

What next?

In 2021, the Nicosia Initiative entered a new phase with new initiatives to build capacities for local authority politicians and civil servants and foster local social economic and institutional development. With funding by the European Commission, the new projects Research and Education Building Urban Institutions for Local Development [REBUILD], led by the Autonomous Province of Trento and Towards A new Multilevel Shared Approach for Libya Local governance [TAMSALL], led by ART-ER Attractiveness Research Territory, an in-house company of the Emilia-Romagna Region, will enable continued cooperation among EU and Libyan partners and try contributing to support further improvement in living conditions of local populations. This marks a shift from incremental to more structural support for the Nicosia Initiative.

How to participate

The Nicosia Initiative is open to all EU, national, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society organisations.

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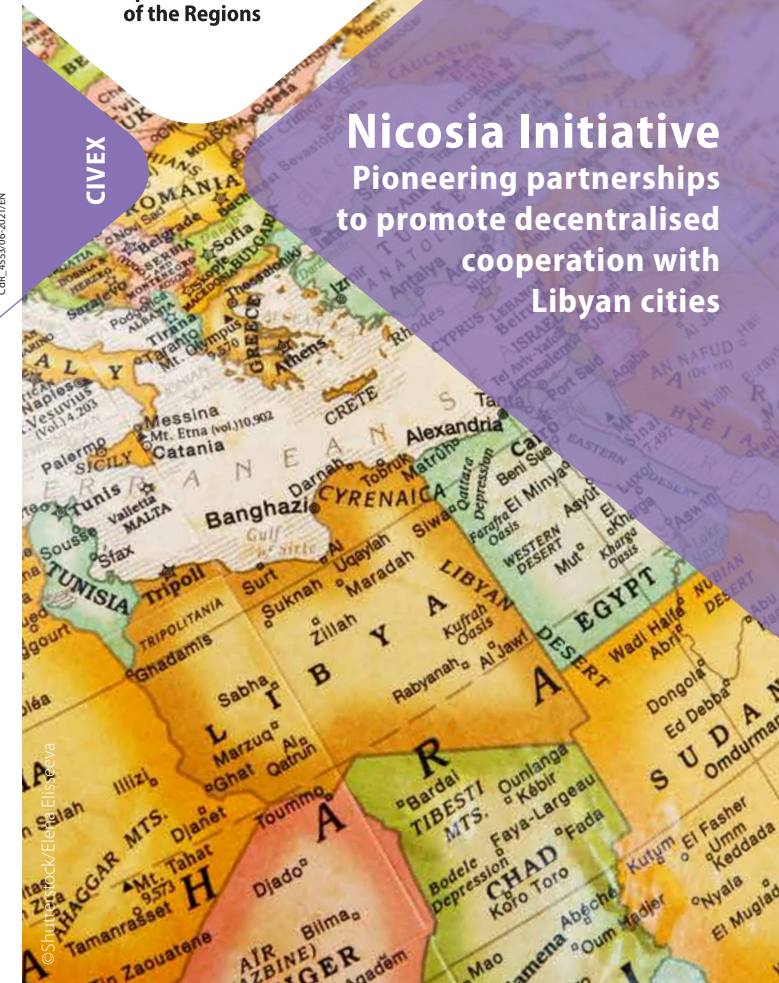
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European Committee
of the Regions



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A bottom-up approach to support the stabilisation of Libya by promoting internal dialogue, including improvement of the delivery of local public services to the population in Libya. Libyan cities identify their most urgent strategic needs – and EU cities and regions offer partnership to share case studies and good practices. An initiative whose primary beneficiaries are the municipalities, the Nicosia Initiative is also a way to promote the inclusion of Libyan local authorities in the international community.

Why is the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) helping Libyan cities?

Libyan municipalities and their mayors bear most of the responsibility for providing basic services in Libya. Stability in Libya is fundamental to the whole Euro-Mediterranean region. With Libyan municipalities, European cities and regions can establish new partnerships for sustainable territorial development and help to promote sound, sustainable long-term social, economic and human development, leading to opportunities for current and future generations.



Libya is now at a turning point. It is important to continue working with local authorities to help improve their public service delivery capacities and foster stabilisation in the country. The Commission is committed to further supporting the initiative.

Olivér Várhelyi

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, at the CoR plenary session in December 2020



Local governance is one of the key challenges, and, at the same time, one of the key instruments, in efforts to help Libya. The Nicosia Initiative represents a unique example of peace building.
"The Nicosia Initiative launched by the European Committee of the Regions in 2016 is a unique contribution to the EU's support for local government in Libya.

José Antonio Sabadell

Head of the European Union Delegation to Libya, at the CIVEX meeting on 16 February 2021



What is the Nicosia Initiative?

The Nicosia Initiative is the European Committee of the Regions platform developed to strengthen Libyan local authorities and foster inter municipal cooperation as well as decentralised partnership with counterparts in the EU and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. With the financial support of the European Commission, it matches the needs of Libyan municipalities with support available from European cities and regions. The aim is to improve the living conditions of Libyan citizens, by strengthening public services and administrative capacity at local level. The Nicosia Initiative is an example of city diplomacy, bringing together Libyan municipalities from all parts of the country, starting with the following pilot cities and regions:

- West: Tripoli, Gharyan, Zintan
- Centre: Zliten, Sirte and the Gulf area
- South: Sabha and the Fezzan region
- East: Benghazi, Tobruk



Some achievements to date

In the first five years of the Nicosia Initiative 2016-2021, there have been 33 study visits, meetings, and training activities with over 500 Libyan participants from all over the country.

Areas of activity

Peacebuilding for youth workers

Fisheries

Public services, inc. water and waste management

Primary health care

Strengthening administrative capacity

Financial management and transparency

Economic development

Examples

Sustainable fisheries: In February 2018, the Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the mayors of Tripoli and Benghazi launched an 18-month training programme for experts, officials and fishermen. The Italian government is the funder.

Peacebuilding training: 180 young Libyans from across the country are taking part in March and April 2018 in an initiative implemented by UNICEF and the Institute for Economics and Peace.