



Declaration of the CEMR Executive Bureau

Adopted in Lisbon on 24th May 2013

We, members of the CEMR Executive bureau, elected representatives of national associations of European local and regional governments

United by the strong wish to address the ever-deepening youth unemployment crisis in Europe;

Convinced that we need to act jointly at all levels of responsibility - the European, National, Local and Regional – in order to succeed;

Underlining our own commitment to tackle youth unemployment -through concrete actions in our regions, cities and municipalities- which can be implemented immediately;

Declare as follows:

The unemployment situation for young people is alarming and is getting more and more dramatic; the need to act has become imperative. In the European Union, we have more than 5.7 million registered young people without employment and the number keeps increasing. As a pan-European organisation, the CEMR is also worried about the high unemployment rate outside the European Union and we urge the European leaders to also take into consideration the situation in other European countries. The cost of not taking action to bring young people into work is evident- considering its impact on our societies, the financial cost equivalent to 1.21% of GDP, i.e. an annual loss of €153 billion for the EU, along with the ever decreasing trust in politics and the European project. From a political, social and economic point of view, this is a disaster and needs to be addressed through all possible means.

Youth employment is a core element towards sustainable economic recovery and in particular for long term economic and social stability for the whole next generation, for our society, for Europe. We are very concerned that the European project risks to lose its credibility and support in particular of the young generation. Lack of concrete actions violates the solidarity between the generations.

Therefore, we promote an initiative, which aims at offering work experience for young people in the public sector: the 'EU-Starter'. The principle characteristic of the 'EU-Starter' is that it is a flexible framework, adaptable to country specific situations, providing a concrete way to offer an activity at local and regional level.

We call upon the European, National and Local level to govern in partnership and address this issue and take immediate action, namely through:

1. Bringing forward and discussing the 'EU-Starter'- at the upcoming Council Summit on 27+28 June- as a concrete initiative aimed at providing experience in the public sector, for 1 million young people across the EU;
2. Supporting the 'EU-Starter' Initiative as an example of implementing a youth employment action– specifically aimed at local and regional authorities and the public sector;
3. Highlighting synergies between existing national and local initiatives on youth and the 'EU-Starter', in order to act as a framework - for local and regional authorities- which can be implemented across Europe to integrate young unemployed persons into the public sector;
4. Calling for the prioritisation of Youth Employment actions, through the re-directing of the current and unspent ESF money, along with prioritising such actions under the new programmes 2014-2020 – in particular implementing with urgency the Youth Employment Initiative as a delivery mechanism.



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About CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe. Its members are over 50 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together these associations represent some 150 000 local and regional authorities.

CEMR's objectives are twofold: to influence European legislation on behalf of local and regional authorities and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts.

Moreover, CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the worldwide organisation of local government.

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