



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



*13 Feb 2019*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **ARLEM Award: Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean**

Brussels, 17 October 2018



The award for "Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean", which was launched for the first time ever in October 2018, has turned out to be a highly successful initiative. With this award, ARLEM focuses on stimulating local business, supporting young people and encouraging collaboration between local public authorities and the private sector. 24 applications from 8 different countries were received and assessed by the evaluation committee. Chaired by the Committee of the Regions and composed of members of various international institutions or associations with undeniable expertise in the field of entrepreneurship, this evaluation committee operated on an excellent partnership basis to make this award a success – mobilising their wide networks to disseminate the initiative across the Mediterranean.

The award ceremony will take place at the 10th ARLEM plenary session on 27 February 2019 in Seville.

As a next step, ARLEM will participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour, taking place in Cascais, Portugal, 2-3 April 2019.

### **Friends of the Nicosia Initiative**

Seville, 27 February 2019

Initiated at the ARLEM plenary in Nicosia in January 2016, the **Nicosia Initiative** is the European Committee of the Region's capacity-building project aimed at strengthening local authorities in Libya.

So far, activities have focused on increasing the efficiency of local administration through training for core municipality staff and improving the delivery of public services by Libyan municipalities. They have also facilitated the inclusion of Libyan local authorities in the international community through participation in European and international meetings and events. A flagship project of workshops on positive peace for young Libyan community leaders and a pilot action (PATH-DEV) aimed at strengthening the development of the Libyan fisheries sector were also launched. Future actions include the development of a training project for municipality staff, providing training for Libyan nurses, setting up organic waste-compost units, and Youth4Peace peacebuilding workshops for young Libyans.



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



The next step will take place during the meeting of the "**Friends of the Nicosia initiative**" organised in **Seville on 27 February**. At this meeting, municipalities and implementing partners interested in identifying new opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships will meet with Libyan municipality representatives to exchange, identify possible areas of cooperation, and define the type of support they could provide.

## UPCOMING

### **10<sup>th</sup> ARLEM Plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)**

Seville, 26 and 27 February 2019



Do you remember...?

The first ARLEM plenary session was held on 20 and 21 January 2010 at the Pedralbes Palace in Barcelona, hosted by the Catalan government. The President in office of the European Committee of the Regions, Mr Luc Van den Brande (BE/EPP), and the President of the region Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate, Mr Mohamed Boudra (Morocco), were appointed the first co-chairs of ARLEM.

The 10th plenary session of ARLEM will take place in Seville, Spain, on 26 and 27 February 2019 at the invitation of Mr Juan Espadas Cejas, Mayor of Seville.

The ARLEM members will adopt the Recommendations as well as the calendar for the ARLEM activities during the coming year. The Assembly will also decide the topics and the rapporteurs for 2019. Furthermore, the plenary session will adopt the two draft ARLEM reports: on youth entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region and on governance and transparency in the Mediterranean region.



The meeting in Seville also provides the opportunity for visits to the business park and innovation centre "*La Cartuja*" and to the "*Fundación tres culturas del Mediterráneo*".





**European Committee  
of the Regions**



## **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of UfM urban platform**

Paris, 28 February and 1 March 2019

Following up on the ministerial meeting on sustainable urban development in Cairo in May 2017, ARLEM participated in the first meeting of the UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing in Brussels on 20-21 September 2018.

On 28 February and 1 March 2019, the French Government will host the second meeting of the UfM urban platform in Paris. It will, among other things, be focused on the set-up of affordable rental housing schemes. CoR member Hicham Imane (BE/PES) will attend the meeting.

## **NEWS**

### **ARLEM membership changes**

Among other membership changes, we wanted to highlight to you the nomination of Tunisian representatives, Mayor Mondher Marzouk, Mayor Mounir Elloumi and Secretary General Wissem El Gabsi, after the Tunisian municipal elections in May 2018. One of the Tunisian representatives will also sit on the ARLEM Bureau, as this seat was kept waiting for them since the 7<sup>th</sup> ARLEM plenary in 2016.

### **Fostering local development in the Mediterranean via tourism and cultural heritage**

10 October 2018

Chaired by ARLEM co-president Mohamed Boudra, this workshop last October in the context of the European Week of Cities and Regions focused on fostering local development in the Mediterranean via tourism and cultural heritage. Participants agreed that developing a single tourism brand shared by all destinations within a region can help harness the development potential of tourism and cultural heritage. Regional and local authorities are best placed to develop a comprehensive tourism strategy for their territories as – thanks to their global view – they can connect the dots between different sites, attractions and actors. By involving the local population and showcasing unique ecosystems, sustainable tourism can help preserve cultural and natural heritage and contribute to inclusive economic development.

### **4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development of ARLEM**

11 October 2018

At the 4<sup>th</sup> commission meeting lively debates on the issues of youth entrepreneurship and governance and transparency took place. Participants in the debates pointed out the important role that sustainable employment opportunities for young people have, regarding economic growth strategies and in order to prevent migration and radicalisation linked to exclusion. Among other things, they highlighted the



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



importance of LRA's engagement with the national level, the role of diasporas and the need for systems put in place to be sensitive to women.

With regards to governance and transparency, corruption was highlighted as a global problem that impedes economic development, undermines democracy and damages social justice and rule of law. Both ARLEM members and Libyan observers spoke in the debate and insisted on the importance of fighting impunity, improving political stability and raising awareness among young people to combat corruption. They also stressed the need for a change in the mentality of civil servants and politicians, who must realize that they are working for the general interest.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Forum on "Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation - Local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development"**

Brussels, 4 and 5 February 2019

This year's edition of the Forum once again brought together EU institutions and Local and Regional Authorities from the EU and from Partner countries to discuss decentralised cooperation for development. In panel discussions and an interactive "Open Space - Session" participants issued strategic policy recommendations and concrete inputs on sustainable integrated urban development.



They identified and showcased good practices and projects of twinning/partnerships between local and regional authorities in the EU and partner countries. Several mayors from ARLEM countries, notably Tunis, and several ARLEM members were present at the Forum.

### **21<sup>st</sup> ARLEM Bureau meeting accepts invitation to Ramallah**

Brussels, 11 October 2018

During the 21<sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting an invitation to hold one of the upcoming ARLEM meetings in Ramallah in the West Bank was accepted if conditions allow. Therefore, a meeting of the enlarged ARLEM Bureau is envisaged for the summer of 2019.

### **ARLEM report on youth entrepreneurship**

The ARLEM report on youth entrepreneurship is the work of Domenico Gambacorta, a former member of ARLEM and the current rapporteur, Olgierd Geblewicz (president of Westpomerania Region, Poland). It was revised after the discussion at the fourth meeting of the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development, which was held in Brussels in October 2018, with a view to its adoption at the 10th ARLEM plenary session in Seville in February 2019.



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



It aims to look at the options for youth entrepreneurship measures from the perspective of LRA and the role that they can play in supporting young entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean region.

### **ARLEM report on governance and transparency**

The draft report on governance and transparency has been prepared by the rapporteur Lütfü Savas, Mayor of Hatay, Turkey. It was revised after the discussion at the fourth meeting of the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development which was held in Brussels in October 2018, with a view to its adoption at the 10th ARLEM plenary session in Seville in February 2019.

This report identifies the main current vulnerabilities of LRAs in the Southern Mediterranean countries regarding public procurement and public services, and provides a systematic assessment of priority avenues of intervention. It formulates recommendations build upon expert suggestions and LRAs representatives' experience. An own mapping of good practices at LRA level learnt from South Mediterranean countries is also provided.

### **CoR Publication "EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities in Mediterranean partner countries"**

As announced in the ARLEM action plan, the CoR recently published a useful guide gathering information on all programmes and financial instruments open to local and regional authorities from Mediterranean partner countries.

The publication describes the general features of funds in place at the EU and national level and recommends the easiest ways of accessing these for the local and regional authorities. It also covers other funding opportunities available within the EU programmes open to the Mediterranean partner countries, including (but not limited to): Erasmus+, TAIEX, SIGMA, Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe.

The publication is available in print format in English, French and Arabic through the ARLEM secretariat (get your copy in Seville!), or online in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#).