A Word from our President

If this publication makes one thing clear, it is the crucial role of Europe’s complex patchwork of municipalities, counties and regions in so many aspects of life. Behind the words that jump out—basic services, climate change, international development, COVID—there is a human reality: local and regional elected officials and civil servants, working every day for their citizens in an ever-growing sphere of areas.

For over 70 years, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has been the voice of local and regional Europe. As the most experienced and broadest association of local and regional governments — representing all territorial levels — CEMR is both a powerful network for collaboration and a privileged interlocutor in European and global institutions.

In an age often marked by political polarisation and alienation, at CEMR we believe that vibrant local democracy contributes to bringing our citizens together and overcoming the many challenges of our time.

Stefano Bonaccini
CEMR President
President of Emilia-Romagna Region

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

A Word from our President
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Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

CEMR member associations

Austria
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
 Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Israel
Italy
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Moldova
Montenegro
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
United Kingdom

CCMR-CEMR
www.cemr.eu
Tel. +32 2 511 74 77
info@ccre-cemr.eu

*Organisation invited to participate in CEMR’s work.

Founded in 1951
60 member associations
40 countries
115,000 local and regional governments

Local & Regional Europe

40 countries
1 15,000
local and regional
governments

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

Contacted by the European Union

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe’s local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations. CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which it represents European local and regional governments at international level.
### Our political leadership

Members of CEMR’s Executive bureau – 2020-2022

**CEMR**

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe’s local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations.

**OUR MISSION**

We promote the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded upon local self-government and respect for the principle of subsidiarity.

CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) through which it represents local and regional governments at international level.

**Founded in 1951**

- **60 member associations**
- **40 countries**
- **114,534 towns & cities**
- **1,058 provinces & counties**
- **353 regions**
- **1,000,000 elected representatives**

### CEMR members

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Regional</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State structure**

- Federal state
- Unitary state
- Local + intermediate or regional
- Local + intermediate + regional

**Subdivision of government**

- only local
- local + intermediate or regional
- local + intermediate + regional

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Printed on eco-friendly paper.
Our political leadership
Members of CEMR’s Executive bureau – 2020-2022

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local: 61
regional: 12
SHBSH

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GEMEINDEBUND

Bosnia and Herzegovina
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regional: 10
SOGFBiH, ALVRS

Bulgaria
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regional: 14
NAMRB

Croatia
local: 556
regional: 21
HRVZZ

Cyprus
local: 380
regional: 3
UCM

Denmark
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regional: 5
KL, REGIONER

Estonia
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regional: 3
AECM

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LCA

Moldova
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CALM

Montenegro
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UOM

Netherlands
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VNG, IPO

North Macedonia
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NALAS, ZELS

Norway
local: 356
regional: 11
KS

Poland
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intermediate: 380
regional: 16
Z M P, Z PP

Portugal
local: 2,477
intermediate: 19
regional: 18
FE M P, EUDEL

Romania
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MEG

Serbia
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SKGO

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Sweden
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SKR

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BBS

Ukraine
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ATC, NIOF

United Kingdom
local: 400
intermediate: 35
regional: 4
LGA, WLGA, COSLA, NILGA

United Kingdom
local: 400
intermediate: 35
regional: 4
LGA, WLGA, COSLA, NILGA

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60 member associations

40 countries

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1,000,000 elected representatives

*All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.
Our values

Local democracy, sustainability and diversity are at the heart of what we do

Since its founding in 1951, CEMR has worked tirelessly to promote the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe based on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and citizens’ participation and needs.

The voice of local democracy

We believe the world’s problems can only be solved from the bottom-up. That is why local and regional governments need a strong voice at national, European and global levels.

Local governments are basic building blocks of democracy. As such, CEMR works to protect local autonomy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

We promote partnerships between governments at all levels, such as through town twinning and decentralised international cooperation.

Diversity and sustainability

Around 40 staff in the CEMR secretariat work in Brussels on behalf of our associations. Our team of professionals hails from a dozen nationalities and speaks about 15 languages.

We are keen to ensure that our leadership and our debates are gender-balanced. With dozens of meetings every year, we also strive to be green when organising our events.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an important guiding framework for our work. These Global Goals offer a powerful common framework for exchange on global challenges directly impacting people’s lives, such as on health, equality and the environment.

We will continue to embody the values of local democracy, equality, diversity and sustainability in our daily work and to promote them in both Europe and the wider world.
CEMR is led by experienced and dynamic elected local leaders from across Europe. Our Presidency and Policy Committee are organised to ensure maximal gender, geographical and democratic representation.

Since 2013, CEMR has had rules to ensure gender-balanced leadership in our governing bodies. Today, CEMR is one of the only international organisations with gender-balanced leadership.

CEMR is also represented by around 25 spokespersons covering numerous thematic areas and who speak on behalf of local and regional Europe in various international forums and to the press. You may be struck by the diversity of our mayors, municipal and regional councillors, presidents and representatives. We seek to be representative of the rich tapestry of Europe’s territories: from national capitals to rural villages, from urbanised metropolises to islands, mountains and more, all have their place in the CEMR family!
Our history
70 years blazing trails for local and regional Europe

CEMR’s work is rooted in a proud history of over seven decades representing local governments and working for peace and cooperation in Europe.

The challenges of 1951, when our organisation was founded, were in many respects very different from those we face today. Europe was moving away from the most devastating period of history marked by two world wars and the genocide of millions. Europeans then still had only an uneasy peace under the shadow of the Cold War.

The founders of the Council of European Municipalities (CEM) were then painfully aware that peace and democracy were precious but fragile goods in Europe. Unity among Europeans would not be achieved simply top-down through the actions of national governments. Rather, Europeans should collaborate across borders from the bottom-up, making their unity a day-to-day social reality. What’s more, municipal rights had to be established and protected, local civic life being the surest way of creating and promoting a culture of democracy as the bedrock of the rule of law.

That is why 56 mayors and local representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the Netherlands came together in Geneva on 28 January 1951 to found the CEM. These pioneers had a wide range of backgrounds and experiences which informed their activism.

The principles which the founders of CEM affirmed in January 1951 resonate just as strongly in 2021:

“Mayors and elected members of local authorities, united across national frontiers by their responsibilities as administrators in direct contact with the people and with day-to-day realities, are the builders of a Europe that is free, united and respectful of diversity.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creation of the Council of European Municipalities</th>
<th>Adoption of European Charter of Municipal Liberties</th>
<th>200 town twinnings reached</th>
<th>General Assembly in Rome (20,000 citizens present)</th>
<th>4,000 town twinnings reached</th>
<th>First CEMR conference on gender equality (Pisa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951 CEMR President Fernand Cottier (Mayor of Geneva)</td>
<td>CEMR President Emile Hamilius (Mayor of Luxembourg)</td>
<td>CEMR President Henri Cravatte (Mayor of Diekirch)</td>
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</table>
The first steps: twinning and local autonomy

In the early years, CEM’s most practical work was in the promotion of town twinning. National associations would relay municipalities’ requests and help them find a suitable partner to create friendship bonds and solidarity. CEM also spread pedagogical materials on how to make twinning a political and social success. Twinned cities typically organise activities such as student exchanges, joint cultural and sporting events and the promotion of business ties, as well as more technical cooperation between municipal officials.

In the aftermath of the war, Édouard Herriot, the mayor of Lyon, observed: “everything pits States against each other, while everything unites municipalities.” And indeed, the twinnings of cities like Montbeliard, Ludwigsburg, Liège, Lille, Cologne and Turin – uniting citizens in nations that had just been enemies – were symbolically powerful and made for a sharp break. Today, there are around 20,000 town twinnings in Europe, making this by far the most common kind of cooperation between governments on the continent.

The CEM also set to work on the task of promoting local democracy, notably with the adoption of the European Charter of Municipal Liberties in Versailles in October 1953. The document outlined the conditions for municipalities’ genuine administrative and financial self-government, and would provide the basis for the Council of Europe’s 1985 European Charter of Local Self-Government. The latter has since been ratified by the 47 member states of the Council of Europe, committing them to respecting municipal rights, with regular oversight by international observers.
Putting the “R” in CEMR: advocacy and support for regions

Over the years, CEM broadened its membership beyond municipalities to also include regions and counties. The “R” in CEMR’s name was only added in 1984. CEMR has consistently advocated not only for political decentralisation but also a decentralised territorial approach to economic development. Europe’s economic prosperity and human capital should not be overly concentrated in a handful of territories.

Local and regional governments have gained in political recognition over the years, notably in the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht and the creation of the Committee of the Regions as a consultative body to the European institutions. Furthermore, in many countries, regions have gained significant powers since the 1950s, notably in Belgium, France, and Spain. There is a constant back and forth however between central, regional and local governments, and in some countries the economic crisis of the 2010s saw a recentralisation of powers. CEMR monitors developments in its TERRI Report on Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe, updated every few years.

The further development of the European Community had an increasing impact on local and regional governments. In 1975, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was created to reduce economic disparities between territories. With the succession of new Treaties, the European Union’s competencies have steadily extended to new areas, many of them affecting municipalities and regions.

During all these years, CEMR engaged in the discussions and shared the local perspective through face-to-face dialogues, advocacy, publications and debates. Our mission remains the same: to ensure European policies respect local realities and interests, and share good practices among our member associations, municipalities and regions.

Growing and changing with the times

CEMR as an organisation has constantly changed with the times. Membership grew steadily over the
years and so did the Secretariat. We have expanded our spheres of action to new areas including gender equality, climate and environment, and towns and regions’ efforts in international development (known as decentralised cooperation).

Major physical changes of the office took place in 2007, when CEMR, together with many member associations represented in Brussels, moved into the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions on Square de Meeûs, just next to the European Parliament. At the end of 2013, CEMR’s Paris office was closed and the headquarters was transferred to Brussels.

Since 2010, CEMR has invested in its capacity and the number of staff has almost doubled, also thanks to external funding, mainly from the EU. We continue to expand and upgrade our activities – notably with accelerated digitalisation of our work in the wake of COVID-19. Many physical meetings have been replaced with virtual ones, a practice which helps us reduce both travel expenses and our carbon footprint.

**Paving the way for the future**

The celebration of our 70th anniversary on 28 January 2021 was an ideal opportunity to reflect our past achievements and on the future in a world of rapid social and technological changes.

While European and global politics today are often marked by polarisation and division, we should also consider the progress made since 1951. Do we dare to be hopeful for 2051? There are profound opportunities for civic activism and social change. Beyond institutions, this will depend on the young. A parting word from Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, who served as President of CEMR between 1997 and 2003, seems appropriate. In his last message to CEMR, he exhorted young people to take action:

>“Today, power is there for the taking! This is to be understood in the noble sense of the word, not to infringe on the freedom of others. It is the power to act, to bring on the future and to organise it.”
CEMR is an organisation at the service of its members, national associations of local and regional governments, ultimately working for the good of all European municipalities, counties and regions and their citizens. Our work is organised according to long-term objectives under four “Ps”: People, Places, Planet and Partnership.

Advocacy: a leading European influencer

With around 70% of European legislation having an impact on local and regional governments, and the EU budget disbursing billions of euros, it is essential that municipalities and regions have a strong voice in Brussels and Strasbourg.

CEMR is a key interlocutor for European and global institutions. We represent local interests in a wide variety of settings, including the EU, the Council of Europe and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the OECD, the UN and elsewhere. EU Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other influential players are frequent speakers and participants at our meetings and events.

We intervene from the earliest stages of the European Commission’s legislative process, through to the adoption of
amendments by the European Parliament and conclusions by the Council. The goal: ensure that European goals and policies are in tune with local realities and that municipalities, regions and their associations are sufficiently consulted and provided with the right conditions to thrive.

Knowledge: sharing of local expertise and ground-breaking studies

The discovery and sharing of knowledge is another essential pillar of our work. We are a platform for exchange, providing our members and local and regional governments with opportunities to share and learn from one another on a wide variety of topics, including climate and energy projects, local gender equality, migrant integration and much more.

Every year, CEMR organises technical meetings, political debates, conferences and seminars on subjects relevant to local and regional governments.

We also conduct original research to foster and inform public debates, with ground-breaking studies on women’s local representation, the state of local finances or the territorial reforms of European countries.

Externally-funded activities

In addition to our core work financed by our members, CEMR also participates in a number of activities funded by external partners such as the European Commission and national ministries or agencies, always with a strong local dimension.

These activities cover varied areas such as municipalities and regions’ international development policies (PLATFORMA), sustainable and integrated territorial development (the RFSC), migrant integration (INCLUCITIES), climate and energy (the Covenant of Mayors), local environments (Green City Accord) and local democracy in Ukraine (Bridges of Trust).

Communications

CEMR communicates with its members and the wider world through a variety of channels including our website, social media and a variety of thematic newsletters (see the “Stay Tuned” section below).

Our communication officers liaise with the media and organise our participation in pan-European campaigns around key dates, such as International Women’s Rights Day, Europe Day and the State of the European Union speech.

We collaborate and share knowledge through a network of our members’ communications professionals. Our spokespersons and the members of our Presidency spread our messages by speaking at numerous public events.
We work to create inclusive societies that leave no one behind and bring European institutions closer to citizens.

We have **Expert Groups and Committees** tackling the following issues:

- Gender equality
- Migration and refugees

**Equality of men & women in local life**

CEMR has been actively promoting equal representation for women since the 1980s. Today, we work to ensure European and international institutions “mainstream” gender equality throughout policymaking.

We also collect and publish data on the state of gender inequalities in Europe. In 2019 we released **Women in Politics: Local and European Trends**. This flagship publication is unique in revealing the data on women’s representation at all levels of government in 41 European countries.

At CEMR we seek to **lead by example** on equality. That’s why, since 2013, we have quotas to ensure balanced representation of each sex in our governing bodies. These measures rapidly led to more balanced leadership.

Launched in 2006, the European Charter for Equality has since been signed by nearly 2,000 local governments, committing them to taking action for gender equality. The Charter’s Observatory tracks local implementation, promotes the Charter and helps local and regional governments develop their own equality action plans.

[chart equality eu](chart-equality.eu)
Migration and diversity

With the right policies and support favouring inclusion and togetherness, migration can be a win-win for all. CEMR advocates for appropriate policies so that municipalities and regions influence European legislation on migration and benefit from related funds, such as the Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund (AMIF). The AMIF will dedicate almost €10 billion to migration and integration from 2021 to 2027.

We exchange and contribute to shaping EU policies on local integration through the Inclusion Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Partnership brings together local governments, their associations, Member States, EU institutions and other stakeholders to develop policies supporting municipalities’ integration efforts.

CEMR also collaborates with other international organisations working on migration. We notably contributed to the OECD study on Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees.

29%
Average proportion of local elected women in Europe in 2019

INCLUCITIES is an EU-funded initiative that supports cities’ efforts to integrate migrants. We partner up pairs of cities with more and less experience on migration so they can learn from each other and develop action plans to improve local integration practices. The cities’ respective national local government associations are also participating to share expertise on migration and the lessons learned with their members.

www.inclucities.eu
@inclucitieseu
We work for a Europe where no place is left behind. Everyone deserves to have similar opportunities and quality of life regardless of where they live. We push for policies helping every municipality and region to capitalise on their unique assets to fulfil their potential.

Our activity in this area is based on the analyses and proposals of our Experts Groups covering:

- Territorial, urban, rural development & cohesion
- Local finances
- Local and regional governments as employers
- Public services
- Digital transition
- Governance and territorial arrangements

Territorial development & cohesion: no place left behind

In a time of heightening territorial and social inequalities, we need strong policies for balanced local development.

In the EU, Cohesion Policy dedicates €50 billion every year, about one third of the European budget, to boost less developed municipalities and regions’ competitiveness and infrastructure.

We exchange with MEPs and EU officials to ensure a strong cohesion policy, less red tape and full involvement of local and regional governments in the planning and funding of projects (under the Partnership Principle).

Coalition-building with like-minded partners is essential in politics and particularly on budgetary issues. That is why we work with the Committee of the Regions, are a member of the Cohesion Alliance and participate in the OECD’s Regional Development Policy Committee.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working to better involve local and regional governments in the planning and disbursement of EU-funded national recovery programmes. We also regularly research and publish studies on the state of local finances, such as on the impact of COVID-19 and on sustainable local investment.

As the EU’s local impact has grown, so has the need for local governments to engage European decision-makers. That’s why we participate in the European Semester, a major EU policy cycle which influences issues such as local public investment.

Public services and social dialogue: ensuring a flexible approach

Local and regional governments must be empowered to provide the best public services for the diverse needs and situations in their territories. That is why we promote administrative simplification and flexibility in EU rules, in particular in public procurement and state aid.

The climate crisis calls for a radical change: towns and regions must be able to buy local goods, support the circular economy and provide more sustainable and innovative services.

With some 12.3 million workers, local and regional authorities collectively make up one of the biggest employers in Europe. CEMR
represents them in the **EU social dialogue committee**. We also conduct research and contribute to guidelines on reducing violence in the workplace, gender equality, well-being at work, inclusion and non-discrimination.

**Digitalisation: connecting the territories**

Our economies, societies and way of life are being constantly transformed by new information technologies. There are great opportunities to reduce territorial disparities, enhance democratic participation and improve local administration.

CEMR’s **policy work on digital** covers a wide range of issues including data protection, artificial intelligence and acceleration of local digital transitions.

We are also developing **digitalisation guidelines** on how to best manage digital life in local public administrations. These will provide guidance on issues such as digital skills, liability for use of artificial intelligence and workers’ ability to disconnect from the office.

**€50 billion**
The EU’s annual Cohesion spending for towns and regions.

Thanks to the RFSC tool, over 2,000 users in more than 80 countries are designing integrated action plans for urban development. RFSC users can also monitor their progress towards the SDGs or the objectives of the European framework for sustainable cities. The tool is managed and promoted by CEMR with the support of the French government.

[rfsc.eu](http://rfsc.eu)
A clean and healthy environment is crucial to our citizens’ well-being and the sustainability of our societies.

Our advocacy is based on the analyses and proposals of our **Experts Groups** covering:

- Climate and Energy
- Mobility
- Waste Management and Circular Economy
- Other Environmental Issues

**The European Green Deal**

Climate change is already greatly affecting our continent and our planet, and we see the consequences growing year after year. Municipalities and regions are at the forefront when it comes to tackling floods, wildfires and droughts, as well as longer-term efforts on climate change.

Environmental action has gained tremendous momentum in the European Union with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s European Green Deal, which seeks to make Europe the first **carbon-neutral continent** by 2050.

This huge initiative includes measures in numerous areas affecting local governments, including energy efficient

**Green City Accord**

The Green City Accord is the movement of European mayors making cities cleaner and healthier. Signatories receive support from the EU and commit to improving the situation on air, water, nature and biodiversity, circular economy and waste, and noise. CEMR is responsible for promoting the Accord among national associations of local and regional governments.

[greencityaccord.eu](http://greencityaccord.eu)
buildings, renewables, mobility, circular economy and waste, biodiversity, green public procurement... and much more! And these measures have financial firepower to match: around **€650 billion** will be dedicated to climate issues between 2021 and 2027, one third of all EU spending.

Bottom-up action is essential to achieving the green transition. That’s why CEMR promotes a supportive regulatory and financial framework for **local climate action**, as well as the full involvement of local and regional governments in national climate plans. Europe needs flexible approaches respectful of local conditions in each country and territory, in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

We have pushed for full consultation of local and regional governments benefiting from the **Just Transition Fund** in their territories – a new EU programme financing the transition to more sustainable economic models.

Beyond advocacy, we are broadening our action with a study on **Sustainable Local Finances** to be published in 2022 and participation in the European Bauhaus, an initiative to design beautiful, sustainable and inclusive living spaces.

**COP and beyond: from local to global climate action**

Climate is the ultimate global issue: carbon and emissions and weather patterns wholly transcend national boundaries. We are all in this together. Global climate commitments need to respect local and regional governments’ needs and contribute to actualising their decarbonisation potential. That is why we represent them at **UN global climate summits (COP)**. We caucus with allies in the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) together with partner organisations such as ICLEI and our global organisation United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

We also partner with other dedicated organisations in Europe such as Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, the FEDARENE and Eurocities, founders with us of the European Covenant of Mayors, and internationally with C40 and UCLG in the development of the Global Covenant of Mayors.

The Covenant of Mayors is the leading movement of municipalities and regions taking action by committing to reducing their carbon emissions. Today, over 10,700 signatories, covering 325 million people, have committed.

CEMR contributes to the development of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe, which has upgraded its objectives with a view to reducing EU emissions by 55% by 2030 and reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

What’s more, CEMR supports the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) together with our sister organisation UCLG-Africa, helping African cities develop their own climate action plans.

[covenantofmayors.eu](covenantofmayors.eu)  
comssa.org
Partnerships

Partnerships between governments are essential to build a democratic and inclusive society.

This is true both between levels of government (local, regional, national, European) and between governments of different nations and continents.

CEMR promotes partnerships at all levels, from local to global. This includes strong support for the EU partnership principle and active participation in United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), our global organisation.

We support the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These offer a powerful framework for different players to work together for healthy, just and sustainable societies across the world. We also organise meetings of young elected politicians.

We work on Partnership through two Expert Groups:

- Governance, local democracy and citizenship
- Town twinning: connecting citizens

Governing in partnership

We can only meet today’s challenges through collaboration between all levels of government, what is called multi-level governance. For this local and regional governments need financial and political autonomy and a strong voice among national governments and international institutions.

BRIDGES OF TRUST

Decentralisation has transformed local government in Ukraine and is widely regarded as the country’s greatest success story in recent years. Bridges of Trust, an initiative Managed by CEMR, Bridges of Trust develops the capacities of 10 Ukrainian municipalities through international partnerships and exchanging best practices with 10 EU municipalities.

The initiative is funded by the U-LEAD with Europe Programme, a multi-donor action of the EU and its member states Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and Slovenia.

bit.ly/BridgesOfTrustEN

#BridgesOfTrust
For 70 years, CEMR has championed local autonomy as an essential ingredient of democracy. Our work paved the way for the Council of Europe’s European Charter of Local Self-Government, protecting local democracy in 47 signatory countries.

Our advocacy recently led to the decision that local and regional government representatives will no longer be treated as “lobbyists” in the EU’s Transparency Register. This decision recognises that towns and regions’ advocates represent public interest and so should not face obstacles when accessing EU policy and decision-makers.

The situation of local governments in Europe is remarkably diverse and CEMR regularly releases publications keeping track of developments. This notably includes the TERRI Report on Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe, updated every few years.

**Decentralised cooperation**

“Think global, act local!” For more and more municipalities and regions, global citizenship is not just an aspiration, but a day-to-day reality. Numerous local and regional governments in Europe have formed partnerships with their peers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia; covering issues such as basic services, economic development and democratic participation.

Since 2008, PLATFORMA – a coalition headed by CEMR – has united European municipalities, regions and their associations active in the field of international development cooperation. PLATFORMA notably works on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, global citizenship education and the EU’s Eastern neighbourhood.

The coalition advocates before the EU institutions to strengthen decentralised cooperation, notably in bodies like the European Commission’s Policy Forum for Development. The EU recently adopted a Global Europe programme for 2021-2027, which will provide €500 million for territorial development, much of it through local and regional governments’ cooperation projects.

PLATFORMA contributes to civic engagement and public awareness on decentralised cooperation. The **PLATFORMAwards** reward excellence in cities and regions’ international action every 2 years, putting the spotlight on projects that have an impact in their territories and can serve as models for others.

platformawards.eu

#PLATFORMAwards

PLATFORMA coordinates the European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS), an annual pan-European festival celebrating municipalities and regions’ actions on international cooperation and development. Local events are organised for the occasion throughout Europe.

localsolidaritydays.eu

#LocalSolidarityDays
Publications

You can discover these and more of our studies, reports, brochures and position papers on our website: cemr.eu

- **Women in Politics: Local and European Trends** (2019, EN/FR)
- **European Territories Localise the SDGs: Continuity and Change in Times of Covid-19** (2021, EN/FR)
- **Key Messages of Local-Led Implementation of the Paris Agreement** (2019, EN/FR)
- **INCLUDITIES - Building inclusive cities with migrants: IncluCities in a snapshot** (2021, EN/FR)
- **Uptake of EU Funds in Rural Areas: Analysis from a Local and Regional Perspective** (2021, EN)
Stay tuned
Keeping in touch with our network

For more information on how to subscribe to a newsletter or participate to an event, be sure to contact us at info@ccre-cemr.org or reach out to the relevant colleagues listed on our website.

**Website: cemr.eu**  
*An easy way to stay up-to-date with our activities*

Our website, available in English and French includes a directory of elected officials, an interactive map with information on our associations in 40 countries, a calendar of events and a theme-based search engine.

**Social media**  
*Be part of the conversation!*

- Twitter: @CCRECEMR
- LinkedIn: Council of European Municipalites and Regions

**Extranet: extranet.cemr.eu**  
*An exclusive platform for CEMR members*

Exchange with your peers in our 60 member associations. It includes a library of documents and a calendar of CEMR events and internal meetings.

**IN BRIEF**  
*CEMR’s members-only newsletter*

Informing local government associations about our activities, events and opportunities for collaboration.

**LOCAL INSIGHT**  
*CEMR’s monthly newsletter*

LOCAL INSIGHT is aimed at those, from local officials to the Brussels bubble, who are interested in news and perspectives from European local governments.

**Thematic Updates**  
*Specialised policy news for our members*

Our thematic teams send out regular policy updates to our expert groups and other members, covering issues such as gender equality, citizenship, cohesion and territorial development, decentralised cooperation and global affairs.

**Webinars**  
*Participate in our activities wherever you are!*

We know your time is precious and flights have a heavy carbon footprint. As such, we organise online seminars that allow you to follow our activities and to be in direct dialogue with experts and elected representatives from all over Europe.
The Secretariat
To contact us, email info@ccre-cemr.org or find the relevant team member on our website cemr.eu

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Our political leadership
Members of CEMR’s Executive bureau – 2020-2022

CEMR members

Albania
local: 61
regional: 12

SHBSH

Austria
local: 2,095
regional: 9

GEMEINDEBUND
STÄDTEBUND

Belgium
local: 191
intermediate: 10

BIBLIOTHECUK, VIVL, VOIR

Bosnia and Herzegovina
local: 115
intermediate: 10

SOG, RAB, CAC

Bulgaria
local: 201
intermediate: 10

NAMIB, AVAM

Croatia
local: 556
intermediate: 21

HRVZZ

Cyprus
local: 380

UCM

Czech Republic
local: 6,258
intermediate: 14

SMO ČR

Denmark
local: 98
intermediate: 5

KL, REGIONER

Estonia
local: 79

AECM

Finland
local: 309
intermediate: 19

AFLRA

France
local: 34,965
intermediate: 100

regional: 18

AFCCRE

Georgia
local: 64
intermediate: 3

NALAG

Germany
local: 10,799
intermediate: 294

regional: 16

RGRE, DST,
DStGB, DLT

Greece
local: 332
intermediate: 13

KEDE

Hungary
local: 3,155
intermediate: 19

TÖOSZ-MÖSZ
KÖZÖSZ

Iceland
local: 369

SAMBAND

Israel
local: 257
intermediate: 6

MASHAM

Italy
local: 7,904
intermediate: 107

regional: 20

AICCRE

Kosovo*
local: 1,507

AKM

Latvia
local: 42
intermediate: 5

LPS

Lithuania
local: 60

LSA

Luxembourg
local: 102

SYVICOL

Moldova
local: 898
intermediate: 32

CALM

Montenegro
local: 25

UOM

Netherlands
local: 352
intermediate: 12

VNG, IPO

North Macedonia
local: 81

NALAS, ZELS

Norway
local: 356
intermediate: 11

KS

Poland
local: 2,477
intermediate: 380

regional: 16

ZMP, ZPP

Portugal
local: 2,477
intermediate: 16

regional: 24

FE MP,
EUDEL

Romania
local: 121
intermediate: 41

local: 1,911
Iasi

SKO

Serbia
local: 29,825
intermediate: 35

MOSO

Slovakia
local: 209
intermediate: 41

SMG

Slovenia
local: 121
intermediate: 5

Maribor

Spain
local: 8,183
intermediate: 19

regional: 19

FE MP,
EUDEL

Sweden
local: 290
intermediate: 20

regional: 20

SKR

Turkey
local: 6,948

TMB

Ukraine
local: 146
intermediate: 16

regional: 16

AEC,
VNOF

United Kingdom
local: 408

intermediate: 16

regional: 12

UKG, MEG, CLEFA, MEG

United States
local: 522

intermediate: 12

regional: 41

AUG

YAPA

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Printed on eco-friendly paper.
If this publication makes one thing clear, it is the crucial role of Europe’s complex patchwork of municipalities, counties and regions in so many aspects of life. Behind the words that jump out – basic services, climate change, international development, COVID – there is a human reality: local and regional elected officials and civil servants, working every day for their citizens in an ever-growing sphere of areas.

For over 70 years, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has been the voice of local and regional Europe. As the most experienced and broadest association of local and regional governments – representing all territorial levels – CEMR is both a powerful network for collaboration and a privileged interlocutor in European and global institutions. In an age often marked by political polarisation and alienation, at CEMR we believe that vibrant local democracy contributes to bringing our citizens together and overcoming the many challenges of our time.

Stefano Bonaccini
CEMR President
President of Emilia-Romagna Region

CEMR member associations
Albania
SHBSH
Austria
GEMEINDEBUND
STÄDTEBUND
Belgium
BRULOCALIS
VVSG
UVCW
Bosnia and Herzegovina
SOGFBiH
ALVRS
Bulgaria
NAMRB
Croatia
HRVZZ
Cyprus
UCM
Czech Republic
SMO ČR
Denmark
KL
REGIONER
Estonia
AECM
Finland
AFLRA
France
AFCCRE
Georgia
NALAG
Germany
RGRE
DST
DStGB
DLT
Greece
KEDE
Hungary
TÖOSZ-MÖSZ
KÖOESZ
Iceland
SAMBAND
Israel
MASHAM
Italy
AICCRE
Kosovo
AKM*
Latvia
LPS
Lithuania
LSA
Luxembourg
SYVICOL
Malta
LCA
Moldova
CALM
Montenegro
UOM
Netherlands
VVW
Norway
KS
Poland
ZMP
ZPP
Romania
ACoR
UNCJR
AMR
Serbia
SKGO
Slovakia
ZMOS-SK
Slovenia
SOS
ZMOS-SI
Spain
FEMP
EUDEL
Sweden
SKR
Turkey
TBB
Ukraine
AUC
YAPOP
United Kingdom
LGA
WLGA
COSLA
NILGA

A Word from our President

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions is the united voice of Europe’s local and regional governments federated through 60 national associations. CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which it represents European local and regional governments at international level.

CCRE-CEMR
www.cemr.eu
ccrecemr
Tel. +32 2 511 74 77
info@ccre-cemr.eu

Founded in 1951
60 member associations
40 countries
115,000 local and regional governments

60
40
1

115,000

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951

Local & Regional Europe

A Word from our President

Empowering Local and Regional Europe since 1951