



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, *date of official registration*
PCab/B.3/ED/DV/mvs - D/2887 (2025)

Dear Member,

This year has commenced with a new mandate for the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) set against the backdrop of Russia's on-going war of aggression against Ukraine and the evolving global challenges. The sacrifices and resilience of the Ukrainian people in the face of a long-lasting and devastating war underscores the importance of the European Union's solidarity. Moreover, in the face of new emerging challenges, unwavering support to Ukraine and its people remains our critical political and human obligation.

As Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine has caused immense suffering, particularly for children and young people who have been separated from their families and whose education and social activities have been disrupted, the CoR continues to support the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) in the organisation of [the Summer Camps for Ukrainian Children initiative](#), which was first launched in 2022. This initiative has become an integral part of the CoR's comprehensive 10-point support package to Ukraine that puts forward political and practical measures to strengthen the resilience of Ukraine by providing support to its people and by building its capacity as a candidate country for EU membership.

As a result of the joint efforts and the remarkable commitment of EU local and regional authorities organising summer camps, more than 1250 Ukrainian children were welcomed into cities and regions across Europe in 2022, with more than 3000 hosted in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Beyond the numbers, the true impact of the initiative lies in its mission to provide a safe environment for Ukrainian children to enjoy their childhood and develop a sense of belonging to the European family. Therefore, the summer camps projects, initially carried out by cities and regions, over the years have significantly expanded in its scope and have evolved into powerful manifestations of solidarity, resilience and strong unity between the people of Ukraine and the EU.

With this in mind, I would like to express my heartfelt consideration to our partner, AUC, for its exemplary coordination of the initiative, and my gratitude to all of you for your commitment to its success over the past three years by organising summer camps in your constituencies. In advance of the commencement of the summer period, I also take this opportunity to endorse the continuation of this vitally important initiative and work. Together, let us strive to build a brighter common future for all, where Ukrainian children can thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Our collective efforts and unwavering solidarity, driven by the dedication of the EU cities and regions, are crucial in building a more resilient and unified Europe and standing strong with Ukraine and its people.

For more information, including practical tips on how to organise a summer camp, you are invited to visit the dedicated page of [the Summer Camps for Ukrainian Children initiative on the CoR website](#). For expressions

of interest and any questions you may have, you are invited to contact the AUC team, which is responsible for the operational organisation of the initiative (E-mail: summercamps2023@auc.org.ua). If you would like to feature your summer camp stories and visuals through the CoR's communication channels, you are encouraged to share them with our team via a dedicated [EU survey](#).

I appreciate your continued support to the Committee's initiatives in support of Ukraine and its people and look forward to the success of our joint efforts.

Yours sincerely,



Kata Tüttő



Brussels, 22 April 2025

Note to the file: Summer Camps for Ukrainian children initiative 2025

Background

The Summer Camps initiative for Ukrainian children, launched in 2022 by the CoR and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), has grown significantly. Initially benefiting 1250 children, it expanded to over 3000 children in 2023 and 2024 across more than 50 EU cities and regions.

Up to now, the AUC has been responsible for the coordination of the initiative, while the CoR's role has been to collect the expressions of interest and practical inquiries from EU cities and regions and promote the initiative to the CoR Members and YEPs, as well as through networks and social media. The success of the initiative has been assessed on the basis of quantitative data collected on the cities and regions organising camps and the number of children hosted in each administrative territory and in total.

Challenges

While the Summer Camps initiative has successfully expanded across Europe, benefiting large numbers of Ukrainian children, it has also presented significant challenges for the CoR both at the political (members) and administrative level.

- **Involvement of the CoR members:**

Getting the necessary feedback from CoR members proved challenging. Despite efforts to engage CoR members, Local Councillors, and YEPs through various communication tools (the President's letter, emails, presentations, and events), it was not always possible to mobilise CoR members to provide information about their activities for Ukrainian children. Although more than 50 EU cities and regions have been identified hosting summer camps in the past two years, indicatively only 15 CoR members were involved in the initiative in 2023 and 19 in 2024. As a result, attempts to reach out to and involve CoR members have not always been successful, limiting the perceived impact of the initiative.

- **Disproportionate administrative efforts:**

CoR members and LRAs who responded were required to follow up on administrative formalities, such as providing data on the number of children hosted, dates of visits, and permissions for the use of photo/video material. Many members faced difficulty with these formalities with repercussions on the data and material that could be used. This administrative challenge also had impact on the secretariat as it made the collection and presentation of data more difficult.

- **Replication by other stakeholders:**

Over the past three years, the initiative has been replicated by various public and private entities across Europe. While the CoR played a crucial role as an initiator and facilitator, it cannot claim a monopoly on the initiative, as its success depends on the direct involvement of cities, regions and other stakeholders.

- **Funding:**

The CoR administration explored the possibility to mobilise EU funds to support cities and regions organising summer camps. This also included outreach by the CoR President Cordeiro to key figures, such as the President of the European Parliament and Commissioners, enquiring into a possible Pilot Project relevant to the initiative. However, administrative level discussions with the EC and the EP revealed that such initiatives could already benefit from the general funding available for youth-related activities, thus indicating that a Pilot Project would not be necessary or feasible.

Future outlook for 2025

Whereas it is suggested to relaunch the initiative for 2025, it is recommended to modulate the CoR involvement, thus addressing some of the challenges identified above. Consequently, the roles of key partners would be as follows:

- **The AUC** has confirmed its commitment to take on the key coordinating role and to be the primary point of contact for EU cities and regions interested in organising summer camps. **It is thus ready to assume full ownership of the initiative in terms of its management and follow-up on all administrative and operational issues.**

All requests for information and collaboration concerning the organisation of summer camps will be directed to the AUC, modifying the CoR's dedicated Summer Camps' page and related communication materials accordingly.

- **The CoR's key input and its primary objective would be to continue to promote the Summer Camps initiative by focusing on its positive and supportive long-term impact.** The communication target would be members of the CoR and its networks, including YEPs and EU Local Councillors. The CoR members will be encouraged to share information and visual material about their summer camp projects via [the EU Survey](#). The CoR will also highlight the efforts of EU cities and regions through communication channels, refine key messages, and create engaging social media content.

Annual overview of Summer Camps 2025

It is recommended that the positive aspects and benefits of the summer camps be showcased by presenting **qualitative data** - compelling stories and testimonies from the CoR members, LRAs organising summer camps and Ukrainian children participating in these projects - at the CoR Plenary session and through its communication channels.

In order to capture and present the impact of the summer camps efficiently and to ensure that it is communicated in a visually appealing way, it is also suggested that the achievements of the summer camps be presented as a communication product, the form and design of which is prepared by colleagues with expertise in this field.

Timeline for promotion

- **05 - 09 May:** Letter from CoR President launching the 2025 edition
- **15 May:** Promotion at the Forum on strengthening municipal partnerships (TBD)
- **27 - 28 May:** Promotion at CoR Enlargement Days
- **May - June:** Possible webinar with EU Local Councillors (TBD)
- **May - August:** Promotion through CoR communication channels (TBD)
- **14 - 15 October:** Presentation at CoR Plenary session (TBD)

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