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Citizens and stakeholders' awareness and engagement in EU Missions

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Survey: 2026 Assessment of EU Missions

This survey is part of the **2026 Assessment of EU Missions**.

EFIS Centre, in partnership with Technopolis Group, has been commissioned by the European Commission (DG RTD) to collect feedback from stakeholders.

The survey takes about **5-10 minutes** to complete. We welcome your input by **25/10/2025**.

The survey is an important element in the assessment and the findings will help the European Commission improve the future implementation of the EU Missions.

Your responses are completely confidential and no personal data is requested. Survey analysis will present aggregated results, not responses of individuals or organisations.

This survey does not constitute a formal stakeholder consultation as would be held under the Better Regulation guidelines.

Thank you in advance. If you have any questions, please contact Hywel Jones (hywel.jones@technopolis-group.com) at Technopolis.

* **In what country is your organisation based?**

- **------ EU countries:**
- Austria

- [x] Belgium
- [ ] Bulgaria
- [ ] Croatia
- [ ] Cyprus
- [ ] Czechia
- [ ] Denmark
- [ ] Estonia
- [ ] Finland
- [ ] France
- [ ] Germany
- [ ] Greece
- [ ] Hungary
- [ ] Ireland
- [ ] Italy
- [ ] Latvia
- [ ] Lithuania
- [ ] Luxembourg
- [ ] Malta
- [ ] Netherlands
- [ ] Poland
- [ ] Portugal
- [ ] Romania
- [ ] Slovakia
- [ ] Slovenia
- [ ] Spain
- [ ] Sweden
- [ ] **------ Associated countries:**
- [ ] Albania
- [ ] Armenia
- [ ] Bosnia and Herzegovina
- [ ] Canada
- [ ] Faroe Islands
- [ ] Georgia
- [ ] Iceland
- [ ] Israel

- Korea
- Kosovo
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- New Zealand
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Türkiye
- Tunisia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Other

If other, please specify:

*** In what capacity have you been involved in the EU Missions' initiatives, so far? Please select the option that best describes your position:**

- [ ] Private citizen
- [ ] EU institution or body
- [ ] Member of a Mission Board
- [ ] National government institution or public agency
- [ ] Regional (local) government institution or public agency
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Private sector association (e.g. chamber of commerce, business federation)
- [ ] Higher education institution (including academic research centres)
- [ ] Research and technology organisation (public or not for profit)
- [ ] Non-governmental organisation (e.g. environmental organisations, civil society organisations)
- [x] Not-for-profit associations and networks (e.g. European networks of regions, research organisations, patient organisations)
- [ ] International organisation (outside of the EU, e.g. OECD, United Nations, etc.)
- [ ] Other

If other, please specify:

What field do you currently work in?

- [x] **Technology & applied research**
  (Scientists, engineers, innovation specialists, tech transfer, research communication, etc.)
- [x] **Social sciences and humanities (SSH)**
  (SSH researchers, policy experts, educational staff, creative industries, media/journalists, NGO or citizen group staff — e.g. cancer patient support groups, river/ocean clean-up organisations, etc.)
- [x] **Life sciences, medicine & health**
  (Including biomedical research, healthcare, oncology, public health, prevention, and treatment solutions.)
- [x] **Agriculture, soil & natural resources**
  (Agronomy, soil science, forestry, land management, sustainable agriculture.)
- [x] **Climate and environment**
  (Environmental science, climate adaptation, marine science, water management, ecosystem protection.)
- [x] **Cities, urban planning & local government**
  (Urban planning, municipal administration, smart city initiatives, local/regional policy.)
- [x] **Investment, finance & policy**
  (Funding, grants, EU institutions/agencies, national or regional administrations, private investment, venture/risk capital.)
- [ ] **Other**

If other, please specify:

* **Which Mission is your knowledge mostly related to? If you would like to answer for more than one specific Mission, please select multiple options and you will be able to provide input for each of them:**

- [x] Adaptation to Climate Change: support at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030
- [x] Cancer: Improving the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better

- [x] Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030
- [x] 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030
- [x] A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

When did you first learn about the EU Missions, or just one of them, and their goals?

- (•) Before 2021
- ( ) 2021
- ( ) 2022
- ( ) 2023
- ( ) 2024
- ( ) 2025

How did you first find out about the EU Missions?

- [x] European Commission or Mission website
- [ ] European Commission or Mission newsletter
- [ ] National or regional authority's website or newsletter
- [ ] Civil society or community organisation's website or newsletter
- [ ] European Commission social media accounts (e.g. X, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.)
- [ ] Other social media user accounts (e.g. X, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.)
- [ ] News media (newspaper, online, TV, radio, etc.)
- [ ] Academic network, conference or other event
- [ ] Other event (e.g. conference, workshop, etc.)
- [ ] Professional/work colleagues
- [ ] Other

If other, please specify:

Since when have you been actively involved in the EU Missions and / or followed initiatives of the EU Missions?

- (•) Before 2021
- ( ) 2021
- ( ) 2022
- ( ) 2023

- ○ 2024
- ○ 2025
- ○ Never

Please explain how you have been involved in the EU Mission(s). Select one or more of the following options:

- ☑ I or someone from my organisation has been involved in activities undertaken to define the Mission area, objectives, or implementation plan
- ☑ My organisation is involved in the implementation of the Mission
- ☑ My organisation is a beneficiary of project funding from the Horizon Europe's Mission Work Programme
- ☑ My organisation is a beneficiary of project funding from other parts of Horizon Europe supporting or addressing the Mission objectives
- ☑ My organisation is part of a European-level initiative relevant for the Mission
- ☐ My organisation is a national or regional ministry, agency or funding body (including EU Cohesion Policy managing authorities) that is supporting initiatives relevant for the Mission
- ☐ My organisation has participated or received funding from a national- or regional-level initiative relevant for the EU Mission
- ☑ My organisation took part in one or more events organised by the Mission
- ☑ My organisation is exploring future participation in the Mission activities
- ☐ Do not know/cannot answer
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

How many initiatives linked to the EU Missions have you participated in?

Initiatives can include conferences or events, campaigns, EU Mission-funded projects, local activities carried out under a Mission, workshops, and similar engagements.

- ○ 0
- ○ 1
- ○ 2
- ○ Between 3 and 5
- ◉ More than 5

Can you list them?

- Since 2021, the five EU Missions have been a strategic network priority for ERRIN, supported by the Management Board and integrated into the annual work plans of ERRIN's thematic clusters (Low Carbon, Natural Resources and Adaptation, and Health). ERRIN supports its members in developing projects related to the EU Missions and facilitates regular dialogues between its members (regional and local authorities and their R&I ecosystems) and the European Commission (Mission Secretariats). This ensures that local and regional needs are reflected in the design and implementation of the Missions. ERRIN also continuously promotes Mission-related engagement opportunities for local and regional stakeholders through its communication channels. - ERRIN is a partner in several Horizon Europe projects under the EU Mission work programmes, including NetZeroCities (H2020, SGA1, SGA2, SGA3), CapaCITIES 2.0, SOILL FPA, CO-WATERS, BlueActionBanos, RESIST, Pathways2Resilience, AdaptationHubs. ERRIN is also involved in tenders linked to the EU Missions (e.g. the Mission Implementation Platform for the Mission Ocean and Waters) and other initiatives supporting Mission objectives, such as the EU Preparatory Action on Innovation for Place-based Transformation and the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). - ERRIN organised the event "Multi-stakeholder engagement in driving progress towards climate neutrality in European cities" during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2023, within the framework of the MOSAIC project. The event gathered experts and stakeholders from across Europe to explore how multi-stakeholder engagement accelerates progress towards climate-neutral cities. ERRIN also co-organised the MOSAIC final event on "Co-creation in EU Missions" in 2023. From 2023 to 2026, ERRIN is leading the CCRI Multi-stakeholder Dialogues, engaging over 300 local and regional stakeholders. - ERRIN has been an active contributor to the EU Missions Annual Forums and Conferences. Since 2023, ERRIN has participated in and co-organised sessions at the Cities Mission Annual Conference, contributing to policy and governance discussions, particularly on multi-level governance and synergies across Missions. ERRIN participated in the panel "Innovation is Key" at the 4th Mission Adaptation Forum, highlighting the crucial role of regional innovation ecosystems in advancing Europe's climate resilience. ERRIN's Director also joined a panel at the Mission Ocean and Waters Forum 2025, emphasising the importance of regional and local authorities and innovation ecosystems in implementing the Mission. In addition, ERRIN actively contributed to Mission Soil Week (2023 and 2024) and, together with the European Commission, launched the Mission Soil Manifesto in March 2023. ERRIN co-organised the EU Soil Day at the Committee of the Regions, in collaboration with the Murcia Region and the HuMUS Project, supported by the Spanish Presidency (2023). - ERRIN contributed to a two-day workshop in Vienna, organised by AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and Joanneum Research, bringing together members of the International Support Group to the Austrian Mission Facility (2025). - A joint call for stronger political leadership of the EU Missions (2025): ERRIN, alongside Eurocities, ICLEI Europe, Energy Cities and Resilient Cities Network, has sent a joint letter to Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera Rodríguez (and other EVPs/Commissioners) urging her to take political ownership of the EU Missions as part of her leadership on Europe's Clean, Just and Competitive Transition. - ERRIN contributed to the session on national, regional and European Mission governance at the 2nd European Mission Forum (organised by TRAMI project) highlighting the importance of multi-level governance, regional engagement and collaborative governance models in driving the successful implementation of the EU Missions. ERRIN also co-organised with TRAMI project a series of Mutual-Learning Exercises (eg. Exploring synergies between European Partnerships and EU Missions; EU Missions creating new markets: the crucial role of the triple helix collaboration; Translating EU Missions into regional policy) - ERRIN engages its members in the Cancer Mission through its Health Working Group, maintaining dialogue with the Cancer Mission Secretariat, EUREGHA and through collaboration with the ECHOS project (National Cancer Mission Hubs).

How did you hear about the initiatives you participated in?

- [ ] Social media
- [x] Personal invitation
- [x] Newsletter

- [x] Commission website and/or webpage connected to the Mission
- [x] Webinars, local or regional events (e.g. Mission Days, roadshows), hackathons, thematic groups or task forces
- [ ] Media coverage (e.g. newspaper articles)
- [x] Pilot or demonstration projects (e.g. lighthouse projects)
- [ ] Other

If other, please specify:

How would you rate your knowledge of the EU Missions' activities, functioning or objectives?

- (•) Very good
- ( ) Good
- ( ) Average
- ( ) Poor
- ( ) Very poor
- ( ) I am not familiar with them

To what extent do you think the EU Missions and their objectives are inspirational?

- (•) To a very great extent
- ( ) To a great extent
- ( ) Somewhat
- ( ) Very little
- ( ) Not at all

To what extent are you aware of one or more of the following Mission governance structures?

	Fully aware	Very aware	Somewhat aware	Very little awareness	Not aware at all
EU-level Mission Board	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
EU-level Mission implementation platform	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
EU-wide forum / charter	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐

Networks and interregional partnerships (lighthouses, cancer Mission hubs, etc.)	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
National-level Mission or mirror structures	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regional Mission structures	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Monitoring and evaluation	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐

If other, please specify:

ERRIN is aware of projects aimed at establishing and strengthening regional-level structures (e.g. AdaptationHubs, CO-WATERS, CapaCITIES 2.0 and the ECHOS). However, to ERRIN's knowledge, dedicated regional Mission structures have not yet been fully established or become fully operational.

Are you actively involved in any of these Mission governance structures?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Do not know

If so, which one(s)?

- ERRIN is a partner of two EU-level Mission implementation platforms - MIP Ocean & Waters and NetZeroCities – and collaborates closely with the MIP4Adapt and Soil Mission Platform. - ERRIN is a partner in the BlueActionBanos project, a Lighthouse Project under the Mission Ocean and Waters, and works in close collaboration with the Cancer Mission Hubs (ECHOS project). - ERRIN is a partner in the SOILL-Startup project – support structure for 100 Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses under the Mission A Soil Deal for Europe. ERRIN acts as a WP leader responsible for mapping stakeholders, networking and knowledge sharing. - ERRIN supports the establishment and implementation of national-level Mission or mirror structures related to the Cities Mission, Adaptation Mission and Cancer Mission through its involvement in projects such as CapaCITIES 2.0, NetZeroCities and ECHOS. - In 2023, ERRIN signed the Mission Adaptation Charter and became a "Friend of the Mission" along with other +20 entities, including private companies, research networks, and local action groups, committed to advancing climate resilience. In 2023, ERRIN also endorsed the Mission Ocean and Waters Charter and the Mission Soil Manifesto, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the implementation of the EU Missions. - Since 2022, Françoise Guaspare (Île-de-France region), one of the leaders of ERRIN's Transport Working Group, has served as a member of the Mission Board for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

To what extent are you satisfied with the opportunities you have had to engage in the EU Missions' initiatives and activities?

- ( ) To a very great extent
- (●) To a great extent
- ( ) Somewhat
- ( ) Very little

- ○ Not at all

As a result of your or your organisation's involvement in the EU Missions, what types of groups or organisations did you have the opportunity to collaborate with that you had not worked with before?

- ☐ Private citizen(s)
- ☑ EU institution or body
- ☐ Member of a Mission board
- ☑ National government institution or public agency
- ☐ Regional (local) government institution or public agency
- ☑ Business
- ☐ Private sector association (e.g. chamber of commerce, business federation)
- ☐ Higher education institution (including academic research centres)
- ☐ Research and technology organisation (public or not for profit)
- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (e.g. environmental organisations, civil society organisations)
- ☐ Not-for-profit associations and networks (e.g. European networks of regions, research organisations, patient organisations)
- ☑ International organisation (outside of the EU, e.g. OECD, United Nations, etc.)
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

In what ways did your involvement in the EU Missions contribute to an enriching or inspiring experience for you or your organisation?

- ☑ Working with new types of organisations
- ☑ Engaging with stakeholders
- ☑ Engaging with citizens
- ☑ Securing political support
- ☑ Securing funding
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

Our involvement in the EU Missions has been an enriching experience both for ERRIN as a network and for our members. As a membership-based organisation, the greatest value has come from the opportunities it created for our regional and local members. By taking part in EU-level discussions, projects and Mission-related initiatives, ERRIN and its members have been able to broaden collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, both directly and indirectly involved in the implementation of the Missions. This engagement has enabled us to strengthen connections across governance levels and thematic areas, and to offer our members added value by facilitating new partnerships, learning opportunities and joint initiatives. Through the Missions, ERRIN has also deepened its role as a bridge between regional innovation ecosystems and EU policy frameworks, helping ensure that local and regional perspectives are represented in the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient Europe.

Please explain further why your involvement in the EU Missions was an enriching or inspiring experience – or was not?

ERRIN's involvement in the EU Missions has been a highly enriching and inspiring experience, both for our network and for our members across European regions. The mission-oriented approach has proven to be an effective and innovative framework to tackle complex and interlinked societal challenges, from climate adaptation to soil health, ocean and water restoration, climate-neutral cities and cancer. What makes the Missions particularly inspiring is their ability to translate EU-level ambitions into tangible local action, empowering regions, cities and citizens to co-create and implement solutions that drive systemic change. Through the Missions, we have seen a real opportunity for regions to connect research and innovation with societal needs, fostering new partnerships, governance models and approaches to citizen & stakeholder engagement. This place-based and cross-sectoral dimension has been key to their success and aligns closely with ERRIN's long-standing advocacy for stronger regional involvement in EU R&I policy. The Missions have also encouraged collaboration across traditional silos, linking R&I with policy, governance and societal innovation. This integrative approach has inspired ERRIN members to develop new forms of cooperation and experiment with solutions that have lasting impact beyond the life of individual projects. Many regions have also reported that participation in Mission projects/initiatives helped them to build and structure their quintuple helix approach, while providing the necessary staff capacity to work strategically on adaptation-related topics. At the same time, our engagement in the Missions has highlighted the importance of long-term continuity. The 2030 funding horizon risks cutting short the progress that many initiatives are only now beginning to deliver. Tackling societal challenges does not end in 2030: sustained support is essential to maintain momentum, scale up successful approaches and embed systemic change. Looking forward, the mission-oriented approach remains central to a future-oriented, impactful EU research and innovation policy: one that connects scientific excellence with the societal transformations Europe urgently needs.

What do you think the EU Missions should start doing to improve citizens and stakeholders' awareness of, and engagement in, their activities?

- [x] More stakeholder events
- [x] More citizen events
- [ ] More use of social media
- [x] More media relations/coverage
- [ ] More use of audio-visual material
- [x] More use of Mission ambassadors for outreach

- [x] Major integrated communication campaigns
- [ ] More promotion of Mission charters
- [x] Incentives to sign up to Mission charter
- [x] Incentives to sign up as Mission ambassador
- [ ] Other

If other, please specify:

As the final question of the survey. Please share any additional comments or insights relevant to the EU Mission(s):

ERRIN welcomes the EU Missions as one transformative instrument of Horizon Europe, providing a clear direction for research and innovation while connecting EU ambitions to concrete regional and local action. However, to ensure that the Missions achieve lasting impact, several structural gaps and governance challenges must be addressed. 1. Strengthening multi-level governance and ownership: the success of the Missions depends on effective collaboration across governance levels. Currently, engagement from national governments remains uneven and mechanisms for structured dialogue between the EU, national, regional and local levels are insufficient. ERRIN calls for the establishment of a robust multi-level governance framework supported by clear coordination mechanisms and dedicated national support structures that empower regions and cities to co-lead Mission implementation. Regions and cities are at the forefront of implementing the Missions' goals in practice: they are where climate transition, adaptation and social innovation take place. Therefore, regions should not only be implementers but co-leaders and strategic partners in the design, deployment and monitoring of Mission activities. This means formally recognising regional and local authorities as key actors within Mission governance boards, advisory structures and strategic fora, ensuring their perspectives shape policy direction and funding priorities. A European-level political lead, for example a dedicated Commission Vice-President, should ensure strategic coherence, visibility and resource alignment for the Missions. In parallel, the Commission should support Member States in setting up cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial governance structures that align national funding and regulatory frameworks with Mission goals while guaranteeing involvement of regional and local stakeholders in decision-making and delivery. 2. Enhancing citizen engagement: citizen involvement remains one of the Missions' most innovative yet underdeveloped dimensions. Many local authorities lack the capacity, resources or tools to engage citizens effectively beyond consultation. Future actions should promote co-creation and participatory approaches, enabling citizens to become active contributors to resilience and sustainability goals. These actions should strengthen citizen engagement as a systemic and long-term capacity embedded in local governance. This requires political leadership, cross-departmental alignment and dedicated budgets to make engagement an integral part of cities' transition strategies. Building on successful initiatives like MOSAIC, practical handbooks and peer learning platforms could further strengthen citizen-driven innovation across Europe. Drawing on our experience in the Cities Mission (through NetZeroCities), key actions include: institutionalise engagement through permanent structures (e.g. citizen panels or councils) linked to policy processes such as Climate City Contracts; invest in facilitation and inclusion, ensuring staff are trained to design and manage participatory processes that reach diverse and underrepresented groups; activate local anchors (eg. schools, libraries, sports clubs and community organisations) as trusted intermediaries connecting climate action to everyday life; support co-creation and community-led innovation, expanding citizens' assemblies, participatory budgeting and living labs that enable citizens to act, not just advise; combine digital tools with human support, offering guidance, peer learning to help cities tailor engagement to their context and maturity level; embed behavioural and systemic approaches to connect participation with tangible change in mobility, housing, energy, and daily life. 3. Increasing private sector engagement: private sector participation and investment remain limited. Missions must unlock private and blended financing through stronger cooperation with, for example, the European Investment Bank and by creating favourable enabling conditions for businesses and investors. Future Mission frameworks should provide clear incentives and visibility for private actors, facilitate access to investment and promote partnerships with SMEs, start-ups and industry clusters. Local and regional innovation ecosystems should be supported to act as connectors/enablers between research, business and public authorities. 4. Aligning funding and policy instruments: mission-oriented approach should be integrated across EU funding streams to ensure continuity and scale. ERRIN calls for a comprehensive alignment strategy linking FP10 with regional and national instruments, and for the development of a permanent EU Mission Community of Practice to foster knowledge exchange and policy learning across all governance levels. Greater synergy with initiatives like the NEB and CCRI would also enhance systemic impact.

Thank you for your contribution!

Your views will greatly help the study and the assessment of the EU Missions.

Contact

Contact Form