



# THE EU LOCAL COUNCILLORS NETWORK in a nutshell

## I. What is the network of EU Local Councillors

The network of EU Local Councillors brings together local and regional elected representatives with the goal of communicating about the European project through an innovative alliance with the EU Institutions.

The network is open to local and/or regional elected representatives who commit to inform people in their constituency about what the EU is doing for them and promote citizens' engagement and network with their peers across Europe.

With more than 3,000 members in all EU countries, the **network** is jointly run by the European Commission (EC) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

## II. The network's objectives

The EU Local Councillors network is an unprecedented corporate EU project aimed at:

- **creating an alliance** between the local and the EU level of governance to communicate about the EU on the ground and maximise the visibility of EU action
- **encouraging EU councillors to promote debate and citizens' engagement** on EU matters in their local communities
- **facilitating networking**, knowledge, and experience sharing between members of the network
- **listening & collecting** feedback, ideas, and proposals from EU Local Councillors

## III. How to become member of the Network

The **EU Local Councillors network** is open to local and regional politicians who are elected representatives in the government, parliament or assembly of a region, city, town, province, municipality or village.

We are looking for local and regional politicians motivated to communicate about European activities in their constituency.

### III.a) Application

Local or regional elected representatives can apply in their personal capacity to join the network by:

- **filling out the [application form](#)** (available in all EU languages)
- **attaching the declaration form** (co-signed by the candidate member and the legal representative of the local/regional authority. See details under III.b below)
- **replying to an individual survey** that will help the EU institutions design the most relevant products and services for them

The application form can be also filled in and sent directly by the local /regional authority on behalf of the candidate.

**Once the application has been approved**, candidates receive a confirmation email attesting their membership.

#### **II.b) Declaration form**

To **complete their membership**, candidates shall sign a [declaration \(PDF\)](#), together with the legal representative of their local/regional authority.

In the declaration form, the candidate councillors make the following commitments:

- **Engage regularly in discussions and debates** within their constituency and local media about the initiatives and measures conducted by the EU in different areas that interest them. The overall aim is to encourage people to become involved in debates on the future of the EU and other EU-related topics.
- **Present EU policies, activities and initiatives** objectively, based on accurate and trustworthy information.
- Take part in the **regular operation** of the network by participating in the networking **platforms, attending events, seminars and visits** offered by the EU institutions (depending on availability).
- Take part in **specific surveys and provide feedback** on activities undertaken for the network.

Via the same declaration, the local/regional authority makes the following commitments:

- **Notify the EU institutions when the period in office of councillors** comes to an end.
- **Ensure continuity of membership** as soon as the councillor stops being a member for any reason. A new candidate member can then apply, without delay. Alternatively, the local/regional authority can ask to stop participating in the project.
- **To accept the termination of the councillors membership** (if requested by the EU institutions – once they give an opportunity to be heard on the matter), if their actions undermine the aim of the network or are manifestly incompatible with EU values.
- **If there are multiple applications to the network from the same authority:**
  - the first approved member is considered to be the main "correspondent" for the EU institutions, unless the authority nominates someone else in writing.
  - take into consideration political and gender balance.

The signed declaration is valid for the entire duration of the councillor's individual electoral mandate. It may be terminated by either party with a written notice sent 3 months before the date of termination.

**Membership is completed only** if both documents (application form and declaration form) are filled in and submitted to the EU institutions for approval.

The declaration does not include financial transactions of any kind.

### III.c) Role of “correspondent” councillors

Where there are multiple members from the same local/regional authority, the first approved member is considered to be the main "correspondent" for the EU institutions.

They will be the main contact person for ad hoc activities and initiatives unless the authority nominates a different person for this role in writing.

### III.d) Status of the current members of the Building Europe with local councillors - BELC - or CoR network

The current members of either BELC or the CoR network automatically become members of the network until the end of their political mandates, without any additional administrative formality being required on their part.

They will be informed about the new opportunities arising from the network.

## IV. Role and mission of EU Local Councillors

- **Be active and bring the European project closer to citizens in the city/province/region.**
- **Promote engagement of citizens and local media on EU matters.**
- **Organise local events and dialogues** addressed to citizens.
- **Use the network visual assets, social media hashtags**, etc.
- **Liaise with the closest** EUROPE DIRECT centres, the EC Representations and CoR members.
- **Share experience** with other EU Local Councillors across Europe.
- **Take part in the regular operation** of the network by exchanging on the networking platforms and attending events, seminars trainings and visits offered by the EU institutions (depending on availability).
- **Provide feedback** and report about communication activities implemented within the network.

## V. Role and mission of the local and regional authorities

Local/regional authorities have an important role as partner to:

- **apply on behalf of the local/regional elected representative(s) who want(s) to join the network.**
- **appoint 1 EU Local Councillor as a correspondent member** for the network (where there are multiple applications from the same authority) and communicate any changes to that status when necessary.
- **sign the declaration form** together with the candidate member(s) and submit it to the EU institutions.
- **guarantee that only clear data** are communicated about the members during the application process.

## VI. Services and products for members

Members of the network have **privileged access to a range of EU services and products** to support their communication activities on the ground, facilitate networking and the sharing of knowledge & experiences with other members of the network, etc., including:

- **Privileged access to materials and information on EU topics** in the areas of the members' interest indicated in their answers to the survey.
- **Info flash** about EU funding opportunities, competitions, etc.
- **Webinars and specific trainings** on EU topics, use of social media, disinformation, etc.
- **Study visits** to EU Institutions in Brussels.
- **Participation** in events, meetings and political debates at EU, national and local level
- **Networking opportunity and multilingual platform** to connect with other Councillors and EU networks in particular, the EUROPE DIRECT centres, the CoR political groups, the CoR Members and the EC Representations and regional offices in Brussels.
- **Participation** in events, meetings and political debates at EU, national and local level.
- **Visibility about councillors' role and actions on a dedicated** website, online map of members, social media platforms.
- **Communication materials and visuals** supporting members' activities.
- **Surveys** gathering members' EU areas of interest, language preferences, ideas and proposals.
- **Points of contact/assistance** in each country and in all EU official language.

Each new member receives a **welcome/starter kit** that includes:

- **a membership certificate**
- **the EU local Councillors' Charter**
- **an EU survey collecting EU topics of interest**
- **the access to the online community platform**
- **the templates for signatures, business cards, etc.**
- **a contact point in their Member states for communication support**

## VII. Personal data

Personal data included in or relating to the EU Local Councillors' network and its implementation, including data related to the provision of the services, can only be processed in compliance with Regulation 2018/1725.

Further information on data processing is in the [privacy statement](#)