



## Observation – Investigation – Reaction: ÖIR – Online dialogue

### European regions in transition: challenges and EU response

Regions across Europe are facing significant challenges due to European and global trends. The EU currently dedicates substantial resources and efforts toward supporting these regions and reducing regional disparities. In this [online dialogue](#), we will discuss various challenges faced by different types of regions and explore perspectives on the future of European policies.

- ▶ **Border regions** often face distinct challenges, such as economic disparities, infrastructural gaps, and complex labour market dynamics. Drawing from the findings of the DG REGIO [Cross-Border Regional Labour Market Analysis](#), this discussion will examine specific cross-border regions where these issues are pronounced.
- ▶ While some **rural regions** are high performers with growing economies and population, most of them face persisting challenges and constraints, including remoteness. The DG Agri [Study on funding for EU rural areas](#) dives deeper into pressing needs and development potentials of rural areas, including how EU policies and funds can be mobilised to support rural transitions.
- ▶ **Energy transition** affects **regions** very differently. Regions dependent on fossil fuels face challenges such as job losses and economic restructuring, while regions emerging as leaders in wind and solar energy production must address impacts on nature and landscape values. The European Parliament's report, [EU Regions in the Transformation towards a Climate-Neutral Future](#) provide insights into these diverse regional challenges.

These three presentations will be complemented by Kai Böhme, founder and director of Spatial Foresight, who will share his expertise on the [future of the European regional policy and territorial development](#). He will offer insights on how a place-based approach can help European policies evolve beyond 2027, addressing territorial disparities and building resilience in response to emerging global and regional challenges.

**Moderator:** Helene Gorny

**Presenters:** Roland Gaugitsch, Arndt Münch, Erich Dallhammer

**Concluding remarks** by Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight

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**Monday, 9 December 2024, 4 pm to 6 pm (CET) | Online**

Registration per email at [team@oir.at](mailto:team@oir.at) until 5.12.2024.

The link will be sent to you via email prior to the meeting.

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