

Official Monthly Bulletin of CEMR

September 2023 issue



Welcome to **Resonance!**

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

In this issue, we feature the most recent initiatives and news from the CEMR Secretariat, member associations, territories, the Brussels Bubble and more. Check our report on the Ukrainian cities' delegation's study visit to Slovenia within the "**Bridges of Trust**" project framework, in addition to our upcoming events section with highlights of the most relevant meetings, and discussions on territorial governance. Moreover, enjoy a chat with **Daniela Godinho Lourenco**, as she embarks on a new mission as CEMR new Head of Administration and Finance, after being part of CEMR family for seven years.



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



CEMR and PLATFORMA - Policy Forum on Development

The "Global Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development 2023" in Brussels started on September 27. Fabrizio Rossi, the Secretary General of CEMR provided a keynote address, highlighting CEMR's commitment to involving local governments in policy decisions.

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UNGA - International action

CEMR and PLATFORMA participated in the UN SDG Summit emphasizing the crucial role of Local and Regional governments in achieving global goals. CEMR, represented by Eva Baños and a delegation of key stakeholders, advocated for a decentralized, bottom-up approach to SDG implementation.

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Our latest in-depth study on - **Cohesion Policy Funds**

Interested in how Cohesion Policy Funds are deployed in the 27 member states? CEMR has just published a comprehensive overview for practitioners and policymakers on how the different member states are investing the Cohesion Policy funds for the 2021 -2027 programming period.

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CEMR Promotes Strong Public Investments - **Resilient Cities and Regions' Seminar**

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) actively engaged in the "Resilient Cities and Regions" event by the Committee of the Regions, stressing the importance of local finances for Europe's recovery and reducing the innovation gap.

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State of the Union - **Reflections**

The latest SOTEU tackled the major issues confronting the EU in preparation for the 2024 election. During the one-hour address, several subjects were discussed, ranging from the green transition to the EU's assistance to Ukraine. Here are our thoughts on what was absent in Mme von der Leyen's speech.

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Knowledge sharing - **Portico**

Portico, a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering community in sustainable urban development, will be launched on October 10 during the European Week of Regions and Cities. Portico has been created in collaboration with the European Urban Initiative, CEMR, and various EU Cohesion Policy-backed initiatives and organizations.

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TWINNING - Does it ring a bell?

CEMR is spearheading a transformation in city cooperation initiatives like Twinning, Jumelages, and Städtepartnerschaft. Supported by the Eu Commission, we're set to launch pilot actions by 2024. Our vision is to empower territories and leaders in finding solutions to current urgent and systemic challenges through meaningful city partnerships.

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Innovation alliance - Development Aid

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions has signed a partnership agreement with DevelopmentAid. Under the terms of the agreement, CEMR members will benefit from a number of services, including free access to the Calls4Partners Service and the DevelopmentAid Job Board.

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Collective actions - KS

CEMR and KS, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, strengthen their relationship to further collaborate on shared opportunities, priorities for the upcoming year, and the European Research agenda. The goal is to inspire other associations to collaborate effectively in 2024, aiming for fruitful progress in their field of action.

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New figures on local investment 2022-2023 - EIB

The latest survey by the European Investment Bank reveals details about the investment history and future plans of 744 municipalities throughout the European Union. The study sheds light on significant challenges these municipalities encounter as they navigate the digital and green transitions.

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Call to Local Action - **Marrakech Mayors Declaration**

Local and Regional Governments can play a crucial role when it comes to displacement governance.

Are you interested in showcasing how your Local or Regional Government meets or exceeds the Global Compacts? Submit your action to this Mayor Mechanism initiative.

[Read more →](#)



Guidelines for businesses - **World Economic Forum**

The WEF released "The Business Framework for Operationalizing Equality of Opportunity". The publication guides businesses that want to create sustainable practices and promote equality of opportunity. It is designed with and for business leaders, industry experts, civil society, and academia.

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Brulocalis is the association representing and working for the local authorities in the Brussels-Capital Region, created and managed by them. Its main mission is to support the 19 Brussels' communes and local social centers (Centres Publics d'Action Sociale – CPAS) to fulfill their own missions to the benefit of the Brussels' citizens. Brulocalis' work focuses on three pillars: (legal) advice, (institutional) capacity building, and (political) lobbying. The advocacy work is multi-level: towards the regional, community and federal Belgian governments but also with international institutions; and sometimes together with its sister associations from the two other regions: Union des Villes et Communes Wallonnes (UVCW) and Vereniging van Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten (VVSG).



Bridges of Trust

Ukrainian City Delegations Embark on 8th Study Visit in Slovenia to Strengthen Local Governance



Ukrainian city delegations from Bibrka, Krynychansk, and Poliana embarked on their 8th study visit to Slovenia from September 11th to 15th as part of the "Bridges of Trust" project, led by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in collaboration with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). This initiative, generously supported by the U-LEAD with Europe program, aims to foster inter-municipal cooperation and knowledge exchange to strengthen local governance practices.

explore various facets of Slovenian local governance, focusing on communal services, waste management, restoration projects, and the cultural landscape. The visit aimed to provide a deeper understanding of the Slovenian local governance system and decentralization, with a keen eye towards the reconstruction process and on adopting the best practices in the Ukrainian context.



The delegations explored the cities of Lenart, Logatec, and Puconci, engaging in dialogues with their Slovenian counterparts to share experiences and insights on effective governance. These exchanges fostered a mutual learning environment where both Ukrainian and Slovenian officials could benefit from each other's expertise.



The 9th study visit under the ["Bridges of Trust"](#) project took place in Sweden and the next one is set to take place in Spain, continuing the journey of knowledge exchange and collaboration among participating municipalities. These visits are expected to enrich further the pool of best practices available

to Ukrainian cities and regions, contributing to the ongoing development of local governance in the country. As Ukrainian city delegations return from Slovenia, they bring with them valuable insights and experiences that are poised to make a positive impact on their communities. The "Bridges of Trust" project remains committed to building stronger, more resilient municipalities in Ukraine through international cooperation and the sharing of innovative governance strategies.



We are proud to say that [Bridges of Trust](#) is giving concrete help in building bridges of cooperation between Ukrainian and European municipalities. It paves the way for Ukraine to benefit from the vast experience and knowledge of its European counterparts, ultimately enhancing the quality of local governance and services provided to Ukrainian citizens.



CEMER is growing, and we recently have welcomed several talents to join our powerhouse:

- **André Soares Fernandes**, Digital Communications Officer
- **Annelies Coessens**, Gender, and Diversity Officer
- **Fiorella Lavorgna**, Communications Officer
- **Redouane Rzine**, Administrative and Logistic Assistant
- **Rocío Pérez Ramiro**, Intern for Platforma
- **Lilian Teles**, Intern for the Research & Studies team

All the heartfelt congratulations to the CEMR team members who were promoted:

- **Daniela Godinho Lourenço**, as Head of Administration and Finance
- **Marine Gaudron**, as Advisor, Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion / Local Finances
- **Bella Tskhelishvili**, as Advisor, Eastern Partnership and Geographical Dialogues

Vacancies and tenders available at CEMR/

- [Human Resources Adviser](#)
- [Organisation/ Expert Consultant in EU Project Development](#)
- [External service on the production of a video for "Bridges of Trust"](#)



A chat with Daniela Godinho Lourenço

Daniela has been recently promoted to the position of Head of Administration and Finance. Daniela is a hard worker, and her journey to this role has been marked by dedication, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. We interviewed Daniela to celebrate her well-deserved success and gain unique insights into CEMR through the lens of who knows the organisation inside out.

Hello Daniela and congratulations for your promotion.

What do you remember about your first day in the organisation?

Thank you for honouring me on the #1 issue of *Resonance*. The 1st day was quite symbolic, actually; it was Europe Day – 9 may 2016. What impressed me the most was the team's immediate and spontaneously warm welcome.

What is your background? Have you applied to CEMR for a specific reason?

My background is in accounting, especially in non-profit, and with a strong inclination for project financial management. I applied because the job was

How long have you been working in CEMR?

Seven years.

Has there been a moment when you felt “this is the right place”?

Good question. Not sure if it was a moment or if the feeling just evolved... But I remember once, during lunchtime, when we were all in the kitchen, and the words were flowing, and the topics were as diverse as engaging, and I was just so delighted to be surrounded by all these different and passionate people. And finally, I felt as if all were aligned: values, words and actions.

CEMR is going through a process of growth. Are you excited for your new role today?

Yes, of course. More than an opportunity, it is a challenge, but without fear: I am incredibly lucky to have had the chance to grow professionally with Marielle and Durmish and to be able to continuously learn from and with the solid team we have in place.

What is your best tip for work-life balance?

My work-life balance could be better, but planning the work-week and following it as much as possible works for me. And mid-week after-work drinks help as well.

What will you look for when you interview a new candidate?

My opinion here: the interview is the moment to highlight the soft skills: will this person fit in the team and the organisation? Is she/he keen to learn and adapt? What are the major personality traits that are revealed?







How has been your experience as a woman in the organisation?

CEMR is a recognised supporter of equality, and this is undeniably true in the office as well. You may have noticed by now the number of women working in the organisation and holding management positions. Additionally, our conditions of remuneration are the same, regardless the gender. Equal pay for equal work.

Often we refer to Brussels as “the Bubble”: a hub for European Union institutions, international organisations, associations, lobbies, and NGOs. What do you think makes CEMR special in this environment?

CEMR has this particular and strategic position to reach out, through the National Associations, to local and regional governments, and these carry the responsibility of being the closest level of government to the citizens. By gathering the priorities and wishes of the citizens, National Associations, and



-  **02 October:** World Habitat Day
-  **04-06 October:** Urban Mobility Days 2023 [[Register here →](#)]
-  **09-12 October:** European Week of Regions and Cities
-  **11 October:** Public banks and regional/local governments for energy security and a green, sustainable Europe [[Register here →](#)]
-  **11 October:** How cross-border regions and cities will accelerate the Digital Decade [[Register here →](#)]
-  **31 October:** World Cities Day



48.03 billion euros

were allocated by the EU for the Cohesion Funds (CF) for 2021-2027

[[→ Read more about Cohesion Policy funds here ←](#)]



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