

Official Monthly Bulletin of CEMR

October 2023 issue



Welcome to ***Resonance!***

The monthly news **bulletin** from across CEMR and its member associations.

**In this issue**, we are excited to bring you the latest updates and insights from local and regional governments. Our commitment to promoting sustainability, energy security, and cohesion for a greener Europe takes centre stage as we highlight CEMR's participation in the **European Week of Regions and Cities 2023**.

We are also proud to introduce you to the **Talent Hub for Cities and Regions** initiative, a landmark collaboration between CEMR, Eurocities, and UCLG that nurtures young leaders in territorial diplomacy. Together, we are shaping the future of leadership in local and regional governments.

In our "Voices" section, we hear from the **Czech association**, shedding light on their projects and initiatives. We also invite you to watch a video about **"Empowering Women in Politics"** an important campaign that aims to address the pressing issue of violence against women in political careers.

As we look ahead, our **"Coming Up"** section offers a glimpse of the **exciting events and activities on the horizon**, including conferences and international observances that reflect our commitment to driving positive change in local and regional governments.



**Resonance** is easy to navigate and is delivered to your inbox at the end of every month.

*Do you have a story, topic, event that you'd like to share on **Resonance**? Write us at and let's amplify it for you.*

communications@ccre-cemr.org



# STATEMENT

## European Section - **Current Situation in Israel and Palestine**

We strongly condemn the terrorist attack by Hamas in Israel, urge the immediate and unconditional release of hostages and denounce the use of human beings as shields.

[Read more →](#)



## UCLG - **Wold Summit in Konya**

UCLG met in Konya between the 26th and 28th of October to discuss solidarity, peace, sustainability, water management, multilateralism, and local and regional actions on global challenges.

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## CEMR - **EURegions Week**



## Talent Hub for Cities and Regions

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pivotal role in sustainable development, energy security, and cohesion for a greener Europe.

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territorial diplomacy, nurturing knowledge, and retaining talent. A landmark HR collaboration.

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### The Talent Hub for Cities and Regions on TheMayor.Eu



#### CEMR-EPRS - Annual Workshop

CEMR and EPRS convened for fruitful dialogue, envisioning a more sustainable Europe. The joint teams worked on three focus areas: Cooperation, Sustainability, and EU Governance.

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#### UN - Advisory Group on LRGs

UN Advisory Group inaugural meeting paves the way for robust LRGs engagement with the UN. Aiming for global strategy and closer public institution ties, the group is set to influence future multilateralism.

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#### SDGs Dialogue - Event

URBAN Intergroup and CEMR discussed SDGs implementation challenges and opportunities, marking the halfway point in the UN's 2030 Agenda. Click below to learn more about the event.

[Read more →](#)



#### AFCCRE - EU Enlargement Event

CEMR's Secretary General, Fabrizio Rossi, delivered a keynote address at the AFCCRE-organised Marseille event, highlighting the pivotal role of regional and local partnerships in EU enlargement.

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Don't miss our Secretary-General Fabrizio Rossi addressing the EU's real estate crisis and media laws safeguarding journalist independence on [Euronews](#) show ['Brussels, my Love?'](#)



**S M O**  
SVAZ MĚST A OBCÍ ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

The Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic is a voluntary, apolitical and non-governmental organisation. Members of the Union are towns and municipalities. The Union of Towns and Municipalities is a partner for governmental and parliamentary political representation. It participates in the preparation and creation of draft legislative measures in areas pertaining to the competencies of municipalities. The Union's activity is primarily based on the activity of mayors, lord mayors and representatives who, beyond the framework of their duties, are also devoted to general self-government issues.

[Learn more](#)





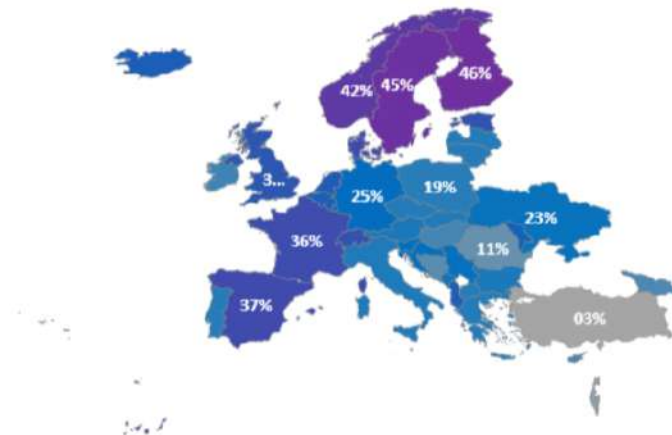
Annelies Coessens, CEMR's Gender and Diversity Officer, on our commitment to address violence in political careers through the research 'Women in Politics.'

## Empowering Women in Politics: Preliminary Findings from CEMR's 'Women in Politics' Campaign

**One in four women** has endured physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, according to OECD. However, for women actively engaged in public life, the chance of encountering some form of violence during their political careers grows to **one out of three**.

In a significant step towards addressing the challenges faced by women in politics, CEMR's groundbreaking initiative **'Women in Politics'** has yielded preliminary findings that demand our collective attention and action. This campaign, conducted across 21 countries and involving over 2,400 local elected officials, sheds light on the pressing issue of violence against women in political careers.

Average all subnational levels  03% 24% 46%

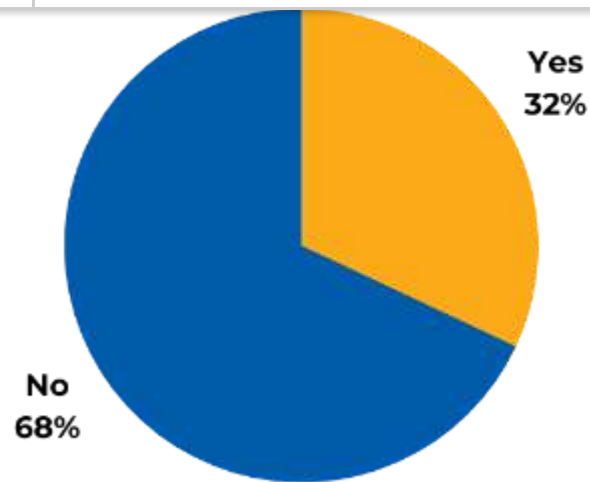


### Preliminary Findings:

The data collected through CEMR's 'Women in Politics' campaign revealed startling statistics. Approximately 30% of women involved in politics have reported experiencing at least one form of violence during their political careers. This alarming figure highlights the substantial hurdles women face when they enter public life, adding a layer to the well-known glass ceiling.

The primary objective of this study is to advocate more effectively for gender-balanced leadership. By gathering insights into women's political experiences, CEMR aims to mobilise governments and institutions to engage in this conversation and implement transformative actions. The goal is not only to break down the barriers that women face but also to create a more inclusive and equitable political landscape for all.

### Women who suffered violence during their political careers



To further understand the dynamics of political leadership, the campaign examined the portfolios held by councillors, with preliminary findings showing key thematic divisions.

#### **Highest Three Thematic Portfolios:**

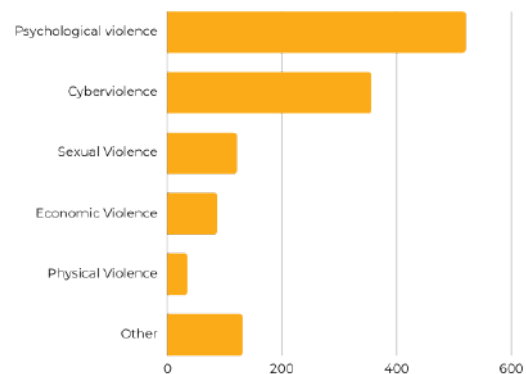
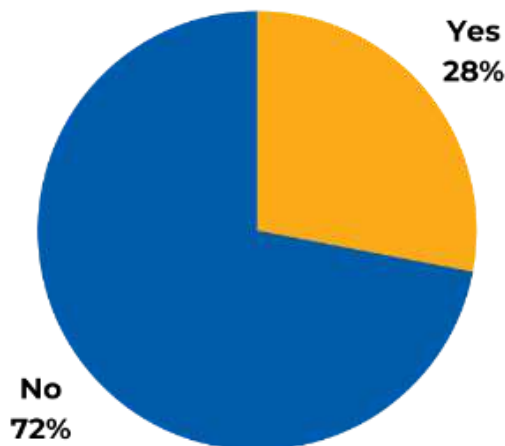
- Culture and Sport
- Youth
- Finance/Budget/Economy

#### **Lowest Three Thematic Portfolios:**

- Security (police forces)
- Transports
- Civil Protection

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## victims of violence, now many over their political career reported?



### A Call for Collective Efforts:

The 'Women in Politics' campaign by CEMR makes it clear that violence against women in politics is an issue that can no longer be ignored. It requires collective efforts to raise awareness, enact policies, and change societal norms. The campaign tirelessly works to ensure that the voices of women in politics are not just heard but respected and valued in political spaces.

As we move forward, it's essential to keep these preliminary findings in mind. They are not just numbers; they represent the lived experiences of women in politics.

Stay tuned for more updates and insights as the 'Women in Politics' campaign continues to unfold.

Are you a local elected leader? Your participation in our survey can make a difference.



We are delighted to welcome **Ayben Okkali Aktas** as our new **Statutory Officer**. Ayben brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our team, and we look forward to working together as we embark on this new chapter.

We welcome **Federica Bordelot**, as our **Director of Policy and Impact**. She



We would like to congratulate our colleague **Boris Tonhauser** who was promoted as the **Director of PLATFORMA**.



## A chat with Ayben Okkali Aktas

*In our interview with Ayben, our newest colleague at CEMR, we explore her transition from the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye to CEMR. Gain insight into her unique perspective on local and regional governments and her dedication to making a meaningful impact in the field.*

**Before joining you were working with the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye one of our member associations. What is your first impression of being on "the other side?"**

I started my professional career with the Union, where I was provided with invaluable opportunities to collaborate with local elected representatives in international organisations and develop my skills in this field. Working for a National Association has been a stimulating experience; on the other hand, taking on this new role has granted me a fresh outlook on collaborative efforts and the dynamics between various organisations. I am grateful that joining the CEMR will provide me with the opportunity to contribute from a different perspective. Moreover, being on the other side of the table fills me with a sense of wonder and fascination. It has also instilled in me a deep sense of fulfilment, knowing that I am actively contributing to making a positive and greater impact in our line of work.

**Your job title is: statutory officer. Do your friends and family understand what is your job about?**

I would like to answer this question "Oh yes, absolutely, everybody knows what I'm doing", but I often get the question "... means...?". My job title may sometimes be a bit challenging for people to grasp, but I typically explain that

complies with all the necessary rules and regulations.

### **What motivated you to join our organisation and take this position?**

Working in local governance is a longstanding tradition in my family. I grew up in a small town where my father worked for the municipality, and it's a path that many of my family members have continued to follow. As for me, I worked with the national association, earned a master's degree in local administration, and wrote a thesis about subsidiarity. I also took on the role of a delegation secretary for international organisations, organised and managed several programmes and projects, and even worked on secondment at an international organisation. After seven enriching years, I sought to elevate my work. CEMR's mission aligned perfectly with my passion, offering a chance to make a meaningful impact. The dynamic CEMR family provides an exciting platform for engaging with stakeholders and addressing shared concerns. Their reputation for promoting local democracy and empowering local authorities aligns with my values. Working with CEMR lets me embody my principles and create positive change.

### **You have a very long experience working in this sector. What do you think people working in regional and local governments have in common?**

Without even thinking about it, the only answer I can say that it is the commitment to local public service. People working in local and regional governments, in my experience, are often motivated by a strong sense of public service, and they are doing their jobs devotedly. They are committed to enhancing the quality of life for those in their jurisdiction.

### **Young professionals tend to focus on institutions or consultancies in their job hunting. What would you say to fresh graduates to excite them about working in this field?**

I recommend that recent graduates prioritise capacity development before deciding on their professional path. Consider participating in Erasmus projects or working with local or regional authorities. These experiences allow you to engage with the local community. Working in this field offers a highly rewarding and exciting career choice. You can have a direct impact on providing essential services to communities and connecting with your own community. This personal connection is deeply fulfilling and meaningful.

### **Coffee or tea?**

Coffee for any case.











### **If you could automatise a task in your work routine, what would that be?**

avoid automating tasks. However, I'm not opposed to using certain tools in my routine to streamline my work and reduce the likelihood of errors. I'm not rigidly attached to any specific tool, and I remain open to new ideas, technological advancements, and constructive criticism.

### **Every professional has a unique style of working. Could you share some insights into your work style and how you approach problem-solving and decision-making?**

My work style is characterised by strong prioritisation and attention to detail. To ensure I don't overlook any responsibilities or crucial details, I meticulously plan my tasks, sometimes even using sub-categories, and set clear priorities. This planning is complemented by my adaptability to handle unexpected changes. When it comes to problem-solving and decision-making, I break down issues into components to gain a deeper understanding. I emphasise collecting relevant data and information, believing that well-informed decisions lead to better results. I highly value input from team members and stakeholders, as diverse perspectives contribute to more comprehensive and effective solutions.



-  **07-09 November:** Smart City Expo World Congress [[Register here →](#)]
-  **08 November:** Harnessing Skills in Rural Areas [[Register here →](#)]
-  **08 November:** Bridges of Trust Annual Gathering [[Register here →](#)]
-  **08 November:** ACT NOW Mayors' Conference [[Register here →](#)]
-  **08 November:** CCRI General Conference [[Register here →](#)]
-  **15-30 November:** European Days of Local Solidarity [[Register here →](#)]
-  **16 November:** International Day for Tolerance
-  **18 - 26 November:** European Week for Waste Reduction
-  **20 November:** World Children's Day
-  **25 November:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



According to the OECD highlights that 65% of SDGs can be achieved through effective local and regional actions due to their understanding of grassroots realities

[→ [Read more about SDGs implementation here](#) ←]



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