Europe is a common home continually under construction. It must be built upon solid foundations with local and regional governments, partners of the European institutions, attentive to the needs and concerns of the citizens. Together, let’s set up a new model of governance based on a true partnership.

Annemarie Jorritsma
CEMR President
Mayor of Almere, VNG President

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions

CEMR brings together more than 150,000 municipalities, cities and regions federated through 60 national associations from 41 European countries. It therefore constitutes the most representative association of local and regional governments in Europe.

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

Our member associations

CEMR’s members are national associations of local and regional governments, whose own members are municipalities, cities and regions in their country.

CEMR is made up of associations from 41 of the 47 Council of Europe member countries, including all 28 member states of the European Union.

Our global association

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

What we do

Our work is organised around two main pillars:

- **Influencing European policy and legislation** in all areas having an impact on local and regional governments;
- **Providing a forum for debate and cooperation** for elected representatives and experts from our 60 member associations.

More info

- [www.cemr.eu](http://www.cemr.eu)
- [info@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:info@ccre-cemr.org)
- [@ccrecemr](https://twitter.com/ccrecemr)
- [pinterest.com/ccrecemr](https://www.pinterest.com/ccrecemr)

The EU affects 60% of the decisions taken at local level.

There are 40,000 twinning links in Europe.

Local governments are responsible for the management of 2.5 billion tons of waste each year.

1 of the UN’s sustainable development goals is dedicated to local and regional action.
CEMR’s work focuses on five thematic areas, which affect all aspects of the lives of European citizens as well as the local and regional governments that represent them:

**Goverance, democracy and citizenship**

Local democracy
Local self-government represents one of the founding principles of our democracy. We call for its application as defined in the European Charter of local self-government.

European governance
We promote the involvement of local and regional governments in the drafting of European policy and legislation. We also support the implementation of a new model of governance in partnership.

Equality of women and men
We provide support to the 1 500 signatories of the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life, notably in the drawing up of action plans on the ground.

Town twinning
We promote an active European citizenship through town twinning, a powerful tool to bring people together.

**Local and regional public services management**

Management of public services
The EU’s competition, finance and administration rules have a major impact on the provision of services for citizens and enterprises. We uphold the right of local and regional governments to determine freely their way of managing public services.

Employment
As a recognised European social partner, we are involved in guiding European policy and legislation, such as the working time directive and the provisions on health and safety at work and working conditions.

**Economic, social and territorial cohesion**

Regional development
The European structural and investment funds were devised to ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion. We monitor the application of these funds and contribute to the debate on the role of local and regional governments in this area.

Demographic change
Through our involvement in the AFE-INNOVNET project, we support the setting up of public policies adapted to citizens of all ages.

**Environment, climate and energy**

Climate and energy
We participate in the Covenant of mayors, an initiative to reduce CO2 emissions, increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 20% by 2020.

Air quality and waste
The legislation and policy objectives regarding air quality and waste are in large part determined at European level. By providing our on-the-ground knowledge and expertise, we contribute to the development of pragmatic solutions.

**International engagement and cooperation**

Post-2015 Agenda, climate, UN-Habitat
Within UCLG, we coordinate the voice of local and regional governments in major international debates: definition of sustainable development goals for the post-2015 period, international climate negotiations, preparation for the 3rd UN-Habitat Conference.

Our action on the ground
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40% of European funds are invested in local and regional governments.

Europeans live:
- 41% in urban areas
- 35% in mixed areas
- 23% in rural areas.

By 2025, more than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or older.

Local and regional public administrations employ more than 17 million workers.

www.afeinnovnet.eu

www.charter-equality.eu

www.eumayors.eu

www.twinning.org

www.platforma-dev.eu

www.twinning.org