

# The Role of Albanian Municipalities in EU integration: Giving a voice to the Local Governments

**Panel 3** | Role of Local Governments in Territorial  
Development

**Pietro Celotti**





# Local Power

Respect the equality and national identity of Member States and local governments

Principles of

- **Sincere cooperation**
- **Conferral**
- **Subsidiarity**
- **Proportionality**



# Local authorities in the EU policy framework

**The voice of regions and cities in the European Union.** It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

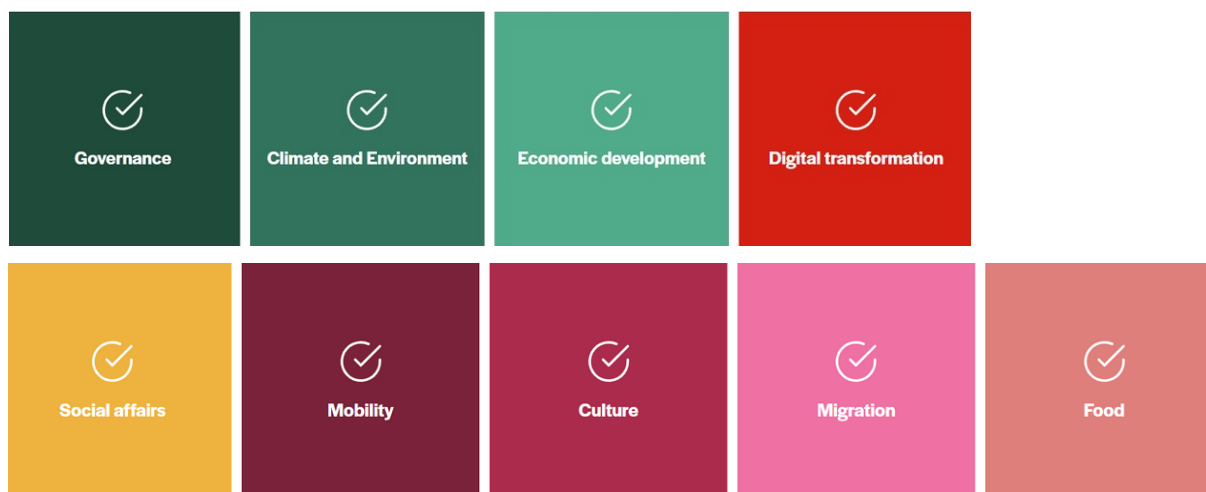
**Multilevel governance**  
**Promoting dialogue and cross-border  
cooperation**



# Additional Networks



## Areas of work



Local &  
Regional  
Europe

110,000

Local, intermediate, and  
regional governments

41

European  
Countries



<https://ccre-cemr.org/who-we-are>  
<https://eurocities.eu/about-us/>



# Priorities for the 2025-2030



## COHESION



Involving the local and regional authorities for achieving EU objectives

## RESILIENCE



Cooperation across all levels of governance during crisis

## PROXIMITY



Local and regional governments addressing the needs of citizens



European Committee  
of the Regions

Source: European Committee of the Regions, Priorities 2025-2030 – Resolution, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025



# The State of Regions and Cities in the European Union



Trust in levels of government (\*)

**61%**

Local & regional government



Best level of decision for regional policy projects (\*\*)

**54%**

Local & regional



EU should continue to invest (\*\*)

**63%**

In all regions



## What regions and cities are asking Europe for?

### Thematics

Housing crisis  
Populations shrink  
Public services  
Gender disparities





# Role of local authorities in Cohesion Policy

## Local authorities in the partnership principle:

*"The Member State shall involve regional, local, urban and other public authorities in:*

- Preparation of Partnership Agreement
- Preparation of Programmes"

## Local authorities in the principle of multi-level governance:

### **Bottom-up approach**

*"The Commission shall consult organisations which represent partners at Union level on the implementation of programmes, and shall report to the European Parliament and Council on the outcome"*

→ **Programming level**



# Role of local authorities in Cohesion Policy

## Local authorities in the partnership principle:

*“The principle of partnership is a key feature in the **implementation** of the Funds, building on the multi-level governance approach and ensuring the involvement of regional, **local**, urban and other public authorities, civil society, economic and social partners and, where appropriate, research organisations and universities.”*

**Examples: Community-led local development and Local Action group**



**Implementation  
level**



# Interreg IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro I 4-20



## Case study 2023

### P.A.S.T.4FUTURE (SO 2.1)

**Malësi e Madhe Municipality** as Project Partner

- More solutions for accessing tourists with disabilities
- High number of jobs created
- Economic and sustainable development impact increased
- Albanian stakeholders signed an agreement for setting up a DMO

## Local authorities' actions

- Working with the involved municipalities on the topic of tourism and energy
- Adopting more tourist destinations and action plans
- Promoting larger public investment projects



# Interreg URBACT IV

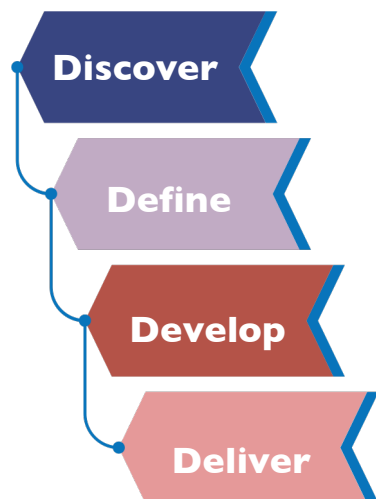
## Western Balkans



### URBACT Pioneers Accelerator

27 cities across Western Balkans

## PHASES



### Thematic cluster

- Mobility
- Waste Management
- Urban Nature
- Sustainable Tourism



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**Pietro Celotti**  
**[p.celotti@t33.it](mailto:p.celotti@t33.it)**



**[www.t33.it](http://www.t33.it)**