

## Smart Up BSR visibility and networking – spring/autumn 2018

Date	Conference/Meeting, etc.	Venue
11/01/2018	<p><b>Connected Smart Cities Conference 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level debate of how “Cities Driving the Digital Transition” at OASC’s annual Connected Smart Cities Conference (CSCC)</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for action: 'How to speed up the digital city transformation 'by partnerships and networks and 'how to better use' innovative public procurement'</li> </ul>	Brussels
16/01/2018	<p><b>High-Level Group meeting of the Congress of the Council of Europe and of the Committee of the Regions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level discussion on recent and current cooperation activities, and priorities for 2018</li> <li>• Agreement on the revised cooperation to create synergies and avoid duplication</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Agreement to be signed officially during the 34<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the Congress in March 2018</li> <li>• The joint event to be organised in 2019, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of both institutions, to discuss the contribution of regions and cities</li> </ul>	Brussels
23– 24/01/2018	<p><b>KEP ( Knowledge exchange Platform) Peer-to-peer event on Public Sector Innovations in Espoo, Aalto &amp; Nokia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level discussion, showcasing and best-practice and project sharing event in the field of public sector digital innovations and urban planning globally</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for action: ' Partner and collaborate' via Knowledge exchange platform activities</li> <li>• Encourage the collaboration between regions and different EC DGs like RTD, REGIO,GROW and JRC</li> </ul>	Espoo (Finland)
25/01/2018	<p><b>High Level Event of the Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level event and discussion on the interregional cooperation in the domains of bioenergy, smart grids, sustainable buildings, marine renewables and solar energy</li> <li>• Discussion on the lessons learnt from the interregional collaboration, and avenues for action in the future.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps and follow-up:</p>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for action: partnerships and focus on demonstration/implementation of pilot activities, scaling-up and identify and combine EU funding instruments</li> <li>• The CoR should support energy innovations and be a closer strong partner</li> <li>• Agreement on the closer collaboration between knowledge exchange platforms, regions and different EC DGs like RTD, REGIO,GROW and JRC</li> </ul>	
31/01/2018	<p><b>ERRIN policy event "Regional R&amp;I Ecosystems: contributing to a competitive Europe"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level event and discussion on successful regional initiatives which have fostered innovative regional ecosystems</li> <li>• Discussions resulted in concrete recommendations on ways how the regional innovation ecosystems could be further supported in the context of the 9th framework programme for research and innovation</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "Collaborative research and innovation should be enhanced in the next programming period"</li> <li>• The EU RDI funding should have a stronger focus on the assessment of the impact of territorial dimension in research and innovation actions</li> </ul>	Brussels
06/02/2018	<p><b>CIVEX commission meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of views over the draft opinion "Reflecting on Europe: the voice of local and regional authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union"</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Another exchange of views over the opinion will take place in the next CIVEX meeting in 11 April 2018</li> <li>• The CIVEX Commission will adopt the opinion in their meeting in 10 July 2018</li> </ul>	Brussels
08/02/2018	<p><b>17th ENVE commission meeting – Round table discussion with the European Space Agency (ESA) on "Growth, innovation and investment in Europe's Regions: the opportunities of space"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level roundtable discussion showcasing the benefits of a cooperation between the CoR and ESA when it comes to stimulating research and innovation in the space sector for the benefit of local and regional development</li> <li>• The CoR Opinion "Space Strategy for Europe', adopted in October 2017, formed a solid basis for the discussion</li> </ul>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "The European Space Strategy should have a stronger emphasis on supporting cities' and regions' key priorities when it comes to boosting competitiveness in order to create jobs, consolidating a digital single market, fighting global warming and managing natural resources.</li> <li>• Young people have to be made more involved in space technologies through educational and traineeship possibilities</li> <li>• Further steps are needed to raise awareness in Europe on the benefits of space as a whole</li> </ul>	
16/02/2018	<p><b>Conference of the 1989 Generation Initiative "A New Contract: Reconnecting EU and its Citizens"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high-level conference on finding ways how to restore the trust of the European citizens in the EU as a long term counter-measure against populism</li> <li>• Next Steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "Cross-border schemes against youth unemployment and a strong cohesion policy against territorial disparities have to remain high priorities in the next MFF"</li> <li>• There is a demand for creating new innovative and forward-looking platforms such as Covenant of Mayors</li> <li>• There is a demand for exploring new avenues inter-European vocational traineeships</li> </ul>	London
19/02/2018	<p><b>First City Academy of the Digital Cities Challenge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high level seminar launched the participation of Sofia Investment Agency in the European Digital Cities Challenge</li> <li>• The high level seminar presented good practices of inspiring examples related to digital transformation, provided descriptions of digital transformation trajectories and important networking opportunities to promote collaboration and mutual learning among Cities</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: Committee of the Regions should continue to promote the digital transformation of cities and regions also in the context of this initiative</li> </ul>	Brussels
20/02/2018	<b>SEDEC conference "Connecting Territories"</b>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level conference and discussion on the EU's future R&amp;I policies from the point of view of regions and cities</li> <li>• High-level discussion was based on the CoR Opinion on "Local and Regional Dimension of Horizon 2020 and the New Framework Programme for Research and Innovation"</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "Sufficient funding for the R&amp;D activities, implementation of smart specialization strategies, development of new financial instruments as well as simplified application procedures for project funding within the up-coming Multiannual Financial Framework are seen as relevant measures in order to avoid a big opportunity cost for the R&amp;I potential across Europe"</li> </ul>	
21/02/2018	<b>SEDEC commission meeting</b>	Brussels
22/02/2018	<p><b>A high level political dialogue "Building on local climate and energy for transformative EU action" between the CoR Covenant Ambassadors and the EU Covenant of Mayors Board members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level panel discussion on the development of measures relating to climate change mitigation and renewable energies at the local and regional level in order to implement the goals of the Paris Agreement.</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "A sufficient share of cohesion funds will have to be secured for the mitigation of climate change in the next MFF"</li> </ul>	Brussels
28/02/2018	<p><b>Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the role of the Committee of the Regions in the debate on the future of Europe</li> <li>• Debate on the four "chantiers" for the CoR roadmap during 2018-2020</li> <li>• Energizing the functionality of the CoR's statutory bodies</li> <li>• Fostering CoR's cooperation with other EU institutions, and our impact</li> <li>• Strengthening CoR's bonds with cities, regions and their associations</li> </ul> <p>Leveraging communication, dialogue with citizens and standing in public opinion</p>	Eupen (Belgium)
01/03/2018	<b>Konrad Adenauer Stiftung German-French conference on territorial development</b>	Moulins (France)

07/03/2018	<p><b>JRC event "Synergies between Joint Undertakings and ESIF for research and innovation strategies"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An event and discussion organized on promoting collaboration to support the implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategies</li> <li>• Discussion included a presentation of the methodology and implementation of specific regions' engagement by three joint undertaking to better understand their mechanisms and their way of working (Cleansky JU, FCH JU and BBI JU)</li> <li>• Discussion on the exchange of good practices and on the identification of bottlenecks for collaboration with the JU's</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Regions are to be encouraged to undertake new forms of collaboration with various Joint Undertakings</li> <li>• <b>Conference "Searching for the future of Europe: At a snail's pace towards gender equality"</b></li> <li>• A high level conference organized by COPEC on gender equality in celebration of International Women's Day showcased the results of the Gender Equality Index 2017, according to which EU's score in the index is just four points higher than ten years ago (66.2/100)</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "Committee of the Regions should continue to promote gender equality in its work through e.g. political cooperation in ARLEM"</li> <li>• The important role of men in combatting gender equality has to be supported through different initiatives such as in promoting parental leave</li> </ul>	Brussels
09/03/2018	<p><b>EPP Meeting in Sofia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EPP group launched an initiative "EPP Grassroots Engagement" in view of the 2019 European Elections with the motto "Europe starts in your village/city/region" with the aim of restoring citizens' trust in the EU</li> <li>• High level conference "Regions and Cities Investing in Education to Strengthen EU Values" which placed emphasis on youth entrepreneurship and digitalization as important ways to promote European values through education</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• The Committee of the Regions should continue supporting education as a means to strengthen European Identity in alignment with the recently adopted CoR opinion " Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture"</li> </ul>	Sofia (Bulgaria)

13/03/2018	<p><b>European Robotics Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Europe's largest robotics networking event on the theme "Robots and us" in which seven of the most successful robotics projects supported under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme were presented</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Committee of the Regions should encourage regions to apply for projects, which have potential to improve their industrial productivity and service sector operations</li> </ul>	Tampere (Helsinki)
15–16/03/2018	<p><b>Regional Policy Spring Forum</b></p>	Palanga (Lithuania)
19/03/2018	<p><b>Aarhus Innovation Camp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aarhus Innovation Camp acted as the launching event for the Smart-up Baltic Sea Region collaboration project in which cities, regions and universities in the Baltic Sea Region collaborate to improve implementation of RIS3 Strategies and to improve innovation in four areas: Healthy ageing, Climate changes, Smart Cities and Circular economy</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• The Aarhus Innovation Camp was the first in the series of nine innovation camps to be held in the project's three years span during which the collaboration between cities and regions in the Baltic Sea region will continue</li> </ul>	Aarhus (Denmark)
20/03/2018	<p><b>EP SEARICA Intergroup Policy Symposium, "Europe, the Ocean and Feeding the World"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy symposium highlighted the importance to emphasize the oceans as sources of responsible, healthy and sustainable food production to respond to the growing food challenge</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: There is a need to create a specific Knowledge and Innovation Community for the Blue Economy as a further measure to develop skills and the transfer ideas from marine research to the private sector.</li> <li>• Blue Bioeconomy Forum will be established in 2018 and it will identify measures to open up markets for emerging products, explore further research needs, and point to areas where seed funding is required for projects in the EU's Blue Bioeconomy sector</li> </ul>	Brussels
21/03/2018	<p><b>Regional Conference for the EU for climate action and sustainable energy in the Neighbourhood South</b></p>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high level regional conference took stock of the relevant EU policies and marked the completion of three current regional projects – CES-MED, ClimaSouth and SUDEP South – by sharing lessons learned</li>   <li>• Next steps and a future follow-up:</li> <li>• The CoR continues to support EU's Southern Mediterranean partners in adopting measures leading to clean energy transition</li> <li>• The CoR should explore the possibilities of expanding the model set by the Covenant of Mayors within the South-Mediterranean region, thus enabling multilateral and decentralised cooperation with local actors</li> <li>• <b>Conference of the Presidents</b></li> <li>• The discussion dealt with concrete proposals concerning the organization of the CoR plenary sessions and UK's withdrawal from the EU from the point of view of an appropriate strategy for the CoR</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Committee of the Regions should decide on its short term positioning towards the consequences of the UK's withdrawal</li> <li>• There is a need to have an exchange of views on the institutional consequences of the UK's withdrawal for the Committee of the Regions</li> <li>• CoR should discuss their stance towards the proposal of the UK delegation on setting up a joint structure with the CoR covering the whole transition period</li> </ul>	Brussels
22/03/2018	<p><b>The iEER Conference "Boosting innovative Entrepreneurship ecosystem in regions for growth and job creation"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high-level conference marked the midpoint of the iEER project and the discussion dealt with the exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the development of regional entrepreneurship ecosystems through supporting young entrepreneurs</li>   <li>• Next steps and a follow up:</li> <li>• In 2018-2020 the iEER project will move to the implementation phase, which will lead into concrete policy recommendations</li> </ul> <p><b>Plenary Session</b></p>	Brussels
23/03/2018	<p><b>Research Infrastructures beyond 2020 – sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high level conference focused on concrete benefits of long-term sustainable research</li> </ul>	Sofia (Bulgaria)

	<p>infrastructures on industry, policy and society as a whole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Call for Action on Long-term sustainability of RIs was presented as a result of the conference</li> <li>• Next steps and a future follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "There is a need for synchronisation and alignment of Research Infrastructure policies and investments at different levels as well as for development of a more seamless funding landscape for Research Infrastructures across the lifecycle"</li> <li>• There is a need to improve the impact of Research Infrastructures as knowledge hubs</li> </ul>	
11/04/2018	<p><b>High level meeting "S3P-Industry and Interreg Europe working for Industrial modernisation"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint high-level meeting on the exploration of possible synergies between different Interreg Europe projects and interregional partnerships working under the S3 Platform for Industrial Modernisation</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: New ways of cooperation between regions and their stakeholders should be further pursued in the context of the S3 Platform for Industrial Modernisation</li> </ul>	Rovaniemi (Finland)
12/04/2018	<p><b>The 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial Modernisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A steering committee meeting on the assessment of progress and lessons learned from the partnerships under the Platform for Industrial Modernisation as well as on their possible synergies with relevant EU strategies and actions</li> <li>• The meeting included a panel discussion on interregional cooperation for the industries of the future</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: New ways of cooperation between regions and their stakeholders should be further pursued in the context of the S3 Platform for Industrial Modernisation</li> </ul>	Rovaniemi (Finland)
17/04/2018	<p><b>High Level Conference "Social Economy – for economically sustainable and socially inclusive EU"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level conference and exchange of views on the promotion of social economy in order to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable, decent jobs e.g. via optimization of favourable financial tools</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> </ul>	Sofia (Bulgaria)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee of the Regions should further support the development of a socially and economically sustainable EU in order to increase citizens' trust in the European project</li> </ul>	
19/04/2018	<p><b>Bulgarian EU Presidency Conference "Shaping Europe's Digital Future - High Performance Computing for Extreme Scale Scientific and Industrial Applications"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high level conference on the role of high performance computing (HPC) systems in shaping Europe's digital future by emphasizing the impact of HPC on the development of research and innovation</li> <li>• The conference also addressed the proposal by the European Commission on the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking as a European Strategy on HPC</li> <li>• One of the panel discussions focused on the perspectives and challenges of the HPC in the South and Eastern Europe</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR has to continue to provide guidance for local and regional authorities in policy areas such as research and innovation, education and skills, infrastructure and support for SMEs in order to support the digital transformation of the European regions</li> </ul>	Sofia (Bulgaria)
24/04/2018	<p><b>Conference "Helsinki Region Carbon Neutral 2035"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key Finnish event on the Talanoa Dialogue Process showcased how the Covenant of Mayors and different EU instruments can contribute in assisting cities with their efforts towards decarbonisation and building climate change resilience</li> <li>• The conference elaborated on the strategic plan of the Helsinki Uusimaa Region to become carbon neutral by 2035</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Helsinki-Uusimaa Region can provide successful examples on local climate and energy actions in the context of the Covenant of Mayors</li> </ul>	Espoo (Finland)
25/04/2018	<p><b>Meeting with the European University Association's Innovation Ecosystems Advisory Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas Jorgensen, Senior Policy Coordinator at the EU and Sybille Reichert, an external expert, were present in the meeting</li> <li>• <b>Meeting "Future of Partnering for Bioeconomy"</b></li> </ul>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state of the European Bioeconomy partnerships was discussed with Ludo Diels, Professor from the University of Antwerpen</li> <li>• Jan Larosse, a senior policy officer from DG Regio and Valeria Satta, administrator from CoR Sedec, gave policy outlooks on bioeconomy</li> <li>• The future of the collaboration in the field of bioeconomy between CoR and DG- REGIO was discussed</li> </ul>	
03/05/2018	<p><b>High Level Conference "Smart Specialisation and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-Level Conference under the auspices of Bulgarian EU Presidency on the opportunities and challenges of the innovation landscape in Europe for the promotion of smart specialisation, technology transfer and digital economy</li> <li>• The DG JRC was a co-organizer to this event which discussed the value of place-based innovation as a priority to Europe</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR will continue their fruitful cooperation with JRC to foster the development of regional innovation ecosystems</li> </ul>	Sofia (Bulgaria)
03/05/2018	<p><b>Silver Economy Awards event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event to celebrate innovative ICT related products or services, designed to improve the quality of life of senior citizens</li> </ul>	Brussels
15/05/2018	<b>CoR Bureau meeting</b>	Brussels
16-17/05/2018	<b>Plenary Session</b>	Brussels
24-25/05/2018	<p><b>The annual conference of CIRCOM (European Association of Regional Television)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual conference focused on the connection between public broadcasters and their audience</li> <li>• The Grand Prix winner is Stortvildet, NRK Nordland, Norway, winner of the Most Original and Innovative category</li> </ul>	Leeuwarden (the Netherlands)
30/05/2018	<p><b>The evaluation mission of the European Entrepreneurial Region award winner 2017 Western Greece</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evaluation mission led by the First Vice-President Markku Markkula concerned the implementation of the Action Plan on Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• The regional actions to support the SME's in the Region of Western Greece provides a positive</li> </ul>	Patras (Greece)

	<p>example for other regions to achieve sustainable growth in the Greek economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• After the successful evaluation, The Region of Western Greece will have the possibility to have access to a specific EU Programme addressing the EER regions, which could fund further actions to promote entrepreneurship</li> </ul>	
31/05/- 01/06/2018	<p><b>The International Conference "Organising Urban Resilience"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The International Conference co-organised by EFEED, EESC, CoR and JRC focused on</li> <li>• The event brought together leading companies in water supply, energy, ICT and transportation sectors, cities and regions in Europe and in Union for the Mediterranean as well as higher education institutions and research and innovation centres</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR is well equipped to support LRA's in strengthening urban resilience from the point of view of environmental, social or security aspects</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR should continue its strong involvement in the activities of the JRC such as the "Science meets Regions", which are highly relevant from the point of view of building urban resilience</li> <li>• Similar multi-stakeholders conferences could be organized in the future as a follow-up</li> </ul>	Brussels
05/06/2018	<p><b>The annual Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) Summit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual theme of the ICF Summit was on humanizing data</li> <li>• The city of Espoo in Finland was named the 2018 Intelligent Community of the Year by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF)</li> <li>• Espoo's achievements include digital applications that encourage the residents to adopt greener modes of transport and the use of Artificial Intelligence in customer service</li> </ul> <p>Next steps and a follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR is well equipped to support the development of smart cities and regions through the actions of the Covenant of Mayors</li> </ul>	London
07/06/2018	<p><b>Conference on the implications of the EU long-term budget post-2020 for local and regional authorities</b></p>	Sofia (Bulgaria)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conference provided an overview of the implications of the MFF proposal and the legislative package for cities and regions in Europe</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR has to continue being an active partner in giving feedback on the EC proposals which will define the legal framework for all the EU funding instruments for 2021-2027</li> </ul>	
13/06/2018	<p><b>EU for Talanoa Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the interinstitutional high-level event, as part of EU's contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue, was to stimulate discussions related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to the preparation of the next set of nationally determined contributions</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR is well equipped to support bottom-up initiatives such as the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate &amp; Energy to support the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy</li> </ul>	Brussels
14/06/2018	<p><b>Lithuania Innovation Camp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The innovation camp held was organized jointly by Aalto University, MITA Science Agency and Klaipeda Science And Technology Park in the framework of the Smart Up BSR project</li> <li>• The Innovation Camp focused on innovating solutions for grand societal challenges such as sustainable port development and sustainable future in Baltic Region</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• The next Innovation Camp within the framework of the project will be held in Tallinn, Estonia on 17-19 September , 2018 on the topic of improving public spaces in Post-WW2 built cities and on the development of smart cities</li> </ul>	Palanga, Klaipeda, (Lithuania)
19/06/2018	<p><b>International Conference "#5Gcitizens - Innovative citizens for social progress"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conference on the promotion of social innovation in Europe's regions and cities with a strong citizen engagement organised by Entreprs AISBL (International Board of Business Owners &amp; Entrepreneurs)</li> <li>• International Conference was focused on the following topics: Circular Economy for Global Trade, Digitisation, Collaborative Economy, Energy Poverty and UN Sustainable Development Goals: Tourism, Employment and Education</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> </ul>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for Action: "CoR has to encourage local authorities to play a leadership and a coordinating role in encouraging social innovation in terms of bringing stakeholders together, creating flexible legal frameworks and ensuring that knowledge is shared"</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "New flexible programmes and funding instruments have to be established to support small-scale social innovation projects on the ground"</li> </ul>	
21/06/2018	<b>Learning Cities Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conference on the topic of education in the digital age where experts from cities and municipalities were able to exchange experiences on innovative educational processes.</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: "Rural and sparsely populated areas have to be supported in building digital infrastructure and high-speed connectivity, since otherwise these regional inequalities will continue to impact the sphere of education as well."</li> </ul>	Hamburg (Germany)
25-26/06/2018	<b>The 19th meeting of the SEDEC commission and a SEDEC Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEDEC Conference on inclusive, sustainable and collective approaches to demographic changes in Europe at the national and regional level</li> </ul>	Logroño, La Rioja (Spain)
03/07/2018	<b>EPP meeting</b> <b>COP meeting</b> <b>CoR Bureau meeting</b>	Brussels
04-05/07/2018	<b>Plenary Session</b>	Brussels
09/07/2018	<b>SEDEC stakeholder meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder consultation with local and regional associations as well as with other stakeholders such as Eurocities for the "Opinion on Digital Europe programme 2021-2027" with Markku Markkula (FI/EPP) as the appointed rapporteur</li> </ul>	Brussels
10/07/2018	<b>CIVEX meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Draft Opinion " Reflecting on Europe: the voice of local and regional authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union"</li> </ul>	Brussels
7/09/2018	<b>Digital Europe Conference 2018</b>	Espoo (Finland)
11/09/2018	<b>The Baltic Sea States Sub regional Co-operation General Assembly meeting</b>	Gdansk (Poland)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speech and discussion on the topic of "Solidarity, participation and being smart in actions for a better future - cities and regions as enablers"</li> </ul>	
13/09/2018	<p><b>European Investment Bank - Riga Cohesion conference – 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cohesion policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speech and panel discussion on questions like "Linking national and local strategies – how can the Cohesion policy help to mitigate the negative demographic trends affecting low-income regions?"</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: collaborations and partnerships across the borders for a strong cohesion policy against territorial disparities have to remain high priorities</li> </ul>	Riga (Latvia)
14/09/2018	<p><b>185th meeting of the European Committee of the Regions Bureau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks at the High-level meeting debate over the topic of "Bridging the gaps: More connectivity and cohesion in the European Union"</li> </ul>	Innsbruck (Austria)
18/09/2018	<p><b>Smart up BSR, Tallinn Innovation Camp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening speech on "Digitalisation progress and challenges in Europe" and discussing with young innovators about for example "How can a city become smarter?" and "What makes places attractive to global talent?"</li> <li>• Discussions resulted in concrete recommendations and proposals for city of Tallinn for ways how to increase citizen participation and promote co-creation to improve the living environment and quality of life.</li> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: CoR should continue to promote the digital transformation of cities and listen and involve young people's ideas</li> </ul>	Tallinn (Estonia)
20/09/2018	<p><b>CIVEX commission meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of views over the topic of "Security challenges - Regional and local approaches" and addressing security challenges, such as terrorism and violent extremism</li> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• The next CIVEX meeting will take place on 29 November 2018</li> </ul>	Athens (Greece)
24/09/2018	<p><b>Co-chairing the 8<sup>th</sup> CORLEAP annual meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level annual conference of CORLEAP which deal with important topics like: bilateral cooperation between municipalities; local economic</li> </ul>	Kiev (Ukraine)

	<p>development; engaging the youth; dealing with disinformation, and the EU assistance to local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the meeting also an award was given for the best youth group from the six EaP, who learned and presented the best on how to how to recognize and fight disinformation.</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: Continue to engage and support youth programs to get young people more engaged on politics on local, as well as, on EU level</li> </ul>	
25/09/2018	<p><b>Co-chairing the Task Force Ukraine meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high-level meeting about the recent decentralization process in Ukraine and listening the results of peer-to-peer cooperation / interim report</li> <li>• Next Steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Continue to support peer-to-peer experience-sharing and exchange of best European practices between Ukrainian and European regional and local leaders</li> </ul>	Kiev (Ukraine)
27-28/09/2018	<p><b>High level speaker at the JRC S3 conference "2018 SMARTER Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development: Implementation Across Global Networks of Regions, Cities and Firms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech and discussion on the topic of "Smart Specialisation from Design to Implementation" where RIS3's Baltic Region Experience was being shared</li> <li>• Final closing remarks of the conference</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for action: ' Partner and collaborate' via Knowledge exchange platform activities on Smart cities</li> </ul>	Seville (Spain)
03/10/2018	<p><b>Global Social Economy Forum – Bilbao 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level speaker in the closing plenary session on the topic of "Towards sustainable and inclusive development through Social Economy"</li> </ul>	Bilbao (Spain)
04/10/2018	<p><b>INNOVEIT 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level panel speaker on 'EIT@20: Powering innovation and addressing societal challenges across Europe in the ten years ahead'</li> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> </ul>	Budapest (Hungary)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for Action: Committee of the Regions should continue to promote the digital transformation of cities and regions in the ten years ahead and beyond</li> </ul>	
05-07/10/2018	<p><b>Innovation Camp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion remarks for the camp "Thinking in follow-through"</li> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for Action: Youth voice should be more promoted and heard in the Committee of the Regions and other EU institutions, promotion of this kind of camps around the Europe could be one of the first steps</li> </ul>	Gabrovo (Bulgary)
08/10/2018	<p><b>Opening of the European Week of Regions Cities (EWRC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending high level opening of EWRC organised by CoR and European Commission</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Talk more with CoR SG about digitalization and AI in the Bavaria (Munich) area</li> </ul>	Brussels
09/10/2018	<p><b>Digital challenge workshop in the EWRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel discussion on current and future digitalisation challenges in cities and their developments</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for action: getting more digital stakeholders and networks work better together</li> <li>• <b>The annual "RegioStar"-award ceremonies at the EWRC week</b></li> <li>• Closing remarks at the annual high-level ceremony where they give awards for initiative which had bring positive impact for the region</li> <li>• Next Steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Promote the initiative mind-set in the regions and put priority on the practice</li> </ul>	Brussels
10/10/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Six City Strategy Workshop in the EWRC</b></li> <li>• Opening address</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>The International Urban Cooperation 2nd City-to-City event in the EWRC</b></li> <li>• Keynote speech in workshop focused on good practices in cities</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to share more best practices within networks and build more network</li> </ul>	Brussels

	<p><b>The Covenant of Mayors high level panel discussion on "A governance model for the future of Cohesion Policy"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome speech for high level workshop with the Covenant of Mayors</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a demand for creating new innovative and forward-looking platforms</li> <li>• There is a demand for exploring new avenues inter-European vocational traineeships</li> </ul> <p><b>Open &amp; Agile Smart Cities workshop "Investing in the economical and digital transition of cities and communities" in the EWRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel speaker</li> </ul> <p>Next Steps and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for action: CoR should encourage cities to invest more on Smart cities and digitalization</li> </ul>	
11/10/2018	<p><b>Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) workshop on "Cultural and creative cities for all" in the EWRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and opening speech in high level workshop with KEP</li> </ul> <p><b>EWCR's workshop "the future of cities: Opportunities and risks of the global urbanization"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speech and Closing remarks</li> </ul> <p><b>ARLEM Commission and Bureau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending high level meetings with Mediterranean Partners</li> </ul> <p>Next steps and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting in 26-27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in Seville, Spain</li> </ul>	Brussels
12/10/2018	<p><b>"Digital Transformation of Public Administration in Europe" event in the Emilia-Romagna Region office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level event and panel discussion on digitalization and digital transformation in public and private sectors</li> </ul> <p>Next steps and follow-up:</p>	Brussels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping up the connections with these stakeholders and read the latest report on and get it connected with CoR practice</li> </ul>	
18/10/2018	<b>20<sup>th</sup> SEDEC Commission meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presenting opinion "Digitalization Europe programme (2021-2027)"</li> <li>• Next steps and follow-up:</li> <li>• Input amendments and prepare for the plenary session in December</li> </ul>	Brussels
7-8/11/2018	<b>EPP-CoR workshop “Cities Joining Forces to Deliver Sustainable Solutions for Citizens” and EPP Party congress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator at High-level the EPP-CoR workshop “Cities Joining Forces to Deliver Sustainable Solutions for Citizens”</li> </ul>	Helsinki
13/11/2018	<b>EUA Annual Workshop on RIS3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Specialisation (RIS3): European workshop on universities as regional lead institutions</li> <li>• Next Steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for action to get young people more engaged and getting universities more involved</li> </ul>	Graz, Austria
15/11/2018	<b>CPAFFC China International Friendship Cities conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker “Cities as forerunners in implementing UN SDGs in China-EU cooperation”</li> <li>• Next Steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Continue promoting the SDGs in China-EU cooperation and bring especially young voices</li> </ul>	China
15/11/2018	<b>Central Baltic Interreg programme’s Annual Event</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video Keynote Speech</li> </ul>	Turku, Finland
20/11/2018	<b>Broadband Day B-Day: Mind the Broadband Gap!" organised by the European Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel speaker on the topic " EU Funding for the 2025 Broadband Objectives"</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Develop new ideas for funding to broadband and priority for action to implement these ideas in reality</li> </ul>	Brussels
21/11/2018	<b>Strategic Energy Technology (SET Plan) Annual international Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Speech in high level international annual conference on digitalization</li> <li>• Next steps and a follow-up:</li> <li>• Priority for action: partnerships and focus on demonstration/implementation of pilot</li> </ul>	Vienna

	activities, scaling-up and identify and combine EU funding instruments	
27/11/2018	<b>K41 High level meeting in the European Parliament</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker at the high-level meeting</li> </ul>	Brussels
29-30/11/2018	<b>BSR Baltic Sea Smart Specialization Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker in the High level Conference</li> </ul>	Brandenburg, Germany