



European Committee
of the Regions



15 Oct 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

ARLEM Award: Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

Brussels, 15 October 2019



In September, ARLEM launched the second edition of the award for "Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean". The call for applications is open until the end of this month.

With this award, ARLEM focuses on stimulating local business, supporting young people and encouraging collaboration between local public authorities and the private sector. The first edition of the award has turned out to be a highly successful initiative. The applications received came from varied fields: craftsmanship, sustainability, employment, tech, education, food production, financial tools. The applicants were from 8 countries: Morocco, Albania, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Mauritania.

The winners were Najwa Sukri from Libya as well as the municipality of Tripoli. Najwa and her brother Ali launched *Zimni Jdeed*, a fashion and textile company that is re-trending traditional clothing with great success. They now employ six seamstresses, offering a decent working environment for women.



Najwa, her brother Ali and the Mayor of Tripoli receive their awards at the ceremony during the 10th ARLEM plenary session in February in Seville, Spain.



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The winning entrepreneurs participated in the UfM ministerial policy conference on Employment and Labour in April in Cascais, Portugal.

A delegation of ARLEM members met two other shortlisted candidates in Tel Aviv, Israel in July.

The [registration for the applications](#) will be open until **31 October 2019**.

Those interested in applying can watch the recording of the [Facebook Live session](#).

4th Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean

Barcelona, 10 October 2019



The co-chair of ARLEM, Mohamed Boudra took part in the 4th Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): “Paving the way forward”. Towards the UfM co-presidency and the assembled Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high representatives, he underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy also at sub-national level and highlighted the ARLEM Award. The forum also provided the opportunity for bilateral exchanges.

It was preceded by a side event on "Climate and Environment in the Mediterranean region, our common challenge" that provided a science policy interface on the current state of play and risks.

23rd ARLEM Bureau meeting in Ramallah

Ramallah, 30 June 2019



The municipality of Ramallah in cooperation with the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities hosted a meeting of the ARLEM Bureau to discuss how cities and regions can collaborate to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers included the Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, the Minister of Local Government, the Office of the EU Representative, the CoR rapporteur on SDGs, the Mayor of Seville and a UNDP representative.

ARLEM members were received very cordially by the mayor, councillors and staff of Ramallah municipality. The exchanges both at the meeting and at the reception and meals allowed ARLEM members to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Palestinian local authorities. The visit of selected sites in Ramallah and the study tour to Bethlehem and Beit Sahour on the next day,



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including a visit of the UNRWA's Aida Camp, furthered the insight into the unique context of this region.

More at <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Sustainable-development-is-a-call-to-collective-political-action.aspx>

CoR/ARLEM delegation met Israeli peers

Tel Aviv, 2 July 2019

Leading members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and ARLEM briefly met the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel – President Haim Bibas and two other mayors – in Tel Aviv and identified issues for potential bilateral cooperation such as Sustainable Development Goals, innovation, logistics, 'smart cities', and environmental services.

More at <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-delegation-in-Israel.aspx>

Workshop: Pathways to entrepreneurial development in the Mediterranean region

Brussels, 9 October 2019

The ARLEM award: Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean has demonstrated the positive impact that local and regional authorities can have on their local entrepreneurial ecosystems. Based on concrete examples of successful entrepreneurial initiatives from the three shores of the Mediterranean and beyond, a workshop held in the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 and explored how entrepreneurship and innovation can contribute to fostering sustainable local development. By confronting the perspectives of local and regional policy-makers with first-hand experiences of young entrepreneurs from different parts of the Mediterranean region and with the points of view of academics and practitioners from business support structures, it identified some of the main success factors and challenges for successful entrepreneurial development in the Mediterranean.

Nicosia Initiative

Brussels, 15 October 2019

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

In July 2019, fisheries experts from five Libyan coastal municipalities, representatives of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region and the regional cooperation agency Informest, visited the Region of Galicia, Spain in the framework of the Nicosia Initiative to learn about good practices in areas such as shellfish farming and fish processing and to explore opportunities for future cooperation. The cooperation with Galicia complements the ongoing PATH-DEV project on fisheries, led by the Italian region of Friuli



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Venezia Giulia with funding from the Italian government and supported by the European Committee of the Regions.



The visit to Galicia gave 11 experts from Tripoli, Sirte, Zliten, Benghazi and Tobruk a chance to see how the Spanish region processes fish and farms shellfish, how it manages and develops its fisheries stocks. During their stay in Vigo and Arousa, the Libyan officials visited a fish-processing plant, a marine-management institute and the coastguard, as well as a mussels' farm and a fish market.

With new funding dedicated to the Nicosia Initiative by the European Commission as part of a programme implemented by VNG International, preparations are currently ongoing for the next steps of the continuous learning component of the Nicosia Initiative, which develops tailor-made and needs-based curricula for representatives of Libyan municipalities and universities. A workshop in 2020 will evaluate the implementation of the full-scale trial, identify further training needs and further improve the training strategy for municipal employees and civil servants. This comes following the development of six training modules, the conclusion of framework agreements between universities and municipalities and the successful pilot implementation of several modules on the ground by the universities of Sabha, Gharyan, Benghazi, Al-Zawiya.

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.

Trainings opportunities

Brussels, 15 October 2019

ANIMA Investment network has created economic development training programs for elected local officials. The objective of these Master Classes is to provide a culture of territorial development and marketing and the necessary tools for the actors responsible for economic development policies in the territories.

ANIMA Investment Network is a multi-country cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean. The ANIMA network gathers national and regional investment promotion agencies, international organisations, business federations, innovation clusters, financial investors and research institutes from the region. ANIMA works with the UfM and the European Commission.

More on ANIMA: www.anima.coop



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More on the training opportunities: leonard.leveque@anima.coop

UPCOMING

5th meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development of ARLEM

Brussels, 18 October 2019

At its next 5th meeting the ARLEM Commission will discuss the draft report on "Contribution of local and regional authorities to the development of the blue economy in the Mediterranean" with the Deputy Secretary general of the UfM and a representative of the European Commission. They will also briefly look into the draft report on "Regional integration in the Mediterranean" that will be discussed in depth at the plenary in January.

This commission meeting is also an occasion to discuss the role of women in politics in the Mediterranean, as a concrete follow up to one of the recommendations of the ARLEM report on Women Empowerment adopted in Giza (Egypt) in 2018. The goal of the debate with a very varied and interesting panel of Tunisian, Moroccan, German and Italian speakers is to analyse the challenges women must face to have an active political career at the local or regional level in the South Mediterranean and to compare them with the situation in the EU.

11th ARLEM Plenary session of ARLEM in Barcelona on 22 and 23 January 2020



The 11th plenary session of ARLEM, marking the 10th anniversary of the Assembly, will take place at the Pedralbes Palace in Barcelona on 22 and 23 January 2020 at the invitation of Ms Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, Spain. It will be an occasion for the assembly to meet at the headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean and focus on the achievements of the first ten years of activities, and on priorities for the future.

This is the place where the first ARLEM plenary session was held in January 2010 when then 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.