



### One month of CEMR activities

01/05 (Brussels): CEMR has launched an **online quiz** in the context of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, in order to showcase the activities of its member associations, its own work, as well as any other issues revolving around or of interest to local and regional authorities. New questions are to be added throughout the year in order to diversify the themes. [i](#) Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

17/05 (Brussels): EU **public procurement** policy needs to be clarified and simplified. Such was at the core of a discussion held between CEMR and Heide Rühle, the European Parliament (EP) rapporteur for public procurement, held on the eve of an EP IMCO Committee public hearing on the topic. [i](#) An exchange on the planned legal framework for service concessions also took place between the European Commission and the CEMR working group on public services and procurement. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

17-19/05 (Budapest): At the close of the structured dialogue on EU **development cooperation** and following a year of thorough debates and exchanges, PLATFORMA welcomes the success of the dialogue and the importance the Commission now attaches to decentralisation in countries outside of the EU. PLATFORMA is also pleased that the Commission announced its intention to pursue this dialogue, including with associations representing local and regional government. [i](#) Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

19/05 (Brussels): **Social services of general interest** (SSGIs) should continue to be excluded from EU internal market rules pertaining to services of general economic interest (SGEIs). Such is CEMR's main message sent to members of the European Parliament ahead of a vote in the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, held on 6 June 2011. [i](#) Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

19/05 (Brussels): CEMR welcomes the new **European territorial agenda**, adopted at the occasion of the informal meeting of ministers responsible for spatial planning and territorial development. The agenda now establishes a link with the Europe 2020 strategy and expresses the EU's will to build a true partnership between all levels of governance. CEMR also welcomes the taking into account of the relation between urban, periurban and rural areas, but asks that all territories benefit from the agenda. [i](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

23-24/05 (Frankfurt): The challenges faced by municipalities when trying to recruit a **diverse workforce** were debated at a conference entitled "Equality and Diversity in Jobs and Services for Migrants", organised by CLIP, the European network of cities for local integration policies for migrants, of which CEMR is a project partner. [i](#) Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

26/05 (Paris): CEMR has launched a dedicated website [i](#) on its **Congress on Citizenship and Twinning**, to be held in Rybnik, Poland, from 29 September to 1 October 2011. Registration for the Congress is now open, a registration form having been made available online. The website is available in English, French and Polish. [i](#) Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org / manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

27/05 (Vienna): Associations representing local and regional authorities have a vital role to play in supporting **countries heading towards EU accession** and in developing local and regional government capacities for EU policy implementation. Such was voiced by Boris Tonhauser, CEMR policy officer for democracy and governance, at the launch of a three-year capacity building programme for sustainable urban development in South-East Europe, developed by the World Bank and the Austrian national government. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

30/05 (Paris): CEMR has launched an online consultation in preparation for a white paper on a new **European citizenship**, which it is to submit to the European Commission at the end of 2011. The white paper will put forward recommendations for the future European programme "Europe for citizens". CEMR members are invited to contribute until 20 July 2011. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org / manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

### Ongoing activities

CEMR is preparing a position paper in reaction to the European Commission communication on the reform of EU state aid rules on **services of general economic interest**. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing a response to the consultation on the revision of the guidelines on public funding to **broadband networks**. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is drafting a position on the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee draft report <sup>(i)</sup> dealing with the "**new skills for new jobs**" Europe 2020 strategy flagship initiative. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is participating in the preparation of a technical factsheet entitled "**Change in public services and its impact on human resource management**" in the framework of a European Centre of Employers and Enterprises Providing Public Services (CEEP) project. An online seminar will be held on the topic on 9 June 2011 starting at 12:00pm. CEMR members are welcome to contribute to the factsheet and to participate in the online seminar. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

**PLATFORMA** has launched two informal working groups to further enhance its advocacy work vis-à-vis the EU institutions. The first group is to focus on EU aid effectiveness and local governance, while the second will focus on local and regional authorities in European development policies and programmes. A third informal group has also been launched so as to discuss recent developments in the Mediterranean and the Arab world and the EU's subsequent policy. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

Members of the Economic Recovery Observatory, launched by CEMR on 18 February 2011, <sup>(i)</sup> are preparing an international conference entitled "**Crisis and Recovery: Bringing Solutions in Partnerships**", to be held on 20 and 21 June in Strasbourg, France. The conference is to debate the progressive **economic recovery** of Europe's municipalities and is to highlight innovative practices in this field. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR and its focus group on governing in partnership are drafting a position paper on the concrete implementation of the principles of **partnership** and of **subsidiarity**. The implementation is to be observed in all EU policies, and more specifically with regards to the new cohesion policy. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

## Events calendar

09/06: European Centre of Employers and Enterprises Providing Public Services (CEEP) online seminar on "*Change in **public services** and its impact on human resource management*". Contact: [christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-ccmr.org)

14/06 (Rome): Second workshop on the implementation of **third-party violence** guidelines, in the framework of the European multi-sectoral social dialogue project on third-party violence, of which CEMR is a partner. The workshop is to specifically target Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Norway. ⓘ Contact: [christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-ccmr.org)

20/06 (Brussels): Structured dialogue meeting of the Active **European Citizenship** Group, of which CEMR is a member, organised by the European Commission Directorate General for communication (DG COMM). Contact: [sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org) / [manuella.portier@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:manuella.portier@cce-ccmr.org)

20-21/06 (Strasbourg): Conference on "**Crisis and Recovery: Bringing Solutions in Partnerships**", organised by CEMR and the other members of the Economic Recovery Observatory. Contact: [boris.tonhauser@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:boris.tonhauser@cce-ccmr.org)

21/06 (Brussels): Stakeholder consultation meeting on the post-2013 "**Europe for citizens**" programme organised by the DG COMM. Contact: [sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org) / [manuella.portier@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:manuella.portier@cce-ccmr.org)

22-23 (Rabat): **United Cities and Local Governments** (UCLG) Executive Bureau. Contact: [sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:sandra.ceciarini@cce-ccmr.org)

30/06 (Brussels): Conference on the modernisation of **public procurement** policy, organised by the European Commission. Wolfgang Schuster, president of CEMR, has been invited to speak. ⓘ Contact: [angelika.poth-moegele@cce-ccmr.org](mailto:angelika.poth-moegele@cce-ccmr.org)

CEMR's calendar is available on our website: [www.ccre.org](http://www.ccre.org)

