



# Building Europe with Local Councillors network

15.02.2024



European  
Union

[https://building-europe-with-local-councillors.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://building-europe-with-local-councillors.europa.eu/index_en)

Building Europe with  
**Local Councillors**



# All you need to know about Building Europe with Local Councillors' network- BELC



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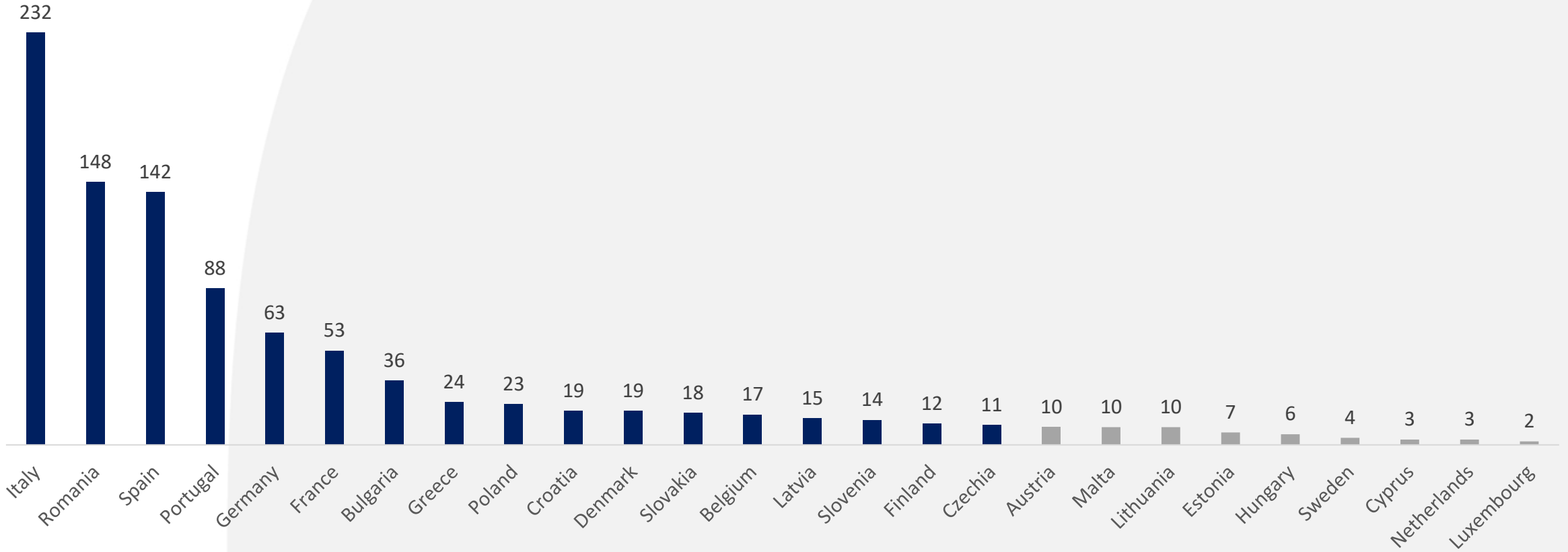
European Union

Building Europe with Local Councillors



# State of play – BELC Members in the EU

BELC Members per Country

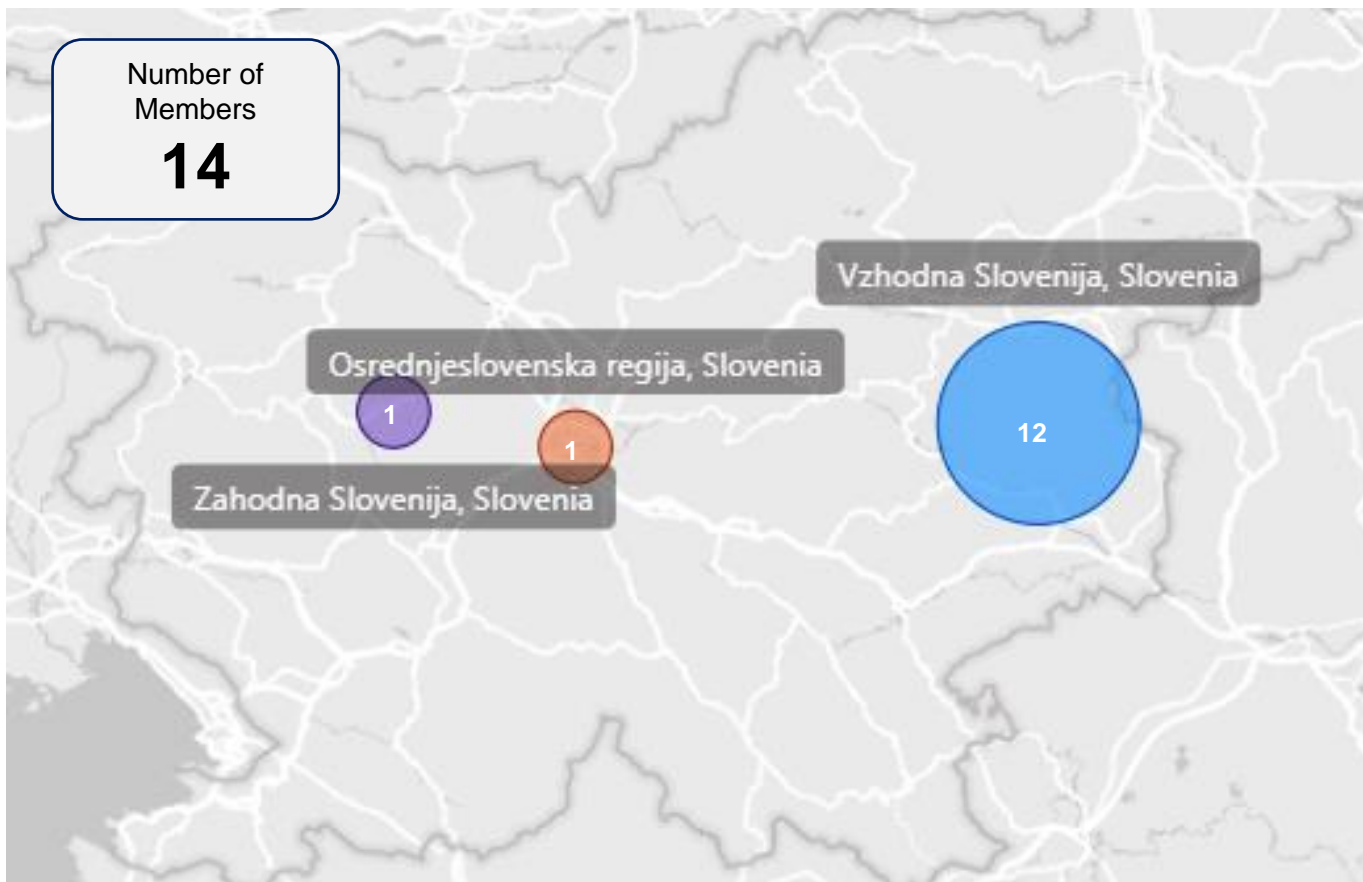




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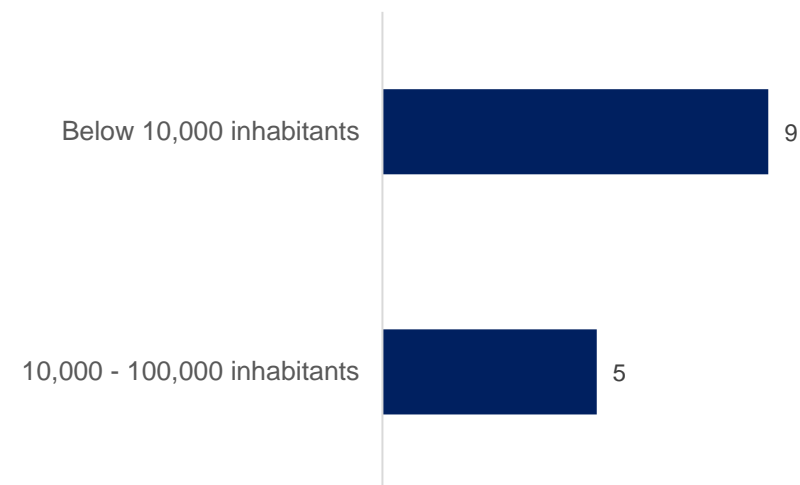
# SLOVENIA - Summary of Members



## Top Region

Vzhodna Slovenija	12
Osrednjeslovenska regija	1
Zahodna Slovenija	1

## Population






# From members' needs to privileged access to EC communication services and products



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## Topics of interest

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In the list below, please indicate **up to 5 topics** that are most sensitive in your constituency and on which you are willing to communicate about the opportunities and the solutions offered by the EU.

### \* Primary topics of interest

*between 1 and 5 choices*

- Agriculture & rural development
- Borders & migration
- Culture & tourism
- Digital
- Economy
- Education and training
- Employment and social affairs
- Emergency response
- Environment, climate
- Energy
- Maritime affairs and fisheries
- EU funds and regional policies
- Justice and fundamental rights
- Democracy and public participation
- Transport
- Research and innovation
- Public health
- EU neighbourhood & external policy

**This field is required.**





## Sub-topics of interest

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For your chosen primary topics, you may choose up to two sub-topics of interest.

### Culture & tourism

*at most 2 choice(s)*

- Opportunities linked to tourism, incl. eco-tourism
- Valorisation of cultural heritage & traditions

## Content preferences

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### What would be the best way to provide you with this information?

- Webinar
- Information on the online platform
- Visit to Brussels
- Email newsletter
- Other

### What type of information material would be most useful?

- Publications
- Video
- Websites
- Other

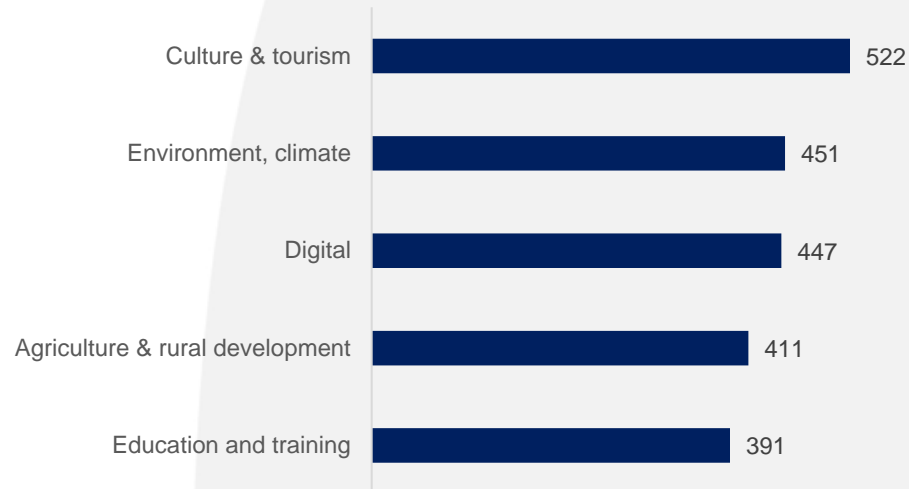
### \* Should the information you look for not be available in your language, would it be a problem to receive it in English?

- Yes
- No

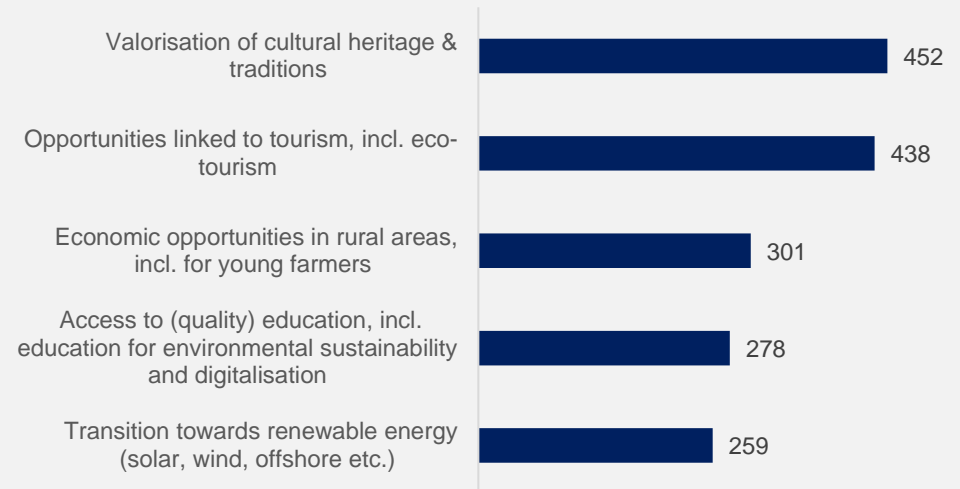


# State of play – Members' EU topics of interest

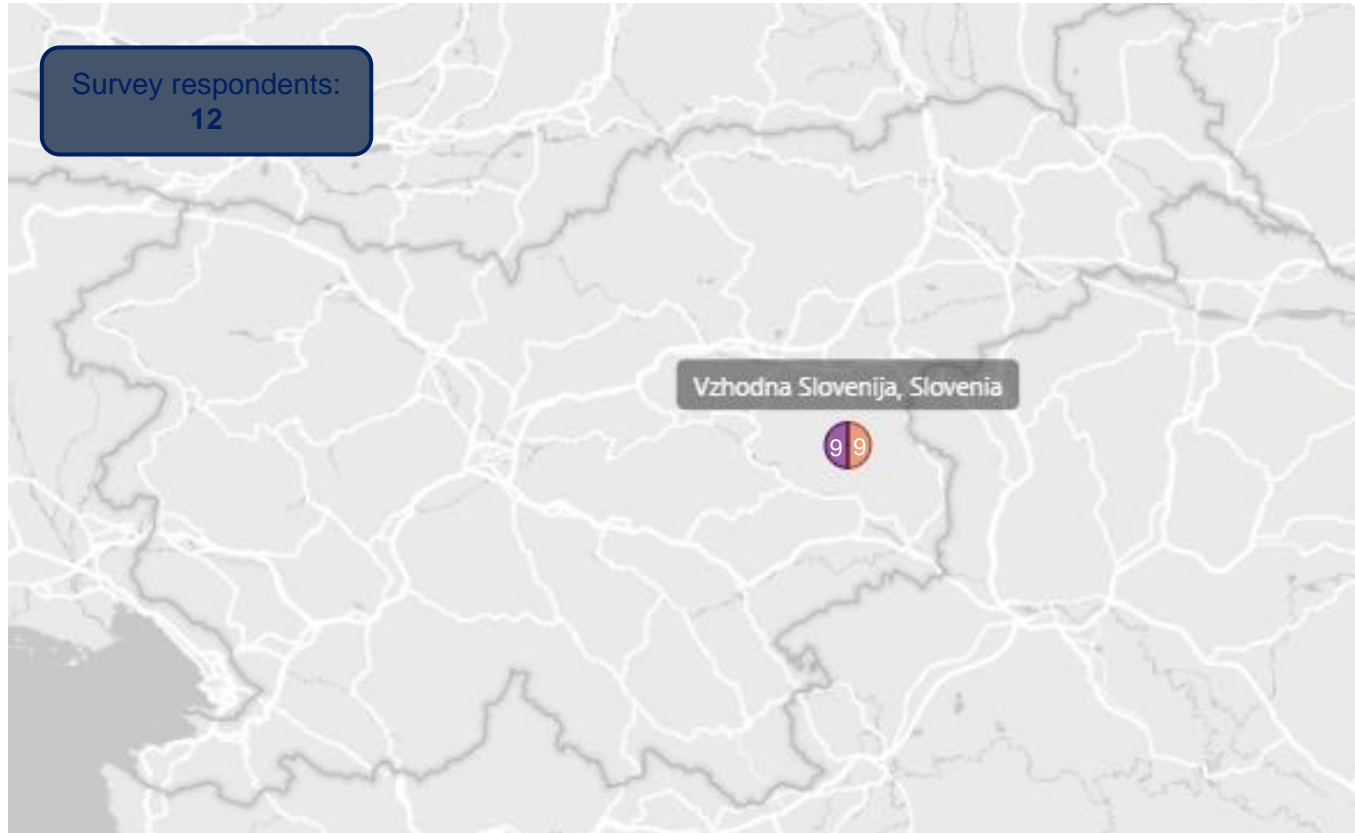
Top 5 Topics of Concern



Top 5 Sub-topics of Concern



# SLOVENIA - Sub-topics of Concern by Region



## Top 2 Sub-topics:

1. Valorisation of cultural heritage & traditions (9)
2. Opportunities linked to tourism (9)

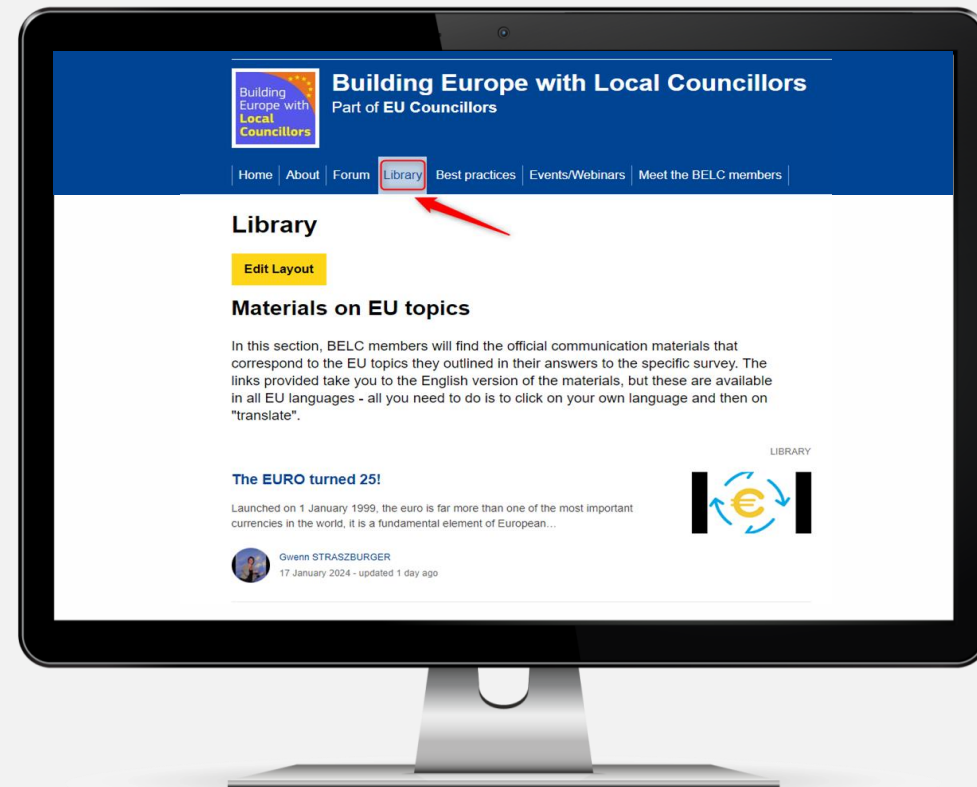
- Opportunities linked to tourism, incl. eco-tourism
- Valorisation of cultural heritage & traditions

The map chart above presents the most sensitive sub-topics in each region. The data includes only sub-topics with a **minimum of 3 responses**.



# EU communication materials on your topics of interest- in all EU languages

- Borders & migration
- Culture & tourism
- Digital
- Economy
- Education and training
- Employment and social affairs
- Emergency response
- Environment, climate
- Energy
- Maritime affairs and fisheries
- EU funds and regional policies
- Justice and fundamental rights
- Democracy and public participation
- Transport
- Research and innovation
- Public health
- EU neighborhood & external policy



# Webinars on EU topics

21  
NOV

2023

## Discover the European Citizens' Initiative

Dear BELC members, You are invited to a webinar organised by the European Commission about European Citizens' Initiative. It will take place on 21...

26  
JAN

2024

## Webinar in EN 26/01/24 at 14.30 CET: "Information you can trust: From a societal need to EU law and EU publications" from OP for BELC members

26 January 2024, 14.30 – 16.00 CET – Log-in details below On 26/01, the Publications Office of the European Union will highlight during an...

EVENT

25  
JAN

2024

## Webinar by the European Commission about the European elections 2024- interpretation in EN-EL-DA-FI-SV-HU-SL-BG-RO

Dear BELC members, We are happy to invite you to our second edition of the webinar about the European elections 2024- how they can benefit the...

EVENT

18  
JAN

2024

## Webinaire en français sur le thème « Développement urbain durable et inclusif : comment l'Europe peut-elle vous accompagner ? » – Jeudi 18 Janvier 2024 (14h-15h)

Dans sa série de webinaires thématiques, la Représentation de la Commission européenne en France s'intéresse cette fois-ci à l'aide que peut apporter...

EVENT

10  
OCT

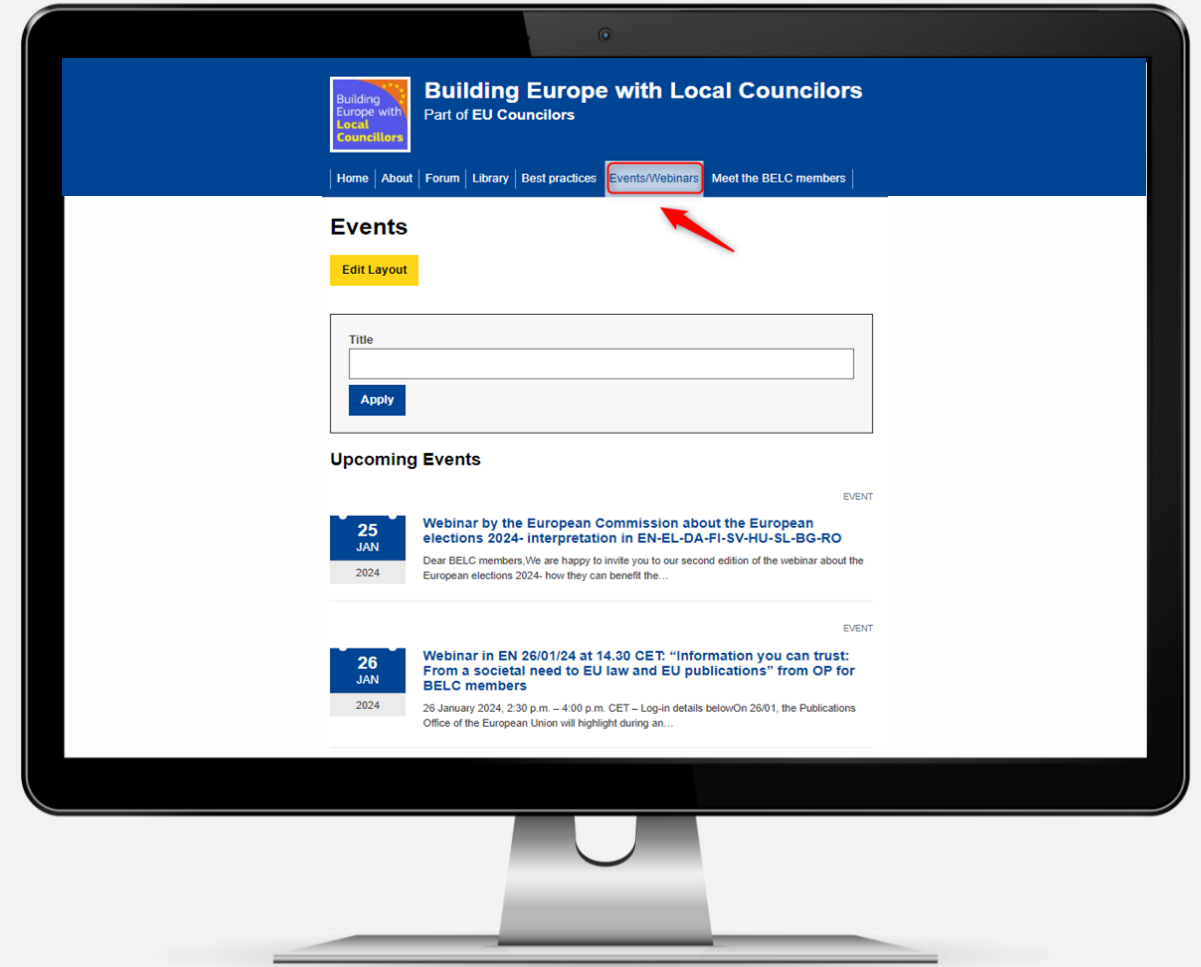
2023

## EU Week of Regions and Cities- Workshop for EU councillors

This workshop is part of a rich programme within the EU Week of Regions and cities, taking place on 9-12 October. Building a network of EU local...



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# Visits to Brussels

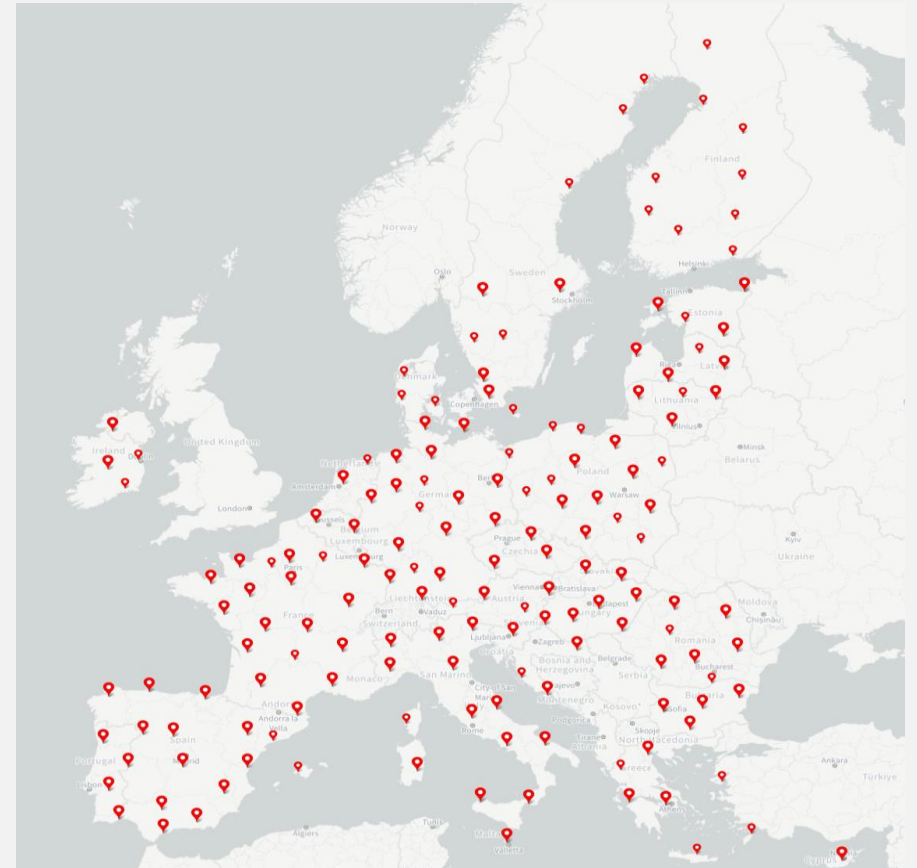


# Cooperation opportunities with networks in the regions

EUROPE DIRECT centres play a crucial role in bringing the European Union closer to people on the ground and facilitating their participation in debates on the future of the EU.



EUROPE DIRECT centres are a key stakeholder of the BELC network, prepared to support each member and provide information on EU policies, programmes and priorities.





Sweden: 16

Finland: 3

**SOTEU 2023 PUBLIC VIEWINGS BY BELC AND EUROPE DIRECT CENTRES**

Belgium: 2

Estonia: 1

Latvia: 9

Lithuania: 9

France: 12

Poland: 24

Germany: 5

Spain: 22

Czechia: 1

Slovakia: 5

Hungary: 1

Austria: 4

Portugal: 6

Romania: 23

Slovenia: 6

Croatia: 1

Bulgaria: 12

Malta: 1

Greece: 5

Cyprus: 1



European Union Italy: 15



# Building Europe with Local Councillors

## THE BULLETIN

As we embark on the **second year** of the Building Europe with Local Councillors (BELC) network, it is with pleasure that we present the third issue of our bulletin.

What began as a promising initiative over a year ago is evolving into a thriving community.

In this edition, you will discover an array of initiatives and best practices from BELC members. Among the many activities, the viewings of the State of the Union

2023 address proved that local councillors can truly have an impact on bringing Europe closer to its citizens. The bulletin will also tell you more about the support the European Commission provides to empower local councillors in their communication endeavours.

As we reflect on our journey thus far, we extend our gratitude to all BELC members' contribution to growth and success. We look forward to another year of collaborative achievement and community building!

**877**

BELC members

**429**

registrations on Futurium

**163**

regions covered

## Members in action

### State of the Union 2023

On 13 September, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, addressed the European Parliament.

In her State of the Union (SOTEU) speech, she elaborated on the EU's achievements and forthcoming initiatives, particularly significant in the lead-up to the 2024 European elections. The speech offered citizens valuable insights into the EU's efforts and provided an opportunity for them to reflect on the significance of their choices for future representation.

At this occasion, the European Commission invited BELC councillors to organise public viewing events, liaising with their nearest EUROPE DIRECT centre. Hundreds of members accepted the challenge and partnered with local networks. Thanks to their coordinated efforts, more than **19,000 EU citizens**, in over **150 regions** across **26 countries**, attended public viewings of this year's SOTEU and engaged in discussions.

Among others, in **Zagreb, Croatia**, the Mayors of Dubrovnik, Pula, Vrgorac, and Karlovac, all members of the BELC network, joined the dedicated panel organised by the Croatian Representation following the live screening of the speech. The audience in attendance was as diverse as it was insightful, comprising journalists, BELC members, and representatives of the academic community.



1



## Events

### Ventotene, the small island symbol of European federalism, is now a BELC member

Every year, the Italian city of Ventotene commemorates the signing of the historic document "**For a Free and United Europe**" Manifesto, drafted by Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi in 1941 when they were both interned on the island prison during the Second World War.

This year, the event offered a unique opportunity for both local residents and international participants to come together and celebrate the city's membership in BELC. **MEP Domènec Ruiz Devesa**, and Alessandro Giordani, Head of the "Networks in Member States" unit at the European Commission were present and engaged in a debate on how to better communicate the EU at the local level.

### Green Cities Forum

In September, BELC joined the **Green Cities Forum in Brasov**, Romania, dedicated to environmental sustainability and to transforming cities into healthier urban environments. Political leaders, experts, public administrators, and citizens gathered to collaborate and exchange experiences and best practices. BELC member **Alexandra-Ioana Crivineanu** had a significant presence at a roundtable organised by the European Commission. Romanian councillors learned more about BELC in a dedicated workshop, where they also discussed common local challenges, best practices, and EU solutions for the shared goal of greening cities.

### European Week of Regions and Cities

#EURegionsWeek stands as the annual event in Brussels where cities and regions showcase their achievements in fostering economic growth, job creation, and the effective implementation of EU cohesion policies. It underscores the pivotal role that local and regional entities play in advancing sound European governance.

It marked a significant milestone for BELC: its first concrete collaboration with its counterpart and twin network, the EU Councillors Network managed by the Committee of the Regions. In a dedicated workshop, BELC members **Andrea**

**Capellini** (Italy) and **Dimitra Thoma** (Greece) shared their success stories, offering insights to empower fellow councillors in enhancing their outreach and collaborative efforts. They discussed their journey into the BELC network and how its pan-European scope has enriched their work as local representatives by connecting them with peers from other EU countries. The members also highlighted the exclusive access to both digital and physical events they've gained through BELC, and the availability of targeted materials provided by the European Commission on the Futurium platform. The workshop offered an opportunity to showcase and take stock of the twin networks' actions, while aligning their priorities for the future.

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## Your role as member of the BELC network

- **Engage in debate** with members of your constituency and local media about general political initiatives and measures carried out by the EU.
- **Present EU policies,** actions and initiatives objectively, based on accurate and trustworthy information.
- **Take part in the life of the network,** sharing your best practices in communicating the EU at local level, etc.

# BELC Members communicating Europe at local level





**Member**

**Municipality**

**Country**

**Topic**

**1** Birgit Becker

St Pölten

Austria

Member promoted BELC by engaging with regional media

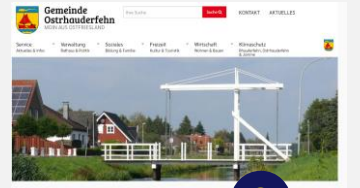


**2** Janneke Grootte

Ostrhauderfehn

Germany

Member promoted BELC by showcasing membership to BELC network



**3** José Miguel Pérez Blecuá

City Council of San Xoán de Río

Spain

Screening of the State of the Union speech followed by a roundtable discussion titled 'Youth in the European Union'



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## So, how to make the most of your membership

- Get in touch with your closest **Europe Direct center** for the organisation of events, request for speakers, etc.
- Contact your country **Communication Manager** to discuss opportunities to showcase your communication actions and best practices.
- Make use of the communication materials available on **Futurium** and the BELC visuals available on the **BELC website**
- Contact your **National Facilitator** for any administrative changes in your status or additional support



# Towards the European Elections 2024

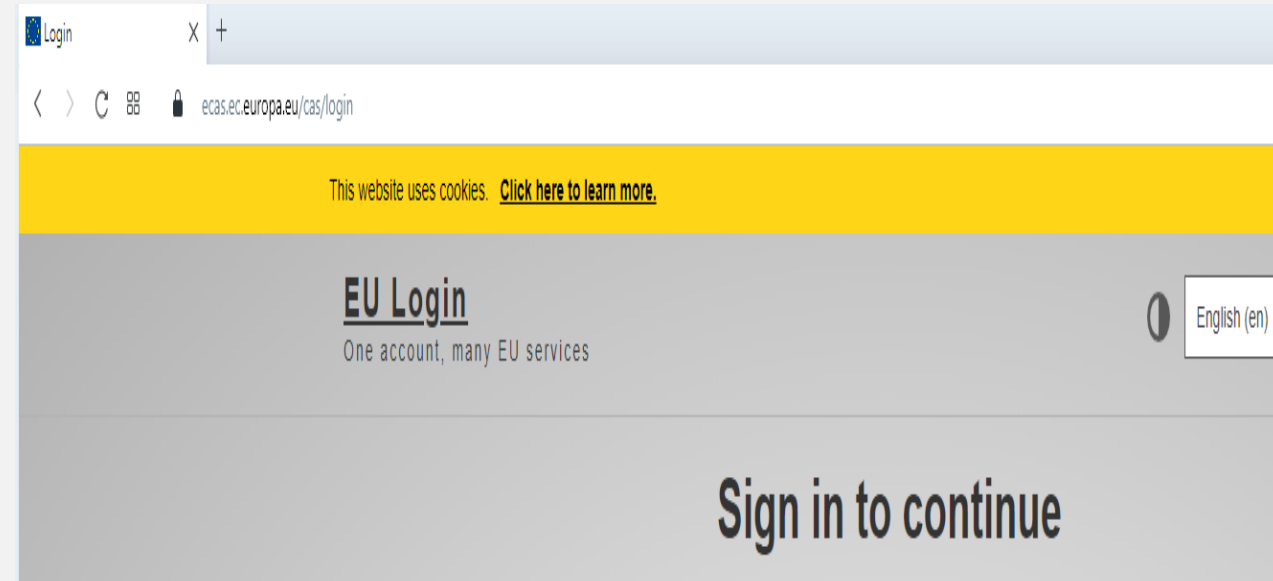


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To confirm your FUTURIUM account, EU Login is necessary. If you do not already have an EU Login account, you may create one at <https://ecas.ec.europa.eu/cas>



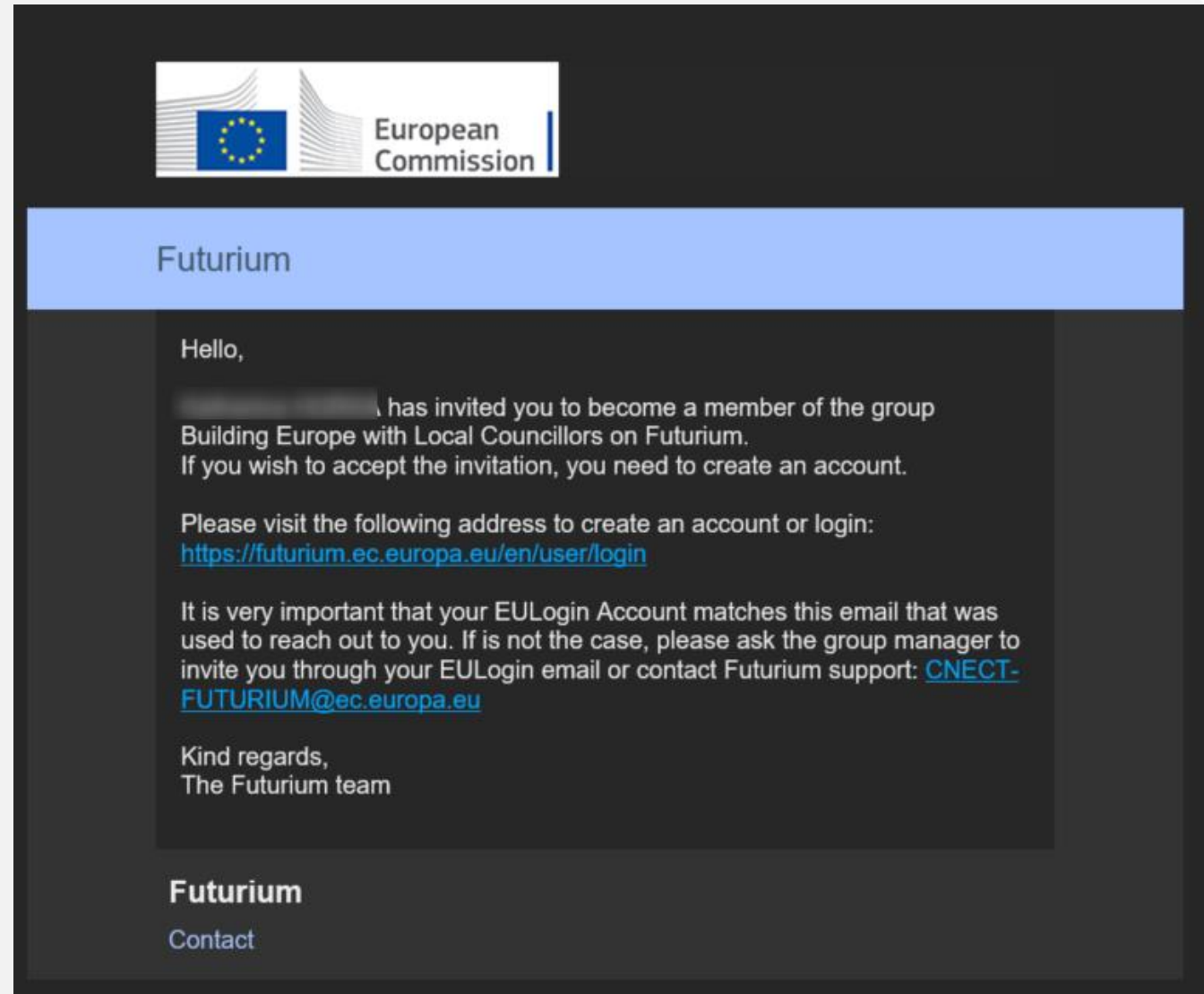


To create a FUTURIUM account from the invitation received, please search for the email and follow the link within this email.



European Union

Futurium: You have been invited to join Building Europe with Local Councillors



Building Europe with  
**Local Councillors**



# Thank You

## Building Europe with Local Councillors

A network of EU local councillors, working together to communicate on EU issues

Contact: [info@eu-councillors.eu](mailto:info@eu-councillors.eu)



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