



CEMR activities in May 2012

01/05 (Brussels): PLATFORMA has started a new project entitled “*Dialogue and capacity building of local and regional authorities in EU partner countries in the development and local governance fields*”. For the next three years, the European platform will support a reflection process on development in local and regional authorities in EU partner countries, based on the priorities developed in the framework of the structured dialogue. ⁽ⁱ⁾ A new **PLATFORMA** office has thus been opened in Brussels to coordinate this new project. Contact: andreea.ciobanu@ccre-cemr.org / nestor.vega@ccre-cemr.org

08/05 (Brussels): CEMR alongside the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Assembly of European Regions (AER) called for an agreement to be made on the EU financial framework as soon as possible and to maintain the same level of funding for cohesion policy. They also expressed their support for an ambitious budget in order to create real economic growth in Europe and to establish a strong partnership between national governments and local and regional authorities. These points were voiced during a meeting on the post-2013 EU **cohesion policy** organised by the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development (REGI). ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

08-09/05 (Copenhagen): The future EU **cohesion policy** should better take into account territorial needs and specificities. This view is very much in line with CEMR’s position ⁽ⁱ⁾ and was presented at this occasion by the representative of the Polish Ministry for Regional Development at a high-level meeting organised by the Danish EU presidency. Since its own EU presidency, Poland promotes an integrated place-based approach in local, regional and national public policies. It is currently preparing recommendations for the post-2013 cohesion policy programming period, which CEMR plans to contribute to in the coming months. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

16/05 (Brussels): Women and men working in the local and regional government sector, as well as in general, should have equal power to shape society and their own lives. Such was the main message coming out of a workshop on equality, diversity and non-discrimination in the local and regional government sector. Participants also discussed the Guidelines to drawing up **gender equality** action plans in local and regional government, ⁽ⁱ⁾ adopted in 2007 by the European **Social Dialogue** Committee, and exchanged on ideas for follow-up and implementation. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

21/05 (Brussels): Local and regional authorities are better placed to determine how to best deliver **social services of general interest** (SSGIs) and the EU must respect their freedom as well as that of member states in this regard. Thus, a European framework, which should be on a voluntary basis, could aim at collecting and exchanging relevant good practice examples. Such was CEMR’s main message, as voiced by Janna Lehmann, a member of the CEMR focus group on public procurement, during a seminar on SSGIs organised by the European Commission. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

21/05 (Brussels): The European Commission should support the exchange of best practices and the development of guidelines when it comes to urban road charging and parking pricing policies but should not legislate or impose compulsory criteria on municipalities. This was the message delivered by CEMR during a meeting of **transport** experts organised by the European Commission. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

21-22/05 (*Vilnius*): The **secretaries general and directors of CEMR's member associations** met for the first time in Lithuania where they notably discussed the programme for the General Assembly to be held in Cádiz from 26 to 28 September 2012. ⓘ It was also agreed that CEMR should organise a seminar allowing members to exchange on national lobbying successes and difficulties. Finally, the director of the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, Roma Zakaitiene, presented the effects of territorial reforms on Lithuanian local authorities in times of crisis. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

22-23/05 (*Vilnius*): The CEMR Observatory on equality met for the first time and had participants exchange on **gender equality** initiatives carried out thus far in their respective countries and on their experiences in implementing the European Charter of Women and Men in Local Life. A proposal for the upcoming website was also discussed, CEMR having presented the aims of the Observatory and accompanying web page. ⓘ Contact: johanna.tornstrom@ccre-cemr.org

23/05 (*Paris*): French local authorities believe that the United Nations conference on sustainable development, Rio+20 will boost the dynamic of **sustainable development** at the local level and hope to get adequate recognition for their contribution. This was the main conclusion of the event "*Rio+20, local authorities and regional at the heart of the ambition*" co-organised by the AFCCRE. Frederic Vallier, CEMR secretary general, welcomed their commitment to the political preparation of Rio+20 and asked that they not only carry the message of French municipalities and regions but also of European ones as a whole. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

23/05 (*Brussels*): The implementation of efficient public policies for the **integration** of migrants requires the involvement of all public and private sector stakeholders at the local, regional, national and European levels. Such was the main conclusion of a debate organised by the International Organisation for Migration. The debate underlined the crucial nature of a still-to-be-determined cooperation between the local and European levels, in which CEMR's new thematic network on diversity and integration could be of great added-value. Contact: pierre.mace@ccre-cemr.org

28-29/05 (*Tunis*): Decentralisation as well as the principles of free government and financial autonomy at the local level should be included in the future Tunisian constitution and decentralised cooperation developed on this basis. Such were the main recommendations voiced by the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT) during a conference on decentralisation as a vital tool for promoting democracy and local development in Tunisia. These debates were welcomed by **PLATFORMA** and will be reflected in its upcoming positions. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org / sandra.cecinarini@ccre-cemr.org

31/05 (*Brussels*): Sustainable **urban mobility** plans and green zones should not be subject to harmonisation as urban mobility is a local competence. Such was voiced by CEMR at a meeting with the European Commission Clean Transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility Unit. It was announced at this occasion that the Commission will consult CEMR on the assessment and review of the EU action plan on urban mobility starting June 2012 in view of a package to be published in 2013. The urban mobility package may put forward a number of legal proposals, including on access restriction schemes. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

CEMR, the FEMP and the City of Cadiz are finalising the **General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions'** website. The Congress is to take place in Cadiz from 26 to 28 September 2012. The website (www.cemr2012.eu) will be available in English, French and Spanish. It will include practical information on the Congress (registration form, programme, hotel reservation information, excursions, etc.), a section dedicated to the latest news as well as a Twitter newsfeed allowing users to follow all the happenings in real-time. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

PLATFORMA is working closely with the European Commission Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO), via a consultation phase, to prepare a communication on local and regional authorities in development, to be published in early 2013. **PLATFORMA** is pleased to see this work being undertaken after having appealed for such a communication, notably during the first meeting on the new Policy Forum on Development, which took place early April 2012. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org


CEMR together with AER, CPMR, EUROCITIES and the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy (REGIO) are pursuing their work in determining the modalities and possibilities for cooperation in order to achieve the objectives set out within the **Europe 2020 strategy**. This partnership would notably involve local and regional authorities, their representative associations and DG REGIO. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org


CEMR calendar¹


05/06 (Brussels): CEMR thematic network on **intergenerational dialogue**. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

05/06 (Brussels): CEMR focus group on **public procurement**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

07/06 (Brussels): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **international cooperation**. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

20/06 (Brussels): Session on sustainable **energy** investments in cities and regions, organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week.  Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

21/06 (Webinar): Fifth workshop of the **social dialogue** project "*Future of the workplace*" on migration and mobility within local and regional government administration, organised by CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU).  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

22/06 (Brussels): Two workshops on funding and cooperation with the private sector for the development of local **energy** strategies, organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week.  Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org


25/06 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** working group on local and regional authorities and EU development policy. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org


27/06 (Brussels): Meeting with SALAR experts on **e-procurement** issues. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org


Other events


05-07/06 (Brussels): Meeting with members of European Parliament to discuss the European Commission's proposal for a new directive on **public procurement**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

08/06 (Brussels): Meeting with the European Commission Waste Management Unit to discuss upcoming EU initiatives and provide feedback on the implementation of **waste** legislation at the local level. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org


14/06 (Brussels): **RegioStars** Awards Ceremony.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

15/06 (Brussels): Conference on "*Transforming regional economies: the power of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation*", organised by the European Commission Directorate General for **Regional Policy**.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

20-22/06 (Rio de Janeiro): United Nations conference on **sustainable development**, Rio+20.  Contact: axelle.griffon@ccre-cemr.org

21-22/06 (Brussels): Conference on "*Adjustments in the **public sector** in Europe: scope, effects and policy issues*", organised by the International Labour Office in cooperation with the European Commission.  Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

26/06 (Brussels): Conference on "**Electronic procurement – challenges and opportunities**", organised by the European Commission.  Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

29/06 (Brussels): Workshop on "*The ESPON project on **territorial performance monitoring***".  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org