



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



21 January 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 11th ARLEM plenary session

*Barcelona, 22 and 23 January 2020*



The 11th ARLEM plenary session, 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 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 activity, and on priorities for the future reflection on potential scenarios for the region in 2030.

This is the place where the first ARLEM plenary session was held in January 2010 (picture on the side).

The plenary is to adopt the new Action Plan for the new mandate of ARLEM 2020-2022 as well as the Recommendations for this year. The two reports on Regional Integration in the Mediterranean Region and the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean are also to be adopted during the plenary. In addition, members will debate climate action in the Mediterranean.

You can find more information on the plenary and related documents [here](#).

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

*Brussels, 15 January 2020*



In September 2019, ARLEM launched the second edition of the award for "Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean". With this award, ARLEM focuses on stimulating local business, supporting young people and encouraging collaboration between local public authorities and the private sector.

For this edition, a record of 40 applications were received. They came from varied fields: culture, renewable energy, tech, agriculture, food production, entrepreneurship development, sport, waste management. The applicants were from a record of 10 countries: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine and Tunisia.



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The winner will be announced on 23 January in Barcelona during the ARLEM plenary session. They will have the opportunity to develop their skills as part of a partnership with ANIMA Investment Network, the cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean.

More information on the award can be found [here](#).

### **5th meeting of ARLEM's Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development**

*Brussels, 18 October 2019*



This 5th meeting of the ARLEM commission was the occasion to hold a very vibrant debate on the role of women in politics in the Mediterranean, as a tangible follow up to one of the recommendations of the ARLEM report on Women's Empowerment, adopted in Giza (Egypt) in 2018. The goal of the debate with an all-women panel of mayors and politicians from Tunisia, Morocco, Germany, Italy and Ireland was 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. Quotas, mentoring, political-party funding and the broader objective of equity were identified as key aspects to be considered in efforts to increase the representation of women in politics in the Mediterranean region and in the EU.

At its 5th meeting the ARLEM commission also discussed 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 and briefly looked into the draft report on "Regional integration in the Mediterranean". Revised versions of both reports are to be adopted at the ARLEM plenary session in Barcelona at the end of January.

### **VIIIth meeting of the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation**

*Barcelona, 8 November 2019*

ARLEM vice-president, Jean-François Barnier, attended the VIIIth meeting of the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation which brought together more than 120 experts and members of its network of citizen circles from all over the Mediterranean. The meeting discussed the situation of youth on the three Mediterranean shores and made proposals to offer the youth of the region a brighter future.



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## **Seminar of the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)**

*Barcelona, 22 November 2019*

ARLEM co-chair, Mohamed Boudra, spoke at the seminar on "Towards a revised Euro-Mediterranean partnership: Making decentralised cooperation and collaborative governance a priority" organised in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Process (EMP). The seminar explored how a revised EMP that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda could and should further promote decentralised cooperation and collaborative governance at local level.

## **Nicosia Initiative**

*Tunis, 27 January – 3 February 2020*

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.

So far, activities have focused on increasing the efficiency of local administration through training for core municipality staff, improving the delivery of public services by Libyan municipalities, providing peace training to young Libyans, and fostering local economic development in particular in the fisheries sector. They have also facilitated the inclusion of Libyan local authorities in the international community through participation in European and international meetings and events.



With funding dedicated to the Nicosia Initiative by the European Commission as part of a programme supporting local governance and implemented by VNG International, preparations are currently ongoing for the next steps of the continuous learning component of the Nicosia Initiative. This component aims to develop tailor-made and needs-based curricula for representatives of Libyan municipalities and universities, thus giving the universities the tools to deliver necessary training locally in a sustainable manner. The next workshop will be held in Tunis from 27 January to 3 February 2020. It will evaluate the implementation of the full-scale trial in several Libyan universities, identify further training needs and further improve the training strategy for municipal employees and civil servants. This workshop comes after 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 several Libyan universities.