



# TALENT BOOSTER MECHANISM IN ACTION

First results and ways forward

 18 March 2025, 9:00-19:00

 Brussels

**AGENDA**



## HARNESSING TALENT PLATFORM

A new boost for EU Regions

*Moderator: Sasha Twinning*

**09:00 – 09:30** Registration and networking breakfast

**09:30 – 10:00** Opening remarks

- **Nicola DE MICHELIS**, acting Deputy Director-General DG REGIO

**10:00 – 10:30** Keynote speech: Demography, youth and EU's future resilience

- **Arnstein AASSVE**, Professor in Demography, Bocconi University

**10:30 – 11:40** High Level Debate: Shaping regional competitiveness and attractiveness for thriving communities

- **Nicola DE MICHELIS**, acting Deputy Director-General DG REGIO
- **Lamia KAMAL-CHAOU**I, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
- **Simone GROßNER**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Saxony-Anhalt
- **Gabriella GERZSENYI**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament

**11:40– 12:00** Networking break

**12:00 – 13:00** Panel discussion: Boosting talent and increasing economic opportunities for all in EU regions

- **Manuela GELENG**, Director for Jobs and Skills, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Kadri UUSTAL**, Head of Unit Cities, Communities, People, DG REGIO
- **Luciana FÂRLEA**, Head of Regional Planning, Analysis and Forecasting Office, Vest Region, Romania
- **Luboš KOMÁREK**, Coordinator of GreenStep I3 project, Czechia
- **Annabelle FAVREAU**, coordinator of TSI project: Supporting regional entrepreneurship through innovative technologies and AI in public services, Extremadura region, Spain

**13:00 – 14:00** Lunch break

**14:00 – 15:10** Info session: Knowledge sharing for informed policy making

- **Virginie LAYE**, Harnessing Talent Platform Secretariat
- **Lewis DIJKSTRA**, Team Leader, Territorial Development Unit, JRC, European Commission
- **Zintis HERMANSONS**, Research and Policy Manager, ESPON Programme
- **Rita MARQUES** (Porto Business School) and **Michele CALABRO** (EUREGHA), Talent Booster Mechanism Working Groups

**15:10 – 15:30** Networking break

**15:30 – 16:30** Panel discussion: Adapting to demographic change on the ground

- **Rudiger AHREND**, Head of Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions & Cities
- **Ángel María MARINERO PERAL**, Secretary-General, Regional Ministry Environment, Housing and Planning, Regional Government of Castilla y León
- **Monika TOMINŠEK**, Coordinator for EUI project MAG-NET in Celje, Slovenia
- **Guillaume CORRADINO**, Director of Euromontana Member of ESPON 'Ruralplan' Project: Innovative planning in shrinking societies

**16:30 – 17:10** Closing Panel: Tackling the demographic transition

- **Kadri UUSTAL**, Head of Unit Cities, Communities, People, DG REGIO
- **Raquel GARCIA GONZALES**, Director-General for European Affairs, Asturias, CoR Member
- **Christa SCHWENG**, EESC Member, Department for Social Policy and Health, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ)

**17:10 – 18:00** Cocktail reception / Networking drinks

