



purple

peri-urban regions platform Europe

A landscape photograph showing a green field in the foreground, a cluster of modern buildings in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a blue sky with light clouds.

Realising
the potential
of Europe's
peri-urban regions

The Peri-Urban Dimension

Peri-urban areas constitute an interface between the 75% of EU citizens living in Europe's towns and cities, and the adjacent countryside, which is increasingly valued for its local produce, resources, diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage and quality of life.

This is where urban and rural features co-exist.

Peri-urban areas are well-resourced, multi-functional and dynamic, and are actual or potential growth areas for EU prosperity.

Peri-urban areas are a laboratory for multi-functional land use and smarter policies for urban/rural co-existence. These are popular areas to live and to locate businesses and offer a perceived high quality of life. However they are also crowded and under pressure from urban expansion and development sprawl as well as competition for space and resources.

Peri-urban areas need balanced development to ensure long term sustainability.

What is PURPLE doing?

Raising awareness and understanding of Europe's complex and crowded peri-urban areas – their features and assets as well as their potential.

- Advocating recognition for peri-urban areas across Europe and in EU policy making.

- Acting as a platform for peri-urban regions to share knowledge and good practice.
- Promoting connections between regions, networks, projects and other trans-European initiatives on peri-urban issues.

Our areas of interest include:

- Developing the economic potential of peri-urban areas.
- Ensuring long term viability for peri-urban agricultural and horticultural production – promoting short food chains and production which enhances regional identity.
- Achieving sustainably managed open space, which conserves local landscapes (including peri-urban forests and woodlands), takes account of local biodiversity and provides access and recreation.
- Improving multi-functional land use with strengthening of green infrastructure.
- Improving resilience to climate change in peri-urban areas.
- Building partnerships with peri-urban neighbours – notably cities – for mutual benefits.

How is PURPLE organised?

An Executive Board, of political representatives chosen from the member regions and a General Assembly, consisting of political representatives from all member regions manage the network.



PURPLE was set up in 2004 and brings together regions from across the EU.

PURPLE is interested in all aspects of sustainable peri-urban development and success - economic, environmental, spatial and agricultural.

The General Assembly meets twice yearly during a large scale PURPLE conference held in one of the member regions or in Brussels. Details of these PURPLE events can be found on the website.

All PURPLE regions take an active part in the network. A Working Group of officers and experts meets

regularly in Brussels for information and knowledge exchange. There is also a specialised Lobby Group of Brussels-based officers which focuses on the EU policy agenda relevant to PURPLE.

A Secretary General is responsible for administrative coordination.

Fit peri-urban into your thinking.



The PURPLE network wants to engage broadly in order to improve its knowledge base and enhance its capacity to influence. It is open to new members.

More information about our current activities and membership can be found on our website.

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