

From Global Challenges to Local Solutions: The Role of the Committee of the Regions in Upholding Subsidiarity

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Abstract

In an era of globalization marked by complex interconnections, governance faces unprecedented challenges as issues increasingly transcend national borders. Ultimately, however, the operationalization of strategies and implementation of policies that tackle global challenges are grounded at the local level, where concerns emerge and actions take place. In the European context, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is a Treaty-based body that represents local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the EU decision-making process. By providing a platform for LRAs to exchange their experiences and voice their opinions, the CoR enhances democratic legitimacy and ensures that EU policies align with community needs. It is effectively upholding the principle of subsidiarity.

The article aims to analyze how the CoR influences the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity and how it affects LRAs' abilities to deal with structural and social challenges.

The example of three case studies from diverse geographical contexts demonstrates how the CoR supports LRAs in addressing distinct challenges. The case studies focus on health resilience, the green transition, and cross-border cohesion. All three examples show that global challenges have local solutions. Additionally, it underpins the role of the CoR in the EU decision-making structure.

**The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Committee of the Regions.*