



## It's a wrap!

During the [10th European Summit of Regions and Cities](#) held in Mons, Belgium, over 3,000 local and regional leaders from 59 countries and all 5 continents gathered to influence policy ahead of EU elections and a crucial European Council meeting. The 'Mons Declaration', presented to Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, calls for increased public investment, local solutions for achieving climate goals, and active participation of regional authorities in EU reforms and enlargement processes.

[DOWNLOAD THE DECLARATION](#)

**The 10th European Summit of Regions and cities also marked the 30th anniversary of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).**

In total 83 YEPs participated in the Summit while attending meetings with their political groups and study visits.

In the dedicated stand for YEPs in coordination with the EU Councillors, they received more information about the new call for applications and on how to spread the word in their networks for more charismatic young leaders to join our community.





Young leaders from the 8 member states and all EU candidate countries can still apply [here](#).

This year is a crucial one, as local and regional elections are happening across Europe and the European Parliament elections are just around the corner.

To accommodate young representatives from countries with local and regional elections, **the call has now been extended until 14 June 2024** for applicants from **Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania** and from candidate countries for EU accession (**Albania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Türkiye, Ukraine and Georgia**).

## Monthly Highlights

### European Youth Week

From 12 to 19 April, 2 months ahead of the European elections in June, the European Youth Week (EYW) took place in the premises of the European Parliament for youth in Europe to become more engaged in society and to put democracy in action. Our members **Tanya Hristova** (BG/EPP) and **Tine Radinja** (SL/Greens) talked about how youth can be better included and make their voice heard.

Our **YEP Aïssatou Cissé** (BE/PES) had the opportunity to speak at the kick-off event aimed to bring together stakeholders and participants to share strategic topics of interest for young people and display success stories.



Aïssatou Cissé (BE/PES), Mayor in Bergerhout, Belgium, on the importance of discussing with young people, not only about them.

### LevelUp!

On 12 April, more than 1300 young Europeans took part in the **LevelUp!** event at the Committee of the Regions building as part of the European Youth Week ahead of the EU elections.

Participants took part in workshops to learn how to better advocate for the issues that matter to young people. At the dedicated stand, the YEP team welcomed the young participants and informed them about the YEP programme and its benefits.





YEP Julia Polley, City Councillor, Bonn, Germany.

### 22nd ENVE Commission meeting

Our YEP Julia Polley (DE/EPP), City Councillor of Bonn, intervened in the 22nd meeting of the Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) which took place on 11 April 2024 in Brussels.

In the exchange of views of the opinion on **"What is the role of regional and local authorities in the transition towards a circular economy?"**, Ms Polley talked about not just recycling but minimising waste production. She highlighted a recycling plant integrated with a power station for efficient energy use in Bonn and stressed the importance of public participation.

[Watch the debate](#)

## Light Up your landmarks for Europe Day Join the countdown to the European elections!

As Europe Day approaches on May 9, we invite local and regional authorities to celebrate "One Month to Go" until the European elections by participating in a special initiative.

**Illuminate your landmark buildings with a tailor-made visual or share it on your social media platforms to spread awareness and excitement for the upcoming elections.**



This initiative is already set to light up landmark buildings in several European capital cities.

We encourage you to join them and use this opportunity **to put the European elections on the map in your area.**

You can access and download the visuals by visiting the [together.eu](https://together.eu) platform, initiated by the European Parliament, to boost voting and strengthen democracy.

Share your involvement with us by sending a photo or a message to [Dir-D-contact-point@cor.europa.eu](mailto:Dir-D-contact-point@cor.europa.eu).

## Looking Forward



### First online informative session

To encourage more cities and regions to join the [Summer Camps for Ukrainian children' initiative](#), this year, the CoR and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) will be hosting an online informative session on 24 April from 10:30 to 12:00 (CET).

To find out how cities and regions can join this initiative in 2024, you are invited to register for the online informative session [here](#).

Summer Camps for  
Ukrainian children projects

## New on the Air: EuroPCom Podcasts on Democracy



Check out the [EuroPCom LinkedIn group](#).

EuroPCom has launched a new podcast series titled "**Communicating EU Democracy**," aimed at enhancing public understanding and engagement in the lead-up to the upcoming EU elections. Experts and local administrator are interviewed on specific topics, such as managing online debates, the link between technologies and democracy or reshaping citizens and government communication.

[Listen now!](#)

## 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

