



European Committee  
of the Regions



Brussels, 19 October 2021

## ARLEM NEWSLETTER – October 2021

### 2022 ARLEM Award – Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

ARLEM has launched the fourth edition of its award for Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean.

European Committee  
of the Regions

ARLEM  
Assemblée Régionale et Locale Euro-Méditerranéenne  
Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly  
الجمعية الإقليمية والمحلية الأرومتوسطية

**Prix de l'ARLEM**

**L'entrepreneuriat local des jeunes  
en Méditerranée**

**Date limite prolongée jusqu'au**

**30 novembre 2021**

**Open for applications until 30 November 2021.**

Young entrepreneurs from Mediterranean partner countries can apply [here](#).

With this award, ARLEM focuses on stimulating local business, supporting young people and encouraging collaboration between local public authorities and the private sector.

The difficult economic situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it highlight the limitations of globalisation and the crucial importance of local economies. More than ever, young local entrepreneurs need support to develop their businesses covering the needs of local communities. Special attention will be given to adapting and transforming production processes, and to other activities being carried out to address the health crisis and its consequences.

The ARLEM award 2022 is open to all young entrepreneurs born in or after 1986 who are, or have been, supported by a local or regional authority. They must have run their business for at least three years and the company must also have been registered for at least three years. The business's registered office and its main economic activities must be located in one of the EU's Mediterranean partner countries<sup>1</sup>.

More information on the new edition of this award, as well as videos, are available [here](#).

### **7th meeting of the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development**

*26 October 2021, hybrid meeting*

*Brussels and online*



We would like to remind you that the 7th meeting of the **ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development** will take place on **26 October 2021** in hybrid format (in Brussels and online) and will be co-chaired by **Mina Bouhdoud and Antje Grotheer** (replacing **Arianna Censi**).

Two recently-drafted reports will be presented at this meeting: "**Innovation ecosystems and start-ups in the Mediterranean as a means of recovering from the COVID-19 crisis**" (rapporteur: Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, president of the Andalusia region, Spain, representing the Association of European Border Regions in ARLEM), and "**Service sector reorientation: transferring skills from the tourism sector**" (rapporteur: Mohamed Boudra, mayor of Al Hoceima, Morocco, and president of

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey.

both the Moroccan Association of Mayors and the United Cities and Local Governments network). It will be essential for everyone to hear the ARLEM members' feedback on these two draft reports.

### **Regional workshop - City to city cooperation**

*27 October 2021, hybrid conference*

*Palau de Pedralbes in Barcelona and online*



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



Union for the Mediterranean  
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Association of Regional and Local Authorities of the Mediterranean  
Association des Régions et des Localités de la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



**ARLEM, the Union for the Mediterranean, UNEP/MAP and MedCités** are jointly organising a **regional workshop on cooperation between cities in the region**. The aim of this workshop will be to share best practices to ensure that cooperation between cities is even more effective in the future. A panel packed full of key stakeholders from the region will be present, ranging from representatives of the institutions, to representatives of municipalities in the region. Ms Gudrun Niedorf, ARLEM secretariat representative, will speak at the conference.

We warmly invite you to [register](#) for this conference, which will be an opportunity to exchange views and prepare future city partnerships in the region.

For further information, visit the [Union for the Mediterranean website](#)

## Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation Forum

29-30 November 2021, online



Since December 2009, every two years the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions have jointly staged the **Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation Forum** (formerly Assises of Decentralised Cooperation). This year, the seventh edition of the forum will take place **online on 29 and 30 November 2021**.

The overall objective of this edition of the forum will be to continue **strengthening the policy dialogue between EU institutions and local and regional authorities from the EU and from partner countries** in order to discuss current policy challenges in development policy and share good practices in development cooperation at regional and local level. The forum will consist of **plenary sessions** and also **work groups, where participants will be able to discuss subjects of their choice with counterparts from around the world**. The forum will also provide opportunities for bilateral or multilateral discussions, which could lead to new partnerships. We warmly invite you to register to take part in exciting discussions and **meet leading actors in development cooperation around the world** (contact: [lra4dev@cor.europa.eu](mailto:lra4dev@cor.europa.eu)).

### International Mediterranean Day

Last year the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) established [International Mediterranean Day](#), to be celebrated annually on **28 November**. This date coincides with the **anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration of 1995**, which laid the foundations for the creation of the UfM. This [celebration](#) aims to contribute towards promoting a **common Mediterranean identity** and raise awareness of the daily efforts of the collaborators across the region in order to **enhance cooperation and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area**.

The **cultural element** will be equally important because it will offer the opportunity to organise **events, expositions and festivals** across the whole region to **strengthen links between the two shores**, promote **exchanges and intercultural dialogue**, and to embrace the diversity of the region.



Once again, we encourage you to mobilise to make this Mediterranean Day a special day in your cities and regions. Attached to this newsletter you will find a communication kit which will help you to

organise your communication campaign to promote Mediterranean Day. [Here](#) you will find a set of digital tools (logo, etc.) that will help you spread the word on social media.

If you take part in this celebration by organising an event in your city or region, you are invited to add it to the [agenda on the UfM website](#). We heartily encourage you to use your social media in order to give your event more visibility.

### **Nicosia Initiative - Rome seminar** *9 December 2021, Rome, Italy*

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) actively follows and accompanies all Nicosia Initiative developments as an open platform for cooperation between European cities and regions, and their Libyan counterparts. This experience could also inspire new cooperation. Furthermore, the CoR's Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) will organise a seminar at the invitation of Vincenzo Bianco – CIVEX first Vice President and member of ARLEM – on **9 December 2021 in Rome (Italy)** on establishing territorial partnerships and on the **expertise of local and regional authorities in the Nicosia Initiative to support Libyan municipalities**.

### **EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award - Anna Lindh Foundation**

The Anna Lindh Foundation launched the [EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award](#) in 2021. This award aimed at local and regional authorities rewards multicultural cities and cities that have vision, and those which implement intercultural policies and support intercultural initiatives and EuroMed social and cultural collaborations. ARLEM has the honour of working with the Anna Lindh Foundation in presenting this award.



### **ARLEM participation in external events**



**The opinion drawn up by Mr Vincenzo Bianco – member of ARLEM and of the Catania Municipal Council (Italy) – on a renewed partnership with the southern neighbourhood - a new agenda for the Mediterranean, was adopted on 30 June at the 145th CoR Plenary Session.**

This opinion is the CoR contribution to the joint communication by High Representative / Vice President Borrell and Commissioner Várhelyi, and focuses on the **important role that local and regional authorities can play** in the implementation of this ambitious programme as **drivers for territorial development close to the people**, particularly on topics such as the **green transition**. It therefore calls for the involvement of local and regional authorities as key factors for sustainable development and partners in planning.



To promote this CoR opinion, Mr Bianco participated in numerous events including the event organised by **MC2CM** at the **Bluepoint Centre in Brussels**, on **20 September 2021**. The event was intended to be a high-level dialogue on **renewed partnerships and migration governance in the Mediterranean: local governments as assets for a sustainable system**.

Mr Bianco's speech on the opinion he had drawn up for the CoR was highly appreciated and led to lively discussions. You can find more information about the event [here](#).



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Mr Bianco was also invited to speak at the **second Union for the Mediterranean ministerial conference on the environment and climate action**, held in Cairo on 4 October 2021. The conference was chaired by Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice President of the European Commission responsible for the European Green Deal (representing the EU), and by Nabil Masarweh, **Minister for the Environment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**. The meeting took place in the **Arab Republic of Egypt**, which was represented by Yasmine Fouad, Minister for the Environment, and was attended by the **Secretary General of the UfM**, Nasser Kamel.

During this meeting, a declaration was adopted in favour of accelerating "*the transition to fair, sustainable, resilient, neutral and rational economies. The goal is to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, stop and reverse biodiversity loss, and reduce air pollution*". The declaration takes into particular account the key role that local and regional authorities play in this regard.

European Week of Regions and Cities, 11-14 October 2021, online



Last week's [Week of Regions and Cities](#), co-organised by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, saw the participation of numerous ARLEM members. A workshop organised by ARLEM took place on **12 October 2021**, entitled "[Funding for local and regional authorities in Mediterranean partner countries](#)" and was chaired by **Nikola Dobroslavić** (HR/EEP), ARLEM member and president of the Dubrovnik-Neretva region in Croatia. This workshop gave the floor to three experts on the issue: **Mr Stefano Dotto**, representing the European Commission, **Mr Paul Hickey** from the European Investment Bank, and **Ms Katarzyna Sidlo**, author of the publication "**EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities in Mediterranean partner countries**", which was presented during the session.

The workshop participants were able to hold fruitful discussions with the experts involved, who gave an overview of the **funding available for local and regional authorities** in all ARLEM partner countries.

The CoR will publish a guide on funding for local and regional authorities in Mediterranean partner countries in English, French and Arabic by the end of the year. We will keep you informed.

Another workshop took place on **13 October 2021**. The event was organised by the **Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)**. During this event dedicated to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the ARLEM report "**Innovation ecosystems and start-ups in the Mediterranean as a means of recovering from the COVID-19 crisis**" was presented.

All European Week of Regions and Cities workshops have been recorded and can be viewed [here](#).