



REGIONE AUTONOMA  
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

consiglio regionale

Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies  
**“Better regulation and Policy evaluation”**



**CALRE Working group activity report  
2022**



## WORKING GROUP

# “BETTER REGULATION AND POLICY EVALUATION”

### Survey on the application of “Better regulation” tools in regional contexts

#### Introduction and framework

***By Piero Mauro Zanin, President of the Regional Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia and coordinator of the CALRE working group “Better regulation and policy evaluation”***

At its 147<sup>th</sup> Plenary session, held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the European Committee of the Regions adopted its opinion on “Better Regulation: joining forces to make better laws”<sup>1</sup>, of which I had the privilege of being appointed as Rapporteur. The opinion expressed the CoR’s position on the European Commission communication, COM(2021) 219 *final*, in which the EC announced the revision of the legislative evaluation tools at its disposal, proposing a number of improvements to the existing ones.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the JURI commission of the European Parliament voted on the draft report<sup>2</sup>, with rapporteur Mr Tiemo Wölken, which corresponds to the CoR opinion I have drawn up Zanin. Some amendments proposed by the CoR (Mr Lambertz/Subsidiarity Group) to the Parliament’s

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<sup>1</sup> Document COR-2021-04071-00-00-AC-TRA

<sup>2</sup> (2021/2166(INI))

rapporteur to follow up on the CoR opinion were incorporated in the JURI draft report (in particular, amendments adopted on active subsidiarity, territorial impact assessments, rural checks and RegHub: 3bb, 3bd, 3 be, 3 bf, 5b, 9b)<sup>3</sup>.

In June of this year, the European Committee of the Regions created the Better Regulation Steering Group (**BRASS-G**), to further demonstrate the focus of the European Institutions on Better Law-Making and Active Subsidiarity. The Group's task will be to ensure coherence and synergies between the different stages of the CoR's work on better regulation, with the aim of ensuring that EU rules create added value for citizens, and taking into account the requests, and remarks of the territories at all stages of the legislative cycle (the first meeting of the BRASS Group was held in Valencia on 11 November 2022, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the CoR Subsidiarity Conference).

In the light of these inter-institutional developments it has been decided, also with a view to the consistent continuation of the working group's path, to propose as 2022 Working Group's activity a questionnaire, to be distributed among CALRE members in order to investigate the regional dimension of the topic. Following the meeting held in November 2021, which focused on the interventions of some experts on the subject, it was decided to examine the situation "on the ground", to analyse what are the instruments of "Better regulation" that are concretely applied in the territories of the regions belonging to the CALRE, and what is, if there is any, the specific role of Regional Parliaments and Legislative Assemblies in this process.

This choice to deepen the analysis of the state of the art, was in some way confirmed in its relevance also by what the European Commission explained in its Work Programme for the year 2023 <sup>4</sup>. The EC states that "*The challenges facing Europe today highlighted the need for informed policymaking based on evidence and better regulation principles. [...] Better regulation is about ensuring that legislation is necessary and provides the maximum possible benefits for citizens and stakeholders*"<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, the better regulation agenda is a key element in supporting

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/JURI/DV/2022/05-17/Votinglist\\_Betterregulation\\_amendments\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/JURI/DV/2022/05-17/Votinglist_Betterregulation_amendments_EN.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> COM(2022) 548 *final* of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

<sup>5</sup> COM(2022) 548 *final*, p. 13

sustainability: it integrates Sustainable Development Goals in impact analyses, and includes strategic foresight in better regulation, and the future proofing of legislation as well.

To complete the survey, an agile tool was used: a questionnaire based on a few targeted questions. The aim was to seek to gather direct information on the tools, benefits and criticalities experienced by European regions regarding the quality of legislation and evaluation of public policies, and to compare them in order to highlight similarities and differences.

The results of the consultation were then explored in this recapitulative document, which aims to serve as the first moment of sharing experiences on “Better regulation”, to be disseminated within the working group and the regions belonging to CALRE as a whole. The document proposes a synoptic table that fully summarizes all the contributions received, as well as a series of comments and remarks aimed at presenting in more detail some best practices already in use in some regions.

We’d like to underline that the survey should not be considered as an “end in itself” work, but should rather be perceived as a starting point: the first step in a process likely to be continuously updated to maximise its future potential. In fact, all the assemblies that have not yet done so are invited to fill in the questionnaire and/or to report some specific cases of “Better regulation” applied by them: the more dynamic the activity of this working group will be, the greater the exchange of experiences, the better the results that we can make available to everyone.

## **Main feedback of the survey**

- knowledge of the main Better Regulation tools envisaged by the European Commission is widespread: all the regions that have sent their feedback, in fact, respond by stating that they know, at least in broad terms, the EC toolbox;
- several regions already apply at least some of the instruments provided for in the EC Communication. In most cases, we are in the early stage of the journey; the adjustment is progressive and still ongoing. It is, above all, impact assessments that are used quite frequently: for example, in Catalonia it has been a tool adopted since 2011 to ensure the quality of government regulations. Again in Catalonia, we want to underline the existence of the “Agility Group”: a structure that, aiming at analysing and eliminating the main unnecessary bureaucratic burdens for economic activities, deals with the evaluation of how to speed up the terms of administrative procedures. Of particular interest is also the case of the Basque Country, where a law (No. 6/2022, on the drafting procedure) approved in 2022 specifically regulates certain principles of good regulation, including proportionality, transparency, quality of information, gender equality and, last but not least, linguistic equality;
- beyond the Commission’s toolbox, it is interesting to note that the regions have, over time, created different tools with the aim of improving and monitoring the quality of their legislative output. In the Statute of the Piedmont Region, for instance, the involvement in the legislative choices of citizens, local authorities, trade unions, trade organisations, cultural institutions is expressly mentioned as a fundamental principle. In the Piedmont legal system there are numerous provisions on the quality of regulation, and, in particular, on the evaluation of public policies, intended as verification of the implementation of laws and evaluation of the effects of policies, to be conducted on the basis of empirical evidence.

Similarities can be also found in Lombardy and Friuli Venezia Giulia: in particular, the Technical-Regulatory Analysis forms (ATN) are used in the legislative procedure. These documents contain remarks about the consistency of the text with EU, national and regional law, as well as about the internal textual coherence, together with comments on aspects relating to legislative quality and technical drafting. Examples of these documents are the Technical-Financial Reports and the so called “ADS sheets”, aimed at verifying the existence of State aid and their compatibility with the relevant European rules.

Worthy of being mentioned are the tools used in Asturias, too; they include consultations and hearings with stakeholders, gender impact assessment, cost impact and regulatory impact assessment; and the existence of *ad hoc* guidelines for the staff involved in the development of regional legislation.

The existence in Friuli Venezia Giulia of a Council of Local Autonomies (CAL), which expresses opinions on some draft laws, is peculiar. It is significant that, when the CAL is called upon to rule on measures relating to linguistic minorities, the representative of the Assembly of Linguistic Communities involved participates in the consultation and casts his vote.

Finally, in the regions that are part of the RegHub network, the existence of the local contact point of the Committee of the Regions' network has to be considered as a "Better regulation" tool in itself;

- with regard to the presence of institutional bodies which, for various reasons, are involved in assessing the quality of legislation, the situation on the ground appears rather fluid. Some regions do not have, at their legislative assemblies, committees specifically dedicated to this type of control (Asturias, Basque Country); in others there are bodies, as in the case of the "Consell Consultiu" of the Balearic Islands, which have the task of examining the draft laws to assess whether they adapt to current legislation.

In Catalonia, we notice the presence of the "Better Regulation Unit" of the Government Secretariat: it provides technical assistance to the Ministries of the Catalan Government, and when assessing the regulatory impact, it promotes methodologies and other tools and actions for improving the quality of legislation (in particular regulatory simplification processes) and sends remarks on the *ex ante* regulatory impact assessment. Its functions are similar to a regulatory control, although this Unit is not a control body in the strict sense: it essentially works as a support to the activities of other bodies.

The Italian regions, on the other hand, share the provision of specific bodies (the Joint Control and Evaluation Committee - CPCV, in Lombardy; the Committee for the Quality of Standardisation and Policy Assessment in Piedmont; the Committee for Legislation, Control and Evaluation - CLCV in Friuli Venezia Giulia) which carry out control activities on the implementation of laws, to evaluate the effects of regional policies and to monitor the quantity and quality of legislative production. Although slightly different in their composition

and in some peculiarities of their prerogatives, these committees use some common tools, especially the *evaluation clauses* (specific articles of law through which who is in charge of the implementation of the same law, and first of all the executive power, must collect, process and finally communicate to the legislative body a series of selected information) and the *evaluation missions* (in-depth knowledge activities, which may also require complex research by specialised institutes. They are aimed at analysing the implementation of a law, or parts thereof, and at assessing its effects);

- consultations with stakeholders are a well-established practice in virtually all regions. Except in some cases (such as the Balearic Islands and Piedmont, where consultations are normally conducted by the Executive power), legislative assemblies very often involve stakeholders competent for the matters at stake. The participation of stakeholders is often regulated by legislation (Article 6 of Law 6/2022 in the Basque Country; article 117 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Catalonia, etc.), and in any case they are normally involved on the initiative of the regional parliaments and/or their committees and commissions. It is worth mentioning here the very recent novelty just introduced (2022) by Article 90 *bis* of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia. This article creates a special “Register of Stakeholders” to which special stakeholders, public or territorial bodies, companies, unions, associations etc. can be registered. The objective of this instrument is precisely to ensure the institutional representation of stakeholders' interests in the decision-making process, with a view to getting closer to the territory, to subsidiarity, and to ensuring maximum transparency and participation in the procedure for the formation of legislative acts;
- always with regard to consultations with stakeholders, there is usually no particular difficulty in gathering data and remarks from them, also because they are somehow used to be heard in matters of their respective interest. However, it should be highlighted here a peculiarity, pointed out by the Balearic Islands: the impact assessment studies that take place during the various phases of the European legislative process do not usually take into account the specialty of insular territories, and therefore the specific impact the EU directives transposed into national laws could have on these areas is often not considered.

Also relevant is the observation coming from Catalonia, which points out that the participation of stakeholders, and in particular citizens, tends to be less strong when the interests involved are more widespread. In this sense, the Catalan region seeks, on the one hand, to reduce the number of consultations with the aim of proposing only the truly significant ones, in order to obtain greater participation; on the other hand, it seeks to increase the quality of the consultations, with a plurality of participation tools including i.e. (but not limited to) online surveys;

- in line with the provisions of the Better Regulation Agenda, regions are generally focused on the need for *future proof* legislation, in particular based on scientific, concrete, transparent, comprehensible and interoperable data. With rare exceptions, almost all the assemblies that replied to the questionnaire (or possibly their respective regional Governments) have developed and maintain constant relationships of collaboration with research centres, scientific institutes and with the university, technological and innovation system of their territories. Those institutions can be involved both in the evaluation processes of the regulation, and in a preliminary phase of analysis of projects or bills;
- one of the “Better regulation” tools on which the European Commission relies more, so that it has been included in its “Fit for Future” platform, is the RegHub 2.0 network of the European Committee of the Regions. Some of the CALRE regions already join the network and are therefore among the 46 RegHub currently active contact points; others are considering the possibility of applying for membership. In general, however, the survey shows a broad knowledge of the existence and functions of RegHub, as well as of the activities this network is carrying out.

## **Perspectives, proposals, conclusions**

The Subsidiarity Conference of the European Committee of the Regions, whose 10<sup>th</sup> edition was held on 11 November in Valencia, focused on how to ensure that the concepts of “active subsidiarity” and “Better regulation” can be synergistic in an attempt to give concrete implementation to the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe, with particular reference to the need to ensure the highest degree of multilevel governance throughout the whole life cycle of EU legislation.

It is widely agreed that the CoR, which represents one million regionally and locally elected politicians and is therefore the most truly democratic European institution, as well as the closest to citizens, should acquire a more important role within the EU architecture (its being a purely consultative body is no longer enough). At the same time, regional and local authorities, and in particular parliaments with legislative powers, should also be given a substantial role in monitoring the subsidiarity principle and the implementation of EU legislation on our territories.

In the current context, we are not always able to find the levers suitable of immediately and almost “simultaneously” implementing subsidiarity on the ground, also because the practices and the legal-institutional frameworks we experience in the work of our regional parliaments are very divergent between them. It is certainly true that the CoR is constantly seeking to consolidate better regulation tools and territorial impact assessments, in order to make our contributions and recommendations more accessible and easier to integrate into future legislation and policies. The establishment of the BRASS-G (Steering Group on Better Regulation and Active Subsidiarity) is just the latest example.

Nevertheless, we cannot just stand still and simply wait for some kind of Treaty changes or reforms of the EU institutions. Action must be taken immediately, and one of the ways to do so, as also widely shared by the participants in our recent meeting in Oviedo on 6-7 October 2022, is to aim at harmonising our operations, strengthening and sharing of best practices and of already working control mechanisms. Firstly, by strengthening the activities of our working groups, and by developing a permanent and direct dialogue between CALRE and the European Committee of the Regions. For example, we should think about transmitting on a regular basis the results of the activities of our working groups to the various CoR commissions responsible

for the subject matter. Our documents, made available to them, could be taken into account by the CoR not only when drafting opinions, and could also be an incentive towards the various CoR working groups, certainly including the BRASS among them.

If we talk more specifically about “Better regulation”, the keystone lies in our ability, as regional and local actors, to be proactive. We need to stimulate the capacity to act as a system and to make “critical mass”, so that our territories speak with one voice. In line with the strong demand for greater participation from citizens during the Conference on the Future of Europe, mechanisms of “institutionalised” involvement of stakeholders must be implemented, thus enhancing the various experiences of involvement of territories and of their economic, social, cultural and political forces.

On a more technical level, regions will need to make further efforts to develop their strategic foresight capabilities: to this end, it is essential to exploit the potential of research centres, scientific institutions and universities that already work with us, so that foresight becomes an integral part of the toolbox to improve the quality of regulation on a regional basis. At the same time, we will have to link our regional and local strategic foresight activities at the EU level, using to our advantage the Committee of the Regions as an institution that has the ability to systematise and structure this contribution. It must be clear that foresight is an essential element of the Better Regulation package, without its proper development, our capacity to monitor the compliance with the subsidiarity principle will certainly be weakened.

Inside CALRE, we have been stating for a long time that “networking” is essential: creating networks between regional parliaments, both at national and European level, to coordinate their work and share best practices and concrete experiences is the best and most immediate way to affirm the implementation of better regulation tools in our territories. Among the best practices we can point out, there are, for example, experiences of coordination at national level. In Italy a key role is played by the Conference of Presidents of the Legislative Assemblies of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, within which a specific working group on EU affairs has been established. This group periodically meets, in order to analyse and evaluate European topics that can have the deepest impact on the territories of our regions. After each meeting, the working group releases a “position paper” that systematises and summarises the position of the Regional

Legislative Assemblies: the document is then forwarded to the national institutions. The same function is carried out in Spain by COPREPA, which brings together the Presidents of the Regional Parliaments of the 17 Autonomous Communities.

These models of horizontal cooperation and vertical integration between multiple levels are among the most successful experiments, so far, aimed at making the voices of the territories loudly heard: they need to be strengthened and promoted, and their example must be a stimulus for regions and cities to become a permanent element in the EU's policy-making process, with a view to improving the quality of regulation.

Finally, as highlighted by virtually all the legislative assemblies that replied to the survey, it is very important to spread the importance of "better regulation" both among the locally elected policy makers, as well as among officials and staff of regional and local administrations, through specially organised training courses. Similarly, it will also be important to plan communication and information activities towards stakeholders and citizens, in order to increase the knowledge and understanding of the topic.

## WORKING GROUP

# “BETTER REGULATION AND POLICY EVALUATION”

SURVEY ON THE APPLICATION OF BETTER REGULATION TOOLS  
IN REGIONAL CONTEXTS

QUESTIONNAIRE – SYNOPTIC TABLE

The Regional Parliaments who sent a feedback to our survey by filling and sending back the questionnaire were:



**Asturias**



**Balearic Islands**



**Basque Country**



**Catalonia**



**Lombardy**



**Piedmont**



**Friuli Venezia Giulia**

Here below, their feedback is re-proposed, in a synoptic framework<sup>6</sup> aimed at presenting, question by question, the various responses received.

In this way, we would like both to allow a first comparison between the different ways of applying better regulation tools in regional parliaments, and to make it possible to identify best practices or territorial specificities that can serve as an example or as a stimulus for the other regions.

The consultation was structured in two parts: the first dedicated to the knowledge and application of better regulation instruments as provided by the European Commission tool; the second, on the other hand, aims to highlight the regional specificities and the distinct experiences of individual territories regarding the use of tools and procedures related to the evaluation and promotion of the quality of legislation.

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<sup>6</sup> Original texts sent in English by Asturias, Balearic Islands, Basque Country and Catalonia; in Italian by Lombardy, Piedmont and Friuli Venezia Giulia. Translations from English to Italian, and vice-versa, were provided in-house by the European and International Affairs Office of the Regional Legislative Assembly of Friuli Venezia Giulia

## PART ONE: TOOLS OF BETTER REGULATION (questions 1-5)

1. Are you aware of the main instruments of “Better regulation” defined by the European Commission (the “one in-one out” approach to reduce costs and burdens, the application of the principles “digital by definition” and “do not significant harm”, the TIAs - Territorial Impact Assessments, etc.)?

Asturias	Yes, we are. We think that these instruments are really interesting.
Balearic Islands	Yes, we are aware of the European Commission communication.
Basque Country	Yes, we are. We know Better Regulation toolbox (2021) and Better Regulation guidelines (2021).
Catalonia	The main models of regulatory policy at international and European level are known, but especially the model of the European Commission where most of the instruments that have been implemented are mirrored. Therefore, the mentioned instruments are known.
Lombardy	Yes, the offices are aware of this. However, it does not appear that reflection on these principles frequently occurs during the Assembly's work.
Piedmont	Yes.
FVG	Yes; in particular, there is good knowledge with the “ex-post evaluation” tool, already put in place for some time by the Committee for Legislation, Control and Evaluation of the Regional Legislative Assembly. The “one in, one out” principle is also an instrument in force in the region. With regard to “digital by default”, by the Regional Administration operates the Information Systems, Digitalisation and E-Government Service, which has the specific task of planning, developing and managing the Regional Information System (SIR) in accordance with EU rules.

**2. Does your Region apply the same principles / tools laid down in the European Commission Communication?**

Asturias	Not yet
Balearic Islands	No
Basque Country	<p>Law 6/2022 on the procedure for drafting laws has recently been approved in the Basque Parliament (2022/06/30), and Article 4 regulates the following principles of good regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Principles of <u>necessity and effectiveness</u>: the regulatory initiative must be justified by a reason of general interest, be based on a clear identification of the purposes pursued and be the most appropriate instrument to ensure its achievement.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>proportionality</u>: the initiative must contain the regulation that is essential to meet the need to be covered by the rule, after verifying that there are no other measures that are less restrictive of rights or impose fewer obligations.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>legal certainty</u>: the regulatory initiative shall be exercised in a manner consistent with the rest of the legal system, in order to generate a stable, predictable, integrated, clear and certain regulatory framework, which facilitates knowledge and understanding and, consequently, action and decision making by individuals and companies.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>transparency</u>: simple, universal and updated access to the regulations in force and the documents involved in their preparation process will be made possible, and the objectives of regulatory initiatives and their justification will be clearly defined in the explanatory memorandum. In addition, potential recipients shall be allowed to participate actively in the drafting of the regulations.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>simplicity and comprehensibility</u>: the content of regulatory initiatives shall be published in a clear, structured and easily understandable manner, in plain language.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>quality of information</u>: the information published during the public information procedures carried out in the course of regulatory procedures shall be truthful, accurate, and shall come from documents of proven authenticity and reliability. It shall also be useful, i.e., appropriate to the fulfillment of the objectives pursued with such information.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>accessibility</u>: the regulatory initiative shall include the necessary measures so that all persons, regardless of their technical, cognitive or physical capabilities, may exercise their rights before the Public Administration and have real and effective access to its services.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>equality of women and men</u>: in the procedure for drafting general provisions, the Basque public authorities must act in accordance with the general</li> </ul>

	<p>principles indicated in matters of equality of women and men in the Law for the Equality of Women and Men, to guarantee equal treatment and opportunities, to prevent and eradicate male violence against women or to establish measures to guarantee that work is carried out from intersectional perspectives. It must necessarily be accompanied by a gender impact report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Principle of <u>participation</u>: measures will be established for active listening and citizen collaboration to guarantee their participation in the procedure for approval of regulations, based on collaborative governance. This will be guaranteed, among other means, through hearings, public information and consultations, but also through the rest of the instruments that enable participation and deliberation (surveys, forums, public consultations...).</li> <li>- Principle of <u>linguistic equality</u>: given that Basque and Spanish are official languages, equality between them will be guaranteed in the procedure for drafting regulations, especially promoting the use of Basque in relations with citizens and their associations. In order to promote the use of the Basque language, public institutions shall adopt measures to elaborate with quality the regulations in Basque, and a permanent dialogue shall be articulated between both texts to ensure the equivalence between the versions in Spanish and Basque, adopting the appropriate measures in this regard.</li> <li>- Principle of <u>sustainability</u>: the right of today's society to meet its needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, ensuring a balance between economic development, environmental care and social welfare.</li> </ul>
Catalonia	The main principles and instruments used by the European Commission have been implemented in the procedure for drawing up regulations of the Government of Catalonia (not in the legislative procedure), although they are in an initial phase of development.
Lombardy	Impact Assessments, as well as Territorial Impact Assessments, are slowly spreading.
Piedmont	Not as Regional Legislative Assembly
FVG	A progressive adaptation is in progress.

### 3. If yes, which ones?

Asturias	-
Balearic Islands	-
Basque Country	The principles of good regulation have been pointed out in the previous answer
Catalonia	<p>In the field of government regulatory initiatives, these are the principles and instruments used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2011, <a href="#">Regulatory impact assessment</a> was formally adopted to ensure the quality of government regulations before their adoption (draft laws, legislative decrees and regulations that are approved by the Government of Catalonia or their ministers). The current regulation requires the preparation of an impact assessment report, applying the principle of proportional analysis. There are <a href="#">methodological guidelines</a> that summarize the content of the <i>Better regulation guidelines</i> of the European Commission. In addition, considerable efforts are being made to improve the identification of impacts and quantification of impacts and adapting the recommendations of the <i>Better Regulation Toolbox</i>. Further work is being done in order to systematically implement ex post evaluation</li> <li>- The reduction of unnecessary administrative burdens, the simplification of procedures and the elimination of obstacles that hinder innovation and economic activity is one of the main focus of ex ante regulatory impact assessments. At the same time, various commissions have been set up to analyze and remove the main obstacles to economic activities. Currently the <a href="#">Agility Group</a>, which is mainly evaluating how to expedite the processing deadlines.</li> <li>- In relation to public consultations, an Internet consultation is carried out for 15-30 days when it is being considered to start the procedure, for collecting and data on the possible initiative, in line with the “<i>Call for evidence</i>” of the European Commission (of the so-called “<i>inception impact assessment</i>”). Once a text is available, a 15-day online consultation is opened, where an impact assessment report is made available to the public, in line with the “<i>Commission adoption</i>” phase of the European Commission. Further work is being done to improve the platform where information is processed on the processing of regulatory projects and to unify queries in a single portal. A regulatory change has also been promoted to extend the duration of Internet consultations, while working on improving technological processes and tools to facilitate participation.</li> <li>- In relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, it should be emphasized that the <a href="#">Government's Regulatory Plan</a> specifies whether the rules that are expected to be approved have an impact on compliance with these SDGs. Also in the methodological guidelines mentioned to carry out the</li> </ul>

	<p>regulatory impact assessment, it is requested to review whether the initiatives are aligned with these objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As for the principle "one in, one out" in order to require the minimum charges for citizens and businesses, especially taking into account SMEs, it does not apply in the strict sense. However, in all new regulations that affect economic activity, before its adoption an <a href="#">SME Test</a> is applied, which follows the model of the European Commission and the administrative burdens of companies and citizens it contains are identified. At the same time, it quantifies whether there is a saving on administrative burdens for companies, so that it is <a href="#">verified</a> that all regulations do not increase the administrative burdens. Work is underway to extend the quantification to all types of compliance costs and to be able to monitor that they do not increase in the whole system.</li> <li>- Regarding the promotion of digital transformation, it should be noted that it has been established with legal status that all initiatives must be digital by default ("<i>digital ready</i>").</li> </ul>
Lombardy	-
Piedmont	Please see answer n.2
FVG	<p>In this context, we focus mainly on "ex-post evaluation".</p> <p>The regional laws of Friuli Venezia Giulia submitted to an ex-post evaluation are those for which, in the text of the same law, the so-called "evaluation clause" is present (see, for details, also point 7 below). This commits the Regional Legislative Assembly to activate the long-term evaluation of the effects of the law.</p>

**4. On the basis of which criteria is the quality of legislation assessed in your Region? Specifically, with regard to the regional regulatory process, are there other “Better Regulation” instruments, other than those of the Commission?**

Asturias	Yes, we have our own instruments
Balearic Islands	No, the Regional Parliament doesn't assess the quality of the legislation. The Legislative Assembly passes bills to which representatives of the parliamentary groups propose amendments based on the principles they find appropriate.
Basque Country	The aforementioned law 6/2022 has incorporated the periodic review of the regulations in force in order to adapt them to the principles of good regulation (art. 10), as well as the impact assessment of each of the regulatory initiatives (art. 13).
Catalonia	In order to measure the quality of legislation in both the ex ante and ex post phases, various indicators are monitored on the quality of the regulatory impact assessment and the quality of law (they are <a href="#">publicly available</a> ). Attempts have been made to adapt, on a small scale, the indicators used by the "Regulatory scrutiny board". However, work is being done to improve them.
Lombardy	Yes, we do use also different tools
Piedmont	<p>In the exercise of the legislative activity, the Regional Legislative Assembly periodically checks the implementation of the principles and fundamental rights enshrined in the Statutes; among them, i.e. we mention the involvement in the legislative choices (and government) of citizens, the system of local authorities, workers' unions, trade unions, social formations, cultural institutions, associations, functional autonomy.</p> <p>Moreover, the Piedmont Region's legislation contains a number of provisions on the quality of regulation, and in particular on the evaluation of public policies, intended as verification of the implementation of laws and evaluation of the effects of policies, to be conducted on the basis of empirical evidence.</p> <p>The article 48 of the new Statute of the Piedmont Region (Regional Statutory Law N. 1 of 4 March 2005) provides that the legislative texts of the Region are based on the principles of clarity, simplicity and compliance with the rules of legislative technique and quality of regulation. Article 71, paragraph 1 of the Statute attributes to the Regional Parliament the task of preparing the instruments to assess the effects of regional policies, in order to verify the achievement of the expected results.</p> <p>The Regional Law N. 23 of 2008, which regulates the organisation of regional offices and the provisions on staff, transposes these principles by including the</p>

	<p>necessary support for the evaluation of policies and techniques for drafting laws among the purposes that the organisation of offices and staff must ensure.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Assembly (Deliberation N. 269-33786 of 24 July 2009), in implementation of the statutory principles, devote Chapter VI, Articles 44 to 46 <i>ter</i>, to the Quality of Legislation.</p> <p>Finally, with reference to the “ex ante” evaluation, the IRA (Impact Analysis of the Regulation) is ruled by Article 3 of Regional Law N. 13 of 1 August 2005 (Regional Law on simplification and regulation of the impact analysis of the regulation).</p>
FVG	<p>Yes, we use also some different instruments, other than the Commission’s toolkit.</p>

**5. If yes, which ones?**

Asturias	We'd like to underline some of them: consultations with relevant in each area; gender impact assessment; costs impact assessment; normative impact assessment; hearings; a guide for persons involved in the drafting of regional legislation; reports by the lawyers of the regional parliament.
Balearic Islands	-
Basque Country	It's been detailed in the previous answer
Catalonia	The region of Catalonia is currently working hard to reduce the <a href="#">stock of regulations</a> and improve public access to existing law. We understand that the European Commission has already carried out this task and it is not within its priorities at this time.
Lombardy	<p>"Evaluation missions" are initiatives of the Regional Legislative Assembly aimed at verifying the results and effects obtained through the implementation of policies governed by regional laws.</p> <p>On a more general level, the activity of technical assistance on draft laws under investigation at the regional parliamentary commissions is carried out most often by providing technical sheets prepared by the Legislative Service, sometimes in collaboration with the offices of the single commissions.</p> <p>These factsheets provide information on the consistency of the text with European, national and regional law, as well as on internal textual consistency, together with remarks on issues relating to legislative quality and technical drafting. The sheets are sent to the commission secretariat and are used in the course of the investigation, both during the working sessions of each commission and in case of specific working groups.</p>
Piedmont	<p>Following what above stated (please see point 4): as for the Regional Parliament, the quality of regional legislation is pursued at the entry stage of draft laws and bills, in the investigation- and discussion phase in the Chamber, too, and also in the so called "descending phase" of the decision-making process. The following instruments are especially used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preliminary admissibility examination, carried out through an ad-hoc grid;</li> <li>- application of the drafting rules contained in the third edition of the manual "Rules and suggestions for drafting legislative texts" (2007), adopted by the Council with Bureau Resolution N. 42 of 2 April 2008 and by the Regional Government with Resolution N. 38 of 21 April 2008;</li> <li>- data gathering of reference legislation at the various institutional levels;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– consultations with stakeholders, and summaries of their remarks and suggestions;</li> <li>– preparation of synoptic comparative tables between the texts under examination;</li> <li>– preparation of a "preliminary analysis sheet" for both legislative proposals and proposals for deliberations;</li> <li>– carrying out control-checks on the financial consistency of the draft laws, by issuing a technical-financial report on the quantification of charges and on their coverage;</li> <li>– preparation of the regulatory instruments, and carrying out of an ex-post evaluation (intended as a monitoring activity of the implementation of laws and evaluation of the effects of policies)</li> </ul>
FVG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Consultations of stakeholders (local bodies, trade associations, trade unions, representatives of the liberal professions, scientific institutes, cultural bodies, the world of associations, etc.), which are heard during the meetings of the Assembly's permanent commissions responsible for the subject matter. They can be heard also by the competent Regional Ministers, in the course of the drafting of laws and proposals for legislation.</li> <li>– Hearing of the Council of Local Autonomies of Friuli Venezia Giulia (CAL), whose guidelines are of great importance in the process of forming regional laws and of many other measures, administrative, regulatory and programmers. The role of the CAL is achieved by expressing opinions and, when it comes to draft laws, by means of the agreement with the regional administration. According to Article 2 of Regional Law N. 12/2015, the CAL is composed of the capital municipalities of the former provinces, and of 18 other elective municipalities, one for each territorial area of the Social Service. A representative from each Assembly of linguistic communities of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Friulian, Slovenian, German) also participates in the work of the CAL. When the acts on which the CAL has to pronounce on concern one of the linguistic minorities, the involved representative of the Linguistic Community takes part in the consultation and votes on the proposal. The CAL lasts for five years, and the aim of this body is to ensure the wider territorial representativeness of the FVG, through a <i>modus operandi</i> based on participation, enhancement and harmonisation of diversity.</li> <li>– Another 'Better regulation' instrument is the presence of the RegHub Contact Point at the Regional Legislative Assembly. This simplification tool was introduced by the European Committee of the Regions in order to assess the quality of regional and national legislation in relation to the implementation of EU directives and regulations.</li> </ul>

**PART TWO: TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK AND SUGGESTIONS (questions 6-15)**

**6. In your regional order, are there any institutional bodies (evaluating and/or monitoring committees, council/parliamentary commissions, etc.) which, in various ways, are responsible for assessing the quality of legislation?**

Asturias	Not specifically.
Balearic Islands	No. In our region, there is the “Consell Consultiu” which screens bills and laws to find out if they adjust to legislation. There are no institutional bodies which assess the quality of legislation.
Basque Country	<p>During the processing of the regulatory initiative, regulatory quality issues are analysed by the Legal Advisory Committee. This is a consultative organization that, with due functional autonomy, combines its formal integration into the legal services of the Basque Government with a personal status for its members that provides them with irremovability, stability and continuity in the exercise of the function and a rigorous and formal procedure for consultation and issuance of opinions.</p> <p>In our case, the Basque Government is in charge of analysing compliance with the standards of good regulation.</p> <p>The Foral governments do the same with their regulations.</p> <p>The Basque Parliament lacks a specific commission or an institution dedicated to monitoring compliance with the standards of good regulation.</p>
Catalonia	<p>In relation to Catalonia’s regulatory initiatives, the <a href="#">Better Regulation Unit</a> of the Government Secretariat provides technical assistance to the Government of Catalonia’s ministries, in the assessment of regulatory impact, promotes methodologies and other tools and actions for the improvement of the quality of legislation (in particular, processes of regulatory simplification and collaborates in the processes of simplification of procedures). It also ensures the quality of the ex ante regulatory impact assessment (inception impact assessments and regulatory impact assessments) by sending comments to the units to improve the reports. Its functions are similar to those performed by the Regulatory oversight bodies, although it is not a control body in the strict sense as its functions are substantially supportive. There is no external body in the public regional Administration that controls the quality of evaluations.</p>

	<p>From sectoral areas, it is worth mentioning the <a href="#">Catalan Competition Authority</a>, which reviews the quality of regulations from the perspective of competition. From the perspective of simplification, it is necessary to emphasize the Commission for the facilitation of the economic activity, is a commission that integrates different administrations and the economic and social agents, that work, in particular, to speed up the terms (the <a href="#">Agility Group</a>), which means reviewing current regulations and promoting modifications.</p> <p>From a strictly legal perspective and in accordance with the law, there are many entities involved in the adoption of government regulatory initiatives.</p>
Lombardy	<p>At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the Legislative Assembly establishes the “Comitato Paritetico di Controllo e Valutazione” (CPCV), a Joint Control and Evaluation Committee, in accordance with Articles 14, paragraph 2, and 45 of the Statute, as well as with Articles 108-111 <i>bis</i> of the General Regulation.</p>
Piedmont	<p>Yes. Article 46 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, in implementation of Articles 48 and 71, paragraph 1 of the Piedmont Statute, provides for a specific joint body, the Committee for the Quality of Regulation and the Evaluation of Quality Assessment Policies. This is an institutional space dedicated to monitoring the quality of legislation in general and in particular the evaluation of policies. This body assists the Assembly and the Permanent Committees in exercising their non-inspective consultative control function.</p>
Friuli Venezia Giulia	<p>Yes, there are some bodies dealing with the assessment of legislative quality. Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Committee on Legislation, Control and Evaluation (CLCV): please see in detail point 7 below.</li> <li>- the Assembly’s permanent commissions: they are internal bodies who deal with specific matters of competence, and carry out referent, consultative, cognitive, guidance and control functions. Their main task is to contribute to the procedure for the formation of regional laws, with the preliminary examination of the draft laws assigned to them by the President of the Legislative Assembly. Evaluation activities are carried out by these commissions through hearings, and through the use of ATN regulatory technical analysis sheets (see point 7)</li> <li>- RegHub at the Regional Council (see also points 5 and 8)</li> <li>- the responsible Regional Directorates and the Regional Legislative Assembly shall assess, when the proposals for legislation and the bills of law are submitted, the existence of State aid.</li> </ul>

**7. If yes, what is their role and which tools do they use?**

Asturias	-
Balearic Islands	-
Basque Country	-
Catalonia	<p>- The Catalan Competition Authority has its own methodology: <a href="#">Methodology for assessing the competitive impact of standards</a></p> <p>- The Better Regulation Unit develops and applies diverse methodologies and instruments in the main fields of Better Regulation: <a href="#">regulatory impact assessment</a>, <a href="#">evaluation of different impacts</a>, <a href="#">regulatory simplification</a>, <a href="#">simplification of procedures</a> and <a href="#">reduction of the administrative burdens</a>.</p>
Lombardy	<p>The CPCV performs the function of “monitoring the implementation of laws and assessing the effects of regional policies”. The main tools are evaluation clauses and evaluation missions.</p>
Piedmont	<p>The above mentioned Committee for the Quality of Regulation and the Evaluation of Quality Assessment Policies (please see above, point 6) is a joint body with a high institutional value. It was set up to improve the quality of regulation, decision-making and to enable the exercise of the control function, intended as a verification of the implementation of laws and the evaluation of regional policies.</p> <p>It is a specific institutional space, closely linked to the permanent commissions but also different in timing, compared to their dynamics characterised by a logic of contrast between political forces. This committee performs in the regional system a function of guaranteeing, promoting, deepening and disseminating the instruments of regulatory quality and evaluation of policies. Moreover, this body has been given a joint nature, to underline the awareness that the quality of regulation, the better knowledge of what has happened to a legislative intervention and how useful it was through the entry of qualified information into the decision-making process, is a common interest of both the majority and the opposition.</p> <p>The Committee’s many competences, identified in Article 46 <i>ter</i> of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, allow this body to intervene at every stage of the legislative process, and also after the entry into force of a law. These prerogatives give the Committee the role of key institutional entity for the implementation of statutory principles on the quality of regulation, and on the evaluation of policies in the legislative process.</p>

	<p>The instruments of substantial regulation quality provided for in the regional system by Rule 45 of the Council's Rules of Procedure to initiate and implement the production of qualified information on regional policies are the "evaluation clauses" and the "evaluation missions".</p> <p>An "evaluation clause" is a specific article of law, included only in the most relevant legislative interventions, or in those that have specific elements of interest. It gives an explicit mandate to the Regional Government (which is responsible in front of the Assembly for policy implementation) to produce, process and communicate to the Legislative Body all the information necessary to be aware of the law implementation timing and modalities, and to assess the consequences arising for the recipients of the law and, more generally, for the whole regional community.</p> <p>The "evaluation mission" is another tool, aiming at monitoring the implementation of laws and the assessment of the policies' effects. It consists in a specific assessment research on a law, or on some parts of it, that requires a complex research activity to be conducted by specialised institutes. These information activities, therefore, allow to start control over the implementation of laws and the evaluation of policies (in cases where new or unexpected events make it necessary to deepen some aspects of the law that were not foreseen by the evaluation clause; and also when the law does not contain any evaluation clause). In order to ensure the impartiality of the research, for each evaluation mission two members of the above mentioned Committee for the Quality of Regulation are appointed: one of them is expression of the regional parliamentary majority, and the other represents the opposition parties.</p>
Friuli Venezia Giulia	<p>According to the Regional Law of Friuli Venezia Giulia N. 17/2007 (Articles 7 and 8) and to its Rules of Procedure, the Regional Legislative Assembly carries out control activities on the implementation of laws, the evaluation of regional policies (with the aim of producing knowledge in support of future legislative choices), and monitors the quantity and quality of legislative production. Monitoring of the implementation of a law consists of verifying its concrete implementation; the evaluation of a regional policy is the analysis of its effects, in order to verify whether and to what extent public intervention has led to the expected changes and outcomes.</p> <p>These functions are carried out by the Committee for Legislation, Control and Evaluation - CLCV (Articles 41 and 138 <i>quinquies</i> of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Legislative Assembly): composed of ten members equally representing the majority and the opposition, the Committee shall report to the plenary on the results of its activities, and draw up an annual report on regional legislation and Assembly's activities.</p> <p>The instruments with which these activities are carried out are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Evaluation clauses</i>: they are "law provisions aimed at defining the timing and manner in which the parties involved in the implementation of a law are</li> </ul>

	<p>required to produce the information necessary for the exercise of the control and evaluation” (Article 138 <i>quinquies</i>, paragraph 2, letter a) of the Rules of Procedure). The CLCV examines the contents of the information reports received by the Assembly (or by other implementing actors) in implementation of the evaluation clauses, and reports to the Chamber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Evaluation missions</i>: these are in-depth knowledge activities, aimed at analysing the implementation of a law or assessing the effects of the policy, deliberated and carried out by the CLCV upon proposal coming from one or more of the permanent commissions, or from one tenth of the Assembly members</li> </ul> <p>The previously introduced permanent commissions (please see above, point 6) while performing their duties also use some instruments in order to assess the quality of regulation. In particular, we talk about the so called “technical-regulatory analysis sheets” (ATN). They aim at providing an overview of the relevant regulatory framework at EU-, national- and regional level; at highlighting the main content of the draft law; at considering the impact of the proposed legislation and any problems of constitutional legitimacy; at assessing the legislative technique. A few examples of ATN sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Technical-Financial Reports (RTF): according to Article 86 <i>bis</i> of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Legislative Assembly, draft laws and amendments, even if they do not cause new or higher expenditure or less revenue, must be accompanied by a RTF that contains information demonstrating the absence of any financial burden. If charges are expected, the RTF must demonstrate their correct quantification and financial coverage, as per law prescriptions;</li> <li>– “State aid” Sheets: according to regional Law 9/1998 (Article 1, paragraph 5), draft laws must be examined by the competent permanent commission together with the technical data sheets necessary for the preliminary verification of the existence of State aid, and of their compatibility with the relevant EU legislation.</li> </ul> <p>If the bills (or amendments) originate from an initiative of the Regional Government, they must be accompanied by specific technical sheets, signed by the Director of the competent Department.</p> <p>If, on the other hand, the draft laws (or amendments) come from an initiative of the Assembly, according to Resolution N. 241/2015 of the Bureau of the Council, the technical data sheets must be drawn up by the Legislative Service of the Assembly. When investigating the project, the Service verifies whether it contains provisions of an economic benefit, direct or indirect. If not, it will be noted in the investigation sheet that accompanies the draft law; if yes, for each single economic benefit provision, a technical report will be filled in and distributed to the commission before the examination of the draft law.</p>
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**8. In order to improve the impact of regional legislation, does your Region hold consultations with the relevant stakeholders in the area (professional associations, trade unions, cultural institutes, other local authorities such as the municipalities, etc.)?**

Asturias	Yes, it does
Balearic Islands	Regional Government and Parliamentary groups usually do that, not the Regional Parliament.
Basque Country	Yes, we do it
Catalonia	<p>In the case of regulatory initiatives promoted by the Government, public internet consultations prior to the elaboration of the regulation, in addition to being published on the Internet, are communicated to potential stakeholders and those affected by the regulation, and in particular to all the main agents mentioned. In the case of the public consultation that takes place when a regulatory text is already available, a mandatory procedure is carried out in parallel, which requires the main interested parties to be informed of the procedure.</p> <p>At the same time, the Government's regulatory procedure provides for specific procedures to facilitate the participation of trade unions and municipal authorities. There is also a series of commissions where different entities or economic sectors are represented that allow them to participate in the elaboration of the dispositions that affect them.</p> <p>Moreover, during the processing of Members' or Government bills, the Parliament calls the relevant stakeholders in the field of the subject that needs regulating to appear before the appropriate committee to present their reports.</p>
Lombardy	On a regular basis, the CPCV promotes public "e-consultations" with citizens, to gather data and information on regional policies worthy of being evaluated.
Piedmont	Not with regard to the Regional Legislative Assembly, which does not carry out consultations to assess the impact of regional legislation.
Friuli Venezia Giulia	<p>Yes, it does, on a number of occasions.</p> <p>In particular, with regard to the Regional Legislative Assembly, stakeholder consultations and hearings shall be held within the meetings of the permanent commission responsible for the subject matter. With reference to the formation of EU acts, consultations shall be held at commission meetings, dedicated to the discussion of acts, the verification of compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, and the possible adoption of a Resolution containing observations of the Assembly on the acts themselves.</p>

	<p>Consultations and hearings are also part of the process of holding the European Session (Art. 169 <i>ter</i> of the Rules of Procedure), through which the Legislative Assembly carries out the examination of the yearly European Commission Work Programme, in order to approve a Resolution that identifies the EU Commission acts on which to produce observations and remarks. This Resolution also states the guidelines addressed to the Regional Government for the participation of the Region in the formation of European policies.</p> <p>Finally, stakeholder consultations are also foreseen during RegHub's activities. In this case, the European and International Affairs Office of the Regional Legislative Assembly receives from the RegHub Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions detailed instructions on the surveys to be carried out during the year. The Office then identifies the relevant local stakeholders for every consultation. For each consultation, the Office collects all the feedback received and, after their systematisation, submits to the RegHub Secretariat a summary document that takes into account, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the contributions of stakeholders.</p>
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**9. If so, on which basis are these consultations held? Are they expressly provided for in the legislation, or are they held at the initiative of the Legislative Assembly/Regional Parliament or of the involved parties?**

Asturias	State and regional legislation, and they are expressly provided for state and regional legislation, and in the rules of the regional parliament
Balearic Islands	-
Basque Country	The principle of participation is expressly regulated in Law 6/2022 (art.6) and consultations are part of the procedure for drafting regulations. The Basque Parliament, during the processing of the legislative initiative, also carries out hearings of experts and social and economic agents that may be affected by the regulation
Catalonia	In the case of initiatives promoted by the Government, open internet consultations are made on the basis of a inception regulatory impact assessment; those carried out when a text is already available must be accompanied by an regulatory impact report. This is established in <a href="#">current legislation</a> In the case of initiatives promoted by the Parliament, they are established by the parliamentary procedure regulated by Article 117 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Catalonia.
Lombardy	-
Piedmont	Please see above, point 8
Friuli Venezia Giulia	First of all, we would like to highlight a very recent innovation regarding stakeholders and the institutionalisation of their role. The newly introduced (2022) Article 90 <i>bis</i> of the Rules of Procedure provides that “In implementing the principles of subsidiarity, publicity and transparency, the Regional Legislative Assembly shall promote the function of institutional representation of interests in public decision-making processes”, and it does so through the creation of a dedicated “Register of Stakeholders”, which may include i.e. public or territorial bodies, enterprises, companies, associations or foundations, etc. in the perspective of getting closer to the territory and of promoting subsidiarity, the objective of this instrument is precisely to ensure maximum transparency and participation in the procedure for the formation of legislative acts. Stakeholders, as mentioned above, are normally involved in the initiatives of the Legislative Assembly, and more specifically the permanent commissions. The combined provisions of Article 98, paragraph 1 and Article 164 of the Rules of

	<p>Procedure of the Assembly provide that commissions “may invite to hearings those persons deemed directly or indirectly interested in the matter in question or in any case able to provide data, information and news useful for the purposes of the legislative procedure”.</p>
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**10. Do you face difficulties in collecting data regarding the impact of legislation on the ground from the various stakeholders? If so, what action is being taken to overcome this problem?**

Asturias	We don't
Balearic Islands	Yes, we find difficulties in collecting data regarding the impact of legislation on the ground, especially for us island territories, because there are no systematized ways to do that. That's because impact studies which take place during European legislative process do not include an Island-Proofing to find out its starting point. There's neither a follow-up to the impact on the island territories that may have directives which are transposed into national laws.
Basque Country	The Basque Parliament does not collect impact data because it lacks a comission or institution for regulatory assessment
Catalonia	In the case of regulatory initiatives promoted by the Government, participation presents the same problems as in other areas. Stakeholders are involved in initiatives that directly affect their interests in order to defend them, but it is more difficult for them to participate where interests are most diffuse. Citizens do not participate much in general and it is very difficult to reach certain groups - migrants, people with difficulties in accessing the digital world, etc ... On the other hand, there are problems in obtaining data and, therefore, to evaluate. In order to solve these problems, the aim is to reduce the number of consultations to those that are significant enough for stakeholders and citizens to participate (to avoid the fatigue of the consultation). At the same time, the aim is to increase the quality of public consultations, with a range of tools and instruments for participation that go beyond the online query to encourage the participation of certain profiles in consultations that may be interesting and provide better data and evidence. Work is being done to improve the tools of participation and make their existence more widely known.
Lombardy	Data on the impact of regional policies are collected and analysed by qualified research groups as part of structured evaluation research pathways ("evaluative missions"). Therefore, we face no particular problems.
Piedmont	Please see above, point 8
Friuli Venezia Giulia	We don't face any particular difficulties, also thanks to the fact that stakeholders' involvement is now a custom to which not only they are used to, but that they themselves consider an important moment in order to be able to present at the institutional level their criticalities, requests, proposals and solicitations.

**11. In order to adopt a regulation capable of solving not only the current problems, but also those arising from phenomena that we do not yet know well but already prefigure the changes taking place, it becomes essential to link "Better regulation" to science. Legislation can only be a quality one, and "fit for future", if it is based on evidence, and on transparent, comprehensible and scientifically proven data. Does your Region involve in the consultations and/or throughout the cycle of the regional policy decision, the scientific and research centres and institutes located in the territory?**

Asturias	We agree. We don't have a formalized process, but, in any case, the consultations are frequent.
Balearic Islands	Regional Government and Parliamentary groups usually do that, not the Regional Parliament.
Basque Country	Yes, the Basque institutions maintain a strong collaboration relationship with the universities that make up the Basque university system (UPV/EHU, University of Deusto and University of Mondragon), as well as with the different entities that make up the Basque science, technology and innovation system. ( <a href="https://www.spri.eus/euskadinnova/es/innovacion-tecnologica/vasca-ciencia-tecnologia-innovacion/168.aspx">https://www.spri.eus/euskadinnova/es/innovacion-tecnologica/vasca-ciencia-tecnologia-innovacion/168.aspx</a> )
Catalonia	No, it does not, unless they are relevant stakeholders in the subject that is being legislated on. In that regard, research centres and universities are one of the actors, among many others, to which participatory processes are communicated. They have no specific place in the cycle of regulation.
Lombardy	As the evaluation processes are carried out, specialised research institutes and research groups of universities based in Lombardy are involved.
Piedmont	Yes, when deemed necessary
Friuli Venezia Giulia	Yes, scientific and research centres are involved through consultations and hearings in front of the Assembly's permanent commissions.

**12. Is your Region part of the European Committee of the Regions' RegHub network?**

Asturias	It is not
Balearic Islands	No
Basque Country	We are not part of the REGHUB network, but its participation is being analysed.
Catalonia	Yes, there is a <a href="#">regional office</a> .
Lombardy	Not directly: but Lombardy is part of the CINSEDO (Italian Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces), which in turn is involved in RegHub.
Piedmont	No
Friuli Venezia Giulia	Yes, it has been part of the project since its beginning. Now FVG is one of the 46 RegHub 2.0 network's contact points.

**13. If not, are you aware of this network's activities?**

Asturias	At the moment, that is unfortunately not the case
Balearic Islands	Some of them
Basque Country	In the previous question it is being analysed
Catalonia	-
Lombardy	-
Piedmont	Yes
Friuli Venezia Giulia	-

**14. There is a broad consensus that a more important role of local and regional authorities (LRAs) and of the institution that best represents them, the CoR, can contribute to the formation of EU regulations that are more effective, transparent and in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. In your opinion, how can this result be achieved? Do you have any suggestions to propose, in order to further increase the multilevel governance dimension of 'Better Regulation', so that the LRAs can significantly contribute to it?**

Asturias	-
Balearic Islands	<p>We concur that the role of the European Committee of the Regions should be strengthened, as discussed in the Conference on the Future of Europe and the 9th European Summit of Regions and Cities. We are in agreement that it should acquire a binding role in some political areas regarding a territorial approach. And more specifically, the reinforcement of the principle of subsidiarity can be achieved, allowing a greater access of the European Committee of the Regions to the negotiations between EU institutions about legislative bills and giving Regional Parliaments a formal role when proposing legislative bills in the EU.</p>
Basque Country	<p>The recommends of opinion on "Better Regulation: joining forces to make better laws", with rapporteur the coordinator of this working group, Piero Mauro Zanin, are very well.</p> <p>In particular, we share recommends that the European Commission work more closely with local and regional authorities (LRAs), particularly those with legislative powers, throughout the policy cycle.</p> <p>It would be interesting to create working commissions within the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament, but in an interconnected manner between both institutions, with specific agendas where the dimension of "Better Regulation" and the strategic vision to Fit for Future are worked on by specific sectors. The overall vision to activate synergies and territorial capacities should also be worked on.</p> <p>The regional parliamentary assemblies should be given a voice and a vote in the preparation of the work of this agenda to fit the future and to make progress in better regulation</p>
Catalonia	<p>The European Commission's experience in this area could usefully be shared. In particular, it is suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To carry out tasks of dissemination of the importance of the <i>Better Regulation</i> among the policymakers of the local and regional authorities.</li> <li>- Facilitate the implementation of online training courses for officials in the field.</li> <li>- Create a network of European evaluators to facilitate the exchange of experiences between public administrations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To make conferences to spread the subject.</li> <li>- Provide simpler tools for those administrations that are delayed in the implementation of better regulation instruments.</li> <li>- Provide technical assistance to regional units in the field of better regulation so that they can develop knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul>
Lombardy	-
Piedmont	More training and information for newly elected politicians at regional and local level, as well as for Local and Regional Authorities' employees
Friuli Venezia Giulia	<p>The most important thing is to be able to establish networks between regions and, in particular, between the various regional legislative assemblies, both at national and European level, to coordinate their work and exchange best practices and concrete experiences for the implementation of better regulation tools. As also widely shared by the participants of the recent CALRE Assembly held in Oviedo on 5-6 October 2022, the aim should be both to harmonise the activities of the various CALRE working groups and to develop a permanent and direct dialogue between CALRE and the European Committee of the Regions and its commissions.</p> <p>Secondly, it is important to organise an <i>ad hoc</i> training activity for both political representatives and officials of regional administrations and regional parliaments, including through dedicated workshops and courses.</p> <p>Of course, a communication and information activity can also be very useful for an increasing dissemination and knowledge of the topic.</p>

**15. Are there any best practices, currently in use in your Region regarding the quality of legislation, that you believe could also be applied in regional contexts in other countries? If so, which ones?**

Asturias	-
Balearic Islands	-
Basque Country	<p>The challenges posed by the dynamics of better regulation are a constant concern and we still have to improve.</p> <p>However, we can point out three practices that may be of interest:</p> <p>a) Criteria for better regulation are systematically incorporated in laws, with special attention to regulatory assessment, although even more thought needs to be given to their governance system.</p> <p>b) The Basque law on local entities provides for the creation a Council for local public policies.</p> <p><i>Article 83. The Basque Council of Local Public Policies.</i></p> <p><i>1. The Basque Council of Local Public Policies is created as an institutional structure whose function is to make effective the relations of institutional cooperation of the municipalities with the autonomous and foral institutions in order to guarantee the recognition and weighting of municipal interests in the processes of design, elaboration, execution and evaluation of public policies which may affect the local sphere of government.</i></p> <p><i>2. The Basque Council of Local Public Policies shall also be responsible for adopting agreements or making decisions that refer to the competences of the common institutions of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and that affect the material scope of the municipalities own competences.</i></p> <p>c) The Basque Parliament is working on a conference scheduled for January 2023 to study in depth the regulatory quality in bilingual contexts and where the progress and challenges of the dynamics of better regulation will be studied.</p>
Catalonia	The region of Catalonia has a explicit public <a href="#">Better Regulation policy</a> since 2008. However, the implementation of <i>Better Regulation</i> instruments is in an initial phase so there are no specific best practices to exchange.
Lombardy	Yes. Firstly, we mention Article 44 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Lombardy Region, which provides that the drafting of regulatory texts is based on clarity, simplicity and respect for the quality of regulation.

	<p>Furthermore, Article 106 of the General Regulation of Lombardy's Regional Legislative Assembly calls for the application, <i>ex officio</i>, of the provisions on drafting and quality of legislation, approved by the Bureau of the Assembly (see Bureau's Decision N. 97 of 22 April 2008 "Adoption of the Manual on Rules and Suggestions for the drafting of regulatory texts", as amended by the Working Group promoted by the Conference of Presidents of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces in July 2006). The "Manual" is applied by all offices and departments involved in the legislative process.</p> <p>These structures also have to assure the compliance with Law N. 7/2006, whose requirements impose not to threaten the rationalisation of the overall set of legal rules, initiated with the approval of the so called "Consolidated Texts".</p> <p>It is also important Article 81, paragraph 2 of the General Regulation of the Regional Assembly: according to it, subsequent legislative measures on matters or sectors ruled by "reorganisation laws" or by Consolidated Texts must be implemented exclusively by amending, supplementing or abrogating the provisions of the reorganisation laws or of the Consolidated Texts themselves. Otherwise, the draft law will be inadmissible.</p> <p>Moreover, a fruitful collaboration has been established between the legislative offices of the Regional Government and the Regional Legislative Assembly on the related topics.</p>
Piedmont	<p>In addition to what has already been indicated (in particular in points 5, 6 and 7 above), we underline the relevance of the "Arianna" regulatory database. It allows the best accessibility, including from mobile devices, to laws and other regulatory acts approved by the Regional Legislative Assembly; to all documents produced during the investigation of those acts; and to all documents produced after these acts were in force, too.</p>
Friuli Venezia Giulia	<p>In addition to the aspects of the Commission's toolbox already applied, we point out some of the above mentioned aspects: evaluation clauses; evaluation missions; factsheets on State aid; technical regulatory assessment sheets (ATN) accompanying the bills of law.</p>