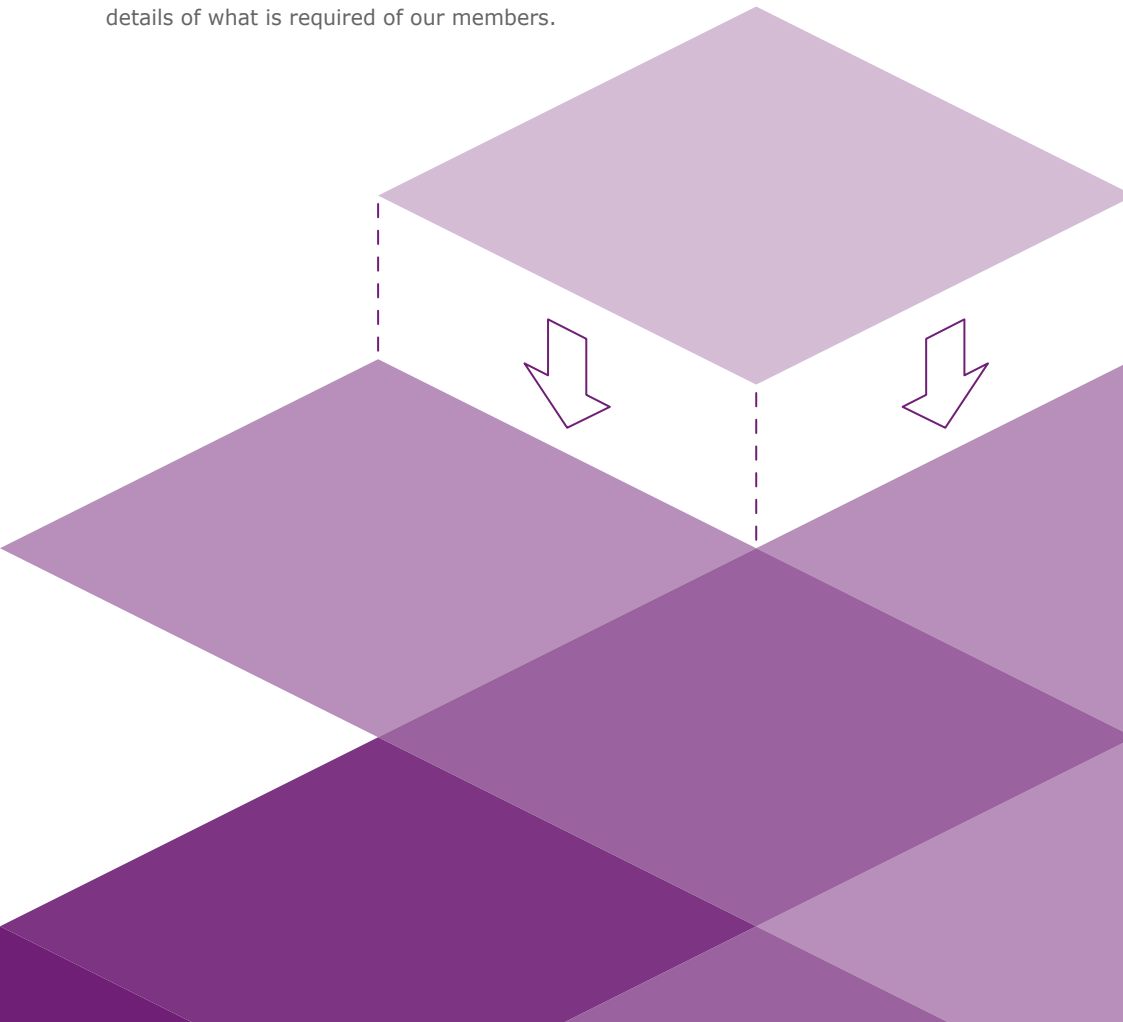# Joining PURPLE

membership application information

Thank you for expressing interest in PURPLE. Inside will find some information about our network, how it is organised and operates and how to request membership as well as some details of what is required of our members.

purple
peri-urban regions platform Europe

What PURPLE stands for

Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe – or PURPLE in short - is a network of regions and local authorities that represent peri-urban areas. Our territories are where urban and rural features co-exist. They constitute the interface between the 75% of EU citizens living in Europe's urban areas and the adjacent countryside, which is invariably valued for its local produce and resources, its diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage and quality of life.

PURPLE is working to:

- maximise the advantages resulting from peri-urban territories' location in proximity to large cities while minimising adverse impacts on the character, landscape and environment that make them distinct and special
- raise awareness of peri-urban strengths, opportunities and issues at European, national and regional levels
- share experience and best practice among its members, with other regions, and with other relevant organisations, designing and developing partnerships for EU projects and for other purposes

The peri-urban agenda we are pursuing is relevant to many regions and authorities across the whole European Union. Our lobbying successes tell us that there is a growing recognition of the potential of Europe's peri-urban territories - as well as the complex challenges they face.

If your peri-urban region is interested in EU policy work, information and best practice exchanges, and participation in transnational projects, the PURPLE network can bring support and contacts as well as provide a political platform and a forum for discussion and awareness raising.

Our organisation - how we operate

PURPLE is a participative network and is a legal entity - an international not-for-profit association under Belgian law (an AISBL). An **Executive Board** currently consisting of four political representatives chosen from member regions plus an ex officio Treasurer, and a **General Assembly** consisting of political representatives from each member region manage the network. The General Assembly meets twice a year, once in Brussels and once in one of the member regions. These meetings usually coincide with a PURPLE conference or event on peri-urban issues.

In addition, officers and experts from member regions meet regularly in Brussels as a **Working Group** to plan joint actions and events and to share experience. A **Lobby Group** consisting of Brussels-based officers in the representation offices of member regions coordinate PURPLE's contacts and actions with the European nstitutions and monitors EU policy development and its peri-urban relevance.

A part-time **secretary general** provides coordination, organises meetings and chairs the Working Group.

What you commit to on becoming a member

As stated above, PURPLE is a participative network. This means that member regions are expected to contribute to its work. The greater the input of members, the higher the quality of our work and the more our members benefit from PURPLE. In a nutshell our member regions are the PURPLE network!

We are a friendly and in many ways informal group and the commitment is straightforward.

What our members say

Here's what our members think of PURPLE's work and what PURPLE has done for the peri-urban cause:

"PURPLE is the voice of those towns and cities that are essential for jobs and growth in Europe but tend to be overlooked because they are neither rural nor completely urban. Take my region FrankfurtRheinMain as an example, where about half of the jobs are located in the city of Frankfurt but the other half within that polycentric mosaic of smaller and medium-sized towns. PURPLE helps us join forces with like-minded regions."
Ludger Stüve - Elected Director of the Regional Authority Frankfurt RheinMain and PURPLE Vice President

"The impact of European policy does not stop at the border of a city or a region. The Randstad is an excellent example of a polycentric network with strong urban-rural linkages. PURPLE acknowledges the importance of peri-urban territories like the Randstad and helps to bridge the gap between traditionally separate urban and rural policies. PURPLE has been a helpful platform to ensure the EU Urban Agenda would not only cover cities but also polycentric and peri-urban regions."
Michiel Rijsberman - Provincial Executive of Flevoland and Regio Randstad, Member of the PURPLE General Assembly and Alternate Member of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Territorial Cohesion

We require:

- Direct political engagement in our General Assembly (two meetings per year)
- Officer/expert involvement in Working Group meetings (4 to 6 times a year), mainly in Brussels, and in between meetings
- Contribution from your Brussels representation office (if any) to our Lobby Group which pools the expertise of our members to ensure we can follow a number of relevant policy areas, attending and speaking at conferences, preparing statements and consultation responses, organising events, etc.
- An annual membership fee of €4,000 which helps cover the organisation of our meetings, the salary of our secretary general and cash flow for funded projects

How to apply for membership

All we ask in the first instance is that you send an official letter to our President with a request that your region would like to become member of the PURPLE network. The President will be delighted to meet with you and discuss any questions or matters of concern. This membership request will then be considered for official approval by the PURPLE General Assembly at its next meeting following receipt of your membership request.

Before applying formally you are very welcome to attend one or two of our meetings as observers to get a feel for how we work. Just let our secretary general know if this is something you would like to do.

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