



Local & Regional  
Europe

# Newsletter

April 2014

*Dear colleagues,*

*2015 has now formally been designated as the European Year for Development. It will also be the year when the new agenda on sustainable development goals will come of age.*



*From the local and regional perspective, it will be the opportunity to remind that there is no development without the implication of strong, empowered local and regional governments. It will above all be our responsibility, in that context, to keep the “urban” momentum alive.*

*Such ambition starts in Europe! Last February, we participated in the European Commission’s Urban Forum and reacted to its plan to strengthen the urban dimension in European policies. In our view, this willingness to give greater weight to local level should take into account the reality on the ground, like the interdependencies of cities and their surroundings when delivering public services to citizens. Our position as umbrella organisation and our involvement in the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities, the Covenant of Mayors and other relevant initiatives, makes us a natural partner of the Commission to contribute to the shaping of the future EU urban agenda.*

*This European urban agenda will only be stronger if an adequate framework supports it at international level. This is why alongside our world organisation, UCLG, and our partners of the Global Taskforce, we campaign for a stand-alone development goal on “sustainable urbanisation”.*

*The voice of European local government must be heard in the upcoming international negotiations on the sustainable development goals. This, dear colleagues, will be done by coordinating the voice of local and regional authorities at European level and proposing a common vision on sustainable urbanisation on the European and international scene.*

*I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.*

*Frédéric Vallier,  
Secretary General of CEMR*

## Monthly highlights

### Transparency initiative

**Local government cannot be put in the same box as arms dealers and the financial sector**

The EU Parliament should not confuse local government with big corporate lobby groups. In a letter sent to Members of the European Parliament mid-April, we deplore [i](#) the European Parliament's decision to force local authorities into the transparency register. We believe this so-called EU Lobby register is appropriate for lobbyists who follow mainly commercial, financial or single-issue interests. We understand the need to regulate to some extent the activities of interest representatives. However, since local authorities are democratically elected and represent citizens and their interests, they should be considered as partners of the EU institutions instead of their antagonists. Contact: [angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org).

### South-Eastern Europe

**Welcome to NALAS' new President**

Mayor of Lukač municipality (Croatia), Đuro Bukvić, was elected President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) [i](#), during the organisation's General Assembly in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Mr. Bukvić, who also leads the Association of municipalities in the Republic of Croatia, will, from now on, be an ex-officio member of CEMR Executive Bureau. Contact: [boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org)

## Call for Participation

### Town twinning

**Have a new town twinning project in mind? That is most fitting, because the "Europe for Citizens" programme is adopted**

The programmes [i](#), recently approved by the Council of the EU, will make available up to € 185.468.000 for town twinning projects between two cities and networks of twinned towns, for the period 2014-2020. A guide to the programme is already available with information on funding opportunities, application procedures and a calendar for the submission of applications. If you already have a project in mind, please apply by 4 June 2014. Contact: [carlos.mascarellvilar@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:carlos.mascarellvilar@ccre-cemr.org)

### UCLG

**Don't forget to register for the Executive Bureau meeting in June**

The UCLG Executive Bureau will be held from 17 to 19 June in Liverpool [i](#), at the invitation of its Mayor, Mr. Joe Anderson. During the event, the Executive Bureau members will address the post-2015 local government's agenda and the current state of play in local economic development. You can henceforth register and book accommodation through UCLG website. Contact: [maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org)

### Mayors adapt

**Receive support from the European Commission to adapt to climate change**

Flooding, extreme weather events or deterioration of public health are some of the consequences of climate change. Is your local government suffering any of these problems? If so, we encourage you to join the 'Mayors adapt' project [i](#). The project was launched by the European Commission to strengthen local government's resilience to climate change. It provides technical support to assess the vulnerabilities of territories and to elaborate actions plans. It also acts as a network of local government enabling the exchange of good practices. Contact : [helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu](mailto:helpdesk@mayors-adapt.eu)

## Library

### European elections 2014

**The number of linguistic versions of the manifesto keeps expanding!**

In order to ensure that the manifesto  is available in as many languages as possible so that it can reach a wider audience of European political actors at the local, regional and national levels, we call on the associations for help with getting the manifesto translated into their language(s). German, Italian, Polish, Spanish Portuguese, Romanian and Czech versions are available in our website. Furthermore, come and join us in the debate through our website materials, twitter account (@ccre-cemr) and dedicated hashtag #myEUvoice. Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org