

# Survey on the Role of Local and Regional Actors in European Politics

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## About the questionnaire

This questionnaire is intended to be used for the doctoral research project conducted by Rusen Yasar (Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Cambridge, Department of Politics and International Studies and King's College, contact: [ry237@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ry237@cam.ac.uk)). The project explores the place of local and regional authorities in European politics and the functioning of international organizations in which they participate.

Your participation will be very much appreciated and will contribute to the better understanding of local and regional dimensions of European and domestic politics which are usually overlooked.

Completing the questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes. There will be four types of questions: on your local or regional unit, on your views on several political issues, on your international experience, and on some personal information. The answers are completely anonymous, the only information which will be associated with the questionnaire is the date and time of submission.

You can answer by putting an "X" or any mark into the relevant boxes and by typing where required. In case you do not want to respond to any of the questions, you can choose the "refuse to reply" option, or simply leave the question blank.

You can start with the section 1 on page 2, after the confidentiality notice. Thank you for your time!

## Confidentiality Notice

The research and the researcher are bound by the ethical rules of the University of Cambridge and the academic discipline of Political Science. The research is also subject to ethical review by the University Ethics Committee. Via the following links you can access some guideline documents for research ethics that will apply:

- University of Cambridge ethical rules:

<http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-ethics>

- Economic and Social Research Council (UK) framework of research ethics:

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/esrc-framework-for-research-ethics-2015/>

- American Political Science Association ethics guidelines:

<http://www.apsanet.org/portals/54/Files/Publications/APSAEthicsGuide2012.pdf>

Accordingly, the information you provide will be stored in a password-protected hard drive and secure cloud storage, and it will be processed anonymously and with utmost confidentiality. The data will be analysed with a view to contributing to a doctoral thesis and other academic publications that may ensue. If any participant believes that the dataset includes information that could reveal his/her identity, necessary corrections will be made to his/her satisfaction. The participants' right to opt out is inalienable at any time.

## **Section 1: Some basic information about your local or regional unit**

**Question 1.** In which country is your local or regional unit located?

**Question 2.** Which one of the following best describes the type of your local or regional unit?

- Local government: city, town, commune, municipality, county, etc.
- Region with administrative powers: province, region, etc.
- Region with legislative powers: land, canton, autonomous region/community, etc.
- Other: *(please indicate)*

**Question 3.** What is the approximate population of your local or regional unit?

**Question 4.** What is your position in this local or regional unit?

- Head of government, mayor, or equivalent
- Vice-president, deputy mayor, ministerial position, or equivalent
- Councillor or member of assembly/parliament
- Consultant, member of staff, secretary, personal assistant, or similar
- Other: *(please indicate)*
- Refuse to reply

**Question 5.** Which political party are you a member of?

**Question 6.** Has your local or regional unit received financial support from European organizations?

- No, it has never received financial support.
- Not now, but it received financial support in the past.
- Not now, but it will receive financial support in the near future.
- Yes, it is currently receiving financial support.
- I don't know.

-----Please continue to the next section-----

## **Section 2: Your opinions about some aspects of European politics**

**Question 7.** For some observers, national governments are no longer the only dominant actors in international relations. Could you please state to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Completel y disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat agree	Completel y agree	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Local and regional authorities should be among the main actors of European politics.						
For local and regional authorities it is important to have direct relations with similar authorities from other countries.						
For local and regional authorities it is important to be represented in international organizations.						
Local and regional authorities should be recognized as actors in international law						
External relations of local and regional authorities should not be obstructed by national constraints.						

**Question 8.** The sharing of powers between European institutions and member states has led to many discussions. In your opinion, how powerful should European institutions be in different policy areas and overall?

	Very weak	Somewhat weak	Neither weak nor powerful	Somewhat powerful	Very powerful	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Social policy: education, health, pensions, etc.						
Economic policy: trade, development, market regulation, etc.						
Internal affairs: immigration, security, etc.						
Foreign affairs: international cooperation, agreements, diplomacy etc.						
Overall						

**Question 9.** In recent years, the concepts of 'multi-level governance' and 'subsidiarity' have been put forward to support the place of local and regional authorities in European politics. What is your opinion about these concepts?

	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neither negative nor positive	Somewhat positive	Very positive	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Multilevel governance						
Subsidiarity						

**Question 10.** The sharing of competences between national governments and local and regional authorities varies to a great extent across countries. In your opinion, domestically how powerful should local and regional authorities be in different policy areas and overall?

	Very weak	Somewhat weak	Neither weak nor powerful	Somewhat powerful	Very powerful	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Social policy: education, health, pensions, etc.						
Economic policy: trade, development, market regulation, etc.						
Internal affairs: immigration, security, etc.						
Foreign affairs: international cooperation, agreements, diplomacy etc.						
Overall						

**Question 11.** Federal and decentralized-unitary structures are two alternatives to centralized decision-making. What is your opinion about these principles?

	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Neither negative nor positive	Somewhat positive	Very positive	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Federalism						
Decentralization						

**Question 12.** Local and regional authorities may use a variety of ways to conduct external relations. Do you think that the following options are effective methods of conducting external relations?

	No	Yes
Representation in an international organization		
Direct relations with local and regional authorities from other countries		
Participation in diplomatic missions or delegations of national governments		

**Question 13.** International and transnational organizations may or may not be beneficial for local and regional authorities. Moreover, one may expect different types of benefits from these organizations. In your opinion, how useful are existing international and transnational organizations for your local or regional authority?

	Very useless	Somewhat useless	Neither useless nor useful	Somewhat useful	Very useful	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
Economic: e.g. trade, investment, access to funds						
Political: e.g. influencing decision-making at national and European levels						
Cultural: e.g. working with people with the same ethnic background, religious affiliation						

**Question 14.** In your opinion, how important are European funds for local and regional development?

- Very important  
 Somewhat important  
 Not very important  
 Not important at all  
 No opinion / Refuse to reply

-----Please continue to the next section-----

### **Section 3: About your experience in international and transnational organizations**

*Please continue to the relevant section depending on your answer to the following question.*

**Question 15.** Have you represented your local or regional authority in an international or transnational organization?

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No.<br><i>Please continue to the section 3A on the next page</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes. In two or more different international/transnational organizations.<br><i>Please continue to the section 3B on page 9</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes. In the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.<br><i>Please continue to the section 3C on page 10</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes. In the Committee of the Regions.<br><i>Please continue to the section 3D on page 12</i>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes. In another international or transnational organization<br><i>Please continue to the section 3E on page 14</i>             |

**Section 3A: Your opinions about international and transnational organizations**

**Question 16.** Is your local or regional government being represented in an international or transnational organization?

- No.
- Yes.
- I don't know.

**Question 17.** How much do you know about organizations which represent local and regional authorities at European level?

- I don't know anything about them
- I know a little about them
- I know a reasonable amount about them
- I know a lot about them
- I know everything about them
- Refuse to reply

**Question 18.** If you had the opportunity to represent your local or regional authority in an international or transnational organisation, how motivated would you be to take on this position?

- Not motivated at all
- Somewhat unmotivated
- Neither unmotivated nor motivated
- Somewhat motivated
- Very motivated
- Refuse to reply

**Question 19.** What is your opinion about the future of transnational organizations which represent local and regional authorities at European level?

- They should become as powerful as other international organizations
- They should remain in their current status and powers
- They should be reduced in competences or dissolved
- Refuse to reply

-----Please skip to the section 4 on page 16-----



**Section 3B: About multiple organizations which you have been a member of**

**Question 34.** Which organizations have been a member of? *Please tick as many as applies.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee of the Regions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <i>(please indicate)</i> <input style="width: 500px;" type="text"/>

**Question 35.** In total, what is the duration of your experience in these organizations?

<input type="checkbox"/>	6 months or less
<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 6 months and 12 months
<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 1 year and 2 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 2 years and 4 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 years or more

**Question 36.** Your experience in which one of these organizations has been more significant than others?

*Please select one and continue to the relevant section based on your selection.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities <i>Please skip to the section 3C on page 10</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee of the Regions <i>Please skip to the section 3D on page 12</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <i>(please indicate)</i> <input style="width: 500px;" type="text"/> <i>Please skip to the section 3E on page 14</i>

**Section 3C: About your experience in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE)**

**Question 20.** Are you currently a member of CLRAE, or were you a member in the past?

- I am currently a member.
- I was a member in the past.

**Question 21.** How long have you been, or were you, a member of CLRAE?

- 6 months or less
- Between 6 months and 12 months
- Between 1 year and 2 years
- Between 2 years and 4 years
- 4 years or more

**Question 22.** Which one of the following expressions best describes your experience in CLRAE?

- Very unsatisfying
- Somewhat unsatisfying
- Neither unsatisfying nor satisfying
- Somewhat satisfying
- Very satisfying
- Refuse to reply

**Question 23.** Personally, how important is/was it for you to be a member of CLRAE?

- Very unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neither unimportant nor important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Refuse to reply

**Question 24.** In your opinion, how accurate are the following statements to describe the importance of CLRAE?

	Very inaccurate	Somewhat inaccurate	Neither inaccurate nor accurate	Somewhat accurate	Very accurate	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
It helps the economic development of local and regional authorities						
It makes local and regional authorities politically more powerful						
It promotes decentralization and local democracy						
It promotes multi-level governance and subsidiarity						

**Question 25.** What is your opinion about the future of CLRAE?

- It should become as powerful as other bodies of the Council of Europe
- It should remain in their current status and powers
- It should be reduced in competences or dissolved
- Refuse to reply

**Question 26.** When you have voted in plenary sessions, how significant have the following factors been in influencing your decisions?

	Very insignificant	Somewhat insignificant	Neither insignificant nor significant	Somewhat significant	Very significant	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
The preparatory work done by the relevant committee / commission						
The position of my national delegation						
The position of my party group						
The interests of my local/regional unit						

-----Please skip to the section 4 on page 16-----

**Section 3D: About your experience in the Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

**Question 27.** Are you currently a member of CoR, or were you a member in the past?

- I am currently a member.
- I was a member in the past.

**Question 28.** How long have you been, or were you, a member of CoR?

- 6 months or less
- Between 6 months and 12 months
- Between 1 year and 2 years
- Between 2 years and 4 years
- 4 years or more

**Question 29.** Which one of the following expressions best describes your experience in CoR?

- Very unsatisfying
- Somewhat unsatisfying
- Neither unsatisfying nor satisfying
- Somewhat satisfying
- Very satisfying
- Refuse to reply

**Question 30.** Personally, how important is/was it for you to be a member of CoR?

- Very unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neither unimportant nor important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Refuse to reply

**Question 31.** In your opinion, how accurate are the following statements to describe the importance of CoR?

	Very inaccurate	Somewhat inaccurate	Neither inaccurate nor accurate	Somewhat accurate	Very accurate	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
It helps the economic development of local and regional authorities						
It makes local and regional authorities politically more powerful						
It promotes decentralization and local democracy						
It promotes multi-level governance and subsidiarity						

**Question 32.** What is your opinion about the future of CoR?

- It should become as powerful as other bodies of European Union
- It should remain in their current status and powers
- It should be reduced in competences or dissolved
- Refuse to reply

**Question 33.** When you have voted in plenary sessions, how significant have the following factors been in influencing your decisions?

	Very insignificant	Somewhat insignificant	Neither insignificant nor significant	Somewhat significant	Very significant	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
The preparatory work done by the relevant committee / commission						
The position of my national delegation						
The position of my party group						
The interests of my local/regional unit						

-----Please skip to the section 4 on page 16-----

**Section 3E: About your experience in this transnational organization**

**Question 37.** Are you currently a member of this organization, or were you a member in the past?

- I am currently a member.
- I was a member in the past.

**Question 38.** How long have you been, or were you, a member of this organization?

- 6 months or less
- Between 6 months and 12 months
- Between 1 year and 2 years
- Between 2 years and 4 years
- 4 years or more

**Question 39.** Which one of the following expressions best describes your experience in this organization?

- Very unsatisfying
- Somewhat unsatisfying
- Neither unsatisfying nor satisfying
- Somewhat satisfying
- Very satisfying
- Refuse to reply

**Question 40.** Personally, how important is/was it for you to be a member of this organization?

- Very unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neither unimportant nor important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Refuse to reply

**Question 41.** In your opinion, how accurate are the following statements to describe the importance of this organization?

	Very inaccurate	Somewhat inaccurate	Neither inaccurate nor accurate	Somewhat accurate	Very accurate	No opinion/ Refuse to reply
It helps the economic development of local and regional authorities						
It makes local and regional authorities politically more powerful						
It promotes decentralization and local democracy						
It promotes multi-level governance and subsidiarity						

**Question 42.** What is your opinion about the future of this organization?

- It should become as powerful as other international organizations
- It should remain in their current status and powers
- It should be reduced in competences or dissolved
- Refuse to reply

-----Please continue to the next section-----

**Section 4: About your experience in external offices**

*Please continue to the relevant section depending on your answer to the following question.*

**Question 43.** Have you worked in an external office of your local or regional authority outside of your home country?

	No. <i>Please continue to the section 4A on page 17</i>
	Yes. In an office in Brussels or Strasbourg. <i>Please continue to the section 4B on page 18</i>
	Yes. In an office based in the area of a partner government. <i>Please continue to the section 4B on page 18</i>
	Yes, other: <i>(please indicate)</i> <input data-bbox="647 745 1417 804" type="text"/> <i>Please continue to the section 4B on page 18</i>



**Section 4A: Your opinions about external offices**

**Question 44.** Does your local or regional authority have an external office outside of your home country?

- No.
- Yes.
- I don't know.

**Question 45.** How much do you know about offices which local and regional authorities have in foreign countries?

- I don't know anything about them
- I know a little about them
- I know a reasonable amount about them
- I know a lot about them
- I know everything about them
- Refuse to reply

**Question 46.** If you had the opportunity to work in an external office of your local or regional authority, how motivated would you be to take on this position?

- Not motivated at all
- Somewhat unmotivated
- Neither unmotivated nor motivated
- Somewhat motivated
- Very motivated
- Refuse to reply

-----Please skip to the section 5-----

**Section 4B: About your experience in this external office**

**Question 47.** Are you currently working in this office, or did you work there in the past?

- I am currently working
- I worked in the past

**Question 48.** How long have you worked, or did you work, in this office?

- 6 months or less
- Between 6 months and 12 months
- Between 1 year and 2 years
- Between 2 years and 4 years
- 4 years or more

**Question 49.** Which one of the following best describes your experience in this office?

- Very unsatisfying
- Somewhat unsatisfying
- Neither unsatisfying nor satisfying
- Somewhat satisfying
- Very satisfying
- Refuse to reply

**Question 50.** Personally, how important is it for you to work outside of your home country?

- Very unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neither unimportant nor important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Refuse to reply

-----Please continue to the next and final section-----

## **Section 5: Finally some personal information about yourself**

**Question 51.** Which country are you from?

**Question 52.** How old are you?

**Question 53.** What is your gender?

- Female  
 Male  
 Other  
 Refuse to reply

**Question 54.** What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Female  
 Male  
 Other  
 Refuse to reply

**Question 55.** On a scale from 1 to 9, how would you define political position?

- Primary or secondary education  
 University - undergraduate or equivalent  
 University - postgraduate  
 Refuse to reply

**Question 56.** Would you describe yourself with each of the following statements?

	No	Yes
A politician of your locality or region		
A politician of your country or nation-state		
A European politician		
A politician of your ethnic, religious or cultural group		
A politician of your political party or ideology		

If you have any other information or comment that you would like to share with us, please feel free to use the box below.

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Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on [ry237@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ry237@cam.ac.uk). You can change your responses or withdraw from the survey at any time.