



9th Plenary Session

26 January 2018

ARLEM Activity Report

2017

The role of local and regional authorities in the management of migration flows and better support for circular migration

- **22 February:** Conference on *Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants* in St Julian's, Malta, co-organised by the CoR (CIVEX Commission) and the Maltese Council Presidency. Both ARLEM co-presidents as well as several other ARLEM members spoke at the conference which was attended by many more ARLEM members.
- **6 April:** Libyan local representatives intervened at the CIVEX meeting during the discussion on the CoR opinion "*Migration on the central Mediterranean route*".
- **4-5 May:** Urban Hub regional conference on *territorial cohesion and the role of cities in local economic development*, organised by the Center for Mediterranean Integration, Marseille, France – ARLEM was represented through a CoR staff member speaking at the event on European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and ARLEM.
- **6 Septembre:** Peter Bossman, Mayor of Piran in Slovenia and member of both the CIVEX commission and ARLEM, represented the CoR in the CPMR brainstorming session on migration in Brussels. Mr Bossman was the rapporteur of the CoR opinion on a "Partnership Framework with third countries on Migration".
- **5 December:** Vincenzo Bianco, Mayor of Catania participated in the "Séminaire sur les régions métropolitaines du Sud et du Nord face aux migrations", Région Bruxelles-Capitale;

Good governance at sub-national level and effective anti-corruption measures

- **28 February:** Conference on *The role of local and regions authorities in preventing corruption and promoting good governance* in Brussels, organised by the CIVEX Commission of the CoR with the participation of CoR and ARLEM members.

Women's empowerment

- **ARLEM Report on "Women empowerment in the Mediterranean Region"**
Rapporteur: Mary Freehill (PES/IE)
The rapporteur presented his draft report during the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development from 24 Oct, in Brussels.
A study on the same topic has been commissioned by the CoR and published on the ARLEM web page.
- **3-4 July** in Barcelona: ARLEM rapporteur Ms Freehill attended the ad hock SOM in preparation of the 4th UfM Ministerial Meeting on strengthening the role of Women in Society. She also had bilateral meetings with representatives from the team for Social & Civil Affairs in the UfM Secretariat.
- **12 July** in Brussels: Ms Freehill took the floor at the Civil Society Forum in a seminar on "Unlocking the potential of Women in Societies and for resilience".
- **21 November** in Brussels: Ms Freehill presented the draft report at the CoR SEDEC Commission meeting.
- **27 November** in Cairo: Ms Freehill took the floor at the 4th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the role of Women in Society. In her intervention she conveyed the main messages and recommendations from the ARLEM report on the women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region.

Youth and anti-radicalisation

– **ARLEM Report on "Youth anti-radicalisation in the Mediterranean Region"**

Rapporteur: Mohamed Kamal El Daly, Governor of Giza (EG)

The rapporteur presented his draft report during the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development from 24 Oct, in Brussels.

A study on the same topic has been commissioned by the CoR and published on the ARLEM web page.

Sustainable urban development

– **23-24 January:** UfM Regional Forum – Barcelona

The co-chair Abdelmasih and Ms Freehill participated. Mr Abdelmasih was a speaker at the panel on 'The sustainable development agenda: meeting the challenges of connectivity in the Mediterranean'.

– **15-16 February:** ETF organised the Torino Process Regional Forum in Rabat. Mr Sadiki, Mayor of Rabat represented ARLEM at this event. He participated in a session on the Agenda 2030 and intervened in particular on the role of the local authorities for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

– **28 February:** Second UfM Ad-Hoc SOM on Sustainable Urban Development - Brussels

The CoR/ARLEM secretariat is consulted in the drafting process of the ministerial declaration and participates at administrative level in the ad-hoc SOM.

– **3 May:** Mr Van den Brande (EPP/BE) participated in the "Tunisia Week" organised by the European Parliament. In the framework of the round-table dedicated to the "cooperation with local and regional authorities" Mr Van den Brande underlined the importance of Tunisian sub-national authorities for the works of ARLEM and pointed out that a genuine democratic governance could be implemented only by respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and by promoting multi-level governance structures.

– **21-22 May:** ARLEM rapporteur Fawzi Masad from Amman, Jordan, contributed to the Second UfM Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development, Cairo, Egypt.

– **9 November:** Mr Van den Brande (EPP/BE) represented ARLEM in the opening session for the launching of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. The long-term objective of the Platform is to promote sustainable urban development in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Climate change and follow up to COP22

– **11-13 November,** Bonn: ARLEM and CoR members Lebrun, Lambertz, Pigliaru, Tietari participated in the COP23 activities conveying the messages linked to the environment and climate change.

"Nicosia initiative" for Libyan local authorities.

– **7-11 February:** Training on financial management, accountability and transparency - Flanders region, Belgium

– **23-24 March:** Workshop on the use of composting units (follow-up to the 2016 seminar on waste management) – Tozeur, Tunisia

– **19-23 April:** Youth – Training in positive peace and anti-radicalisation (UNICEF and Institute for Economics and Peace), Tunisia

- **8-9 May:** Schools – kick off meeting in Tunisia
- **13-15 June:** A study exchange organized by the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, focusing on fishery and fishery cooperatives.
- **17-18 October:** International seminar on Urban strategies, tools and technologies in the era of sustainability in Sfax City
- **13-24 November:** First block of 3 schools modules on pressing issues for representatives of Libyan Local and Regional Authorities
- **27-28 November:** 2 days training / coaching for local researchers in Tunisia on transparency and good governance
- **20 November – 20 December:** Training of 100 hours for 20 Libyan technicians in waste water treatment and reuse for irrigation

Other topics

- **27 April:** ARLEM Co-President Markku Markkula intervened at the UfM Ministerial on a Water Agenda for the Mediterranean, Malta
- **5 July:** 3rd meeting of the UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy in Brussels. CoR NAT Commission sent CoR rapporteur on the EC COM "Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean" – Mr Samuel Azzopardi (EPP/MT), who is the political representative of the European Committee of the Regions for the West-Med initiative. A paragraph on ARLEM and support to the UfM activities has been included in the CoR opinion.

ARLEM statutory Meetings 2017

- 22-23 February: 8th plenary session of the ARLEM St Julian's, Malta
- 24 October: 19th meeting of the ARLEM Bureau in Brussels
- 24 October: 3rd meeting of the Commission for Sustainable territorial development in Brussels