



OUTLINE OF CEMR'S 2009 WORK PROGRAMME

A. Objective: to strengthen the role and contribution of local and regional governments in European governance, active citizenship and the development of democracy

Aim A1: To promote good practice in consultation of local and regional government through wide publicity for CEMR's Code of Good Practice on consultation

- Wide promotion of CEMR's Code on good practice in consultation
- Organise members' round table on consultation processes

Aim A2: to exchange information and draw conclusions from the trends in regional and local government and democracy across Europe

- respond to the financial and economic crisis, collecting information and assessing the impact, and taking any agreed initiatives
- organise 20th anniversary event to mark the developments in local and regional democracy since 1989
- organise seminar in framework of Malmö General Assembly
- organise seminar on developments in non-legislative regions' structures, finances and competences
- organise seminar on theme of "trust in government"

Aim A3: To help local and regional governments to take effective action for gender equality

- Further promotion and dissemination of the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life, getting it translated and printed in more languages as resources permit
- To follow up and complete work on gender equality indicators and action plans

Aim A4: To promote town twinning and other transnational citizenship initiatives, as a means of enhancing understanding and a stronger sense of European identity

- Implementation and promotion of new twinning website, in close co-ordination with members
- Organise special session in Malmö General Assembly to mark 20 years of European Twinning Grant
- Close ongoing co-operation with Commission (DG Education & Culture and Executive Agency), giving feedback and contributions from the twinning network, and participation in structured dialogue in relation to the programme
- Organise programme of meetings and activities for CEMR's twinning network, including seminar in Poland and meeting in western Balkans
- Commence preparations for next twinning congress (? 2011).

Aim A5: To develop CEMR's work in relation to south-east Europe, including Turkey, helping to strengthen the European capacity of the national associations of the region

- Development of cooperation with NALAS and its member associations
- Assist member associations in relation to European integration issues
- Co-organise or participate in NALAS or national meetings in south-east Europe

Aim A6: to work in partnership with (a) the Council of Europe and in particular the Congress, and (b) the Committee of the Regions

- Work on issues of common interest with the Congress, and as appropriate the CDLR (Committee of Ministers), especially developments in relation to local and regional self-government, and proposals for new Protocols to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and promote and publicize Local Democracy Week initiative
- Implement the co-operation agreement with the Committee of the Regions, identifying areas of common interest for specific joint actions

Aim A7: To organise a successful General Assembly of CEMR for 2009 in Malmö

- Work with Malmö, SALAR and associations to develop high quality conference with good participation.

Aim A8: To promote local democracy in Eastern Europe

- To consider initiatives, in partnership with CEMR members, in relation to the development of local democracy in Belarus.
- To organise an event in Ukraine, with Association of Ukrainian Cities

B. Objective: to influence legislation and policy, and to promote good practice on European policy issues

Aim B1: To promote an ambitious European cohesion and rural / urban development policy, with adequate resources and involving all the EU's regions, together with their local governments

- Contribute to the debate on the future of cohesion policy, the spending priorities of the future EU budget and the rural development after 2013, including to respond to the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion
- Continue participation in the inter-governmental activities on the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and of the Leipzig Charter on sustainable European cities
- Monitor important developments in relation to the implementation of the current Structural Funds operational programmes and policies

Aim B2: To influence legislation, policy and practice on sustainable development, to take into account the policies and resources of local and regional governments, and the interests of citizens

- Provide input to the preparation and lobby the European decision making process on ongoing and forthcoming legislation, such as waste (review of the WEEE directive and Green Paper on biowaste), noise (review of the noise directive), soil (directive on soil protection).
- Follow-up of the White Paper on adaptation to climate change and consider further activities in the area of climate change.
- Contribute to relevant initiatives on sustainable development (review of the sustainable development strategy, preparation of the next Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference)

- Contribute to relevant energy initiatives, in particular the revision of the energy performance of buildings directive, the use of renewable energy and the Covenant of Mayors.
- Follow-up of the action plan on urban mobility and the review of the Eurovignette directive (charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures)
- Contribute to the reflections on the Future of the European Transport policy and the future of Trans-European Network Policy

Aim B3: In the field of Services of General Interest and public procurement, to obtain far more legal certainty, in line with CEMR policy and the principles of subsidiarity and local self-government

- Launch and Promotion of CEMR's Charter on local and regional services of general interest and continue lobbying the key issues of the Charter
- Follow-up the Commission's initiatives on social services, including care and health care and the forthcoming recommendation on 'partnerships in implementing the Single Market'
- Continue working on the different Commission procurement initiatives, such as green, social, pre-commercial and innovative procurement
- Monitor the Commission activities on State aid, in particular its report on the application of the Kroes / Monti package on public service compensation.

Aim B4: To influence legislation, policy and practice in the economic and social fields, in the interests of citizens and of local and regional governments

- Contribute to the debate on the future of the EU budget, including reflections on Lisbon 2010+ on Europe's competitiveness as knowledge and innovation based society
- Follow-up and respond to Commission's initiatives on demographic change, on active inclusion, children and migration, including asylum seekers
- Organise exchange of experience on policies and tasks in relation to asylum-seekers
- Monitor and respond, where appropriate, to Commission's proposals in the social and health care sectors
- Contribute to the debate on broadband and related issues such as universal services and next generation networks
- Contribute to the implementation of the Digital Local Agenda and to eCapacity building at local and regional levels
- Assistance with the preparation of the 8th EISCO (information society) conference in Bilbao, Spain (April 2010)

Aim B5: To promote the interests of local / regional government employers and their workforces, in particular through the European social dialogue processes

- Monitor decision-making on the revised Working Time Directive and Temporary Workers Directive and the impact of the adopted text and its transposition and implementation
- Follow-up the Commission's initiatives on the EU sectoral social dialogue
- Contribute to the exchange of experience on third party violence and on diversity policies
- Continue promoting gender equality in local and regional government

C. Objective: to strengthen the contribution of Europe's local and regional governments in the international arena, for democracy, development, peace, and understanding

Aim C1: To play an effective role as European world region of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), in co-ordination with the individual members

- Organisation of the CEMR World Affairs Committee,
- European contribution to relevant policy dossiers of UCLG (e.g. CEMR's Equality Charter, UCLG's 2nd GOLD report, international co-operation and UN Guidelines on decentralisation)
- Active co-operation with UCLG world organisation and its relevant regional sections in relation to the new EU programmes and development of EU development policy to enhance local government role
- Closer concertation between CEMR / UCLG, including joint team meeting and follow-up

Aim C2: To ensure the successful implementation of the new programme for co-ordination etc. under the Thematic Programme for Non-State Actors and Local Authorities

- Organise work of platform of European and international associations for coordination and dialogue with EU institutions
- Continuation of lobbying EU institutions to recognise more fully the role of local / regional government in international development,
- Publicize and further develop the new website for twinning and partnerships for development, in co-operation with UCLG and other partners
- Development of better relations with European NGO networks and other actors in this field
- Organisation of exchanges of good practice in north-south co-operation, with closer co-ordination with UCLG
- Actions to promote the MDGs via local governments, in cooperation with Millennium campaign

Aim C3: To develop cross-cultural dialogue and exchanges between local and regional governments

- Support relevant initiatives on the Mediterranean space
- Participation in relevant activities of COPPEM and other relevant networks

Aim C4: To promote local government's international role in combating climate change

- Work with UCLG, ICLEI and other European / international associations to achieve stronger role for local / regional governments in post-Kyoto climate agreement, taking active role in key events
- Co-operate with Danish associations and other partners (UCLG, ICLEI) to contribute to Local Government Climate Change Summit, Copenhagen (June)
- Organise session on climate change in Malmö General Assembly in which a CEMR contribution to this work is agreed.
- Participate actively in 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul (March)

D. Objective: to strengthen CEMR as an effective organisation on behalf of its members associations, representing the interests of Europe's local and regional governments

Aim D1: To implement successfully the new measures to enhance the role of elected members

- Organise and co-ordinate new system of elected rapporteurs
- Organise 2 meetings of new Committee on Democracy and Governance

Aim D2: to improve regular communication with members

- Develop electronic newsletter
- Review existing main website, and bring forward recommendations for a possible new site
- Produce information brochures about CEMR
- Promote the Malmö General Assembly

Aim D3: To organise CEMR events in a professional and attractive manner, ensuring that customer feedback is received and analysed

- To continue to obtain and use feedback from those attending working groups, committees and events with a view to improving our services

Aim D4: to ensure that CEMR's finances and financial systems remain soundly based, that membership fees are properly followed up, that other appropriate income sources are pursued, and that the annual budget is accurately implemented

- Provide good and timely support to the work of the Financial Management Committee, honorary auditors and the professional auditors
- Monitor the impact (if any) of the economic downturn on CEMR's finances, taking any necessary action
- Prepare for the new system of the European Commission in relation to the operating grant for active citizenship and twinning