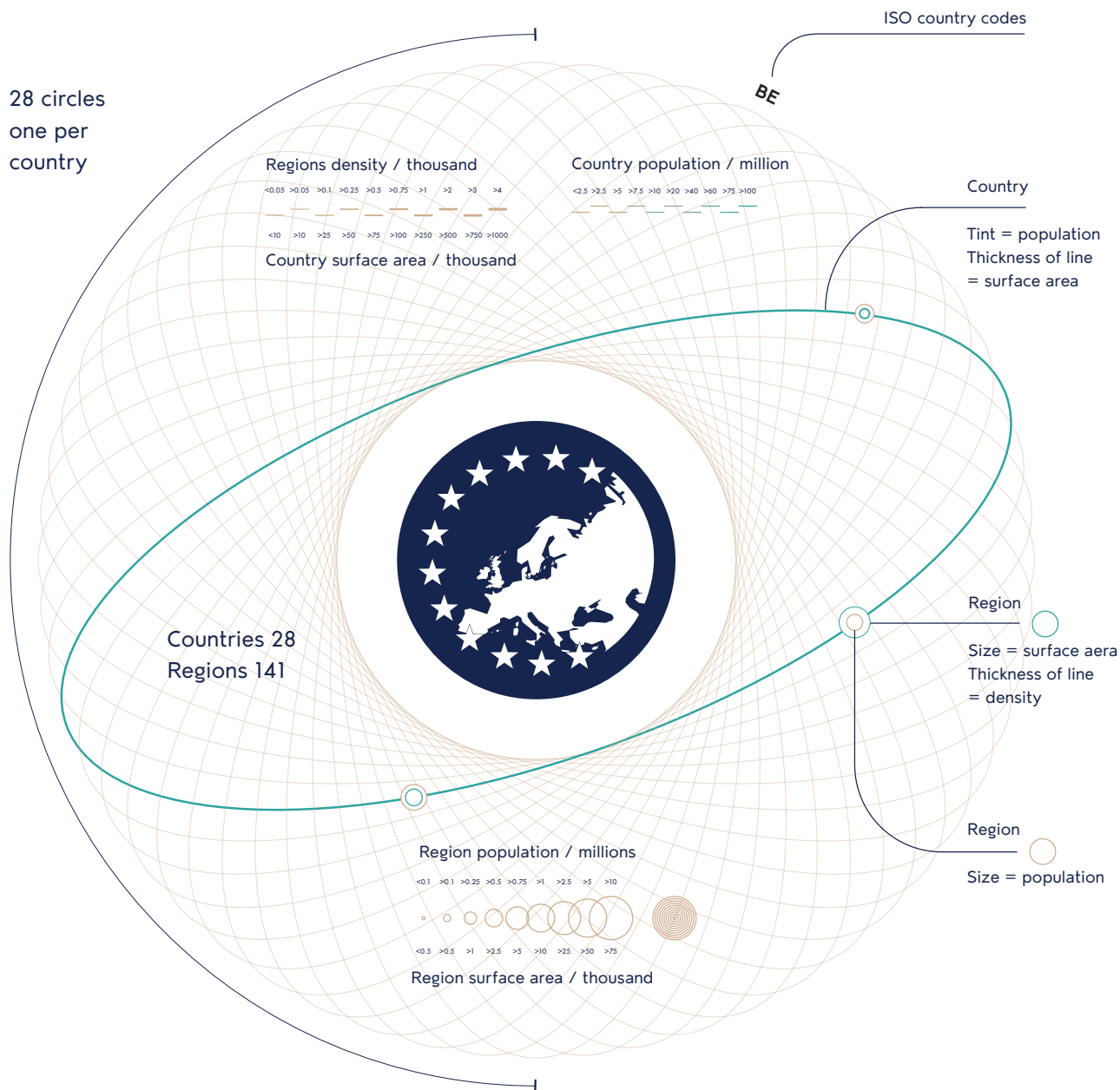


2018 | 2019  
ACTIVITY REPORT

## COVER DATA VISUALIZATION

This year's theme is sustainability - it is visible throughout this activity report by visual representations of circularity.



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MAGNUS BERTSSON

AER President



# PRESIDENT'S VISION

With my first term as President of AER nearing its end, I look back at these years with pride. During these two years, the Executive Board and I have worked continuously to strengthen the network through actions completed to enhance AER as an organisation and to amplify the voice of regions in Europe.

I believe AER is moving in the right direction, firmly standing on three pillars: advocacy work where the network is a respected cooperation partner to the EU institutions on issues of importance to the regions of Europe; financing project activities, one of AER's core areas, scanning for funding opportunities to its members but also building consortia with other regions and relevant partners; and serving as a platform to share knowledge and experiences between the member regions of AER.

My goal is to further strengthen this structure of AER by making each body strong and independent yet interconnected. It is through combining these three pillars that we can create a convincing narrative of AER. One that is appreciated by the member regions of AER but also among our main cooperation partners across Europe such as the European Commission, the Committee of Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

With the European Union's long-term strategy drawing to an end, Europe looks towards the Agenda 2030 for guidance and inspiration. Going forward, I will push for AER to increase its involvement and its work connected to the Sustainable Development Goals. We already see this development taking place within AER, with more and more of the work of the network aligning itself towards the SDGs.

As a regional politician at my core, I remain convinced that the success of the European project does not lie in the cooperation on national level alone, but on the regional and local level – the level closest to its citizens. We need to regain the trust of the citizens across Europe, something that can only be done through moving the decision-making process closer to them and engaging them in dialogue. I believe AER can make a meaningful contribution to strengthen the European project. It serves as a bridge between east and west, old and new member states, as well as countries not yet members. AER carries out conversation and cooperation where others fail. Together with its member regions, AER will continue to work towards upholding the values of democracy and subsidiarity across Europe.

MATHIEU MORI

AER Secretary General



## SECRETARY GENERAL'S FOREWORD

The "Future of Europe" is a favourite topic for conferences, political debates and one of the key themes of the upcoming European elections. The symptoms of a sick European Union are many: Brexit, a rise of discontentment among citizens, the surge of anti-EU political parties. In short, too many citizens feel they are not heard, seen, taken seriously. This is especially the case in more rural parts of Europe and outside larger metropolises.

The Assembly of European Regions has always pushed for better recognition of these territories. It is therefore with prudent enthusiasm that we have recently witnessed a change in tone from the European Commission with a wish to better recognise the diversity of European territories.

Regions, in that respect, are key partners to the European Commission since they offer direct access to citizens, not only from the big urban areas but also from those rural and less urban territories.

Through the newly created AER Bureau taskforces, European regions have been more effective in presenting to EU commissioners and MEPs their take on topics of importance to them, such as digitalisation, social innovation, migration, food security and cohesion policy. A key output at this stage is the relative safeguarding of cohesion policy and our win on many of our demands.

This year again, AER has helped its members increase their knowledge on hot topics and learn from one another. I would particularly like to highlight the remarkable work undertaken on the sharing economy via our innovation conference in Brussels, as well as the success of the first Regional Business Summit which gathered 150 businesses in Vojvodina and led to 14 companies signing contracts with each other.

In short, AER has done, this year again, what you would expect from the largest network of regions in Europe (and hopefully a bit more!). We have delivered on advocacy, on mutual learning and we keep growing our services on identifying and financing project activities.

Let us continue our work for a fairer and more sustainable Europe in the respect of the diversity of our territories.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE!**



## EXECUTIVE BOARD



**MAGNUS BERTSSON**  
AER President



**CHRISTIAN DEBÈVE**  
Treasurer  
Grand Est (FR)





**ANDREW GIBSON**

Vice President for Equal Opportunities  
Hampshire (UK)



**LUKAS MANDL**

Vice President for Institutional Affairs  
Lower-Austria (AT)



**NINA BJÖRBY**

Vice President for Democracy  
Västerbotten (SE)



**ALBERT CASTELLANOS MADUELL**

Vice President  
for Interregional Cooperation  
and Mediterranean Affairs  
Catalonia (ES)



**ANNA MAGYAR**

Vice President for EU Enlargement  
Csongrad (HU))



**MIHAI RITIVOIU**

President of the Social Policy  
and Public Health Committee  
Timiș (RO)



**RADIMIR ČAČIĆ**

President of Culture, Education  
& Youth Committee  
Varazdin (HR)



**DAMIR ZOBENICA**

Vice President  
for Interregional Democracy  
Vojvodina (RS)



**JEAN-LUC VANRAES**

President of the Economy  
and Regional Development Committee  
Brussels-Capital (BE)

### ADJUNCT MEMBERS

#### GLORIA VITALY

President of the AER  
Youth Regional Network  
Oppland (NO)

#### RUNE FREDRIKSEN

President  
of the Summer Academy  
Østfold (NO)

#### ESTHER ESTANY

President of Eurodissey  
Catalonia (ES)

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER

#### HANDE ÖZSAN BOZATLI

Honorary President  
Istanbul (TR)

### MONITORING & EVALUATION GROUP

#### THOMAS HARTMAN

Chair  
Västerbotten (SE)

#### ANDREW JOY

Member  
Hampshire (UK)

#### ANA VERUSHI

Member  
Korça (AL)

### ELECTION COMMITTEE

#### MONICA GUNDAHL

Acting Chair  
Värmland (SE)

#### NATALIJA MARTINCEVIC

Member  
Varazdin (HR)

#### GLORIA VITALY

Member  
Oppland (NO)

## POLITICAL PRIORITIES 2018-2019: FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE EUROPE



### A DEMOCRATIC, COOPERATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE OF REGIONS

Inter-regional cooperation and best practice exchange are paramount if we are to strengthen a democratic Europe where citizens are meaningfully engaged in their common future.

#### DEMOCRATIC SUSTAINABILITY

- Uphold and promote ideals that bring together Europe's regions, from east to west and north to south.
- Encourage opportunities for citizens, especially young people, to engage in society and actively participate in decision-making, through stronger European regions.
- Share and benchmark pan-European policy issues that bring people closer.

#### ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Empower regions to deliver on sustainable and inclusive development; economic growth, smart jobs, citizens' welfare, through the increased competitiveness of regions in a globalised economy.

Improve access to financing to reduce economic disparities and promote European cohesion between regions.

#### SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Foster an inclusive society based on tolerance and respect through education, equal access to healthcare and gender equality.
- Protect citizens' social rights, by promoting a more inclusive and fair Europe, based on the success stories of our member regions.

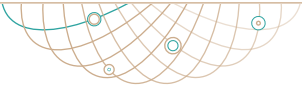
#### ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Build upon the Paris Agreement and its recognition of the important role of cities and regions to deliver on the global climate agenda.
- Commit to a clean and sustainable environment for citizens in Europe and beyond.



## ABOUT THE BUREAU

The Bureau is the primary political voice of AER. It engages AER members in political debates and policy discussions of a pan-European and global nature and defines the overall political priorities of the network, setting the strategic direction of its advocacy work.



# BUREAU

## POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

This year, AER sharpened its advocacy focus to maximise the influence of our network and build greater support for regional development among both international and European institutions.

This work resulted in a greater influence on our relations with the European Union (EU), in particular, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions.

In the run-up to the 2019 European Parliament elections, AER was a prominent voice calling for enhanced support for the role of regions in forging a revitalised European project. Setting out the regions' vision for the future of Europe, AER launched a manifesto calling for a greener, more fair and democratic Europe with a strong cohesion policy at its core.

The proposals contained within our manifesto informed the political discussions on the future of Europe with EU leaders, including the European Summit of Regions and Cities, held in Bucharest on 14-15 March 2019. At the summit, AER President Magnus Berntsson spoke up for regional interests at the thematic debate on "EU regions and cities building a sustainable future".

AER also lent a powerful voice to the debate on the next EU budget and future cohesion policy. Following the European Commission's publication of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and its legislative proposals in May 2018, AER convened and supported members to advocate for a stronger, simpler and more effective cohesion policy.

### AER TASK FORCE ON COHESION POLICY

Michiel Rijsberman  
Flevoland (NL)

As part of this work, AER maintained a successful Task Force on Cohesion Policy, chaired by the Regional Minister of Flevoland, Michiel Rijsberman. Activities included discussions on the MFF proposal and the new cohesion policy framework at the Bureau meetings in Oppland on 24 May 2018 and Gelderland on 22 November 2018, a political exchange between AER members and the European Commission on 5 July 2018 and a Task Force expert meeting on 24 September 2018 in Brussels. These debates culminated in the adoption of two Bureau positions, the basis of our advocacy work.

Additionally, AER ran a workshop during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels in October 2018, which looked at the role cohesion policy plays in strengthening the enlargement process for the Western Balkans and

explored views on how proposals for the renewed policy framework can bring the best outcomes in the view of a stronger and enlarged Union.

On 15 March 2019, during the European Summit of Regions and Cities, the AER President, Magnus Berntsson, and the Chair of the Cohesion Policy Task Force, Michiel Rijsberman, met with the Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, to advocate for AER positions in the negotiations on the EU budget and cohesion policy-related legislation for the period 2021-2027.

By engaging with European Institutions and national governments, and connecting with other relevant stakeholders through the Cohesion Alliance, AER and its members secured a set of positive changes in the positions of decision-makers.

### AER TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

Albert Castellanos  
Catalonia (ES)

Recognising the need to further support regions' leadership role in driving social innovation to develop bold solutions to societal challenges, AER set up a Task Force on Social Innovation, under the chairing of Albert Castellanos, Vice-President of AER and Secretary General at the Ministry of Vice Presidency and Economy of the Government of Catalonia. The

- Task Force promoted a debate at the Bureau meeting in Oppland, Norway, on 24 May 2018, which informed the position adopted in Gelderland on 22 November 2018. In February 2019, Magnus Berntsson met with the cabinet of Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, to share AER's views and advocate for the role of regions in tackling societal challenges to be recognised in future EU research and innovation policy.

#### AER TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION

Albert Castellanos  
Catalonia (ES)

- In response to the challenges facing regions in the context of migration, AER set up a Task Force on Migration, led by the region of Catalonia, to develop policy propositions and deliver a joint voice to safeguard the EU's commitment to a more effective management of migration, diversity and integration at regional level.
- Through the strong membership engagement in this work, a debate emerged with high-level institutional officials and civil society organisations during the Bureau meeting in Gelderland on 22 November 2018. Together with the region of Catalonia, AER hosted a Conference in Barcelona on 18 December 2018 to mark International Migrants Day. Partially funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, this event brought together representatives from

- regions from around Europe to push forward the conversation on how to manage migration and successfully harness the benefits of diversity. These debates contributed to the AER position on migration to be presented at the Spring Bureau Meeting 2019.

#### AER TASK FORCE ON FOOD SECURITY

Irén Lejegren  
Örebro (SE)

- Food and nutrition security was also a focus in AER's advocacy for greater sustainable and inclusive regional development. In 2018, AER established a Task Force on Food Security, under the leadership of the region of Örebro, to convene members to secure more investment in the development of innovative food strategies at regional level. On 20 March 2019, the AER President, Magnus Berntsson, the President of Social Policy & Public Health Committee, Mihai Ritivoiu, and the Chair of the Food Security Task Force, Irén Lejegren, met with the European Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, to exchange views on the future of health policies and its implementation at regional level after 2020.

#### AER TASK FORCE ON DIGITALISATION

Martin Eichinger  
Lower Austria (AT)

- Furthermore, AER was encouraged to advocate for enhanced support to regions in their digital transformation and the build-up of the digital capacity

- and infrastructure of their territories, businesses, entrepreneurs and citizens. On 20 March 2019, the AER President met with the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, to discuss the Digital Europe Programme for 2021-2027 and how to better support regions to develop their digital capacities and be forerunners for this first pan-European digital programme.

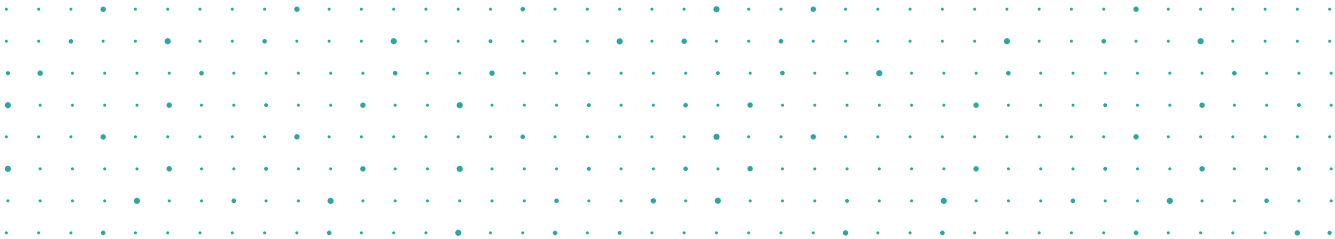
- AER also continued developing its deep engagement with the Council of Europe, in particular, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Work has been completed in partnership to strengthen regional democracy and promote the effective management of migration and improvement of integration policies across European regions.

- AER was also at the heart of the local and regional governments' influencing work on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In December 2018, the AER President delivered a speech at the high-level segment of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP24) in Katowice on behalf of the world's regions and municipalities. AER's positive relationship with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is important in supporting our work to promote the localisation of the implementation of the SDGs in Europe.

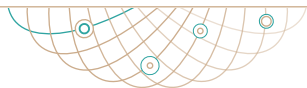




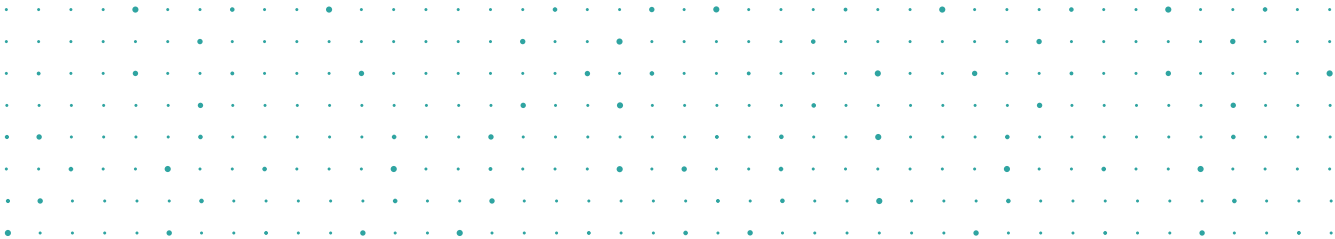
# COMMITTEES



## ABOUT THE COMMITTEES



Mutual learning is at the core of AER’s work. It has inspired countless events, initiatives and projects, continuously aiming to improve regional policymaking in Europe. The Committees are a lab for innovation, a trusted space where policymakers interact with peers from all over wider Europe. It is the place where knowledge and experience exchange happens and where new forms of collaboration are shaped.



# COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Organised a debate on “Open data for regional development: governance, start-ups and innovation” during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Co-organised a Business Summit together with Vojvodina (RS) in parallel to the 2018 autumn plenaries which led to 14 companies signing contracts with each other;
- Facilitated experience exchange on using the Sustainable Development Goals as a policy framework in 2 workshops organised by the working group on energy and climate change;
- Facilitated experience exchange on waste management in rural areas at the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Encouraged members to take advantage of the TAIEX-EIR programme of the European Commission, which provides support for peer-to-peer learning between environmental authorities;
- Facilitated knowledge and experience exchange on sustainable urban mobility during a workshop of the working group on transport and mobility during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Shared the experience of regions in the New Mobility Services Initiative of the European Commission;
- Highlighted regional good practices on sustainable urban mobility at an event organised by the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities during European Week of Cities and Regions;
- Focused on business in a changing world and support to Entrepreneurs at mutual learning event on “The Sharing Economy: changing the way we do business” in December 2018;
- Organised a debate at Smart City Expo World Congress on food sustainability and governance in the digital age;
- Strengthened collaboration with European Network for Rural Development;
- Contributed to the 1st OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Engaged with experts on life cycle approaches for sustainable regional development;
- Organised a seminar on regional strategies to innovate food systems, during the 2019 spring plenaries;
- Showcased regional good practices on blockchain for logistics and Open data in public transports during a workshop of the working group on transport and mobility during the 2019 spring plenaries.

PRESIDIUM

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>JEAN-LUC VANRAES</b></li><li>• Committee President</li><li>• Brussels-Capital (BE)</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EVA HALLSTRÖM</b></li><li>• Chair of the working group</li><li>• on Energy and Climate Change</li><li>• Värmland (SE)</li><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KATARINA TOLGFORS</b></li><li>• Representatives for</li><li>• the Equal Opportunities Group</li><li>• Örebro (SE)</li><li>•</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KENNETH BACKGÅRD</b></li><li>• Vice-President for Rural Development,</li><li>• Energy and Environment</li><li>• Norrbotten (SE)</li><li>•</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>OLIMPIA NEAGOE</b></li><li>• Chair of the working group</li><li>• on Rural Development</li><li>• Dolj (RO)</li><li>•</li></ul>            |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>MARTIN TOLLÉN</b></li><li>• Chair of the working group</li><li>• on Mobility and Transports</li><li>• Östergötland (SE)</li></ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HÅKON NOREN</b></li><li>• Representatives for</li><li>• the Equal Opportunities Group</li><li>• Oppland (NO)</li></ul>                    |  |



FOCUS ON THE SHARING ECONOMY

In December 2018, Brussels-Capital (BE) and Catalonia (ES) organised a mutual learning event on the sharing economy. Group discussions focused on the disruptive nature of the sharing economy and its impact on regional policy-making. The event brought together politicians, civil servants, entrepreneurs, academics and stakeholder groups in genuine exchange. Attendees shared experiences and stories to understand each others’ challenges and to identify fields for action which can start to be worked on immediately.

# COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL POLICY & PUBLIC HEALTH

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Organised a breakfast debate on welcoming unaccompanied migrant children, together with the European Programme for Integration and Migration, during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Shared impactful examples on social entrepreneurship during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Shared experiences and findings on knowledge transfer for the deployment of integrated care systems during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Continued exchanges between the MOCHA project, which appraised the differing models of child health, and AER members;
- Focused on the changing role of governments in the digital age at «The Sharing Economy» event, Brussels December 2018
- Co-organised a conference on migration and inclusion, together with Catalonia (ES) and the Amid Project, in December 2018;
- Facilitated policy learning on the results of the AMiD project on the access to services for migrants with disabilities. Workshop at the 2019 spring plenaries on multilevel and multistakeholder collaboration;
- Continued knowledge and experience flow on digital health between the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and AER members;
- Joined the Scirocco Exchange project. AER is leading on knowledge transfer, helping regions for the deployment of integrated care systems.

PRESIDIUM

- MIHAI RITIVOIU

• Committee President

• Timis (RO)

•

• AGNETA GRANSTRÖM

• Vice-President for Health Innovation

• and Chair of e-Health Network

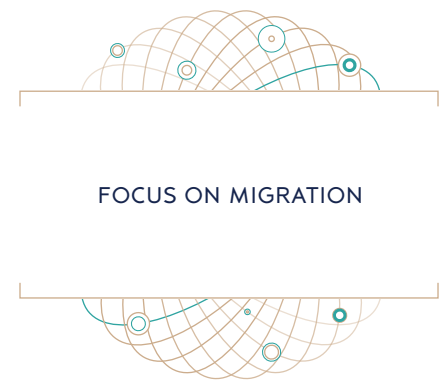
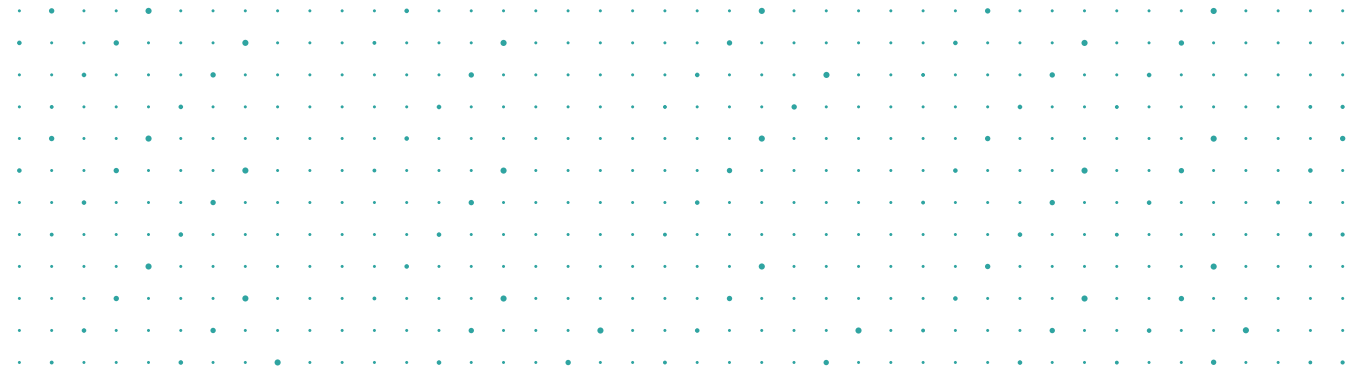
• Norrbotten (SE)

• KENNETH JOHANNESSON

• Representative for the Equal

• Opportunities Group

• Värmland (SE)



In September 2018, Committee 2 organised a breakfast debate on ‘youth on the move’. The event, which provided an overview of good practices, was an opportunity to discuss regional policies with a child rights perspective and to hear about funding opportunities. Increased attention to the topic of migration in the past 3 years led to regular exchanges around health and inclusion. In this context, AER also co-organised a conference with Catalonia (ES) on promoting diversity and integration of migrants in December 2018 and continued exchanges between the AMID project and regional authorities on welcoming migrants with disabilities.

# CULTURE, EDUCATION & YOUTH



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kicked-off the development of an ambitious exchange of civil servants and capacity-building programme at the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Exchanged experiences on former or existing mobility programmes for civil servants and the expectations for a new programme during the 2018 autumn plenaries;
- Launched a survey among members to identify needs and opportunities for collaboration in the context of the new exchange programme for civil servants;
- Collaboration with the Eurodissey Steering Committee for the definition of the exchange and capacity building programme for civil servants;
- Collaboration with the European College of Cluny to further define the type of collaboration and the content of the AER training in Cluny (FR);
- Dialogue with institutions on funding opportunities for the civil servants' exchange and capacity building programme;
- Exchanged experiences around youth entrepreneurship during the 2018 autumn plenaries. Subsequently organised a breakfast debate on youth entrepreneurship at the 2019 spring plenaries;
- Focused on Skills & Competencies during the Mutual Learning event «The Sharing Economy» December 2018.



PRESIDIUM

<div><div>RADIMIR ČAČIĆ</div><div><div>Committee President</div><div>Varazdin (HR)</div></div></div>	<div><div>ALEKSANDRA DJANKOVIC</div><div><div>Vice President</div><div>Vojvodina (RS)</div></div></div>	<div><div>NINA BJÖRBY</div><div><div>Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture</div><div>Västerbotten (SE)</div></div></div>
<div><div>SIMON JOHNSEN</div><div><div>Chair of the Sub-Committee on Education and Training</div><div>Nordland (NO)</div></div></div>	<div><div>DEISLAVA CVETKOVA</div><div><div>Representative for the Equal Opportunities Group</div><div>Västernorrland (SE)</div></div></div>	<div><div>MARTA VILALTA</div><div><div>Chair of the Sub-Committee on Youth</div><div>Catalonia (SE)</div></div></div>
<div><div>ATTILA KLARIK</div><div><div>Representative for the Equal Opportunities Group</div><div>Covasna (RO)</div></div></div>		



FOCUS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

2018 was the European year for cultural heritage. In this context, AER regularly shared opportunities as well as good practices to highlight regional experiences in this area. Cultural heritage is not a matter of the past as the Summer Academy in Maramures (RO) showed with examples around street art, storytelling and virtual reality. Committee members were invited to participate and contribute via workshops, which ensured that the experience exchange initiated within the Committees continued via the Summer Academy programme.

## EVENTS 2018 - 2019

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>01 <b>21 JUNE 2018</b> REGIONAL COUNCIL OF KORÇA<br/>EUROPEAN FUNDS AND THE ROLE OF AER IN ALBANIAN REGIONS Korça (AL) ①</p>                 | <p>11 <b>14 NOVEMBER 2018</b> SMART CITY EXPO<br/>SCEWC: FOOD, SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE Barcelona (ES) ①</p>             |
| <p>02 <b>27 JUNE 2018</b> EIP - SCC<br/>SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY ACTION CLUSTER MEETING Sofia (BG) ①</p>                                      | <p>12 <b>16 - 18 NOVEMBER 2018</b> AER<br/>AER YOUTH REGIONAL NETWORK: AUTUMN PLENARY MEETING Cascais (PT) ③</p>                                 |
| <p>03 <b>28 JUNE 2018</b> VARAŽDIN COUNTY<br/>EU FUNDING SEMINAR Varaždin (HR) ①</p>  | <p>13 <b>21 - 22 NOVEMBER 2018</b> AER<br/>BUREAU MEETING GELDERLAND Nijmegen (NL) ③</p>   |
| <p>04 <b>9 - 13 JULY 2018</b> UNITED NATIONS<br/>UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM New York (US) ①</p>                                  | <p>14 <b>21 NOVEMBER 2018</b> AER<br/>SUMMER ACCADEMY ORGANISING COMMITTEE (SAOC) MEETING Nijmegen (NL) ③</p>                                    |
| <p>05 <b>23 JULY 2018</b> SARDINIA<br/>SARDINIA JOINING CEREMONY Cagliari (IT) ②</p>  | <p>15 <b>4 DECEMBER 2018</b> AER / BRUSSELS CAPITAL<br/>"THE SHARING ECONOMY: RESHAPING THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS" Brussels (BE) ①</p>              |
| <p>06 <b>6 - 11 AUGUST 2018</b> AER<br/>AER SUMMER ACADEMY 2018 Maramureş (RO) ③</p>  | <p>16 <b>18 DECEMBER 2018</b> AER / GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA<br/>INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY: PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN REGIONS Barcelona (ES) ①</p> |
| <p>07 <b>5 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2018</b> REGION OF ODESSA<br/>AER BLACK SEA SUMMIT Odessa (UA) ①</p>   | <p>17 <b>5 FEBRUARY 2019</b> AER<br/>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Brussels (BE) ③</p>   |
| <p>08 <b>25 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2018</b> AER<br/>AUTUMN COMMITTEE PLENARIES Vojvodina (XS) ③</p>   | <p>18 <b>14 - 15 FEBRUARY 2019</b> CATALONIA'S EMPLOYMENT OFFICE<br/>EURODYSEY WEBSITE TRAINING Barcelona (ES) ②</p>                             |
| <p>09 <b>11 OCTOBER 2018</b> COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS<br/>WORKSHOP "COHESION FOR ENLARGEMENT: THRIVING IN A STRONGER UNION" Brussels (BE) ①</p> | <p>19 <b>26 - 18 MARCH 2019</b> ÖREBRO REGION<br/>SPRING COMMITTEE PLENARIES Örebro (SE) ③</p>   |
| <p>10 <b>17 OCTOBER 2018</b> AER<br/>EURODYSEY STEERING COMMITTEE Brussels (BE) ③</p>   |  |

PARTNERSHIP EVENT

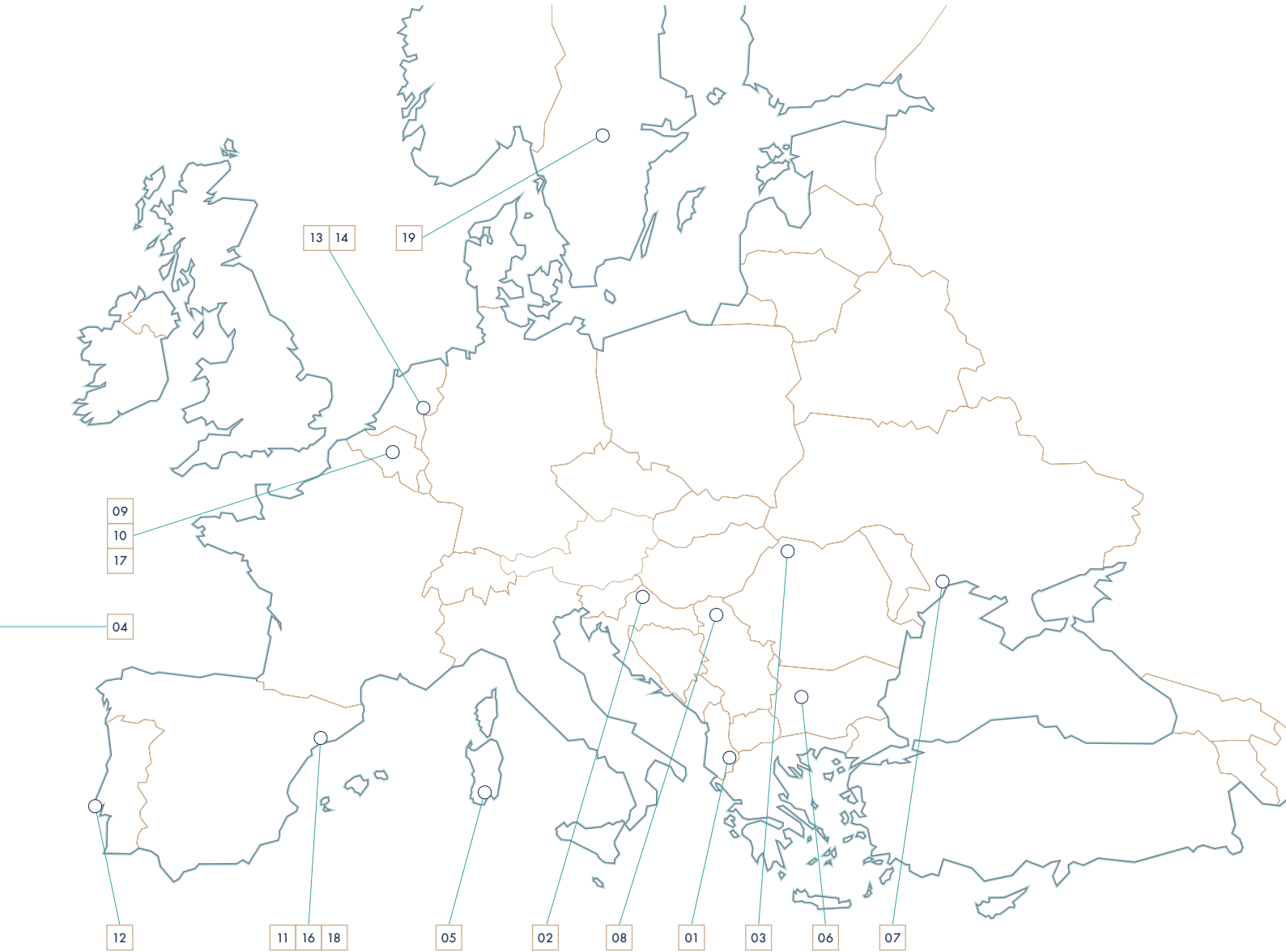
1

MEMBER EVENT

2

STATUTORY MEETING

3



# PROJECTS & FUNDING

## AER VISION ON PROJECTS AND FUNDING

### WHAT MOTIVATES US TO JOIN PROJECTS:

- We start our thinking and evaluation from a simple and precise question: how can projects bring additional opportunities to the network?
- We have to create value for the network both in terms of content and financial support.
- We have to be in line with members' priorities, needs, requests as expressed in the political priorities, Committees' work programmes, AER Programmes and tailored requests from member regions.
- AER has a precise strategy when it comes to projects, which has been validated by the Executive Board and shared with member regions. We should take a role that highlights AER's unique expertise which member regions can benefit from such as knowledge transfer, sharing of good practices, capacity building, engagement.

- We want to build solid partnerships internally at AER and also with external partners that can bring value to the entire network.
- We are not a "projects' factory": we do not join just any kind of projects but rather projects that are valuable for AER and its members. This is a difficult job which pays off in the mid- to long-term, making it thus more sustainable.

### TEAM SPIRIT AS PART OF THE PROJECT STRATEGY:

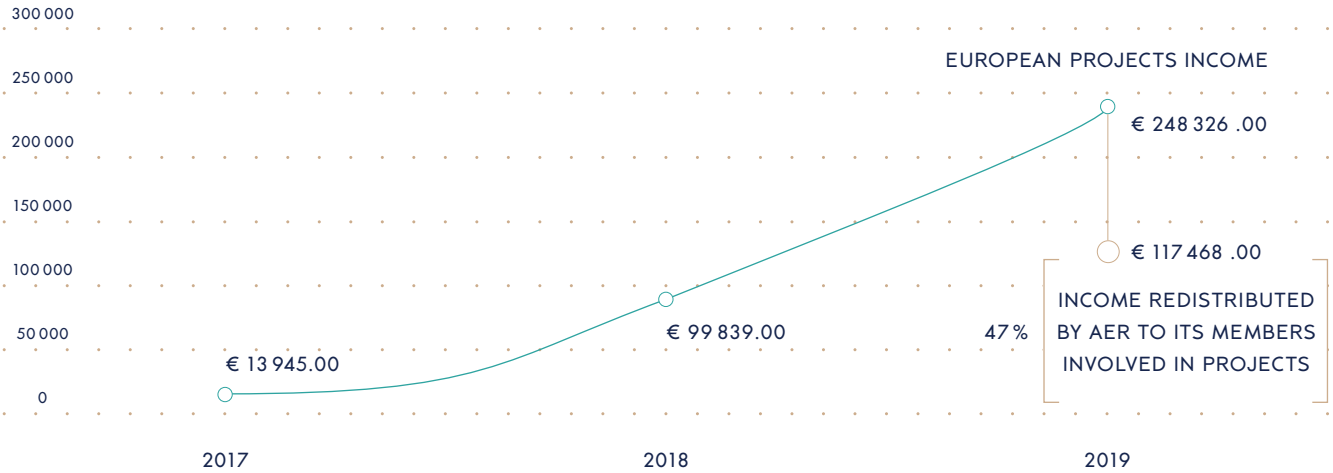
- AER has a dedicated Project Unit dealing with European projects composed by the EU Project & Funding Coordinator, the EU Financial Coordinator, the EU Project trainee and from June 2019 a new member of the team, the EU Project Manager thanks to the European projects awarded by AER in the past years.
- However, the AER Project Unit does not work by itself but rather collaborates with the entire AER Secretariat (programmes, knowledge transfer, member relations,

- communications, advocacy) as well as with representatives of the member regions. This is unique in terms of co-creation and co-design of relevant projects: we do projects on topics that matter to members.

### CONCRETE BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS COMING FROM EU PROJECTS:

- When AER negotiates its role in a new project, we simultaneously negotiate a role or involvement for members regions which can be as full partner but also as beneficiary at different levels: being the pilots for specific activities, hosting an event (workshop, seminar, etc), being the expert on specific matters, being a member of the Advisory Board, etc.
- Then, through the budget negotiated within European projects, we can provide extra resources for members to become active in projects.

PROJECT INCOME FOR AER & ITS MEMBERS



ABOUT THE PROJECT UNIT

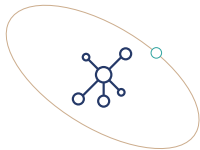
The AER members' priorities drive the work of the AER Project Unit. Based on the members' wishes the unit disseminates knowledge on funding opportunities, facilitates the building of consortia and makes sure that AER and its members get the most of projects opportunities.

# OUR SERVICES

## FOR MEMBERS ONLY, WE PROVIDE



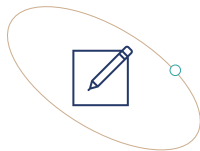
FUNDING RESEARCH  
TAILORED  
FOR SPECIFIC TOPICS



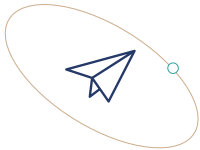
SUPPORT FOR CONSORTIUM  
BUILDING



SUPPORT ON PARTNER  
ACQUISITION

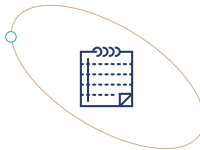


SUPPORT FOR PROJECT  
WRITING,  
SUBMISSION AND REPORTING



ASSISTANCE ON ACTIVITIES  
FOR PROJECT DELIVERY

## FOR EVERYONE, WE PROVIDE



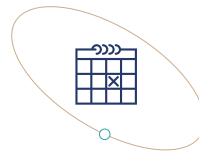
FILTERED INFORMATION  
ON OPEN CALLS FOR  
REGIONS IN EUROPEAN  
PROGRAMMES



INFORMATION  
ON PARTNER RESEARCH



REGULAR UPDATES  
ON KEY EVENTS



A NEWS UPDATE  
ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# PROJECTS



**Models of Child Health Appraised**  
(A Study of Primary Healthcare in 30 European countries)



## MOCHA

### MODELS OF CHILD HEALTH APPRAISED

**TOPIC:** Child Health

**AER ROLE:** Seat in the Advisory Board

**PARTNER** Norrbotten (SE)

**MEMBER REGION:** in the Advisory Board

**PROGRAMME:** Horizon 2020

**OUTCOME:** Creation of a focus group on child healthcare & prevention, which provides inputs to the consortium and uses findings and the expertise of consortium members to feed the work within the AER network.

**WEBSITE:** [www.childhealthservicemodels.eu](http://www.childhealthservicemodels.eu)

## SEED

### SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF THE SILVER ECONOMY IN EUROPE IN THE DIGITAL ERA

**TOPIC:** Silver Economy

**AER ROLE:** Partner

**PARTNER** Norrbotten (SE)

**MEMBER REGION:** in the Advisory Board;  
EU networks involved:  
ECHAlliance, Age Platform,  
Coral, European Covenant on  
Demographic Change, ERRIN,  
Digitaleurope, EuroCarers,  
ASHOKA

**PROGRAMME:** Horizon 2020

**OUTCOME:** Launch and implementation of the 1st Silver Economy Awards recognising excellence in regional policies.

**WEBSITE:** [www.silvereconomyawards.eu](http://www.silvereconomyawards.eu)





AMID

ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES

TOPIC: Migrants and disability

AER ROLE: Partner

PARTNER Valencia (ES), Värmland (SE),  
MEMBER REGION: Timis (RO) members of the  
Community Advisory Board

PROGRAMME: Asylum, Migration  
& Integration Fund

OUTCOME: Assessment tool and training to NGOs and  
local personnel to evaluate and consider disabilities while  
assessing migrants in need of first help.

WEBSITE: [www.amidproject.eu](http://www.amidproject.eu)



EUROPEAN YOUTH TOGETHER

ROAD TO THE FUTURE

TOPIC: Youth and the Future of Europe  
(European Election 2019)

AER ROLE: Partner

PARTNER YRN represented  
MEMBER REGION: by its President, Gloria Vitaly,  
is in the Advisory Board

PROGRAMME: Erasmus+

OUTCOME: The 'I Choose Europe' campaign aims to  
encourage the debate on the future of Europe among young  
people and increase their voter turnout as well as to foster  
their interest in developing strategy and advocacy actions on  
the implementation of the New Narrative for Europe.

WEBSITE: [www.ichooseeurope.eu](http://www.ichooseeurope.eu)



SCIROCCO EXCHANGE

PERSONALISED KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER  
AND ACCESS TO TAILORED EVIDENCE-BASED  
ASSETS ON INTEGRATED CARE

TOPIC: Integrated Care

AER ROLE: Partner

PARTNER Scottish Government  
MEMBER REGION: (Lead Partner)

PROGRAMME: EU Health Programme

OUTCOME: Capacity-building support provided to 9 national and regional healthcare authorities across Europe with diverse maturity and organisation of integrated care; Knowledge Management Hub being a web tool to act as an integrator and facilitator for accessing personalized learning and support for integrated care.

WEBSITE: [www.scioccoexchange.eu](http://www.scioccoexchange.eu)  
(under construction)

TOGETHER FOR COHESION

LET’S REUNITE!

TOPIC: Cohesion Policy

AER ROLE: Lead Partner

PARTNER Alba and Timis County (RO),  
MEMBER REGION: Csongrad (HU), Catalunya (ES),  
Jamtland (SE),  
Trentino-Alto Adige (IT),  
South-Ostrobothnia (FI),  
Varazdin (HR)

PROGRAMME: DG Regio

OUTCOME: Launch and implementation of the integrated campaign “Together for Cohesion: let’s rEUnite!” centred on the stories of citizens and stakeholders in the regions of each of the five selected countries: Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Italy & Spain.

WEBSITE: Under construction

# PROJECT STATISTICS

100% GROWTH



EU PROJECTS & FUNDING  
UPDATES (2018 - 19)

143% GROWTH



PROJECTS  
JOINED

23% GROWTH



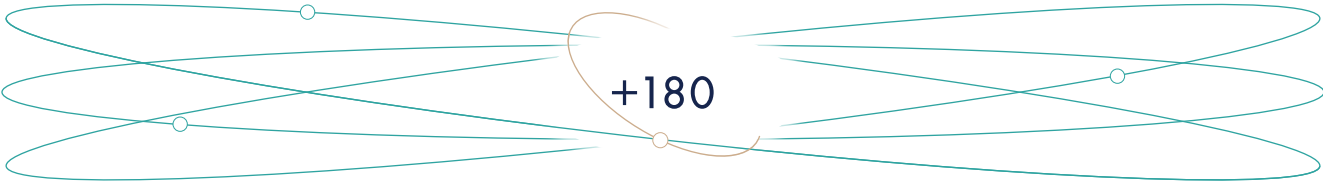
ARTICLES ON FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES

11% GROWTH



PARTNER SEARCH  
ARTICLES SHARED

50% GROWTH



REGIONS AND  
STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORTED

# PROGRAMMES

## SUMMER ACADEMY 2019

### *"A EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL OPENS TO ALL"*

- Coinciding with the 2019 European Youth Capital, the AER Summer Academy will take place in Novi Sad, Vojvodina (RS) from 1 - 6 July 2019. Under the title "Youth is Future, Youth is Europe", this unique forum for mutual learning will bring together policy-makers, regional officers and young activists from all over Europe to reflect on the Future of Europe in the wake of the European Elections 2019.

#### WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

- Through plenaries, workshops and study visits, the participants and regions at the 2019 Summer Academy will exchange innovative ideas and good practices in various fields to show the potential of young people in bringing about a social transformation and rethinking the way Europe can meet the challenges of the future. Moreover, all Summer Academy participants will get a free ticket to the EXIT Music Festival which is among the top European and global music festivals!

#### WHY NOVI SAD?

The combination of the city of Novi Sad, as the epicentre of European youth activism in 2019, and the AER Summer Academy results in a unique space to reflect on the role of regions, and particularly its young citizens as change-makers, paving the way forward towards a more sustainable, social, prosperous and democratic Europe. The only direction is one in which young people are included in EU decision-making and at the centre of its policies.

#### WHO MAKES THIS POSSIBLE?

Does your region want to host a Summer Academy or contribute by sharing its expertise in future editions? The doors of the Summer Academy Organising Committee (SAOC) are open to all the regions who are seeking to gain hands-on knowledge on issues of common interest in the field of interregional cooperation.

## YOUTH REGIONAL NETWORK

### *"YRN ON THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE"*

- The YRN has had another successful year of intense activity and fruitful exchanges among various member regions to mainstream the youth regional perspective in the international arena. In November 2018, the YRN had the great pleasure of celebrating its Autumn Plenary Meeting in the framework of the 2018 Cascais (PO): European Youth Capital. The YRN has also had a prominent role within the European Youth Together: Road to the Future project being present at the Advisory Board, contributing to the definition of the activities and the launch of the #IChooseEurope campaign as well as establishing connections with other European youth organisations. Additionally, the YRN has continued its activity beyond the European borders with its President's, Gloria Vitaly, involvement in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Forum representing United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth as the Regional Focal Point on SDG-4, AER-YRN and the region of Oppland (NO).

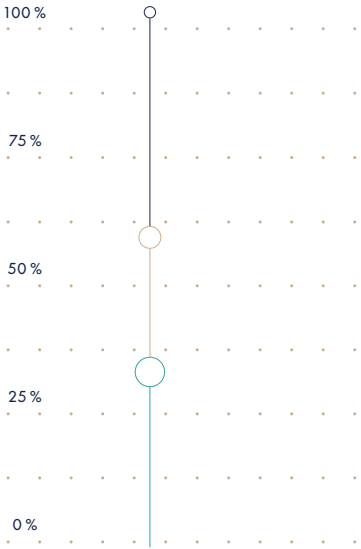
EURODYSSEY

*“REBRANDING THE FUTURE  
OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS”*

Following the successful 2018 Eurodyssey Forum in Brussels, the Eurodyssey programme is now in a very strong position thanks to greater cooperation and the commitment of the regional correspondents in their efforts to better harmonise the management procedures while keeping up the exchanges at a high-quality level. And the programme keeps expanding! In 2018, the Eurodyssey family welcomed the Italian region of Sardinia to AER.

In 2018, AER’s mobility programme allowed a total of 260 young Europeans to benefit from genuine professional experience and linguistic training in another European region. One remarkable achievement in the last year has been a significant improvement in processing the data collected by the Eurodyssey member regions. According to regions’ surveys, 2018 has yielded very encouraging employment results: 61% of the Eurodyssey participants found employment within 4 months following the end of their traineeship.

In February this year, the Eurodyssey community gathered in Barcelona for a two-day Website and Communications Training jointly organised by the Catalan Employment Service and the AER Secretariat. Eurodyssey will also enhance communication about Eurodyssey by elevating its brand to social media as well as disseminating the testimonials of the young trainees. The website launch is planned at the beginning of the Summer 2019!



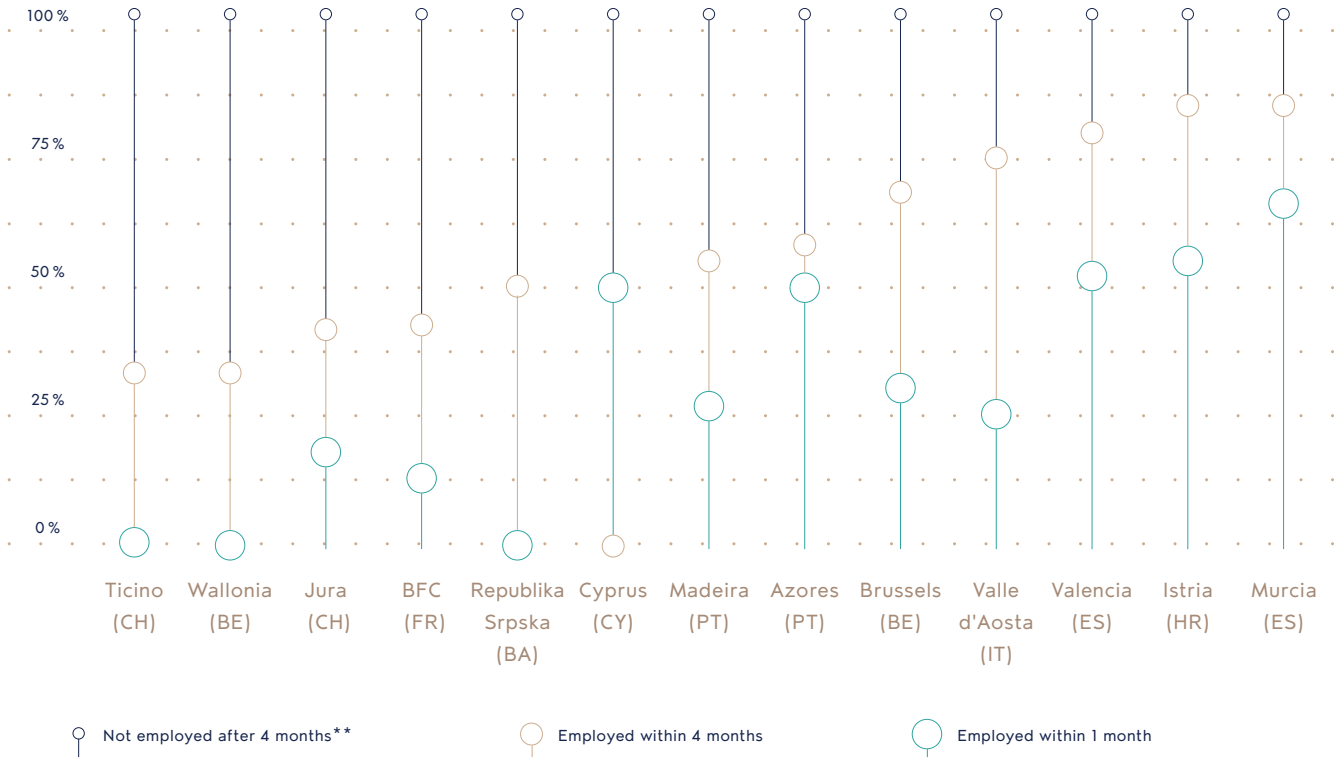
264 PARTICIPATING  
YOUNG PEOPLE

61% SUCCESSFUL  
APPLICATIONS

35% FIND WORK  
< 1 MONTH\*

\* According to 2017 surveys made by regions.

IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT OF EURODYSEY PARTICIPANTS



\*\*It is important to note that while many trainees choose to return to university or to pursue another internship after their Eurodissey experience, our 2017 survey only inquires about full-time employment. Thus, the "not employed" column also account for such cases.

## ABOUT US



The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe, gathering regions from 28 countries.

AER is present everywhere on the European continent, inside and outside the European Union.

### MAKING OUR DIVERSITY YOUR STRENGTH

AER is the place to be for regional stakeholders across the European continent: politicians, officers, experts, advisors... We stand strong to promote a Europe that embraces its diversity to thrive in a global world.

With member regions from 28 countries, AER is the voice of regional authorities since 1985 and has played a pivotal role in recognising regions as key players in the European construction.

We believe that a prosperous, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-lingual Europe goes hand in hand with prosperous regions. We support our members to improve their policies

by exchanging experiences, sharing practices and providing capacity building. We pride ourselves in our bottom-up approach and strive to always be concrete in our activities and actions to make a difference.

### BUILT ON MEMBERS

AER member regions are the cornerstone of the organisation. We rely on the involvement of our members, through their politicians and civil servants, to keep the network active and relevant. A lot of our time and resources are spent on understanding the diversity of our members, their needs and ensuring that we provide quality services to their benefit. We have the capacity to bring visibility to individual members and politicians and to promote their work, actions and activities. We measure our success as a network in connecting regions to one another, being their liaison and bridge to interregional cooperation.

### MEASURING ADDED-VALUE

We strive daily to meet the needs of our member regions, improving the quality of our services, our efficiency and cutting back on red-tape and administration for more flexibility. We offer a wide range of products and services and are aware of the need for regions to justify their membership in networks like ours.

### AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MEMBERSHIP MODEL

Membership and Partnership is open to a wide range of geographic and non-geographic entities in the spirit of embracing the cooperation potential in Europe and beyond.



## FACTS & FIGURES

12% GROWTH

5469

FOLLOWERS  
FACEBOOK  
AER + YRN

19% GROWTH

3259

FOLLOWERS  
TWITTER  
AER + YRN

133% GROWTH

201

FOLLOWERS  
INSTAGRAM  
AER

92

PERSONALISED  
EMAIL  
CAMPAIGNS

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018:  
awaiting auditors' report to be presented at the 2019 AER General Assembly

1.1M

TOTAL  
INCOME

1.1M

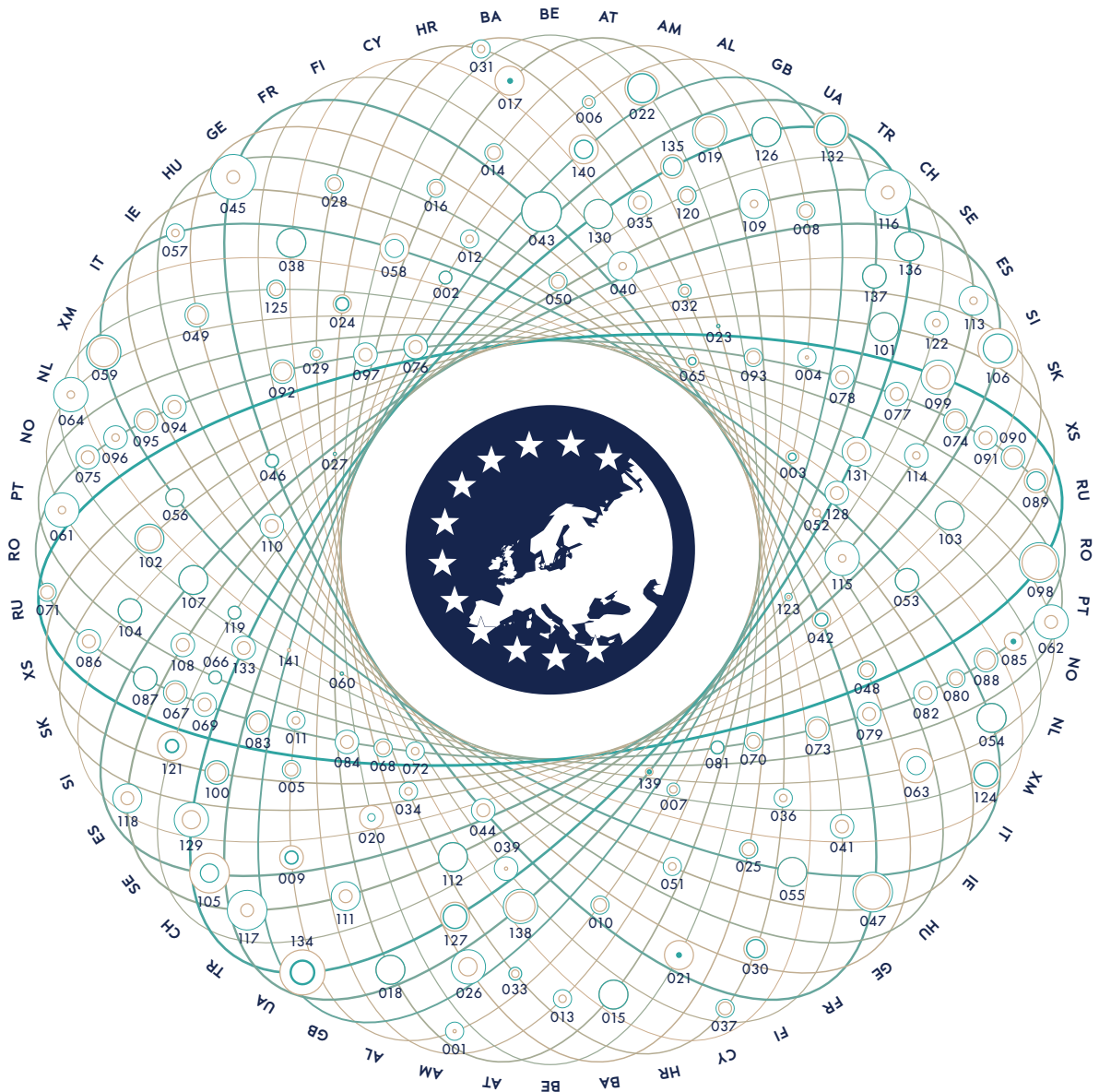
TOTAL  
EXPENDITURE

65K

RESULT

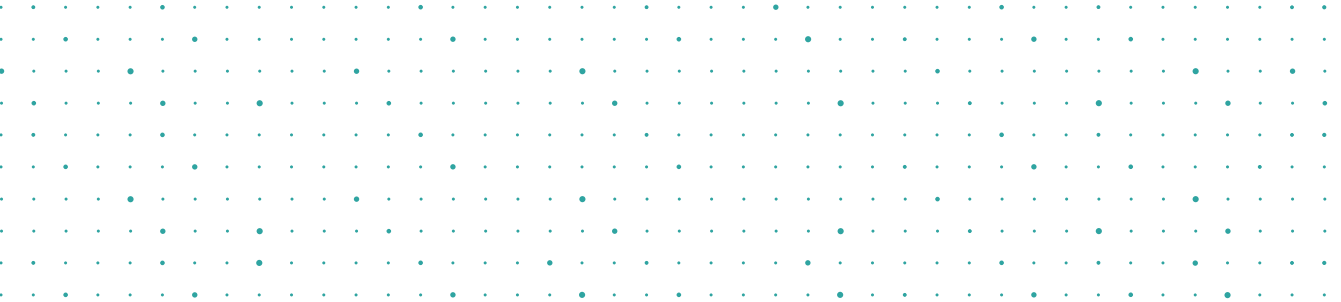
# MEMBERSHIP

001 Kukes (AL)	025 Zenica-Doboj (BA)	046 Martinique (FR)	071 Galati (RO)	096 Tulcea (RO)	120 Ticino (CH)
002 Fier (AL)	026 Republika Srpska (BA)	047 Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (FR)	072 Covasna (RO)	097 Harghita (RO)	121 Zürich (CH)
003 Durrës (AL)	027 Bosna-Podrinje Goražde (BA)	048 Adjara (GE)	073 Mures (RO)	098 Tatarstan (RU)	122 Basel-Stadt (CH)
004 Gjirokaster (AL)	028 Primorje-Gorski Kotar (HR)	049 Imereti (GE)	074 Brasov (RO)	099 Mordovia (RU)	123 Jura (CH)
005 Korçë (AL)	029 Brod-Posavina (HR)	050 Csongrad (HU)	075 Gorj (RO)	100 Sumadija i Pomoravlje (XS)	124 Gelderland (NL)
006 Berat (AL)	030 Zagreb (HR)	051 Udaras Na Gaeltachta (IE)	076 Arad (RO)	101 Vojvodina (XS)	125 Flevoland (NL)
007 Lezhe (AL)	031 Istria (HR)	052 Donegal (IE)	077 Bistrita-Nasaud (RO)	102 Kosice (SK)	126 Adana (TR)
008 Shkodër (AL)	032 Krapina-Zagorje (HR)	053 Umbria (IT)	078 Neamt (RO)	103 East Slovenia (XS)	127 Gaziantep (TR)
009 Tiranë (AL)	033 Varaždin (HR)	054 Abruzzo (IT)	079 Olt (RO)	104 West Slovenia (XS)	128 Mus (TR)
010 Elbasan (AL)	034 Šibenik-Knin (HR)	055 Trentino-Alto Adige (IT)	080 Vrancea (RO)	105 Valencia (ES)	129 Erzurum (TR)
011 Vlore (AL)	035 Split-Dalmatia (HR)	056 Molise (IT)	081 Ilfov (RO)	106 Catalunya (ES)	130 Kayseri (TR)
012 Diber (AL)	036 Sisak-Moslavina (HR)	057 Valle d'Aosta (IT)	082 Hunedoara (RO)	107 Murcia (ES)	131 Denizli (TR)
013 Tavush (AM)	037 Osijek-Baranja (HR)	058 Friuli-Venezia Giulia (IT)	083 Cluj (RO)	108 Östergötland (SE)	132 Izmir (TR)
014 Lori (AM)	038 Union of Cyprus Municipalities (CY)	059 Sardinia (IT)	084 Calarasi (RO)	109 Jämtland Härjedalen (SE)	133 Edirne (TR)
015 Tyrol (AT)	039 Central Ostrobothnia (FI)	060 Budva (ME)	085 Sibiu (RO)	110 Uppsala (SE)	134 Istanbul (TR)
016 Burgenland (AT)	040 Southern Ostrobothnia (FI)	061 Oppland (NO)	086 Alba (RO)	111 Gävleborg (SE)	135 Sakarya (TR)
017 Vienna (AT)	041 Satakunta (FI)	062 Nordland (NO)	087 Prahova (RO)	112 Västra Götaland (SE)	136 Antalya (TR)
018 Upper Austria (AT)	042 Guadeloupe (FR)	063 Østfold (NO)	088 Bihor (RO)	113 Jönköping (SE)	137 Kryvyi Rih (UA)
019 Lower Austria (AT)	043 Grand Est (FR)	064 Hedmark (NO)	089 Iasi (RO)	114 Örebro (SE)	138 Odessa (UA)
020 German Speaking Community (BE)	044 Corse (FR)	065 Madeira (PT)	090 Maramures (RO)	115 Västernorrland (SE)	139 Pavlohrad (UA)
021 Brussels-Capital Region (BE)	045 Guyane (FR)	066 Azores (PT)	091 Mehedinti (RO)	116 Norrbotten (SE)	140 Hampshire (GB)
022 Wallonia (BE)		067 Timis (RO)	092 Dolj (RO)	117 Västerbotten (SE)	141 Scotland (GB)
023 Brcko District (BA)		068 Salaj (RO)	093 Dambovita (RO)	118 Värmland (SE)	
024 Sarajevo (BA)		069 Vaslui (RO)	094 Caras-Severin (RO)	119 Fribourg (CH)	
		070 Satu Mare (RO)	095 Arges (RO)		



# SECONDED OFFICERS TO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| • JOSEF GUSTAFSSON                     | • PIERRE GÉRARD   | • |
| • SO for President Magnus Berntsson    | • SO for Committee 1 President Jean-Luc Vanraes                       | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • CHRISTÈLE LAFORET                    | • AGNETA KARDOS   | • |
| • SO for Treasurer Christian Debève    | • SO for Committee 2 President Mihai Ritivoiu                         | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • MICAELA LÖWENHÖÖK                    | • LARISA KRIŽAN BRELJAK   | • |
| • SO for VP Nina Björby                | • SO for Committee 3 President Radimir Čačić                          | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • ELENA HERRERO PEREZ                  | • ESPEN HOLTAN  | • |
| • SO for VP Albert Castellanos Maduell | • SO for Rune Fredriksen, SAOC President                              | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • JOANNA RICHARDSON                    | • ADRIANA ANDRÉS I COMAS  | • |
| • SO for VP Andrew Gibson              | • SO for Esther Estany, Eurodysey President                           | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • KATALIN ARANY                        | • KURT-ÅKE HAMMARSTEDT  | • |
| • SO for VP Anna Magyar                | • SO for Thomas Hartman, chair of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • MARLENE SEELMAIER                    | • ULLA HÖGLUND  | • |
| • SO for VP Lukas Mandl                | • SO for Monica Gundahl, acting-chair of the Election Committee       | • |
| •                                      | •   | • |
| • SANJA ŠIFLIŠ                         |   | • |
| • SO for VP Damir Zobenica             |   | • |



## STAFF LISTING

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Secretary-General

**TINA WU**

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**VANIA FREITAS**

Institutional Relations & Advocacy

**JOHANNA PACEVICIUS**

Policy & Knowledge Transfer

**AGNESE PANTALONI**

European Projects

**LUCA MAGRI**

Finance of European Projects

**ANDRÉS MUÑOZ ROJO**

Programmes

**ERICA LEE**

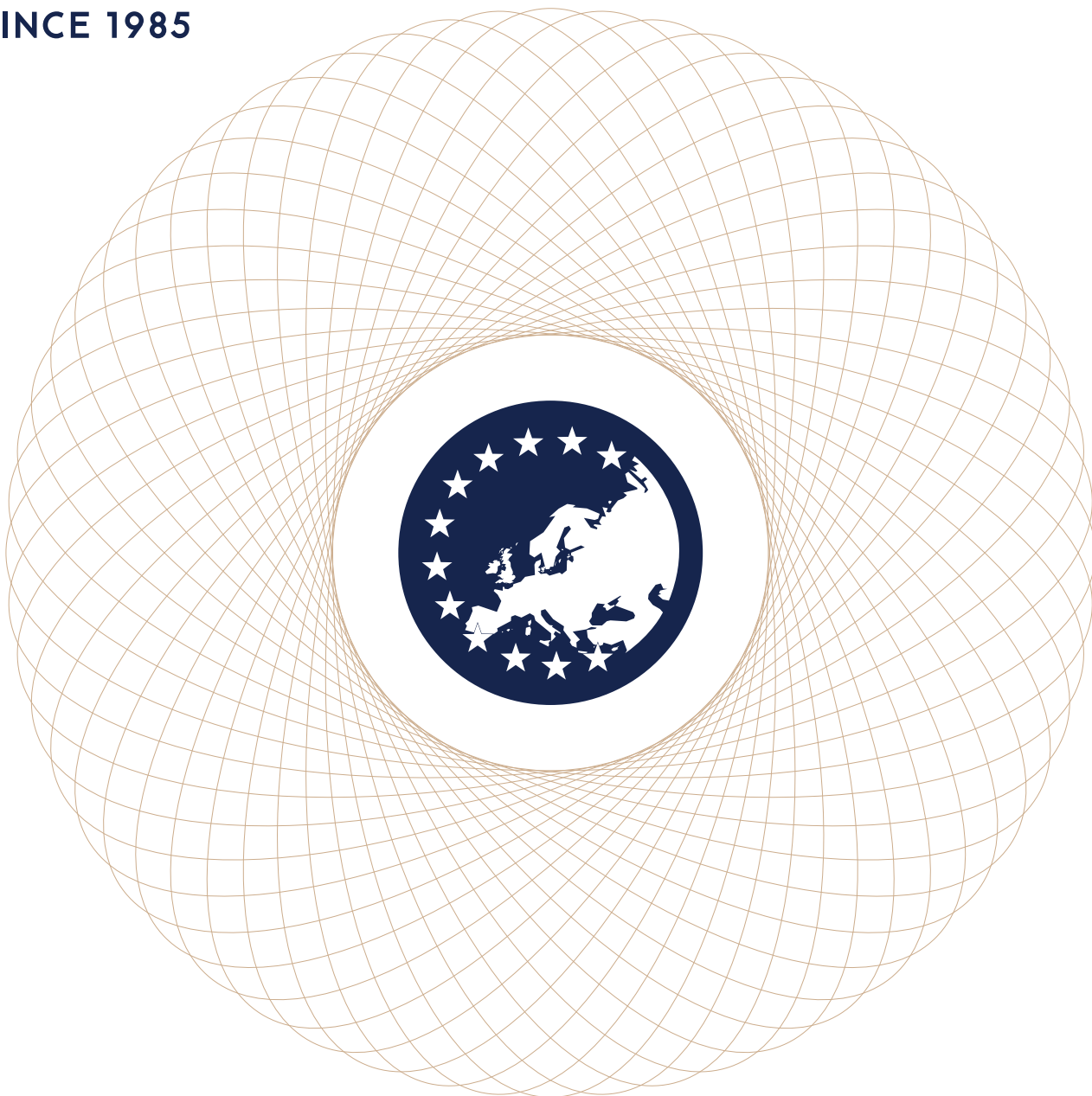
Communications & Events

**CORNELIA CARMEN MADARAS**

**GEORGE SINCA**

Extended Team Alba office

**CONNECTING REGIONS,  
INSPIRING EUROPE  
SINCE 1985**



2019 • Assembly of European Regions

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