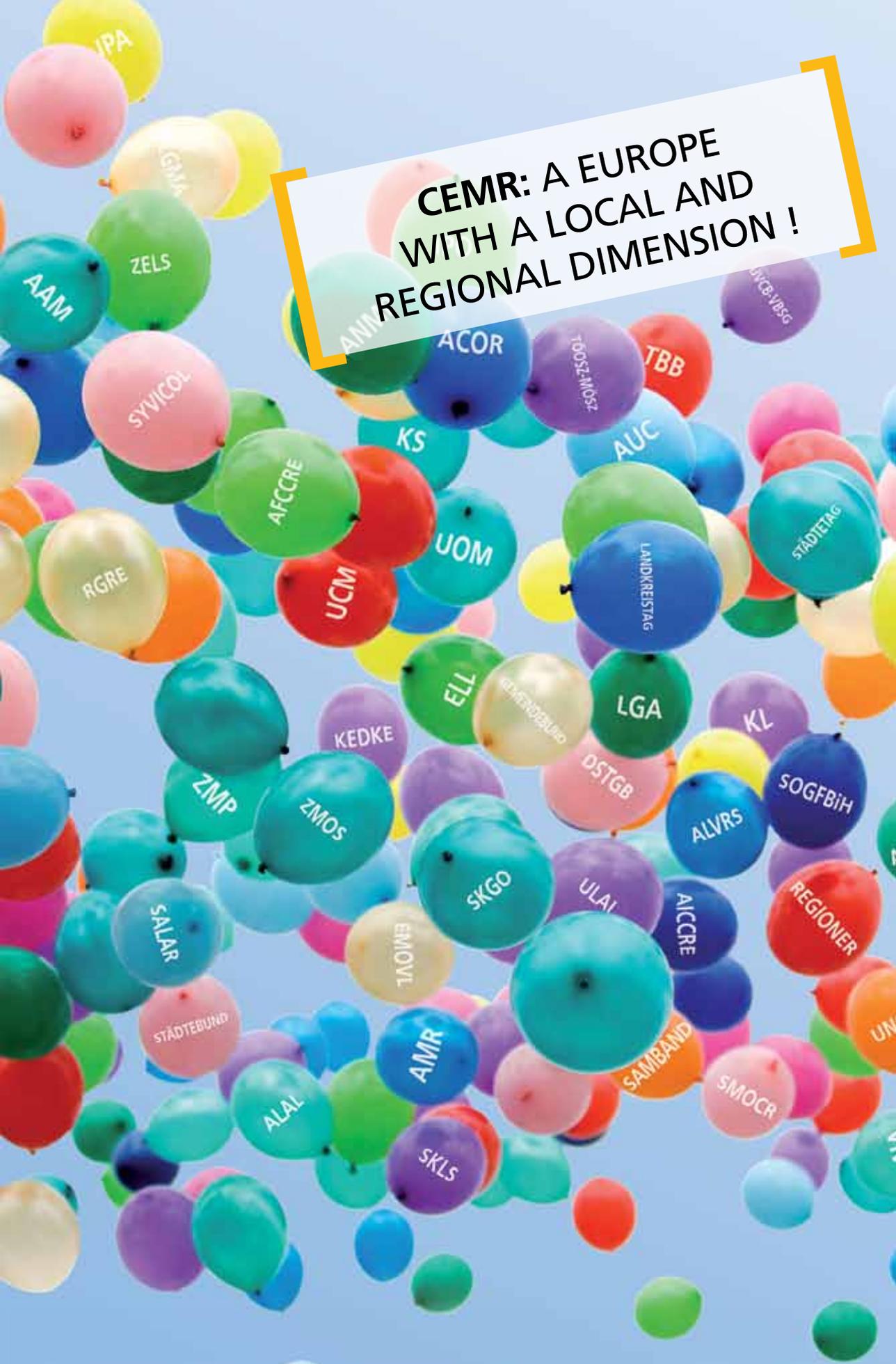


**CEMR: A EUROPE  
WITH A LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL DIMENSION !**



# WHO WE ARE

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional government.

It was founded in 1951 by a group of mayors determined to build a united Europe based on peace and democracy.

From the outset, its priorities included the development of local democracy and self-government, and bringing citizens together across frontiers, notably through town twinning links. To these aims, new priorities have been added, including influencing European legislation and policy, and contributing to peace and development at the international level.

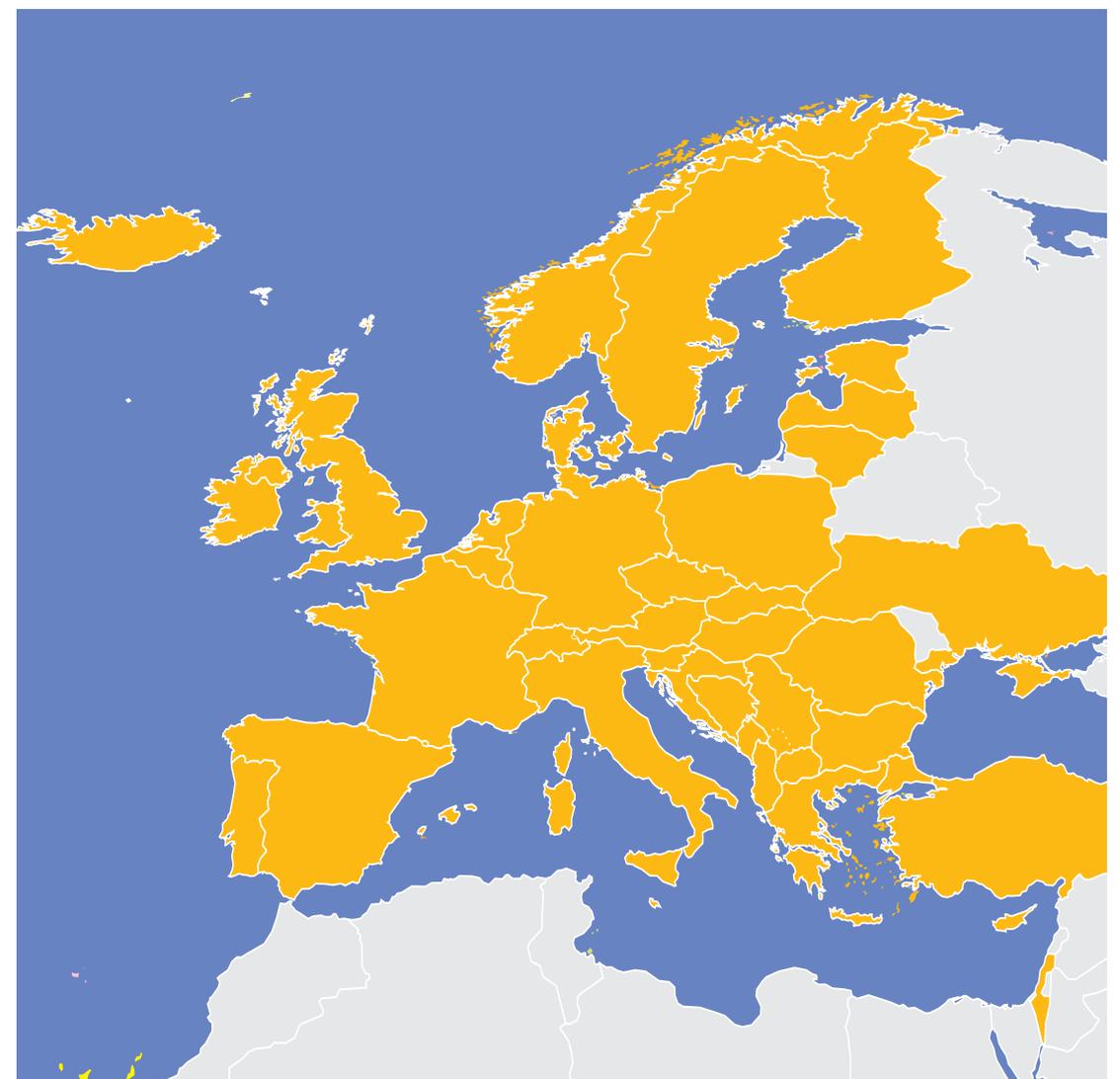
CEMR's members are national associations of local and regional government, whose own members are local and regional authorities in their country.

In 2011, CEMR is composed of 53 member associations in 39 out of the 47 Council of Europe member countries, including in all of the 27 EU member states.

The Policy Committee decides on the admission of new member associations, having established that they are both representative and democratic. Full membership is open solely to associations in countries belonging to the Council of Europe.

## How we are funded ?

Approximately 85% of CEMR's budget comes from its members' annual subscriptions, calculated for each country based on a formula combining GDP and population. It amounts to a total of about €1.6 million. In addition, CEMR benefits from a European Commission grant amounting to some €240 000 per year. We also receive funding for projects, such as PLATFORMA ([www.platforma-dev.eu](http://www.platforma-dev.eu)) and the Covenant of Mayors ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)).



CEMR's Members

# OUR STRUCTURES



The Policy Committee is CEMR's governing body, while CEMR's Executive Bureau is responsible for carrying out the Committee's decisions.

The **Policy Committee** approves the budget and the annual work programme, decides on the main policy lines and on the admission of new members. It is composed of around 170 members elected for three years, with each national delegation counting a given number of seats based on population.

The **Executive Bureau** includes CEMR's President, two Co-Presidents, Executive Presidents, Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General. It follows up on Policy Committee decisions and, between Committee meetings, is responsible for CEMR's work and policy.

CEMR's political leadership is ensured by its **Presidency** which comprises:

- The President, elected by the Policy Committee. The President represents CEMR and chairs statutory meetings.
- The two Co-Presidents, elected by the Policy Committee.
- The Executive Presidents, nominated by the President with the approval of the

Policy Committee, to assist him/her in representing the organisation.

All of these office-holders have a three year mandate.

Elected in December 2010, CEMR's President is the Mayor of Stuttgart and President of CEMR's German section (RGRE), Wolfgang Schuster. His recent predecessors were Michael Häupl (2004 – 2010), Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (1997 – 2004) and Pasqual Maragall, (1992 – 1997).

The **Secretary General** is responsible for the effective management of the Secretariat, for advising the governing bodies, and for implementing their decisions. The post-holder is elected by the Policy Committee for a term of six years. Frédéric Vallier has held this post since early 2010.

CEMR's Secretariat (some 20 staff) is based in two offices. One is in Paris, which is the legal seat of the organisation, and the other is in Brussels, in an office building shared with many of our national associations: the "*House of cities, municipalities and regions*".

# WHAT WE DO

CEMR works to promote a **strong united Europe** based on the principle of subsidiarity, closeness to citizens, and local and regional self-government. We therefore campaign for local and regional governments to have a stronger role in Europe. We draw inspiration from the Council of Europe's European Charter of Local Self-Government, and have supported similar initiatives for regional self-government. To these ends, CEMR closely works in collaboration with the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and with the EU's Committee of the Regions.

An enormous proportion of **EU legislation** ends up being implemented by local and regional governments. Therefore, one of our priorities is to influence European policies and legislation which have a significant impact on our sector, such as waste, environmental and health standards, state aid and public procurement rules, public transport, etc. We intervene from the earliest stages of the European Commission drafting process, through to the amendments for consideration by the European Parliament.

In addition, we promote **good practice and exchange of information** on many subjects relevant to local and regional governments. Since its founding, CEMR has supported the European town twinning movement. CEMR

receives an EU grant in support of its work in the field of twinning and active European citizenship.

In 2008, we created a twinning website ([www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org)), with one section dedicated to European twinning actions, available in over 20 languages, and the other to international twinning links and partnerships for development, available in four languages. Both have a partner search function. We also organise European meetings and, every few years, a major twinning Congress.

CEMR's work in the **international** domain has increased in recent years, and many of our member associations are involved in international decentralised cooperation. CEMR is the European regional section of our world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG - [www.cities-localgovernments.org](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org)). We have a World Affairs Committee to prepare and coordinate our international activities and our European contribution to UCLG.

CEMR has also established, and provides the Secretariat for, PLATFORMA, the platform of local and regional authorities for development, which provides local and regional authorities with a common voice vis-à-vis the European institutions.



## COMMITTEES, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Much of CEMR's policy work is undertaken through our committees and working groups. These cover issues such as environment, energy, transport, public services and procurement, cohesion and territorial policy, social policy, Employers' Platform, democracy and governance and information society as well as a committee of women elected members. CEMR also acts as secretariat for employers with regards to the social dialogue on local and regional government.

Every three years, we organise our General Assembly, which brings together around 1 000 local and regional representatives. The most recent was held in Malmö, Sweden, in 2009 under the theme "Fit for the Future? How Europe's local and regional governments are preparing". Our next General Assembly is to be held in September 2012 in Cádiz, Spain.

We also organise European conferences and seminars on a wide range of subjects, for example "Trust in Government" (The Hague, 2010); "Open Days, Open House" (Brussels, 2010); "Bordeaux 2010: A time to reflect!" (Bordeaux, 2010); "European Congress on citizenship and twinning" (Rybnik, 2011). Furthermore, CEMR draws up charters or

codes of practice, which provide the basis for specific campaigning activities. They include our European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life signed by more than 1 000 local and regional governments, our European Charter on Local and Regional Services of General Interest and our Code of Good Practice on Consultation Procedures between Central, Regional and Local Government.



## OUR WEBSITES AND COMMUNICATION

Our main website can be found at: [www.ccre.org](http://www.ccre.org). Its homepage consists of daily news items of interest to local and regional authorities across Europe. The rest of the site gives further information on CEMR, its policies, activities and member associations.

In 2008, CEMR launched a twinning website ([www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org)) with a section dedicated to European twinning actions, available in over 20 languages, and another to international twinning links and partnerships for development in four languages. Both have a partner search function.

Our **studies and publications** cover a wide range of issues and include a "Manual on Implementing Strategies for Local and Regional e-Government"; a study on the "Economic and Financial Crisis – Impact on Local and Regional Authorities"; and a study on the "Status of Local Elected Representatives in Europe".

In 2011 and in the context of a newly developed policy for reducing its use of paper, CEMR launched a new pocket-sized means of distributing CEMR's publications

called "**SmartCards**". These provide a brief summary of the topic, date of publication and relevant contact information as well as quick and easy online access to the publication.

CEMR launched a **newsletter** in October 2009. The newsletter aims at presenting its member association with CEMR's monthly activities and achievements. It is available in English and French.

CEMR's members also have access to our **Extranet** site. It constitutes a virtual work area in which our members can discuss work-related issues such as the drafting of a position paper on an EU initiative, or the preparations for a CEMR seminar or conference



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF CEMR



- 1951** Creation of the Council of European Municipalities (CEM) in Geneva, Switzerland
- 1953** First General Assembly, in Versailles: adoption of the European Charter of Local Liberties
- 1955** CEM's seat transferred to Paris, France
- 1969** Opening of CEM's office in Brussels, Belgium
- 1983** First CEM conference of women elected representatives in Pisa, Italy
- 1984** Regions join – CEM becomes CEMR
- 1989** Fall of the Iron Curtain: CEMR's membership expands to Central and Eastern Europe
- 1989** Creation of the European fund for town twinning, known today as the "*Europe for citizens*" programme, following a campaign led by CEMR
- 1990** CEMR becomes the European section of IULA (International Union of Local Authorities)
- 2004** CEMR becomes the European section of the new world association UCLG
- 2006** Innsbruck General Assembly: CEMR's Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life
- 2007** CEMR's Brussels office moves to the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions along with some 20 representations of its member associations
- 2008** CEMR creates PLATFORMA, a platform of local and regional government for development, with 19 partners
- 2008** Launch of CEMR's twinning interactive website in over 20 languages, with two entry points: one for twinning in Europe and the other for local North-South cooperation
- 2009** Malmö General Assembly focuses on the impact of the economic crisis on towns and regions
- 2009** Over 1 000 local and regional authorities have signed CEMR's Charter for equality
- 2010** Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart and President of CEMR's German section is elected President of CEMR
- 2012** General Assembly in Cádiz, Spain