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Dear Local Councillors,

The new EU funding period started this year and will last until 2027. This means a new budget is approved by the EU to support Europe's regions to finance projects and to make Europe more resilient, social, future oriented and ambitious to achieve common climate goals. For that, EU Member States have to design programs that define how the European Funds are used in the regions.

One third (330 bn Euro) of the EU budget is allocated for regional funding.

The 2 biggest funds in EU policy which support regions are the **European Fund for Regional Development** (ERDF - 200bn Euro) and the **European Social Fund** (ESF+ 88bn Euro).

These funds can support a variety of projects, from economic growth and competitiveness, environmental protection and sustainable development to social inclusion and job creation. So, there is a lot of money available, and every region is eligible!

Member States and their regions are close to finalising their regional programmes in which they decide on specific needs and define their objectives and the projects that should be supported by the EU funds they receive. This moment is your last chance to influence these programmes, and we strongly urge you to check what is being planned for your region in your capacity as local councillor!

There's a deal on the EU level, which offers the opportunity for additional support for bottom-up projects, and these so-called Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) projects will get +10% more financing in this new funding period!

The EU Parliament successfully pushed for a stronger involvement of the regions, and a better and more intense partnership principle. Only when citizens, local authorities and organisations are involved, can we ensure that their needs are addressed and increase the support for more social and environmental projects. This is your chance to obtain more power for the people, to democratize regional budgets and improve regional development in a more sustainable way.

Right now, regions and their citizens can make sure that their needs and ideas are seen, heard and considered and most importantly that their demands are

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implemented. It is up to the regional decision makers to ensure that regional funds go where they are needed most and that bottom-up approaches are made accessible for citizens. People on the ground remain too often unheard and in the past their great ideas have not been funded due to national (or regional) priorities.

We strongly encourage you to check your region's operational programme and whether **your priorities and ideas are included**. Your involvement will ensure that the needs of your region are truly addressed. That's why the CLLD-projects are so important, local actions groups get a budget and decide themselves on projects to be supported and realized.

Please find [here](#) contact information for the Member states as well as [here](#) more information on [CLLD](#) and [regional funding](#) 2021-2027, where you can also [look up for some projects](#) in all Member States.

We remain at your disposal for any of your questions.



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