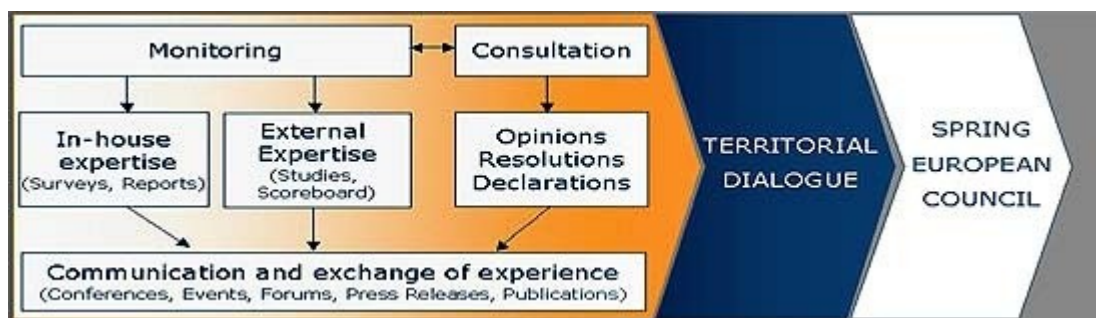


Document Center: What is the Lisbon Monitoring Platform?

Introduction to the project

It is the [Partnership principle](#) put into practice, a network of regional and local authorities and an electronic platform at the same time. After a disappointing first five years of the Lisbon Strategy, it was revised in 2005. The re-launched [Lisbon Strategy](#) has two main objectives: to deliver stronger, longer-lasting growth and to create more and better jobs. The need for an increased ownership at all levels of government was recognised as one of the key factors for the strategy's success.



In September 2005, [the Committee of the Regions carried out a European-wide survey on the involvement of Regions and Cities in preparing the National Reform Programmes \(NRPs\)](#).

The Committee of the Regions subsequently [made an analysis of the NRPs](#) in December 2005, comparing the content of the NRPs against the survey findings.

Both the survey and the conclusions reached in the NRPs report raised considerable concern regarding the level of consultation and involvement in a number of Member States. Consequently, the CoR made a series of suggestions on how to involve European Regions and Cities in a more coherent and significant way in the future, which would help increase their ownership of the Lisbon Agenda and thus maximise the chances of a successful implementation.

The European Commission's 2006 Annual Progress Report ([Part I](#), [Part II](#), [Annex](#)) shares some of the Committee of the Regions' conclusions, especially regarding the following points:

- The need for partnership between national, regional and local levels of government in the implementation process;
- The need for a stronger link with Cohesion Policy;
- The need for greater ownership of the Lisbon Strategy by all stakeholders at EU, national, regional and local levels.

The CoR Lisbon Monitoring Platform project was launched at [the CoR's first Territorial Dialogue on 1 March 2006](#) and intends to run at least until the end of the first 3-year governance cycle (until 2008). The CoR contracted a research team to set up this monitoring system. In order to make a scientific and valid comparison, [EU regions were classified into 11 groups](#) using indicators based on macro-economic micro-

economic and employment data. The LMP is monitoring 65 regional and local authorities in 2006. This number will progressively increase in 2007.

This platform provides information on the local and regional dimensions of the strategy, gives an overview on the development of these local and regional dimension through an interactive scoreboard and offers a public space for discussion. It is a dynamic tool that is being further developed and will evolve gradually.

But first and foremost it aims to create a community, a community among local and regional authorities who are working on the implementation of the growth and jobs strategy and those who would like to learn more about it. Have a look, discover the different views and share your ideas with us in the forums.

Who has taken part in 2006?

- 140 Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) have declared their interest regarding the launch of the interactive web-based Monitoring Platform, operational from November 2006.
- All 140 LRAs received a questionnaire, in which information regarding the involvement of Regions/Cities in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the National Reform Programmes and National Strategic Reference Frameworks (Structural Funds) and specific information on their Lisbon actions was requested.
- [65 of them have responded](#) to date and were chosen to be part of the 1st wave with access to the platform this year.

Why a platform?

- To bring transparency through the follow-up of what happens at the 'grassroots' level with the [National Reform Programmes](#) (and its relation to the Cohesion Policy)
- To monitor the progress of the Member States' Implementation of the [Growth and Jobs Strategy](#) from the regional and local authorities' perspective;
- To benchmark through achieving better knowledge of what is happening in other countries and regions
- To monitor the involvement of the regional and local level in the governance process of the Cohesion Policy (National Strategic Reference Frameworks and Operational programmes);
- To examine the evolving relationship between the Lisbon Strategy and the Cohesion Policy and to raise awareness about the implications of the National Reform Programmes and National Strategic Reference Frameworks for local and regional authorities;
- To identify specific trends amongst the [11 groups of classified regional and local authorities](#);
- To identify the obstacles encountered by regional and local authorities in implementing the Lisbon Strategy, voice these politically and find realistic and valid solutions;
- To mobilise the regional and local level to exchange information (best practices, challenges);

- To create a productive network of regional and local authorities whose experiences and contributions will feed into CoR Lisbon-related political messages;
- To provide the local and regional level with an argumentative base in their national debates.

How does the Monitoring Platform work?

The Lisbon Monitoring Platform aims to be a useful operational tool for regional and local authorities across the EU, containing detailed regional statistical data, a documentation centre and interactive forums, through which regional/local representatives will be able to exchange information (best practices, challenges) on Lisbon-related subjects.

This platform mainly relies on individual files per region/city with:

- Basic data and web links
- The positioning of the Region/City amongst the 11 groups of regions
- Data on the National Reform Programme and National Strategic Reference Framework 'governance cycle': assessment of the involvement of the Region/City in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of both national documents
- Information on the extent to which regions and cities are contributing towards the implementation of the [Integrated Guidelines](#) of the 'Growth and Jobs' Strategy
- Examples of concrete actions undertaken by the Region/City in line with the 'Integrated Guidelines' of the 'Growth and Jobs' Strategy

Interactivity means in particular that regional and local authorities participating in the Lisbon monitoring exercise are asked to enter data online. The data coming from the individual files is processed to build an EU-wide scoreboard which is the core engine of the monitoring exercise.

In addition to the electronic aspect of the Lisbon Monitoring Platform, several workshops are taking place with the participants of the Lisbon Monitoring Platform, in order to build a real "Community" with the participants of the LMP project. The results of this monitoring exercise will contribute to the CoR report for 2008, which was requested in the 2006 Council Presidency conclusions. They will also support other CoR activities.

Further information

- Brochure "[Committee of the Regions – Lisbon Monitoring Platform. The Growth and Jobs Strategy on the Ground](#)", which briefly describes the objectives of the Lisbon strategy and the involvement of the CoR.
- CoR newsletter: [Detailed report on the state of play regarding the monitoring platform published in the Newsletter of the Committee of the Regions No. 53, October 2006.](#)