

4 November 2022

## **ARLEM Activity Report**

**2022**

With the world slowly moving out of a global pandemic and learning to live with its aftermath, 2022 was confronted with additional challenges. Climate change remained a big threat for the Mediterranean region, but the reverberations of the Russian aggression in Ukraine were also felt. Most meetings either returned to hybrid format or were made exclusively in-person, the latter which was welcomed widely as it once again allowed for personal interactions. Against this background, the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) continued its work on its main priorities that were identified in the ARLEM action plan 2020-2022.

#### 1. Sustainable economic development

- **17-18 May, online:** Enrique Millo represented ARLEM at the UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour, presenting key messages from the draft ARLEM report on *Innovation ecosystems and start-ups in the Mediterranean as drivers of socio-economic recovery, digital transformation and sustainable development following the COVID-19 crisis*.
- **17 June, online:** CoR member Markku Markkula represented ARLEM during the EESC expert hearing on the digital transition in the Euro-Mediterranean region, during which he presented the recommendations from Lizzy Delaricha's report on start-ups in the Mediterranean, among other points.
- **14 September, online and in Brussels, Belgium (hybrid):** The Evaluation Committee of the 2022 edition of the ARLEM Award – Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean met to determine the shortlist after having received 53 applications from eleven countries. The Committee is composed of representatives of the European Commission, the UfM secretariat, the European Training Foundation, the Joint Research Centre, the IMC-CPMR, MedCities, Eurochambres, the NGO "Womenpreneur" and ANIMA Invest; chaired by the CoR.
- **7 October, online and in Nicosia, Cyprus (hybrid):** The ARLEM Secretariat participated in the UfM *Conference on enhancing MSMEs resilience*, alongside the winner of the 2021 ARLEM Award, Erilda Krasi from Albania.

#### 2. Climate action in the Mediterranean

- **7 February, Marseille, France:** Within the framework of the Mediterranean Forum, many ARLEM members participated in the conference devoted to territories facing climate change, which was organised by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region in partnership with the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities, and together with ARLEM and the Mediterranean Youth Council (CMJ). The focus was on 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).
- **24 March, Barcelona, Spain:** ARLEM Commission co-chair Arianna Censi participated in the MedCat Days on behalf on the CoR President during the session *The Green and Digital Transition in the Mediterranean: Going for a bottom-up approach*.

#### Other activities

- **17 February, online:** The ARLEM Secretariat followed the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development.

- **7 March, online:** The ARLEM Secretariat followed the UfM SOM.
- **16 March, Seville, Spain:** CoR and ARLEM member Francois Decoster participated in the first edition of the Mediterranean Awards jury meeting.
- **19 March, online:** CoR and ARLEM member Francois Decoster participated in the general assembly of the Moroccan Association of Mayors to present ARLEM's work.
- **25 March, Strasbourg, France:** CoR Member Christophe Rouillon participated in the bureau meeting of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre.
- **31 May, online:** The ARLEM Secretariat followed the UfM Regional Dialogue Platform on Women Empowerment.
- **31 May, Marrakesh, Morocco:** ARLEM Commission co-chair Arianna Censi participated in the Euromed Summit, making a statement during Session 5: *Networks in the Euro-Mediterranean area – developing regional cooperation*.
- **14 June, Seville, Spain:** CoR rapporteur Francois Decoster spoke at the Mediterranean Urban Migration Forum during the Plenary Panel Debate on *Communication, dialogue and the future of urban migration*.
- **14 June, Brussels, Belgium:** ARLEM member and CoR rapporteur Vincenzo Bianco presented key messages of his CoR opinion on the new agenda for the Mediterranean during the European Parliament's AFET Committee meeting.
- **15 June, online:** The ARLEM Secretariat followed the UfM SOM.
- **17 June, Strasbourg, France:** CoR Member Christophe Rouillon participated in the bureau meeting of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre.
- **27 June, online:** CoR member Markku Markkula presented ARLEM's work in the field of innovation at the 1st UfM Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation.
- **12 October (online):** The CoR organised a workshop on *Youth empowerment and democracy* during the European Week of Regions and Cities with Hadhemi Boukadida from the Mediterranean Youth Council as speaker.
- **14 October, online and in Seville, Spain (hybrid):** The ARLEM Secretariat took part in the meeting of the Jury of the Mediterranean Awards promoted by the Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain.
- **17 October, Lisbon, Portugal:** CoR member Christophe Rouillon participated in the bureau meeting of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre.
- **26 October, Madrid, Spain:** CoR member Arianna Censi participated in the 5th UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.

Nicosia Initiative for cooperation with Libyan local authorities (supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Libya): Throughout 2022, two projects building on the achievements of the CoR and ARLEM's cooperation with Libyan municipalities were carried out.

- **REBUILD** (*Research and education building urban institutions for local development*). The consortium led by the Italian Autonomous Province of Trento also included the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and 10 Libyan municipalities as co-applicants; a rare achievement in EU-funded projects.

**TAMSALL** (*Towards a new multilevel shared approach for Libya local governance*) by ART-ER (Emilia-Romagna), Informest (Friuli-Venezia Giulia) and Eurada.

### **ARLEM statutory meetings 2022**

- **7 February, Marseille, France:** 8th meeting of ARLEM's Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development, in the context of the Forum of Mediterranean Worlds.
  - **7 November, İzmir, Türkiye:** 27th meeting of the ARLEM Bureau.
  - **7-8 November, İzmir, Türkiye:** 13th ARLEM plenary session
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