



Local & Regional
Europe

A blue-tinted photograph of a busy European city street. The street is lined with historic buildings, and there are many pedestrians and cyclists. A "Bavaria" sign is visible on the right side of the street. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and urban.

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

A Word from our President

If this publication makes one thing clear, it is the crucial role of Europe's complex patchwork of municipalities, counties and regions in so many aspects of life. Behind the words that jump out – basic services, climate change, international development, COVID – there is a human reality: local and regional elected officials and civil servants, working every day for their citizens in an ever-growing sphere of areas.

For over 70 years, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has been the voice

of local and regional Europe. As the most experienced and broadest association of local and regional governments – representing all territorial levels – CEMR is both a powerful network for collaboration and a privileged interlocutor in European and global institutions.

In an age often marked by political polarisation and alienation, at CEMR we believe that vibrant local democracy contributes to bringing our citizens together and overcoming the many challenges of our time.



Stefano Bonaccini

CEMR President

President of Emilia-Romagna Region

Our political leadership

Members of CEMR's Executive bureau – 2020-2022

PRESIDENT



Stefano Bonaccini
President of Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy)

CO-PRESIDENTS



Gunn Marit Helgesen
Councillor, Vestfold and Telemark County (Norway)



Christoph Schnaudigel
President of the Karlsruhe Landkreis (Germany)

FMC* CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR

*Financial Management Committee



Christine Oppitz-Plörer
CHAIR
Member of the City government, Innsbruck (Austria)



Vince Maple
VICE-CHAIR
Councillor, Medway (United Kingdom)

UCLG VICE-PRESIDENT



Carola Gunnarsson
Lord Mayor of Sala Council (Sweden)

VICE-PRESIDENTS



Mariana Găju
Mayor of Cumpăna (Romania)



Victor Hadjivraam
Mayor of Morphou (Cyprus)



Aldis Hafsteinsdóttir
Mayor of Hveragerðisbær (Iceland)



Christiane Horsch
Mayor of Verbandsgemeinde Schweich (Germany)



Aleksandra Dulkiewicz
Mayor of Gdansk (Poland)



Yordanka Fandakova
Mayor of Sofia (Bulgaria)



Philippe Laurent
Mayor of Sceaux (France)



Carlos Martinez Minguéz
Mayor of Soria (Spain)



Lucie Potuckova
Mayor of Mladé Buky (Czechia)



Nino Rukhadze
Member of the Tbilisi City Assembly (Georgia)



Anne Hidalgo
Mayor of Paris (France)



Anders Knape
Lord Mayor of Karlstad City Council (Sweden)



Fatma Şahin
Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey)



Izzi Seecombe
Leader of Warwickshire County Council (United Kingdom)



Tiit Terik
Chairman of Tallinn City Council (Estonia)



Bart Tommelein
Mayor of Oostende (Belgium)



Fernando Medina
Mayor of Lisbon (Portugal)



Jan Van Zanen
Mayor of The Hague (Netherlands)

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTS

CEMR members

Albania

local: 61
regional: 12
SHBSH

Austria

local: 2 095
regional: 9
GEMEINDEBUND
STÄDTEBUND

Belgium

local: 581
intermediate: 10
regional: 3
BRULOCALIS,
VVSG, UVCW

Bosnia and Herzegovina

local: 145
regional: 10
SOGFBiH, ALVRS

Bulgaria

local: 265
NAMRB

Croatia

local: 556
regional: 21
HRVZZ

Cyprus

local: 380
UCM

United Kingdom

local: 404
regional: 4
LGA, WLGA,
COSLA, NILGA

Ukraine

local: 1 775
intermediate: 136
regional: 24
AUC, YAPOP

Turkey

local: 19 645
TBB

Sweden

local: 290
regional: 20
SKR

Spain

local: 8 183
regional: 19
FEMP,
EUDEL

Slovenia

local: 212
SOS,
ZMOS-SI

State structure

-  federal state
-  unitary state

Subdivision of government

-  only local
-  local + intermediate or regional
-  local + intermediate + regional

Slovakia

local: 2930
regional: 8
ZMOS-SK

Serbia

local: 174
regional: 2
SKGO

Romania

local: 3 181
regional: 41
ACoR,
UNCJR,
AMR

Portugal

local: 3 400
regional: 2
ANMP

Poland

local: 2 477
intermediate: 380
regional: 16
ZMP, ZPP

Norway

local: 356
regional: 11
KS

North Macedonia

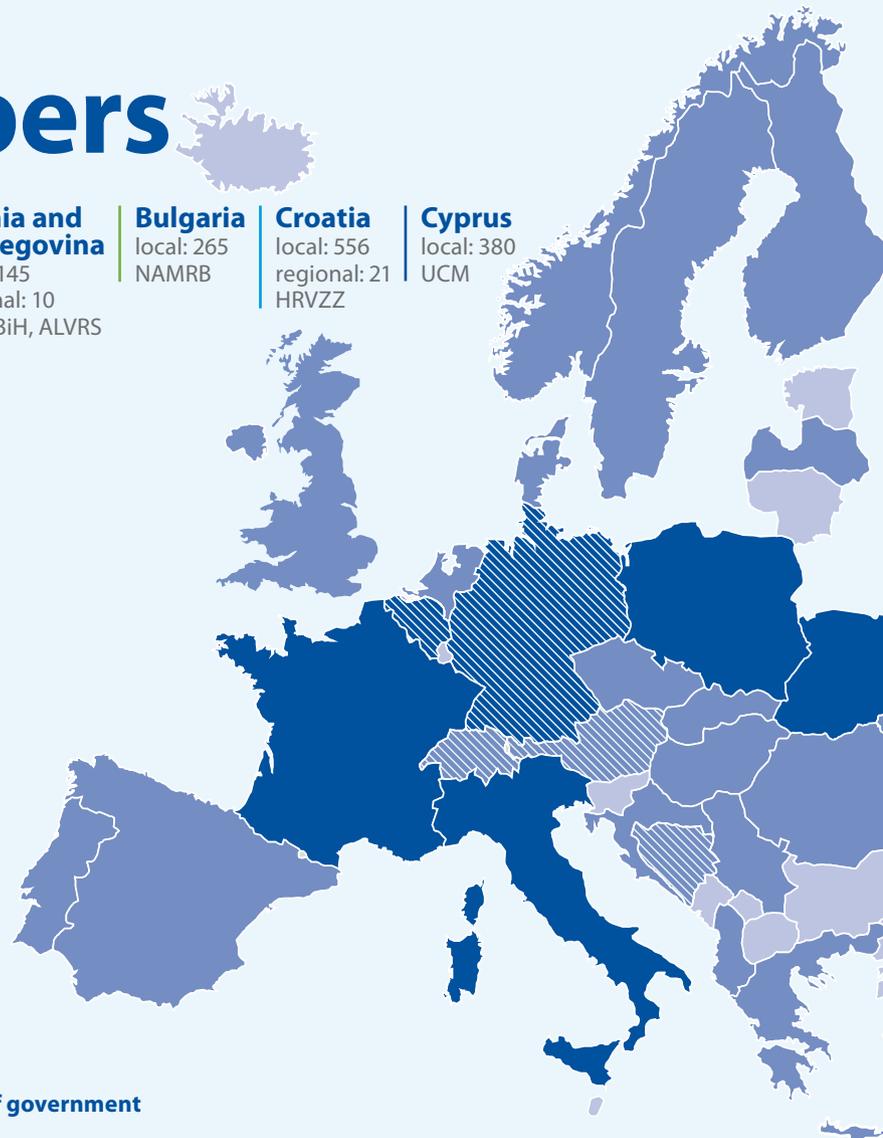
local: 81
NALAS, ZELS

Netherlands

local: 352
regional: 12
VNG, IPO

Montenegro

local: 25
UOM



Czech Republic

local: 6 258
regional: 14
SMO ČR

Denmark

local: 98
regional: 5
KL, REGIONER

Estonia

local: 79
AECM

Finland

local: 309
regional: 19
AFLRA

France

local: 34 965
intermediate: 100
regional: 18
AFCCRE

Georgia

local: 64
regional: 3
NALAG

Germany

local: 10 799
intermediate: 294
regional: 16
RGRE, DST,
DStGB, DLT

Greece

local: 332
regional: 13
KEDE

Hungary

local: 3 155
intermediate: 19
TÖOSZ-MÖSZ
KÖOESZ

Iceland

local: 369
SAMBAND

Israel

local: 257
regional: 6
MASHAM

Italy

local: 7 904
intermediate: 107
regional: 20
AICCRE

Moldova

local: 898
regional: 32
CALM

Malta

local: 68
LCA

Luxembourg

local: 102
SYVICOL

Lithuania

local: 60
LSA

Latvia

local: 42
regional: 5
LPS

Kosovo*

local: 1 507
AKM

United Cities and Local
Governments (UCLG)

Council of European Municipalities
and Regions (CEMR)

60 national
associations

114,534
towns &
cities

1,058
provinces
& counties

353
regions

CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe's local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations.

OUR MISSION

We promote the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded upon local self-government and respect for the principle of subsidiarity.

CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) through which it represents local and regional governments at international level.

Founded in
1951

60
member associations

40
countries

115,000
local and regional
governments

1,000,000
elected representatives

*All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Our values

Local democracy, sustainability and diversity are at the heart of what we do

Since its founding in 1951, CEMR has worked tirelessly to promote the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe based on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and citizens' participation and needs.

The voice of local democracy

We believe the world's problems can only be solved from the bottom-up. That is why local and regional governments need a strong voice at national, European and global levels.

Local governments are basic building blocks of democracy. As such, CEMR works to protect local autonomy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

We promote partnerships between governments at all levels, such as through town twinning and decentralised international cooperation.

Diversity and sustainability

Around 40 staff in the CEMR secretariat work in Brussels on behalf of our associations. Our team of

professionals hails from a dozen nationalities and speaks about 15 languages.

We are keen to ensure that our leadership and our debates are gender-balanced. With dozens of meetings every year, we also strive to be green when organising our events.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an important guiding framework for our work. These Global Goals offer a powerful common framework for exchange on global challenges directly impacting people's lives, such as on health, equality and the environment.

We will continue to embody the values of local democracy, equality, diversity and sustainability in our daily work and to promote them in both Europe and the wider world.



How we work

Our leadership and governance

CEMR is led by experienced and dynamic elected local leaders from across Europe. Our Presidency and Policy Committee are organised to ensure maximal gender, geographical and democratic representation.

Since 2013, CEMR has had rules to ensure **gender-balanced leadership** in our governing bodies. Today, CEMR is one of the only international organisations with gender-balanced leadership.

CEMR is also represented by around **25 spokespersons** covering numerous thematic areas and who speak on behalf of local and regional Europe in various international forums and to the press. You may be struck by the diversity



of our mayors, municipal and regional councillors, presidents and representatives. We seek to be representative of the rich tapestry of Europe's territories:

from national capitals to rural villages, from urbanised metropolises to islands, mountains and more, all have their place in the CEMR family!



Policy Committee

CEMR's highest decision-making body, 170 local and regional politicians



Executive Bureau

CEMR's 25 Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General



Financial Management Committee

Advises on CEMR's finances. Makes budgetary recommendations



Secretariat

Responsible for day-to-day work, 35-40 staff led by Secretary-General

Our history

70 years blazing trails for local and regional Europe

CEMR's work is rooted in a proud history of over seven decades representing local governments and working for peace and cooperation in Europe.

The challenges of 1951, when our organisation was founded, were in many respects very different from those we face today. Europe was moving away from the most devastating period of history marked by two world wars and the genocide of millions. Europeans then still had only an uneasy peace under the shadow of the Cold War.

The founders of the Council of European Municipalities (CEM) were

then painfully aware that peace and democracy were precious but fragile goods in Europe. Unity among Europeans would not be achieved simply top-down through the actions of national governments. Rather, Europeans should collaborate across borders from the bottom-up, making their unity a day-to-day social reality. What's more, municipal rights had to be established and protected, local civic life being the surest way of creating and promoting a culture of democracy as the bedrock of the rule of law.

That is why 56 mayors and local representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg,

Switzerland and the Netherlands came together in Geneva on 28 January 1951 to found the CEM. These pioneers had a wide range of backgrounds and experiences which informed their activism.

The principles which the founders of CEM affirmed in January 1951 resonate just as strongly in 2021:

“Mayors and elected members of local authorities, united across national frontiers by their responsibilities as administrators in direct contact with the people and with day-to-day realities, are the builders of a Europe that is free, united and respectful of diversity.”

Creation of the Council of European Municipalities

CEMR President Fernand Cottier (Mayor of Geneva)

1951

Adoption of European Charter of Municipal Liberties

CEMR President Emile Hamilius (Mayor of Luxembourg)

1953

200 town twinnings reached

CEMR President Henri Cravatte (Mayor of Diekirch)

1959

General Assembly in Rome (20,000 citizens present)

1964

Creation of ERDF

1975

4,000 town twinnings reached

1979

First CEMR conference on gender equality (Pisa)

1983

The first steps: twinning and local autonomy

In the early years, CEM's most practical work was in the promotion of town twinning. National associations would relay municipalities' requests and help them find a suitable partner to create friendship bonds and solidarity. CEM also spread pedagogical materials on how to make twinning a political and social success. Twinned cities typically organise activities such as student exchanges, joint cultural and sporting events and the promotion of business ties, as well as more technical cooperation between municipal officials.

In the aftermath of the war, Édouard Herriot, the mayor of Lyon, observed: *"everything pits States against each other, while everything unites municipalities."* And indeed, the twinings of cities like Montbelliard, Ludwisgburg, Liège, Lille, Cologne and Turin – uniting citizens in nations that had just been enemies – were symbolically powerful and made for a sharp break. Today, there are around 20,000 town twinings in Europe, making this by far the most common kind of cooperation between governments on the continent.

The CEM also set to work on the task of promoting local democracy, notably with the adoption of the European

Charter of Municipal Liberties in Versailles in October 1953. The document outlined the conditions for municipalities' genuine administrative and financial self-government, and would provide the basis for the Council of Europe's 1985 European Charter of Local Self-Government. The latter has since been ratified by the 47 member states of the Council of Europe, committing them to respecting municipal rights, with regular oversight by international observers.

Regions join,
CEM becomes
CEMR

CEMR President
Josef Hofmann
(Mayor of Mainz)

1984

Signing of
the European
Charter of
Local Self-
Government

1985

Creation of
EU cohesion
policy

1988

CEMR becomes
European section
of IULA

New members
from northern and
eastern Europe

1990s

CEMR
President
Pasqual
Maragall i
Mira (Mayor
of Barcelona)

1992

Creation of the
EU Committee of
the Regions

Creation of
the Council of
Europe's Congress

1994

CEMR President
Valéry Giscard
d'Estaing
(former
President of
France)

1997

Putting the “R” in CEMR: advocacy and support for regions

Over the years, CEM broadened its membership beyond municipalities to also include regions and counties. The “R” in CEMR’s name was only added in 1984. CEMR has consistently advocated not only for political decentralisation but also a decentralised territorial approach to economic development. Europe’s economic prosperity and human capital should not be overly concentrated in a handful of territories.

Local and regional governments have gained in political recognition over the years, notably in the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht and the creation of the Committee of the Regions as a consultative body to the European

institutions. Furthermore, in many countries, regions have gained significant powers since the 1950s, notably in Belgium, France, and Spain. There is a constant back and forth however between central, regional and local governments, and in some countries the economic crisis of the 2010s saw a recentralisation of powers. CEMR monitors developments in its TERRI Report on Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe, updated every few years.

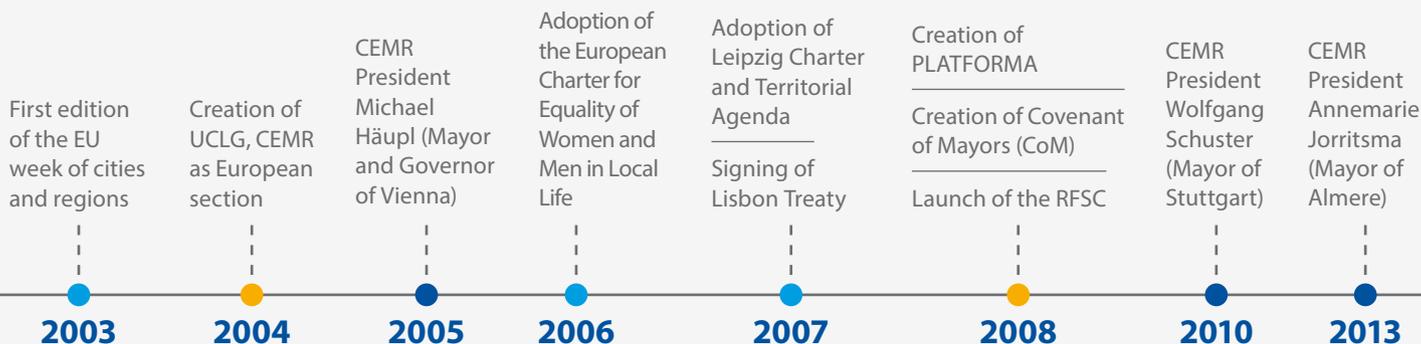
The further development of the European Community had an increasing impact on local and regional governments. In 1975, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was created to reduce economic disparities between territories. With the succession of new Treaties, the

European Union’s competencies have steadily extended to new areas, many of them affecting municipalities and regions.

During all these years, CEMR engaged in the discussions and shared the local perspective through face-to-face dialogues, advocacy, publications and debates. Our mission remains the same: to ensure European policies respect local realities and interests, and share good practices among our member associations, municipalities and regions.

Growing and changing with the times

CEMR as an organisation has constantly changed with the times. Membership grew steadily over the



years and so did the Secretariat. We have expanded our spheres of action to new areas including gender equality, climate and environment, and towns and regions' efforts in international development (known as decentralised cooperation).

Major physical changes of the office took place in 2007, when CEMR, together with many member associations represented in Brussels, moved into the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions on Square de Meeûs, just next to the European Parliament. At the end of 2013, CEMR's Paris office was closed and the headquarters was transferred to Brussels.

Since 2010, CEMR has invested in its capacity and the number of staff has almost doubled, also thanks to

external funding, mainly from the EU. We continue to expand and upgrade our activities – notably with accelerated digitalisation of our work in the wake of COVID-19. Many physical meetings have been replaced with virtual ones, a practice which helps us reduce both travel expenses and our carbon footprint.

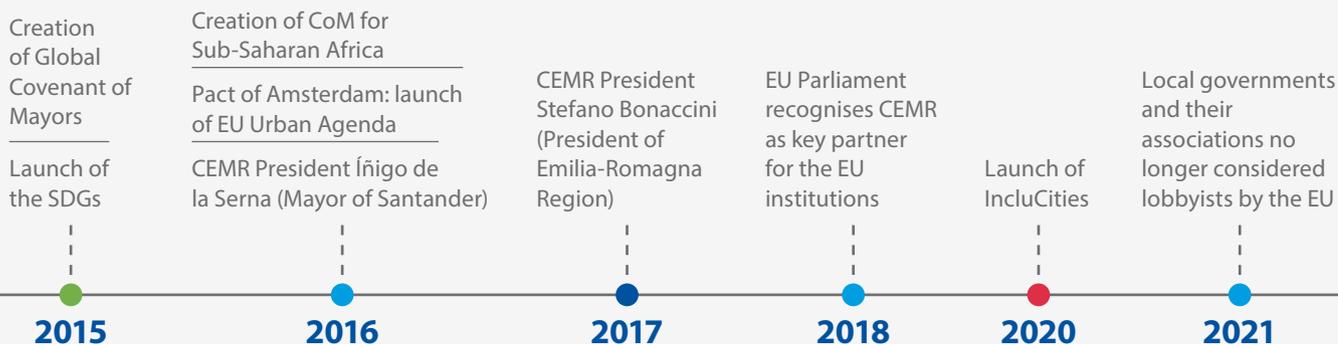
Paving the way for the future

The celebration of our 70th anniversary on 28 January 2021 was an ideal opportunity to reflect our past achievements and on the future in a world of rapid social and technological changes.

While European and global politics today are often marked by polarisation

and division, we should also consider the progress made since 1951. Do we dare to be hopeful for 2051? There are profound opportunities for civic activism and social change. Beyond institutions, this will depend on the young. A parting word from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who served as President of CEMR between 1997 and 2003, seems appropriate. In his last message to CEMR, he exhorted young people to take action:

“Today, power is there for the taking! This is to be understood in the noble sense of the word, not to infringe on the freedom of others. It is the power to act, to bring on the future and to organise it.”



What we do

Strengthening local democracy in Europe and beyond

CEMR is an organisation at the service of its members, national associations of local and regional governments, ultimately working for the good of all European municipalities, counties and regions and their citizens. Our work is organised according to long-term objectives under four “Ps”: People, Places, Planet and Partnership.

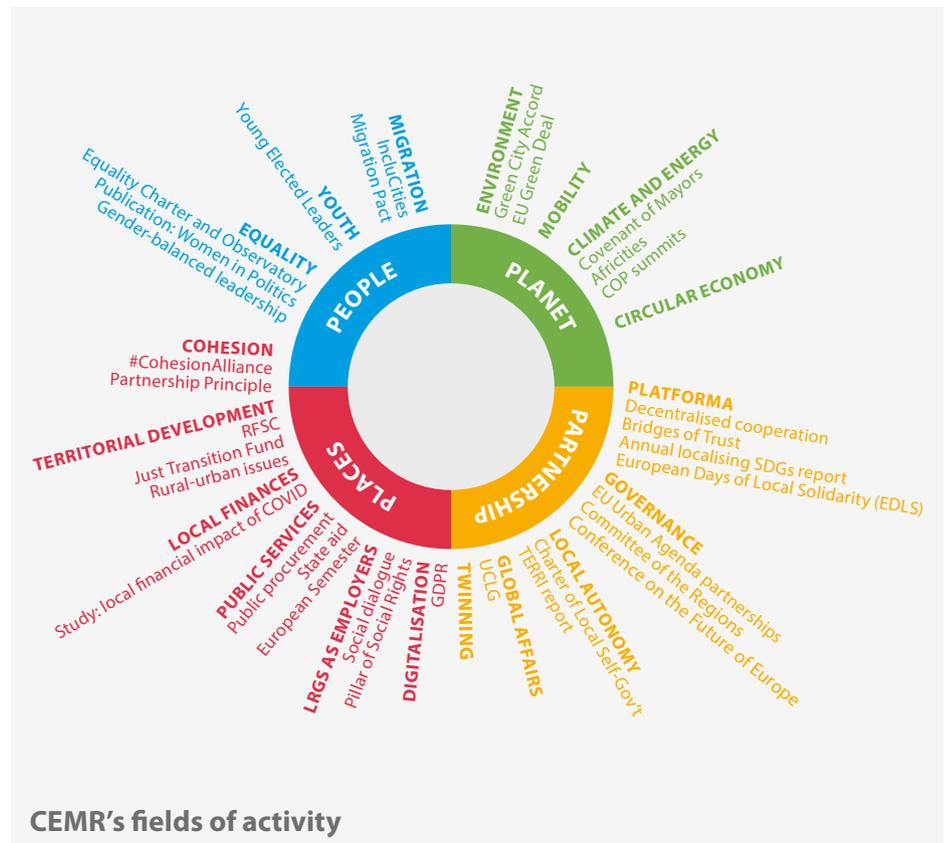
Advocacy: a leading European influencer

With around 70% of European legislation having an impact on local and regional governments, and the EU budget disbursing billions of euros, it is essential that municipalities and regions have a strong voice in Brussels and Strasbourg.

CEMR is a key interlocutor for European and global institutions. We represent local interests in a wide variety of settings, including the EU, the Council of Europe and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the OECD, the UN and elsewhere. EU Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament

(MEPs) and other influential players are frequent speakers and participants at our meetings and events.

We intervene from the earliest stages of the European Commission’s legislative process, through to the adoption of



amendments by the European Parliament and conclusions by the Council. The goal: ensure that European goals and policies are in tune with local realities and that municipalities, regions and their associations are sufficiently consulted and provided with the right conditions to thrive.

Knowledge: sharing of local expertise and ground-breaking studies

The discovery and sharing of knowledge is another essential pillar of our work. We are a platform for exchange, providing our members and local and regional governments with opportunities to share and learn from one another on a wide variety of topics, including climate and energy projects, local gender equality, migrant integration and much more.

Every year, CEMR organises technical meetings, political debates, conferences and seminars on subjects relevant to local and regional governments.

We also conduct original research to foster and inform public debates, with ground-breaking studies on women's local representation, the state of local finances or the territorial reforms of European countries.

Externally-funded activities

In addition to our core work financed by our members, CEMR also participates in a number of activities funded by external partners such as the European Commission and national ministries or agencies, always with a strong local dimension.

These activities cover varied areas such as municipalities and regions' international development policies (PLATFORMA), sustainable and integrated territorial development (the RFSC), migrant integration (INCLUCITIES), climate and energy (the Covenant of Mayors), local environments (Green City Accord) and local democracy in Ukraine (Bridges of Trust).

Communications

CEMR communicates with its members and the wider world through a variety of channels including our website, social media and a variety of thematic newsletters (see the "Stay Tuned" section below).

Our communication officers liaise with the media and organise our participation in pan-European campaigns around key dates, such as International Women's Rights Day, Europe Day and the State of the European Union speech.

We collaborate and share knowledge through a network of our members' communications professionals. Our spokespersons and the members of our Presidency spread our messages by speaking at numerous public events.

People



We work to create inclusive societies that leave no one behind and bring European institutions closer to citizens.

We have **Expert Groups and Committees** tackling the following issues:

- Gender equality
- Migration and refugees

Equality of men & women in local life

CEMR has been actively promoting equal representation for women since the 1980s. Today, we work to ensure European and international

institutions “mainstream” gender equality throughout policymaking.

We also collect and publish data on the state of gender inequalities in Europe. In 2019 we released **Women in Politics: Local and European Trends**. This flagship publication is unique in revealing the data on women’s representation at all levels of government in 41 European countries.

At CEMR we seek to **lead by example** on equality. That’s why, since 2013, we have quotas to ensure balanced representation of each sex in our governing bodies. These measures rapidly led to more balanced leadership.



Launched in 2006, the European Charter for Equality has since been signed by nearly 2,000 local governments, committing them to taking action for gender equality. The Charter’s Observatory tracks local implementation, promotes the Charter and helps local and regional governments develop their own equality action plans.

charter-equality.eu
@CEMR_Equality

Migration and diversity

With the right policies and support favouring inclusion and togetherness, migration can be a win-win for all. CEMR advocates for appropriate policies so that municipalities and regions influence European legislation on migration and benefit from related funds, such as the **Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund (AMIF)**. The AMIF will dedicate almost €10 billion to migration and integration from 2021 to 2027.

We exchange and contribute to shaping EU policies on local integration through the **Inclusion Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU**. The Partnership brings together local governments, their associations, Member States, EU institutions

and other stakeholders to develop policies supporting municipalities' integration efforts.

CEMR also collaborates with other international organisations working on migration. We notably contributed to the OECD study on Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees.

29%
Average proportion
of local elected
women in Europe
in 2019

inlucities
Building inclusive cities with migrants

INLUCITIES is an EU-funded initiative that supports cities' efforts to integrate migrants. We partner up pairs of cities with more and less experience on migration so they can learn from each other and develop action plans to improve local integration practices. The cities' respective national local government associations are also participating to share expertise on migration and the lessons learned with their members.

www.inlucities.eu

 @inlucitieseu

Places

We work for a Europe where no place is left behind. Everyone deserves to have similar opportunities and quality of life regardless of where they live. We push for policies helping every municipality and region to capitalise on their unique assets to fulfil their potential.

Our activity in this area is based on the analyses and proposals of our **Experts Groups** covering:

- Territorial, urban, rural development & cohesion
- Local finances
- Local and regional governments as employers
- Public services
- Digital transition
- Governance and territorial arrangements

Territorial development & cohesion: no place left behind

In a time of heightening territorial and social inequalities, we need strong policies for balanced local development.

In the EU, **Cohesion Policy** dedicates €50 billion every year, about one

third of the European budget, to boost less developed municipalities and regions' competitiveness and infrastructure.

We exchange with MEPs and EU officials to ensure a strong cohesion policy, less red tape and full involvement of local and regional governments in the planning and funding of projects (under the Partnership Principle).

Coalition-building with like-minded partners is essential in politics and particularly on budgetary issues. That is why we work with the Committee of the Regions, are a member of the Cohesion Alliance and participate in the OECD's Regional Development Policy Committee.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working to better involve local and regional governments in the planning and disbursement of EU-funded national **recovery programmes**. We also regularly research and publish studies on the state of local finances, such as on the impact of COVID-19 and on sustainable local investment.

As the EU's local impact has grown, so has the need for local governments to engage European decision-makers. That's why we participate in the **European Semester**, a major EU policy cycle which influences issues such as local public investment.

Public services and social dialogue: ensuring a flexible approach

Local and regional governments must be empowered to provide the best public services for the diverse needs and situations in their territories. That is why we promote **administrative simplification and flexibility** in EU rules, in particular in public procurement and state aid.

The climate crisis calls for a radical change: towns and regions must be able to **buy local** goods, support the circular economy and provide more sustainable and innovative services.

With some 12.3 million workers, local and regional authorities collectively make up one of the biggest employers in Europe. CEMR



represents them in the **EU social dialogue committee**. We also conduct research and contribute to guidelines on reducing violence in the workplace, gender equality, well-being at work, inclusion and non-discrimination.

Digitalisation: connecting the territories

Our economies, societies and way of life are being constantly transformed by new information technologies. There are great opportunities to reduce territorial disparities, enhance democratic participation and improve local administration.

CEMR's **policy work on digital** covers a wide range of issues including data

protection, artificial intelligence and acceleration of local digital transitions.

We are also developing **digitalisation guidelines** on how to best manage digital life in local public administrations. These will provide guidance on issues such as digital skills, liability for use of artificial intelligence and workers' ability to disconnect from the office.

€50 billion

The EU's annual Cohesion spending for towns and regions.



Thanks to the RFSC tool, over 2,000 users in more than 80 countries are designing integrated action plans for urban development. RFSC users can also monitor their progress towards the SDGs or the objectives of the European framework for sustainable cities. The tool is managed and promoted by CEMR with the support of the French government.

rfsc.eu

 [rfsc_eu](https://twitter.com/rfsc_eu)

Planet

A clean and healthy environment is crucial to our citizens' well-being and the sustainability of our societies.

Our advocacy is based on the analyses and proposals of our **Experts Groups** covering:

- Climate and Energy
- Mobility
- Waste Management and Circular Economy
- Other Environmental Issues

Green City Accord

The Green City Accord is the movement of European mayors making cities cleaner and healthier. Signatories receive support from the EU and commit to improving the situation on air, water, nature and biodiversity, circular economy and waste, and noise. CEMR is responsible for promoting the Accord among national associations of local and regional governments.

greencityaccord.eu

The European Green Deal

Climate change is already greatly affecting our continent and our planet, and we see the consequences growing year after year. Municipalities and regions are at the forefront when it comes to tackling floods, wildfires and droughts, as well as longer-term efforts on climate change.

Environmental action has gained tremendous momentum in the European Union with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's European Green Deal, which seeks to make Europe the **first carbon-neutral continent** by 2050.

This huge initiative includes measures in numerous areas affecting local governments, including energy efficient



buildings, renewables, mobility, circular economy and waste, biodiversity, green public procurement... and much more! And these measures have financial firepower to match: around **€650 billion** will be dedicated to climate issues between 2021 and 2027, one third of all EU spending.

Bottom-up action is essential to achieving the green transition. That's why CEMR promotes a supportive regulatory and financial framework for **local climate action**, as well as the full involvement of local and regional governments in national climate plans. Europe needs flexible approaches respectful of local conditions in each country and territory, in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

We have pushed for full consultation of local and regional governments benefiting from the **Just Transition Fund** in their territories – a new EU programme financing the transition to more sustainable economic models.

Beyond advocacy, we are broadening our action with a study on **Sustainable Local Finances** to be published in 2022 and participation in

the European Bauhaus, an initiative to design beautiful, sustainable and inclusive living spaces.

COP and beyond: from local to global climate action

Climate is the ultimate global issue: carbon and emissions and weather patterns wholly transcend national boundaries. We are all in this together. Global climate commitments need to respect local and regional governments' needs and contribute to actualising their decarbonisation potential. That is why we represent them at **UN global climate summits (COP)**. We caucus with allies in the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) together with partner organisations such as ICLEI and our global organisation United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

We also partner with other dedicated organisations in Europe such as Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, the FEDARENE and Eurocities, founders with us of the European Covenant of Mayors, and internationally with C40 and UCLG in the development of the Global Covenant of Mayors.



The Covenant of Mayors is the leading movement of municipalities and regions taking action by committing to reducing their carbon emissions. Today, over 10,700 signatories, covering 325 million people, have committed.

CEMR contributes to the development of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe, which has upgraded its objectives with a view to reducing EU emissions by 55% by 2030 and reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

What's more, CEMR supports the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) together with our sister organisation UCLG-Africa, helping African cities develop their own climate action plans.

covenantofmayors.eu
comssa.org

Partnerships



Partnerships between governments are essential to build a democratic and inclusive society.

This is true both between levels of government (local, regional, national, European) and between governments of different nations and continents.

CEMR promotes partnerships at all levels, from local to global. This includes strong support for the EU partnership principle and active participation in **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, our global organisation.

We support the 17 **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. These offer a powerful framework for different players to work together for

healthy, just and sustainable societies across the world. We also organise meetings of young elected politicians.

We work on Partnership through two Expert Groups:

- Governance, local democracy and citizenship
- Town twinning: connecting citizens

Governing in partnership

We can only meet today's challenges through collaboration between all levels of government, what is called multi-level governance. For this local and regional governments need financial and political autonomy and a strong voice among national governments and international institutions.

BRIDGES OF TRUST

Decentralisation has transformed local government in Ukraine and is widely regarded as the country's greatest success story in recent years. Bridges of Trust, an initiative Managed by CEMR, Bridges of Trust develops the capacities of 10 Ukrainian municipalities through international partnerships and exchanging best practices with 10 EU municipalities.

The initiative is funded by the U-LEAD with Europe Programme, a multi-donor action of the EU and its member states Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and Slovenia.

bit.ly/BridgesOfTrustEN
🌐 #BridgesOfTrust

For 70 years, CEMR has championed local autonomy as an essential ingredient of democracy. Our work paved the way for the Council of Europe's **European Charter of Local Self-Government**, protecting local democracy in 47 signatory countries.

Our advocacy recently led to the decision that local and regional government representatives will no longer be treated as "lobbyists" in the EU's Transparency Register. This decision recognises that towns and regions' advocates represent public interest and so should not face obstacles when accessing EU policy and decision-makers.

The situation of local governments in Europe is remarkably diverse and CEMR regularly releases publications keeping track of developments. This notably includes the TERRI Report on Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe, updated every few years.

Decentralised cooperation

"Think global, act local!" For more and more municipalities and regions, global

citizenship is not just an aspiration, but a day-to-day reality. Numerous local and regional governments in Europe have formed partnerships with their peers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia; covering issues such as basic services, economic development and democratic participation.

Since 2008, PLATFORMA – a coalition headed by CEMR – has united European municipalities, regions and their associations active in the field of international development cooperation. PLATFORMA notably works on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, global citizenship education and the EU's Eastern neighbourhood.

The coalition advocates before the EU institutions to strengthen decentralised cooperation, notably in bodies like the European Commission's Policy Forum for Development. The EU recently adopted a **Global Europe programme** for 2021-2027, which will provide €500 million for territorial development, much of it through local and regional governments' cooperation projects.



PLATFORMA contributes to civic engagement and public awareness on decentralised cooperation. The **PLATFORMAwards** reward excellence in cities and regions' international action every 2 years, putting the spotlight on projects that have an impact in their territories and can serve as models for others.

platformawards.eu
📍 #PLATFORMAwards

PLATFORMA coordinates the **European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS)**, an annual pan-European festival celebrating municipalities and regions' actions on international cooperation and development. Local events are organised for the occasion throughout Europe.

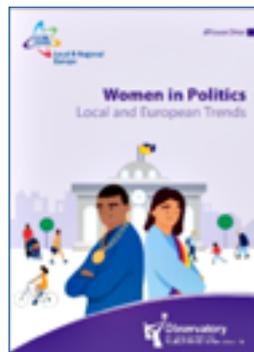
localsolidaritydays.eu
📍 #LocalSolidarityDays

Publications

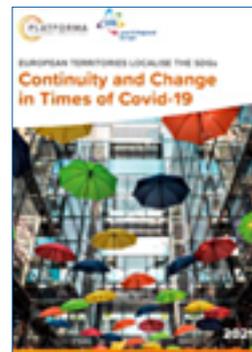
You can discover these and more of our studies, reports, brochures and position papers on our website: cemr.eu



TERRI Report – Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe. Focus on Local Health Care Systems (2021, EN/FR)



Women in Politics: Local and European Trends (2019, EN/FR)



European Territories Localise the SDGs: Continuity and Change in Times of Covid-19 (2021, EN/FR)



Key Messages of Local-Led Implementation of the Paris Agreement (2019, EN/FR)



INLUCITIES - Building inclusive cities with migrants: InluCities in a snapshot (2021, EN/FR)



Uptake of EU Funds in Rural Areas: Analysis from a Local and Regional Perspective (2021, EN)

Stay tuned

Keeping in touch with our network

For more information on how to subscribe to a newsletter or participate to an event, be sure to contact us at info@ccre-cemr.org or reach out to the relevant colleagues listed on our website.

Website: cemr.eu

An easy way to stay up-to-date with our activities

Our website, available in English and French includes a directory of elected officials, an interactive map with information on our associations in 40 countries, a calendar of events and a theme-based search engine.

Social media

Be part of the conversation!

- Twitter: @CCRECEMR
- LinkedIn: Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Extranet: extranet.cemr.eu

An exclusive platform for CEMR members

Exchange with your peers in our 60 member associations. It includes a library of documents and a calendar of CEMR events and internal meetings.

IN BRIEF

CEMR's members-only newsletter

Informing local government associations about our activities, events and opportunities for collaboration.

LOCAL INSIGHT

CEMR's monthly newsletter

LOCAL INSIGHT is aimed at those, from local officials to the Brussels bubble, who are interested in news and perspectives from European local governments.

Thematic Updates

Specialised policy news for our members

Our thematic teams send out regular policy updates to our expert groups and other members, covering issues such as gender equality, citizenship, cohesion and territorial development, decentralised cooperation and global affairs.

Webinars

Participate in our activities wherever you are!

We know your time is precious and flights have a heavy carbon footprint. As such, we organise online seminars that allow you to follow our activities and to be in direct dialogue with experts and elected representatives from all over Europe.

The Secretariat

To contact us, email info@cce-cemr.org or find the relevant team member on our website cemr.eu

Cabinet of the Secretary General

Internal resources

Communication, press and events

External resources and knowledge

Territories Team

- Economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Governance and institutional relations
- Employment and public services
- Digitalisation
- Third-party violence
- EU Dialogues, Local Solutions
- Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC)

Citizenship Team

- Equality and diversity
- Integration and migration
- Twinning
- Youth
- IncluCities

Climate and Environment Team

- Environment and mobility
- Energy and climate
- Green City Accord
- Covenant of Mayors – Europe
- Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa

International Partnerships Team

- Eastern Partnership
- Development Education & Awareness-Raising (DEAR)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Bridges of Trust
- PLATFORMA
- Decentralised cooperation

Publisher: The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

Copywriter: Craig Willy

Communication and Design: Pierre Vander Auwera and Craig Willy

Supervision: Frédéric Vallier and Marlène Siméon

Graphic Design and Printing: EU-turn

Information up-to-date as of: 1 December 2021

This publication is available online at: www.cemr.eu (Library section)

© Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2021

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Printed on eco-friendly paper.



Local & Regional
Europe

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe's local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations. CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which it represents European local and regional governments at international level.

Founded in
1951

60
member associations

40
countries

115,000
local and regional
governments

CEMR member associations

Albania

SHBSH

Austria

GEMEINDEBUND
STÄDTEBUND

Belgium

BRULOCALIS
VVSG
UVCW

Bosnia and Herzegovina

SOGFBiH
ALVRS

Bulgaria

NAMRB

Croatia

HRVZZ

Cyprus

UCM

Czech Republic

SMO ČR

Denmark

KL
REGIONER

Estonia

AECM

Finland

AFLRA

France

AFCCRE

Georgia

NALAG

Germany

RGRE
DST
DStGB
DLT

Greece

KEDE

Hungary

TÖOSZ-MÖSZ
KÖOESZ

Iceland

SAMBAND

Israel

MASHAM

Italy

AICCRE

Kosovo

AKM*

Latvia

LPS

Lithuania

LSA

Luxembourg

SYVICOL

Malta

LCA

Moldova

CALM

Montenegro

UOM

Netherlands

VNG
IPO

North Macedonia

NALAS
ZELS

Norway

KS

Poland

ZMP
ZPP

Portugal

ANMP

Romania

ACoR
UNCJR
AMR

Serbia

SKGO

Slovakia

ZMOS-SK

Slovenia

SOS
ZMOS-SI

Spain

FEMP
EUDEL

Sweden

SKR

Turkey

TBB

Ukraine

AUC
YAPOP

United Kingdom

LGA
WLGA
COSLA
NILGA

* Organisation invited to participate in CEMR's work.

CCRE-CEMR

www.cemr.eu

[ccreemr](https://twitter.com/ccreemr)

Tel. +32 2 511 74 77

info@ccre-cemr.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union