



Europäischer Ausschuss  
der Regionen



European Committee  
of the Regions

# Between the European Green Deal and Crisis

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## How can municipalities shape the future

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Evropski  
odbor regij



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# MUNICIPALITIES – today for tomorrow

- Interact directly with citizens – households, farmers, commuters, ...
- Plan energy and heating systems
- Organise mobility and public space
- Manage land use and infrastructure
- Deliver social services
- Understand local needs and challenges
- Implementing more than 70 % of mitigation and 90 % of adaptation measures

Municipalities are expected  
to pursue long-term transformation  
while simultaneously managing short-term crises.



# DO WE NEED „GREEN DEAL“ TODAY?

- It is all about:
  - Security – local energy, food, drinking water,
  - Climate adaptation is also a security
  - Efficiency, productivity, savings for long term economic stability
  - Affordable energy for social fairness
  - Cooperations
  - Jobs

**EUBAROMETER: 85 % OF THE PEOPLE SEE  
THE CLIMATE CHANGE AS THE PRIORITY**

**THE GREEN DEAL IS NOT A BURDEN,  
BUT A USEFUL TOOL FOR BUILDING  
RESILIENCE.**

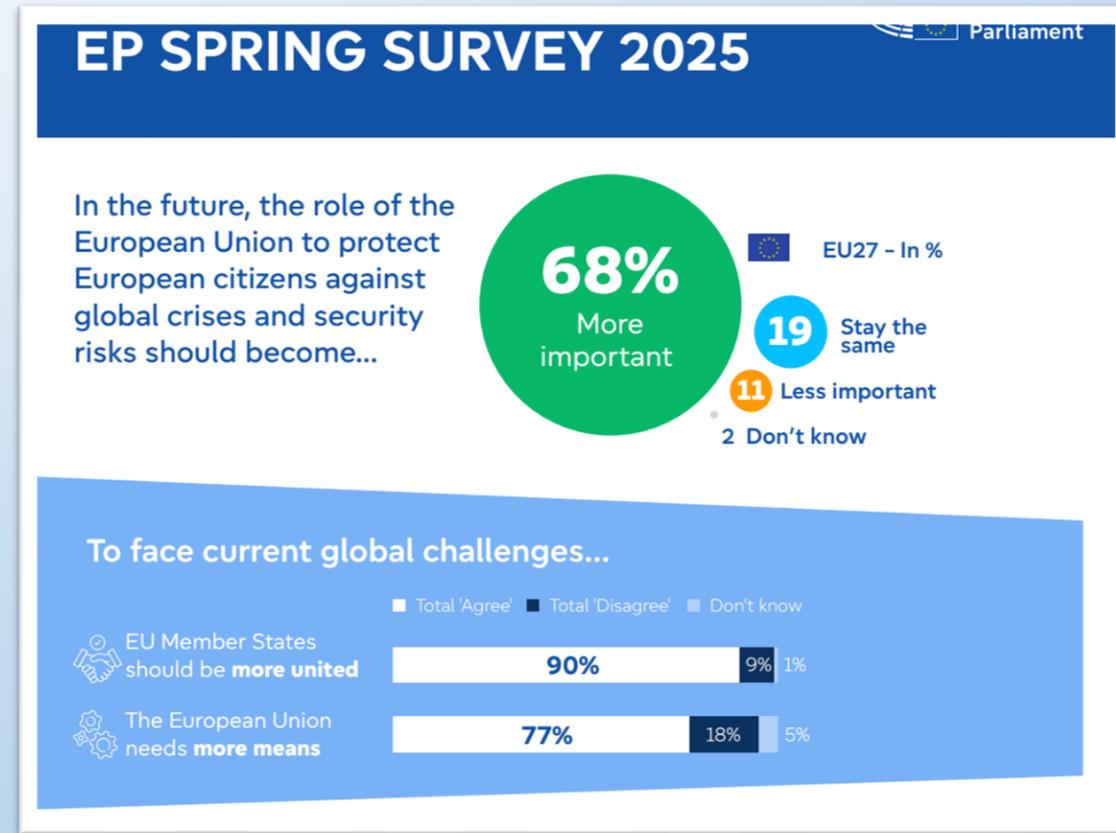
The European Green Deal sets very clear objectives:

- Climate neutrality
- Resource efficiency
- Social fairness
- Long-term economic stability



# CRISIS DOES NOT SUSPEND SUSTAINABILITY

- Crisis demonstrate why sustainability is necessary
- It builds more cooperation
- Affordability, security, social stability move to the front
- About:
  - INVESTMENT versus OPERATING COSTS
  - LONG-TERM PLANNING versus IMMEDIATE NEEDS
  - CLIMATE NEUTRALITY GOALS versus SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE
  - GREEN versus ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





# IMPLEMENTING GREEN DEAL TODAY

- Crisis conditions require a shift in implementation logic.
- Municipalities increasingly need:
  - INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS INSTEAD OF ISOLATED PROJECTS
  - CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION
  - LONG-TERM RESILIENCE-ORIENTED PLANNING

Energy transition must address affordability.  
Mobility transition must improve access and reliability.  
Climate adaptation must strengthen social cohesion.

Preparedness strategy  
Water resilience strategy  
Competitive decarbonisation  
Innovations  
Reducing dependency  
Increasing security

## DRAGHI REPORT:

DECARBONISATION IS POWERFULL OF GROWTH WHEN  
INTEGRATED WITH INDUSTRIAL, ECONOMIC AND TRADE POLICY



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# SUSTAINABILITY AS A STABILITY STRATEGY

- Municipal experiences show:
  - ENERGY EFFICIENCY REDUCES LONG-TERM COSTS
  - LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY INCREASES SUPPLY SECURITY, GIVES JOBS
  - RESILIENT BY DESIGN PRINCIPLE TO BE ADAPTIVE TO MANY RISKS
  - CIVIL PROTECTION PART OF THE RESILIENCE
  - FOOD AND WATER SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY



UNITING EUROPE'S  
ENERGY, TODAY!

# MORE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT A TECHNICAL PROJECT  
BUT A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

- Climate misinformation
- Weak public engagement
- Polarization of society
- Low interest

## PARTICIPATION IMPROVES ACCEPTANCE AND TRUST



<https://www.opusenergy.com/blog/energising-village-life/>

<https://www.realdania.org/whatwedo/grants-and-projects/communities-for-the-elderly>

### Senior Cohousing Communities (Danska)



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### Urban Gardening: Your Key to Fresh Food and Better Living

© barbara April 7, 2025 in Specialized Gardening Methods - 10 Minutes



[/specialized-gardening-methods/urban-gardening-your-key-to-fresh-food-and-better-living/#google\\_vignette](/specialized-gardening-methods/urban-gardening-your-key-to-fresh-food-and-better-living/#google_vignette)

<https://power-e-com.eu/>



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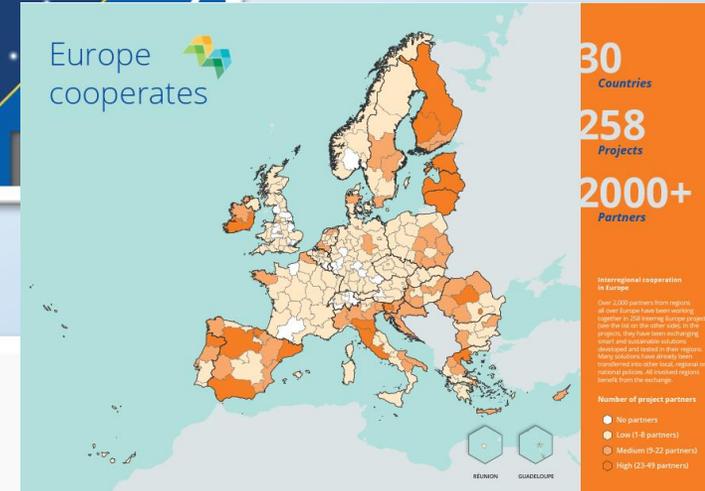
<https://www.realdania.org/whatwedo/grants-and-projects/communities-for-the-elderly>

# COOPERATION AS A EUROPEAN STRENGTH



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- No municipality can manage transformation alone.
- European cooperation allows:
  - EXCHANGE OF TESTED SOLUTIONS
  - MUTUAL LEARNING
  - RISK-SHARING
  - STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES
- From a municipal perspective, European cooperation is not an abstract concept – it is a practical resource.



# WHAT DO MUNICIPALITIES NEED?



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- Reliable and long-term funding frameworks
- Flexibility in implementation
- Reduced administrative complexity
- Capacity-building, especially for smaller municipalities
- To be recognised as strategic partners – not only as implementing authorities.

SYNERGIES BETWEEN POLICIES

NO BUROCRACY

SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE |

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## Local Council Meeting



"All those in favour of more coffee,  
vape and tacky phone repair shops  
on our high streets, raise your hands."

[https://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/c/city\\_council\\_meeting\\_id=AfmBOopgfSGQY0nnXKz7sHjKvX3Y9j9uk7mORCHYVgd4s5Zb5SuBfAh](https://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/c/city_council_meeting_id=AfmBOopgfSGQY0nnXKz7sHjKvX3Y9j9uk7mORCHYVgd4s5Zb5SuBfAh)



# THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



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- Bringing local and regional voice to Brussels
- Understanding the work on the ground
- Structured feedback from local implementation
- Early identification of unintended effects of EU legislation
- A platform for cooperation between European institutions and municipalities
- Cooperation with EU institutions and European Parliament



News

Knowledge Exchange Platform  
local seminar "Start-up Innovation  
in Housing: Building Locally -  
Scaling Across Europe"



News

Forum of Cities and Regions for  
International Partnerships opens

Three-day event focuses on the role of  
cities and regions in shaping the EU's

## Latest news



News

Green Deal Funding Alert -  
December 2025

This edition focuses on water:  
insights from the Water Resilience  
Forum and funding calls for  
projects in Mediterranean, Baltic-  
North Sea, Danube-Black Sea, and



Press release

Regions and cities urge to  
step up climate adaptation  
efforts through multilevel  
action

With an opinion led by the Mayor  
of Bologna Matteo Lepore



Press release

Action Plan for Affordable  
Energy: Cities and regions  
call for more targeted  
support

Local and regional leaders have  
welcomed that the European

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# POLITICAL COURAGE and HARD WORK



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- Implementing the Green Deal under crisis conditions requires political courage and hard work:
  - TO MAINTAIN LONG-TERM GOALS
  - TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX DECISIONS
  - TO INVOLVE CITIZENS IN DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS
- Municipalities demonstrate these every day, often under significant constraints.



**INVESTING IN PEOPLE – IN LOCAL CULTURAL, SPORTS, SOCIAL AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS, NGOs, SOCIAL GROUPS – TO INVOLVE AND ENGAGE, TO MOTIVATE, INFORM AND EDUCATE!  
BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY!**



# FOR THE END

- The success of the European Green Deal will ultimately be decided locally.
  - EMPOWERED MUNICIPALITIES
  - CRISIS RESPONSE IS ALIGNED WITH SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES
  - STRENGTHENED LOCAL DEMOCRACY
- then the **European Green Deal** can become a stabilising framework – even in times of crisis.

*"The European Green Deal will not succeed because of perfect conditions, but because of the courage of communities that decide to take action – together, responsibly and for the long term. Municipalities are not just implementers of European policies. They are their foundation."/>*



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# THANK YOU!



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