



**Local & Regional
Europe**

Newsletter

June 2013

Dear colleagues,

By the end of 2013, the European Commission will be finalising negotiations on Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes of the cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 programming period. The new cohesion programmes provide new instruments for territorial development.

One of the key questions is the cooperation between cities or municipalities and their surrounding local authorities and how these initiatives will be promoted by the EU policies between 2014 and 2020. CEMR and its members support this strongly. With the purpose to exert influence in the negotiations, we have published a survey notably exposing benefits for urban and rural areas to collaborate. More information about the study is available in this newsletter.



This month I am pleased to announce the candidacy of the president of AFCCRE and mayor of Bordeaux, Alain Juppé, to the co-presidency of our world organisation UCLG for the 2013-2016 mandate. His candidacy has unanimously been endorsed by CEMR and European members of UCLG. His appointment will be confirmed at UCLG's Congress in October 2013 in Rabat.

Finally, I would like to inform you that this is our last newsletter edition until September. On behalf of CEMR secretariat I wish you an excellent summer break and we are looking forward to working with you in September.

*Frédéric Vallier
CEMR secretary general*

Monthly highlights

Public procurement

Political agreement reflects CEMR position on public-public cooperation

Thanks to a strong joint lobbying of CEMR and its members, the political agreement on the concessions and public procurement directives reflects our position on public-public cooperation. The new agreement will allow municipalities to transfer the delivery of a public service task to another local authority on the basis of mutual agreement and without any obligation in return. The agreement was achieved on 25 June 2013 and should be adopted by the Parliament and the Council in October. Major changes are not expected. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

EU Starter

CEMR meets President Barroso to discuss youth unemployment

During this meeting held on 6 June 2013 in Brussels, the mayor of Venice and vice-president of CEMR, Giorgio Orsoni, urged the Commission to take into account the local and regional recommendations to reduce 5.7 million of young people unemployed. For this purpose, he called the Commission to back the EU Starter [i](#) initiative, which aims at integrating 1 million young people into the labour markets through local and regional governments. Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

Youth unemployment

New framework of action for youth employment

As representative of local and regional government as employers, we will work on youth integration into to the job market. Our contributions will help implement the Framework of Action on Youth Employment [i](#), recently launched by the European social partners – employers' organisations and trade union confederations. This Framework is structured around four priorities: learning, transition, employment and entrepreneurship. CEMR focus group of employers will meet on 25 and 26 September 2013 to discuss concrete actions to be implemented at the national level. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

In the think tank

Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities

Come to the conference “Towards a European model of a sustainable city” and find out how to set up sustainable projects

During the conference [i](#), you will find new ways to set up projects in your municipality following an “integrated” approach, which aim at assembling different policies towards the same objective in a territory. It allows, for instance, a municipality to develop its own public transport system while taking into account environmental aspects and ensuring the integration of deprived populations. The event will take place on 9 October 2013 in Brussels during the European week of regions and cities (Open days). You can register online [i](#). Contact: axelle.griffon@cce-cemr.org

Health and safety

How to deal with safety and health issues in the workplace?

Burnouts, stress related disorders or risks related to work and working conditions: participate in a consultation led by the Commission aiming at identifying current and future challenges in the workplace [i](#). The deadline to participate is 26 August 2013. We invite you to reply on behalf of your national contexts. In parallel, CEMR will provide a general response focused on European level actions and based on inputs from the Focus Group of Local and Regional Government as Employers. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

Library

State aid

“Less bureaucracy for small financial aid” underlines CEMR in a consultation

CEMR has responded to the consultation on the *de minimis* regulation [\(i\)](#). In this document we defend that local services should be, in general, exempt from EU State aid rules unless the Commission can prove that a local service has an impact on competition and trade in the EU internal market. In the context of the crisis, we also warn the Commission that it is not the appropriate time to limit public authorities' possibility to grant aid aiming to create and safeguard jobs. Finally, we call for an online web tool to help public authorities and to give guidance. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Urban-rural partnership

Survey on integrated territorial development

Discover our new study “CEMR survey on integrated territorial development” [\(i\)](#). It compiles models of urban-rural cooperation and puts forward the benefits for territorial development: for instance, to fight rural depopulation or to increase mobility while reducing vehicles' CO2 emissions. To contribute to the preparation of the partnership agreements and operational programmes of the next EU cohesion policy programming period (2014-2020), we presented the outcome of this study to members of the EU Parliament on 25 June 2013 [\(i\)](#). This publication was carried out by Calin Chira from the Association of Romanian Municipalities and our member associations. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Covenant of mayors

Video of the annual ceremony 2013 with internationally known Arnold Schwarzenegger

If you were not able to attend the Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony [\(i\)](#), here you have a video [\(i\)](#) with best moments of the event gathering 600 participants at the EU Parliament. Special guests included Arnold Schwarzenegger, former governor of California and Chair of the R20 Network, and the European Commission's president Barroso. CEMR was one of the co-organisers of the event. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org