



Local & Regional
Europe

Newsletter

May 2013

Dear colleagues,

Much of last month's focus was on the increasing unemployment of Europe's youth. CEMR proposed some month ago the "EU Starter", an initiative addressing youth unemployment in our communities across Europe. CEMR and its member associations are indeed very concerned about the massive youth unemployment and the growing lack of perspectives and social tension. In this context, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy has invited EU leaders to come forward with ideas to foster youth employment.



With an open letter addressed to the heads of states and governments, we would like to ask you to propose the "EU-Starter" initiative as a concrete action for approval, ahead of the EU summit to be held on 27 and 28 June 2013. The initiative would offer a year of work experience to 1 million young Europeans in the public sector or in non-profit organisations. It would be financed notably by unused structural funds money and I strongly encourage you to support this initiative vis-à-vis your national government.

Among other activities during the last weeks, we have conducted a study on our members' different sources of funding. The research called "Sources of income: a glance at the budget of national associations" responds to a demand arisen from one of our association members. Today I am pleased to provide you with the results, that you will find in this newsletter. I hope this information will be useful in your future projects.

I wish you a good reading.

Best regards,

Frédéric Vallier
CEMR secretary general

Monthly highlights

PLATFORMA

Qualitative evolution of partnership between EU and local & regional authorities in partner countries

We are happy to see that there has been a qualitative evolution in the nature of partnerships between the EU and local and regional authorities in partner countries. Indeed, thanks to PLATFORMA and CEMR's lobbying, the European Commission has recognised in its new communication⁽ⁱ⁾ the potential of municipalities and regions in implementing public policies in response to the dual challenge of the eradication of poverty and of sustainable development. Work remains to be done in ensuring that the communication is applied transversally to the whole of European development policy. We will therefore continue to monitor the way in which this new policy will be implemented on the field.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: florent.resche-rigon@cce-cemr.org

Involvement of local and regional authorities in the preparation of Partnership Agreements

Committee of the Regions acknowledges CEMR contributions

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has acknowledged the contribution of the CEMR to its report on “the Consultation on the involvement of local and regional authorities in the preparation of Partnership Agreements”. Based on a survey among our members, we provided evidence about the “Involvement of national associations of Local and Regional Authorities in the Partnership Agreement preparations”⁽ⁱ⁾. Among other things, our report shows that the degree of involvement of municipalities, regions and their national associations varies substantially from one member state to the other. Both CoR and CEMR reports intend to contribute to the European Commission’s own report of the application of the partnership approach, expected early 2014. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

In the think tank

State aid

CEMR creates new focus group

We would like to invite experts within our member associations to participate in our new focus group on state aid. This initiative has been set to prepare our responses to the Commission’s consultation on several new regulations on European state aid policy (e.g. the general block exemption regulation, de minimis regulation, regional aid and aid for SMEs, research and development; disadvantaged and disabled workers, environment). Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

United Cities and Local Governments

Which European elected officials would you like to represent you?

In view of the upcoming renewal of our world organisation UCLG’s Executive Bureau and World Council, we would like to encourage our members, if you have not yet done so, to submit your nomination proposals for the European representation within these bodies before 20 June 2013. The World Council is UCLG’s main policy-making body – similar to CEMR’s Policy Committee – while the Executive Bureau is responsible for initiating proposals and implements Council decisions. The elections will take place at the World Congress in Rabat (Morocco) from 1 to 4 October.⁽ⁱ⁾ Send your proposals to Maxime Ramon at maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org

Youth unemployment

Time is running out and our national governments need to take action!

Ahead of the EU summit to be held on 27 and 28 June 2013, we would like to encourage you to promote our proposal “EU Starter” vis-à-vis your national government, as it would offer a year of work experience in a public institution or non-profit organisation to 1 million young Europeans. This would help kick-start the fight against youth unemployment and ensure that the unspent European Social Fund money be used to fund concrete youth employment actions. We issued a declaration on the issue on 24 May, which we would urge you to forward to relevant stakeholders.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

United Cities and Local Governments

Global taskforce of local and regional governments for post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III

Frederic Vallier has attended the UN debate on the future Millennium Development Goals in New York, on 28 May 2013. After 2015 a new agenda on international development will be set up to keep fighting poverty, gender inequalities or child mortality, among other issues, in the World. For the first time, sub-national authorities will participate through UCLG in the definition of the next development goals. Contact: maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org

Library

Study on sources of income

A glance at the budget of national associations

CEMR has released a new study called "*Sources of income: a glance at the budget of national associations*", which provides an overview of our members' different sources of funding. We hope it will allow for an exchange of best practices between our associations of local and regional authorities⁽ⁱ⁾. Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

Position paper on air quality

A more ambitious policy at the source of pollution is urgently needed!

A new position paper on air⁽ⁱ⁾ has been drafted and published by the dedicated CEMR focus group in order to provide input to the European Commission's upcoming proposals for a review of the EU air legislation. Our main proposals include ways in which to overcome obstacles encountered by municipalities and regions in their efforts to comply with EU standards. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

Position paper on waste

Creating a resource efficient society must be a shared responsibility

A second position has been adopted on waste⁽ⁱ⁾ in the framework of the EU waste legislation reform. It notably expresses CEMR's reluctance when it comes to reviewing EU targets on waste, which falls upon local authorities, such as preparing for the re-use and recycling of waste. CEMR insists that more attention needs to be paid to the early stages of production and packaging, as some products could use less or different types of wrapping, while others could be produced in more limited quantities. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org