



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Brussels, 3 February 2022

ARLEM NEWSLETTER – February 2022

8th meeting of the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development

7 February 2022, hybrid meeting

Marseille and online



We would like to remind you that the 8th meeting of the **ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development** will take place on **7 February 2022** in hybrid format (in Marseille and online), and will be co-chaired by **Mina Bouhdoud and Arianna Censi**.

The meeting will take place in conjunction with the Mediterranean Worlds Forum (see below).

This ARLEM Commission meeting will provide participants with an excellent opportunity to take part in the Forum's fruitful exchanges. These complement ARLEM's own internal discussions, in particular those on **youth in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022**, and on **climate change ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)** at the end of 2022.

This year ARLEM will continue drafting two thematic reports: the first being the report on *Innovation ecosystems and start-ups in the Mediterranean as a means of recovering from the COVID-19 crisis*, drafted by Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, ARLEM rapporteur representing the Association of European Border Regions, and President of Andalusia; and the second on *Service sector re-orientation: transferring skills from the tourism sector*, drafted by Mohamed Boudra, President of the Moroccan Association of Mayors. The revised reports will be adopted at the 13th ARLEM plenary

session in 2022. As a reminder, all ARLEM members can send their feedback on these two draft reports via the ARLEM Secretariat (arlem-secretariat@cor.europa.eu).

The Mediterranean Worlds Forum

7-8 February 2022, hybrid conference

Palais Chanot in Marseille and online

The **Mediterranean Forum**, organised on the initiative of the President of the French Republic and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, will be held in Marseille on 7 and 8 February 2022.



Building on the commitments made during the Summit of the Two Shores in 2019, the Forum will bring together civil society actors from all over the Mediterranean region to come up with concrete solutions to our shared challenges in six main areas: environment, biodiversity and sustainable development, education, training and mobility, employment, innovation and entrepreneurship, inclusion and solidarity, culture and heritage, and the regions in the face of climate change. The Forum will also be an opportunity to showcase projects and proposals developed by committed citizens on these topics. These

discussions will help create networks, build bridges and launch new initiatives aimed at young people and civil society.

Within the framework of the Mediterranean Forum of 7 and 8 February 2022, and in partnership with the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region is organising the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and the Mediterranean Youth Council (CMJ), a **conference devoted to territories facing climate change**.

This event will take place on 7 February from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. It will bring together executives from territories on both sides of the Mediterranean, experts involved in decentralised cooperation projects, and representatives of the Mediterranean Youth Council. It will address issues related to climate change and will focus on responses provided by territories to face climate challenges. The following two issues will be addressed: the preservation of natural resources and their balanced management, and natural risks to which the territories are increasingly exposed (such as fires, floods, coastal erosion or different types of crises). Public measures and emblematic projects developed locally by authorities searching for operational responses to all of these challenges will be highlighted.



We warmly invite you to [register](#) for this Forum, which will be an opportunity to exchange views and prepare future partnerships in the region. President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron will open the Forum on the morning of Monday 7 February.

For further information, visit the official website: <https://www.mondesmediterraneens.org/en/>

2022 ARLEM Award – Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

ARLEM has launched the 4th edition of its award for Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean.

Open for applications until 15 August 2022

Young entrepreneurs from Mediterranean partner countries can apply [here](#)

With this award, ARLEM focuses on stimulating local businesses, supporting young people, and encouraging collaboration between local public authorities and the private sector.

The difficult economic situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it highlight the limitations of globalisation and the crucial importance of local economies. More than ever, young local entrepreneurs need support to develop their businesses that cover the needs of local communities. Special attention will be given to adapting and transforming production processes, and to other activities being carried out to address the health crisis and its consequences.

The ARLEM award 2022 is open to all young entrepreneurs born in or after 1986 who are, or have been, supported by a local or regional authority. They must have run their business for at least three years, and the company must also



have been registered for at least three years. The business's registered office and its main economic activities must be located in one of the EU's Mediterranean partner countries¹.

More information on the new edition of this award, as well as videos, are available [here](#).

The winner of this edition will be announced during the 13th ARLEM plenary session in November 2022.

Cities and Regions for International Partnerships Forum

29-30 November 2021

¹

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Cities and Regions for International Partnerships Forum

was held on 29-30 November. This edition, the forum, which has been held once every two years over the past 12 years, focused specifically on collecting feedback from local and regional politicians and municipal and regional officials on the challenges that they are facing, and the solutions they are finding in their work on sustainable development, and efforts to involve local communities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the forum was held entirely online and adopted a participatory approach, with a record-breaking 700 registered participants (including 33 members working in 23 specific groups). The outcome of the 2021 edition included identifying challenges and recommendations and proposals for the future concerning the three policy levels: LRAs, EU institutions, and other stakeholders. Inspirational stories and examples were also shared from all around the world on sustainable and green recovery, and on participatory citizenship and good governance. The recommendations, infographics and sessions can be found on the following website: [Cities and Regions for International Partnerships 2021](#).



Nicosia Initiative – Rome seminar

9 December 2021, Rome, Italy

At the invitation of CIVEX vice-chair and ARLEM member Mr Bianco, the CIVEX commission held



an external seminar in Rome on 9-10 December 2021 on the topic of 'Building territorial partnerships: The experience of local and regional authorities in the Nicosia initiative to support Libyan municipalities'. The objectives of the seminar were to a) highlight the CoR's successful cooperation with Libyan municipalities, and b) explore further perspectives for peer-to-peer cooperation involving CoR member regions and cities and their counterparts in concrete peer-to-peer initiatives and projects.

International Mediterranean Day

28 November 2022

On the occasion of its 5th Regional Forum in 2020, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) established [International Mediterranean Day](#), to be celebrated annually on **28 November**. This date coincides with the **anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration of 1995**, which laid the foundations for the creation of the UfM. This [celebration](#) aims to contribute towards promoting a **common Mediterranean identity**, and raise awareness of the daily efforts of collaborators across the region in order to **enhance cooperation and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area**.



The **cultural element** is especially important as it offers the opportunity to organise **events, expositions and festivals** across the whole region to **strengthen links between the two shores**, promote **exchanges** and **intercultural dialogue**, and to embrace the diversity of the region.

Once again, and after the successful first Day of the Mediterranean in 2021, we encourage you to mobilise to make this Mediterranean Day a special day in your cities and regions.

13th ARLEM Plenary

As part of the 28 November launch of International Day of the Mediterranean, of which ARLEM and the CoR are partners, ARLEM members have decided to hold ARLEM plenary sessions and the associated ceremony of the ARLEM award on Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean in the weeks preceding the international day. Therefore, the 13th ARLEM plenary in İzmir, Turkey will take place in November. More information will follow.

CoR study on EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities in Mediterranean partner countries



This study provides an update on EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities (LRAs) in Mediterranean partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, and Tunisia), and is an updated and extended revision of the 2018 Committee of the Regions publication. It focuses on the key policy areas outlined in the joint communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *A new Agenda for the Mediterranean*, on 9 February 2021. Policy areas include human development and the rule of law, peace and security, migration, and the green transition.

The study takes into account the main internal programmes and funds available to LRAs under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which include Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and Creative Europe. However, in the 2021-2027 MFF, funding for the European Neighbourhood Policy will come predominantly from the new comprehensive instrument for external programmes, namely the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe. Thus, this study takes into account the changes in financial instruments covering cooperation with third countries.

The latest English edition of the study can be accessed [here](#) and the French edition [here](#). The Arabic language version will follow soon.

ARLEM participation in external events

UfM 6th Regional Forum

On 29 November 2021, ARLEM vice-president André Viola addressed the co-presidency of the UfM and ministers of foreign affairs at the **UfM 6th Regional Forum**, held in the framework of the Day of the Mediterranean celebrations on 28 November. The meeting was an opportunity to share an overview of the progress made since the adoption of the UfM Roadmap for Action in 2017, and within the priorities decided the previous year in five areas of action where the UfM can play a crucial role towards an inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery. These are namely environmental and climate action, sustainable and inclusive economic and human development, social inclusiveness and equality, digital transformation, and civil protection. The UfM co-presidency stated explicitly that ARLEM must continue to play their role in amplifying the voices of local and regional authorities, and promoting the territorialisation of Euro-Mediterranean sectoral policies.



Anna Lindh Foundation EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award



The Anna Lindh Foundation launched the [EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award in 2021](#). This award aimed at local and regional authorities celebrates multicultural cities, those that have vision, and those which implement intercultural policies and support both intercultural initiatives and EuroMed social and cultural collaborations. ARLEM had the honour of working with the Anna

Lindh Foundation in presenting this award. The secretariat took part in both evaluating applications on the international jury, and in the [award ceremony on 30 November 2021](#), in which recipients of the award were announced. Congratulations to Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Limassol in Cyprus!

27th edition of the Forum of Lisbon – North-South Council of Europe

The Forum of Lisbon was held in a hybrid format on 9 and 10 December 2021, focusing on intercultural dialogue in the infodemic era. Mr Rouillon, Mayor of Coullaines, and CIVEX and ARLEM member, participated in the event aimed at opening a dialogue between regional and local organisations and political decision-makers from all levels of governance. The theme of disinformation and misinformation was at the core of the discussion this edition.