

# 2030CATALYSTS

Implementation of the SDGs in  
regions – from monitoring to action



## Call for expression of interest to participate in the European Commission's Joint Research Centre preparatory action

**“2030CATALYSTS: Implementation of the SDGs in the regions – from  
monitoring to action”**

*09 October 2024*

## **Subject of the call for expression of interest**

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission is inviting regions to express their interest to participate in the preparatory action “2030CATALYSTS: Implementation of the SDGs in the regions – from monitoring to action”, supported by the European Parliament.

## **The 2030CATALYSTS preparatory action**

The European Parliament wants to support better SDG monitoring and implementation at a regional level in Europe. Therefore, it has dedicated funding to the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) to improve monitoring of SDG at the regional level and study implementation.

This action, called 2030CATALYSTS, aims to support progress towards the SDGs and to bridge the gap between different European territories. It will track progress and identify areas where more progress is needed. It will encourage an integrated approach that considers links between the various SDGs. 2030CATALYSTS will assess progress across the different sectors and promote collaboration across those sectors. It will facilitate cross-border learning and cooperation through the provision of harmonised data and supported by the collective wisdom of the regions.

## **Participation of regions in 2030CATALYSTS**

This action will invite 20 regions to join this work. The call is open to regions in the EU, in countries associated to Horizon Europe and in candidate countries for EU membership<sup>1</sup>. We are looking for regions that monitor their progress towards SDGs and adjust their policies promote progress. With these regions, we will explore synergies of SDG monitoring, policy-making and sustainable regional development. The participating regions will collaborate with JRC staff and technical experts to provide input for the development of policy recommendations for the European Commission (EC) and the European Parliament (EP) on European regional monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. By participating in the preparatory action, regions will have the opportunity to:

- Enhance their capacity to design and implement effective SDG policies and strategies ;
- Benefit from peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices with other regions;
- Gain access to scientific expertise and analyses on SDG implementation and monitoring;
- Liaise with other regional authorities, the EP and the EC on issues related to SDG monitoring and implementation;
- Contribute to the development of a European body of knowledge on SDG monitoring and implementation at the regional level.

### Participating regions will be invited to:

- Provide regional insights: Share progress and insights on the SDGs, contributing to region-specific research and analysis that can support policy solutions and improve regional strategies for sustainable development;
- Share data, analysis and reports on SDG governance, monitoring and implementation produced by the region, if any;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement_en)  
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en)

- Support indicator validation for SDG monitoring by identifying data gaps and prioritizing data collection and harmonization across regions. Additionally, regions can work closely with the JRC and technical experts to define additional indicators;
- Facilitate partnerships with regional institutions;
- Provide insights and feedback that will inform the development of policy briefs and reports ensuring that regional perspectives are incorporated into broader policy discussions;
- Engage in collaborative workshops and events: Join 2030CATALYSTS workshops, meetings, and events (both online and in-person) to exchange best practices, learn from expert insights, and co-create innovative approaches for SDG localisation.

To this end, the JRC will:

- Analyse how regions perform across the different SDGs based on harmonised data from official and other sources.
- Organise events to disseminate the key messages, findings, and outputs of 2030CATALYSTS, and cover the costs of travel and accommodation of selected people from each participating region.
- Cover the cost of technical experts to support the regions with better data, information, and knowledge;
- Publish the findings in policy briefs, reports and academic articles.

The official working language of the project and partner communication will be English.

Pilot regions will be identified based on this call for expression of interest. The intention is to have a maximum of twenty (20) regions participating in 2030CATALYSTS, representing diverse types in terms of prior work on the SDG monitoring, geographic location, size, socio-economic conditions and SDG monitoring and implementation capacity.

## **How to apply**

Regions are invited to express their interest in participating in the 2030CATALYSTS preparatory action. Applicants replying to this call should describe their interest in this project. Interested regions are invited to complete the application form provided in Annex 1 of this Call, with maximum 20 pages, describing and including:

- 1.** The reasons why the region wishes to participate in 2030CATALYSTS and what it aims to achieve through its participation;
- 2.** A description of the region, its strategy and governance structure(s) related to Agenda2030 and the SDGs, if any;
- 3.** A description of SDG monitoring and implementation related activities already carried out in and by the region, if any;
- 4.** A statement of support from a high-ranking elected official (e.g. the governor, president of a region or a relevant minister, commissioner) assuring that the participating region is committed to participating in the activities;
- 5.** Other relevant documentation, also in form of hyperlinks to official documents, webpages, etc.

The application shall be signed by an official of the applicant region having the power of legal representation of the territorial entity.

The application form shall be completed in English. The expression of interest shall be only submitted electronically to the following email addresses:

- [JRC-URBAN2030@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-URBAN2030@ec.europa.eu)

**The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is 31 October 2024** (midnight CEST, Brussels time). Expressions of interest submitted after the date indicated will not be considered.

## Eligibility criteria

All regional entities established under the constitutional order of EU Member States, EU candidate countries for membership or Associated countries to Horizon Europe<sup>2</sup> are eligible. Joint applications from groups of regions will not be considered. The selected regions will be announced in December 2024.

## Selection of regions

The JRC will consider applications from regions regardless of the maturity of monitoring and implementation of the SDGs at regional level. This is to ensure that regions with a different level of familiarity with the SDGs can participate. The lack of previous activities, experience and expertise on regional monitoring and implementation of the SDGs, however, shall not be a reason for exclusion. Each applicant region will be informed about the decision taken.

The JRC will take into consideration the following points for the selection process:

- Willingness to participate in the preparatory action and ambition to monitor the SDGs and implement actions to support them
- Willingness to explore the synergies of SDGs monitoring, policy-making and sustainable regional development.
- Balanced representation of geographic location, size, socio-economic conditions and SDG monitoring and implementation capacity.

## Indicative timeline of the project

- 31 October 2024: Call for expression of interest closed
- Early December 2024: Announcement of selection of regions participating 2030 CATALYSTS
- March 2025: Kick-off event (in physical presence, Brussels)
- Autumn 2026: Final event

In case of any questions, please contact [JRC-URBAN2030@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-URBAN2030@ec.europa.eu).

All information related to this call will be published online at: <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sdgs>

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<sup>2</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement_en)  
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en)