The European Parliament has decided to fund a pilot project Science meets Parliaments / Science meets Regions in 2018, and has entrusted the JRC with its implementation.

The project’s purpose is to bring together partners to organise events under the full ownership of the concerned authorities, at national, regional or municipal level.

**GOALS**

Science meets Parliaments / Science meets Regions will go to European Union countries, regions and cities to:

- Bring scientists and policymakers together
- Encourage mutual understanding
- Discuss a locally relevant policy issue using scientific evidence
- Bring science closer to citizens
- Increase people’s trust in science by showing its key contributions to society

**EVENTS**

The Commission is financing the organisation of 26 events in 22 Member States.

Events are initiated and organised by EU member states’ national, regional or local parliaments or administrative authorities.

A number of events involve cross-border collaboration between regions and cities facing similar challenges.

**CONFERENCES AND INNOVATION CAMPS**

The Science meets Parliaments / Science meets Regions initiative materialises either in the form of one-day events (workshops or conferences) or as multi-day “innovation camps”.

**Single-day events** involve substantial participation by local policy makers, scientists from local universities or research institutes and the wider public.

**Multi-day innovation camps** involve all actors of the so-called “quadruple helix”: the public sector, academia and research institutes, businesses and civil society.

These aim at finding novel, “out-of-the-box” solutions to societal challenges. See the [innovation camp handbook*](https://europa.eu/!KB64Tb) for more details about the innovation camp methodology.

All events are supported by communication activities, to ensure that citizens and stakeholders particularly interested in the subject of the event are informed and can participate.
### THEMES OF EVENTS
The national, regional or local authority chooses the topic and takes full ownership of the event. A wide range of themes have been chosen for the Pilot, ranging from urban renewal, social policy, air pollution in cities, energy efficiency and climate change, to migration, sustainable transport, circular economy and waste management.

### SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO THE EVENTS
For each organisation, the Commission is also contracting a local research actor to carry out a supporting study.

**Their task will be to:**
- Gather data and scientific evidence
- Carry out specific studies on individual events’ topics

**These studies will be performed:**
- Ahead of the event they relate to – providing solid evidence on the basis of which the discussion will be held – or
- As a follow-up to the event – to study the issues in more depth and provide a scientific basis for future policymaking on the issue

The JRC helps organisers to design the event, offers scientific expertise, identifies contributors from both its own ranks and the scientific community at large, and promotes the events through its communication channels.

### BACKGROUND
Our ultimate goal is to ensure that policy development is informed by the best scientific advice possible, not only at EU level, but also at national, regional and local levels.

*Science meets Parliaments* is an initiative launched in 2015 by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) together with the European Parliament.

In line with the JRC’s overall mission, the objective of the initiative was to build closer links and regular dialogue between scientists and policymakers, so as to foster evidence-informed policymaking.

*Science meets Regions* was launched in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions in 2016. Regions and cities are key partners in the implementation of European legislation, policies and financial instruments.

About 70% of EU legislation and 80% of EU funds are implemented at subnational level, giving European regions and cities the power to act as catalysts of change and enablers of citizens’ involvement.

The success of these events prompted the European Parliament to fund a pilot project in 2018 to expand the scope of the initiative to more European countries and regions.

### CONTACT
The full list of events can be found at the Science meets Parliaments/ Science meets Regions [events webpage](https://europa.eu/!ux88UT).

For more information email: JRC-INFO-SMP-SMR@ec.europa.eu

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*https://europa.eu/lex88UT*