and regional level.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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Message of The President of CoR on gender equality

New video is available with the President of the CoR, Vasco Alves Cordeiro, joining the #3StepsForward campaign, and emphasizing the critical importance of inclusivity and diversity across all sectors of society for a green and gender-equal Europe.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Gender Equality Action Plan



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In its commitment to fostering gender equality and a fairer EU, the CoR introduced a dedicated Gender Equality Action Plan towards the end of 2023. This plan outlines the CoR's strategies and practices to enhance gender equality internally. Additionally, to bolster these efforts, the Bureau has appointed Ms. Sari Rautio, a member of Hämeenlinna City Council, as the special rapporteur for the CoR Gender Equality Action Plan.

[READ MORE](#)

Insights on gender equality and intersectionality

Don't miss the **video** featuring the special Bureau rapporteur on the CoR Gender Equality Action Plan, **Sari RAUTIO (FI/EPP)**, and our YEP from 2022 cohort, **Tiffany FEVERY (BE/PES)**, City Councillor from Genappe.

Both are talking about different aspects of inclusivity and their insights provide a deep dive into the challenges and opportunities lying at the intersection of gender, race, and social class.

[Watch the video to learn more!](#)





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Interview with Donatella Porzi

In recognition of International Women's Day, Donatella Porzi (IT/RE), Regional Councillor for Umbria, and rapporteur of the adopted opinion on "Stopping gender-based violence - cities and regions leading the way", shares her insights into the challenges and developments in this battle, emphasizing the importance of education, societal change, and legislative action.

OPINION

What do you see as the most significant developments and challenges in combating gender-based violence at the regional and local levels?

Finally the Pandora's box is being opened a bit, we are able to use the term "femicide" and identify the many physical, psychological, economic, social violence against women. Regulating violence with punitive laws is not enough to tackle the problem. In my opinion a number of key issues were highlighted: prevention, starting with educating younger generations. Schools thus play a key role in providing positive role models. Targeted training is also needed for personnel who, in various capacities, work with women who are victims of violence or who report being at risk. Data collection is also crucial in order to have an overview of the phenomenon and its different forms. Where prevention has failed, it is necessary to set up services to support the victims of crime, provide them with a specific path to emergency medical assistance, housing, social health services and to ensure a connection with the judicial and police authorities.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, what message do you wish to convey to women and girls worldwide who may be facing or fighting gender-based violence?

First of all, do not be afraid or ashamed to denounce it. Secondly, do not resign yourself to "It has always been this way!". The fact that it is often ignored is that most violence takes place at home, but salvation may be found outside. The other key point is to continue to believe in yourself, to build the future by using one's intelligence and developing one's potential through investment on school and university to enter the job market and be recognised and valued as productive individuals.

What are your hopes for the future in terms of achieving gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence, and what steps do you believe are crucial to getting there?

Daily, long and hard work is essential. The anniversaries certainly have a value in bringing the issue back to the attention of citizens and politicians, but only if we do not risk turning an emergency into a commercial celebration. I believe that governments, institutions and the media can make a difference, but I also believe that each woman must make the best effort to build her own life. As far as I am concerned, I called for the establishment to set up a Commission of Inquiry against femicide in Umbria, my region, in order to give real continuity to my action.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW HERE](#)

Monthly Highlights

21st ENVE Commission Meeting

On 8 February 2024, one of our **YEPs, Mircea-Theodor Brait** (RO/EPP), mayor of Buteni, took the floor on the debate "Towards a resilient water management to fight climate crisis within an EU Blue Deal" during the 21st ENVE commission meeting. He talked about their efforts in Buteni, including the development of a water tower and tank funded by European funds to meet water needs for 48 hours in case of emergencies. He also highlighted the importance of promoting transparency in water consumption, potentially ranking households to raise awareness.



Among others, Mr Brait proposed gamification to engage citizens in water-saving activities. The action plan he advocated includes tax incentives, water efficiency regulations, and differentiated taxes for water users to drive a circular and digital approach to water management.

WATCH THE FULL ENVE MEETING



In a matter of days, Mons will host the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities from 18-19 March 2024, coinciding with the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Participants already registered for the event in Mons are invited to review the schedule and register for preferred sessions via their accounts. Note the special session on Gender Equality scheduled for Monday, March 18th.

PROGRAMME



Boost Voter Participation with Together.eu!

As the 2024 European elections approach, **join together.eu**, initiated by the European Parliament, to boost voting and strengthen democracy. Sign up at their website for ideas and resources to encourage electoral participation. From small actions to organising events, contribute to encourage voter participation. [Access all digital and print materials](#) for campaigns and more, available for all. Be part of a community dedicated to informed voting and democratic engagement.

FIND OUT MORE HERE

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.

[CONTACT US](#)

