

Introduction to the Peri-Urban Charter

What is PURPLE and what does it stand for?

Peri-Urban Platform Europe – or PURPLE in short - is a network of regions and local authorities that represent peri-urban territories. These 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 increasingly 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 the specific peri-urban agenda 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.

What is the Peri-Urban Charter for?

We are eager to extend and strengthen PURPLE's links with a wider range of bodies and organisations interested in peri-urban issues.

PURPLE itself is a network of regions and local authorities, but we know that there are many other kinds of organisations - public as well as private - involved in peri-urban policy issues, research and practical initiatives. These include non-governmental organisations, universities and research centres, local partnerships and initiatives, funded projects and even individuals.

The aim of the Peri-Urban Charter is to widen recognition of peri-urban issues and challenges in Europe. Signatories, whether individuals or representatives of organisations, are not committing themselves to take part in any actions of the PURPLE network, but are simply endorsing the wording of the Charter.

Why sign up to the Peri-urban Charter?

By signing up to the Peri-Urban Charter you give our voice more power. By having a number of organisations endorsing what we stand for it will enable us to demonstrate to others, national and European institutions in particular, that the peri-urban matters.

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