

Building Europe with **Local Councillors**

THE BULLETIN

The “Building Europe with Local Councillors” network is making notable strides in bringing the EU closer to its citizens. It is guided by an ambitious aim: to create a European network of locally elected politicians that communicate the European Union. Membership enables local politicians to communicate about EU issues that concern their constituents at the local level thanks to a privileged access to EU Institutions.

Hundreds of elected representatives (of villages, cities, regions, and other levels of local government) have already responded to the European Commission’s invitation to take part in this alliance, a step closer towards creating a **European public sphere**.

420 Members so far

210 registrations on Futurium platform

110 regions covered

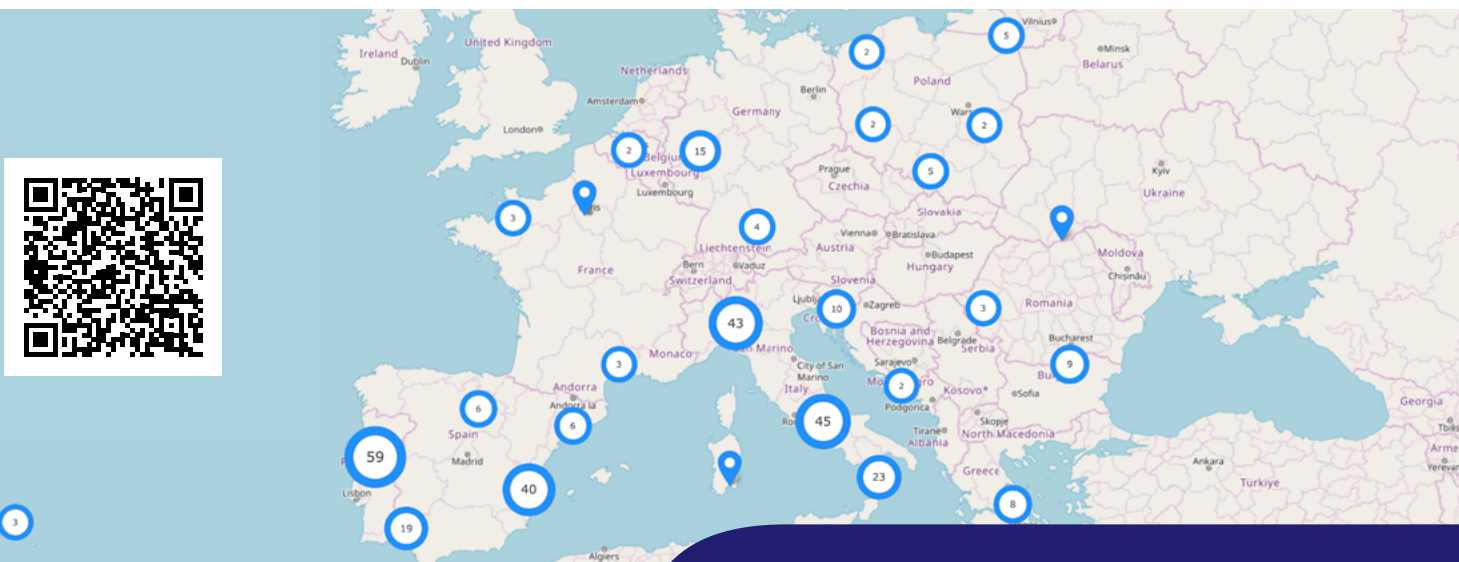
25 intermediate coordinating authorities

Italy, Spain & Portugal Top represented countries

Latest developments

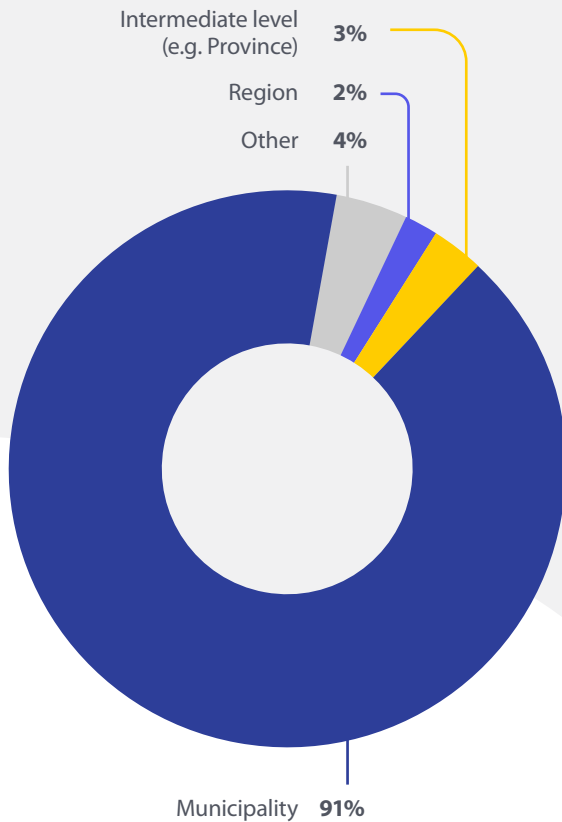
An **interactive map** of members and partners shows the reach of the network. From leading countries Italy, Spain, and Portugal, which have the largest number of representatives so far, members and partners are spread across the EU – from the Canary Islands to Latvia!

230 municipalities have already received the metal plate and the membership kit; 93 **members from Italy, Spain, and Portugal joined the first three welcome sessions in December 2022**, aimed at introducing the network’s activities, benefits, and tools, and, most importantly, meeting the project community. By the end of March 2023, the first three groups will be **invited to Brussels** for a visit to the European Institutions.

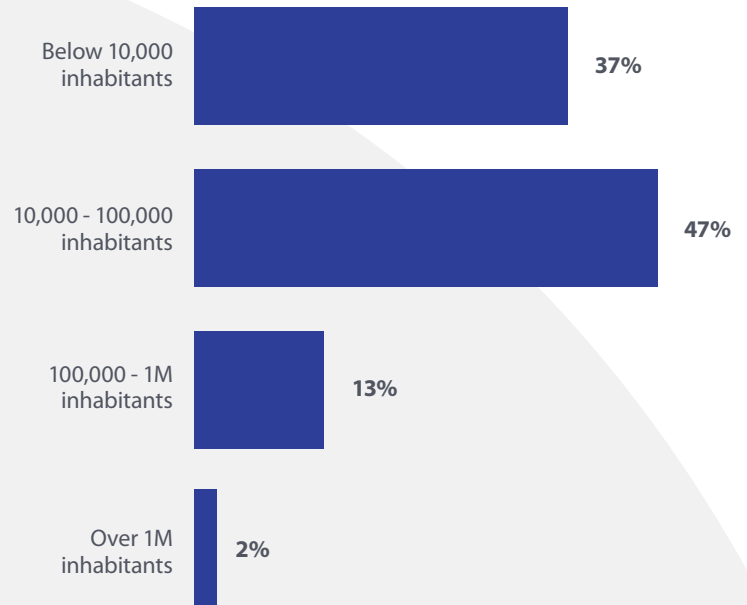




Type of Local Authority



Population size



Promotional events

The Building Europe with Local Councillors network kicked off thanks to several public events in 2022, like the European Week of Regions and Cities, the Smart Cities Expo World Congress in Barcelona, and the Salon des Maires in Paris, to name but a few. More events in 2023 will keep the network in the spotlight.

Promotional material online

Members are also active online: the official website is packed with **communication material** that has been downloaded hundreds of times and will be used to communicate the project. It includes ready-to-use banners, text, and visuals for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter in all the languages.

Meeting the project community

The community is growing fast thanks to **Futurium**, the online platform where councillors can interact with each other, access official EU materials of their direct interest, post about their best practices in communicating the EU at the local level, and much more. 200 councillors have already created a Futurium profile and post on the platform. The platform is also shared with the Committee of the Regions' Network of Regional and Local Councillors.





Municipality of Capizzone

What's in it for the network's members?

Helping members of a pan-European network communicate about the EU doesn't simply happen. One needs to know its audience, to speak its language, how to offer the right support... and who better placed to do this than a local politician? To that end, the Commission is inviting all members to answer a **specific survey** and identify the most sensitive topics relevant to their constituency.

From that crucial step onwards, several services are offered to all members, from ready-to-use EU-related materials, to webinars or visits to Brussels around those identified local topics – always in the language of the members concerned! Several **repackaged materials** are progressively being made available in the virtual Library thus far, such as the one supplied on the energy crisis; these are all designed according to the specific needs expressed by members.

Stay tuned: more welcome webinars, visits to Brussels, and EU topic-based online info sessions will be coming in 2023!

Why BELC at all?

The fundamental idea is that communicating the EU is a responsibility shared by EU institutions and **Member States at all levels**, including the local level, which calls for an unprecedented alliance with the local level of governance.

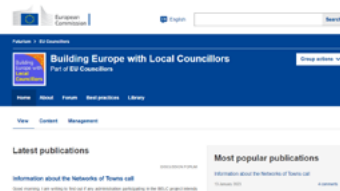
Another foundation stone was laid in 2022 by the **Conference on the Future of Europe**, where closing recommendations included a clear call to set up a network of local councillors (**proposal 36, point 6**).

Councillors joining the BELC network are the building blocks of a European governance made of institutions, local communities, and the citizens who will soon be voting in the European elections in 2024.

Members' corner

If you haven't already done so, **register to Futurium here**.

As members of the network, the Futurium platform is yours! You can share there how you engage on EU topics within your constituency, post pictures of your events featuring our BELC communication materials, share ideas.



Use your own language, the automatic translation will help you interact with the others.

If you have any questions, please visit the **Building Europe with Local Councillors** website, consult the **FAQs** or contact us at **info@eu-councillors.eu**