



Local & Regional
Europe

Newsletter

June 2014

Dear colleagues,

In the wake of the European elections campaign, we are forging ahead with new initiatives designed to strengthen ties with the newly elected representatives and to ensure our influence on EU policies.



To these ends, CEMR is carrying out a study that will shed light on the MEPs' backgrounds and linkages with local government. Results from this study, entitled "How local is your MEP", will be revealed next autumn during a reception in Brussels in the presence of EU stakeholders and representatives from member associations. Our findings will allow us to better understand who the MEPs are, and for them to become acquainted with local affairs.

June was also marked by the holding of our Policy Committee, in Łódź (Poland). The meeting provided an opportunity to develop fruitful discussions on the delivery of public services in times of crisis and the implementation of a potential European Urban Agenda. The Policy Committee also approved the membership request from the Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia, as well as the election of a new vice-president - Ms Fatma Şahin, mayor of Gaziantep (Turkey). Join us in making them feel welcome in the CEMR family.

On another note, I take this opportunity to inform you that this is the last edition of our monthly newsletter as it stands. We are indeed considering new ways of exchanging with member associations. We look forward to keeping in touch with you on these matters.

As ever please do get in touch with us if you have any comments or issues you wish to raise by contacting the CEMR team.

I wish you a good reading.

*Frédéric Vallier,
CEMR Secretary General*

Monthly highlights

Transparency initiative

Joint declaration on local and municipal authorities to register in the Transparency register

Local government and its representative associations cannot be put in the same box as big corporate lobby groups. This is why we deplore the European Parliament's decision to force local authorities and its representative associations into the transparency register – the so-called EU Lobby register. In a joint declaration adopted by the Policy Committee in Łódź (Poland) [i](#) in June 2014, we call upon EU institutions to make a clear distinction between local and municipal authorities and their associations on the one side, and the private businesses and single issue organisations on the other side. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Energy security

CEMR and 5 other European networks of local government pledge support to local action for energy security

Energy security is of increasing relevance and a responsibility shared by everyone, including local and regional governments. This is why we welcome the European Commission's energy security strategy, since it recognises the Covenant of Mayors as a "key action" for its objectives –i.e., increasing energy production within the EU - and calls Member States to support an "*accelerated implementation of the sustainable energy action plans submitted by municipalities participating to the Covenant of Mayors*". In our joint declaration [i](#) we pledge to undertake five strategic sets of actions to support our member cities and regions in contributing to energy security in the European Union. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Post-2015

Open letter to European leaders for an urban sustainable development goal

In response to the European Commission's latest communication on the post-2015 development agenda [i](#) and the negotiations taking place at the United Nations, we addressed an open letter to the EU Member States and Permanent Representations [i](#). Alongside our partners from PLATFORMA, we welcomed that the Commission recognises sustainable urbanisation as essential to build more inclusive, safer and more resilient territories, and we reiterated our plea for a stand-alone goal on sustainable cities and human settlements (Urban SDG). Contact: maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org

Policy Committee

Summary of decisions and debates of the CEMR Policy committee meeting in Łódź

A new vice president, a new member association, the follow-up of the 2014 European Parliament elections and a declaration on local governments to register in the Transparency Register: a summary of the Policy committee meeting [i](#) held in June in Łódź (Poland) is available on the CEMR website. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

www.twinning.org

CEMR's town twinning website gets a brand new look

Minor graphic changes have been made to the town twinning website [i](#), including the use of CEMR's "governance" blue and of our five-colour logo. These updates fall within the scope of the implementation of the visual identity guidelines we adopted in 2012. Contact: carlos.mascarellvilar@ccre-cemr.org

Call for participation



Local governance

Save the date for the symposium on local administration in Bologna

What is the impact of the crisis on local service delivery and local democracy? What are the new tools envisaged to face these challenges? How can local, regional and national governments share resources, and responsibilities? Come and debate all these questions during the conference on « Simplification of local administration in Europe: levels and dimensions » on 30 and 31 October, in Bologna. With our partners from the Observatory on Local Autonomy, we will host several field-based experts, local and regional elected representatives and academics. More information on the registration coming soon. Contact: nathalie.noupadja@ccre-cemr.org

Intergenerational dialogue


Discover 5 good reasons to join the European network for age-friendly environments

Wonder how to adapt your territory to demographic change? Increase your know-how and expertise by joining  the network AFE-INNOVNET and collaborating with experts and local authorities across Europe. You can also watch the video of the second webinar  organised by AFE-INNOVNET about the various ways to positively use the effects of the crisis. Contact: nhu.tram@ccre-cemr.org

Library

European elections 2014

Our video is now available in Dutch, Lithuanian and Polish

Thanks to our associations, the video  illustrating the local and regional governments' manifesto is now available in Dutch, Polish and Lithuanian. Would you like to add subtitles in your own language and facilitate this way the spread of our messages among a wider audience? Feel free to contact us to receive the text of the subtitles to translate! Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org