



European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities

PRESENTATION DOCUMENT

Confédération Européenne des Pouvoirs locaux intermédiaire





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I - GENERAL PRESENTATION

Founded in 2008 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome as a cooperation network of intermediate local authorities across Europe, the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) became in 2011 a non-profit organisation recognised under the Belgian Law.



CEPLI is the first European confederation grouping nine national associations representing 1 167 Local Intermediate Authorities of eight European Countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania) and two European networks of intermediate local authorities, Arco Latino and Partenalia.

Believing that a Europe of Member States can only be built and developed by drawing on the diversity of its territories, the CEPLI members, representing national associations and European networks of local authorities, are working together in order to:

- increase the participation of local intermediate authorities in the European decision-making process;
- represent their interests at European level, especially with regard to the European legislation affecting their activities and policies;
- develop a direct dialogue at European level, with institutions in charge of programs and major territorial policies as well as with other European associations and NGOs bringing together local and regional authorities;
- strengthen the coherence and visibility of their interventions on European territory;
- facilitate cooperation between local intermediate authorities and joint European projects
- establish a permanent exchange of information and good practice between local communities.

Local Intermediate Authorities hold a specific position and have common characteristics that, over the course of time, have proved particularly suited to achieving European social, economic and territorial cohesion.

The Treaty of Lisbon opened a new phase in the process of European construction. Recognition of the subsidiarity principle, local autonomy, diversity and regional cohesion as the principles of the European Union, will contribute toward reasserting the role and place of local authorities in defining and implementing European policies.

In the context of globalisation, we need to build a much stronger political, social, economic and cultural Europe. In this development, the place of local authorities, and more particularly that of intermediary local authorities, will be a determining factor. Our collective responsibility is also to now support the evolution of the people's Europe.

Since its creation, the cohesion policy has given the territories decisive access to Europe by enabling local authorities to participate in the European Union area integration project beyond national frameworks.

Our intermediary local authorities play a key role in this process in each member state. On this basis, they have been able to bring their interventions within the various strategic frameworks of the European Union. As such, their contribution must be highlighted and recognised by the European Union.

Located across the European Union area, they hold a specific position and have common characteristics that, over the course of time, have proved particularly suited to achieving objectives for European social, economic and regional cohesion.

Our collective responsibility is also to now support the evolution of the people's Europe. The territories and their local authorities are now capable of providing access to Europe for its citizens.



LIST OF CEPLI MEMBERS

Located across the European Union area, our national associations - representing intermediary local authorities - hold a specific position and have common characteristics that, over the course of time, have proved particularly suited to achieving objectives for European social, economic and regional cohesion.

CEPLI MEMBERS ARE :

- Assembly of French Départements (Assemblée des Départements de France - ADF)
- Association of Flemish Provinces (Vereniging van Vlaamse Provincies - VVP)
- Association of Polish Counties (Związek Powiatów Polskich - ZPP)
- Association of Walloon Provinces (Association des Provinces Wallonnes - APW)
- German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag - DLT)
- National Association of County General Assemblies of Hungary (Megyei Önkormányzatok Országos Szövetsége - MÖOSZ)
- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Национално сдружение на общините в Република България - НСОББ/ NAMRB)
- National Union of County Councils of Romania (Uniunea Națională a Consiliilor Județene din România - UNCJR)
- Union of Italian Provinces (Unione delle Province d'Italia - UPI)



ASSOCIATED MEMBERS ARE:

- Arco Latino
- PARTENALIA



OBSERVER MEMBER IS:

- Union of District Councils of the Republic of Moldova (Uniunea Consiliilor Raionale din Republica Moldova - UCRM)



CEPLI GOVERNING BODIES

The Political Conference is the CEPLI sovereign body where all CEPLI members and associated networks are represented. The CEPLI Political Conference is constituted by the Presidents of the national associations and associated networks.

The Presidents can delegate a political representative.

Following the Political Conference of Ploiești, the CEPLI Political Bureau is composed by:

PRESIDENT

Mr Paul-Emile MOTTARD
President of the Association of Walloon Provinces (APW)
Belgium
Provincial Deputy of Liège



VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Marian OPRISAN
President of the National Union of County Councils of Romania (UNCJR)
President of Vrancea County



SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Dominique BUSSEREAU
President of the Assembly of French Departments (ADF)
President of Charente-Maritime Department



TREASURER

Mr Todor POPOV
President of the National Association of Bulgarian Municipalities (NAMRB)
Mayor of the Municipality of Pazardzhik



II - CEPLI POLITICAL CONFERENCES

On the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and with the expansion of the European Union to 27 members, it is time to reassert that a Europe of the states can only be built and developed by drawing on the diversity of its territories and through their local authorities, as mentioned below.

In this context, the Constitutive Meeting of the CEPLI was organized in Avignon (France), on 15 - 16 July 2008.



FIRST POLITICAL CONFERENCE

The First Political Conference of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) was held on February 6, 2009, in the city of Cáceres (Spain). The conference brought together delegations of 10 national associations of intermediate authorities and 2 European networks.

This conference adopted the Convention of the Confederation and provided itself with a President: Mr. Claudy LEBRETON, President of the County Council of Coats d'Arms, President of the Assembly of Departments of France (ADF).

Also three vice-presidents were elected:

- Antoni FOGUE, President di Diputació di Barcelona, President of the Diputaciones Committee in the FEMP (Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, Spain)
- Ferenc ODOR, President of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government, President of MÖÖSZ (National Association of Megye, Hungary)
- Helmut M. JAHN, President of Hohenlohekreis, member of the Presidency of DLT (Deutscher Landkreistag, Germany)

The conference of Cáceres also discussed the position of CEPLI about the Green Book on Territorial Cohesion, which was officially submitted to the European Commission.

Meanwhile, all CEPLI members and associated networks agreed on a series of organizational provisions set forth in a Partnership Agreement, aiming at facilitating the achievement of the Confederation's objectives.



SECOND POLITICAL CONFERENCE

The second Political Conference of CEPLI members and associated networks has taken place in Budapest, on 12 and 13 November 2009, where it has been discussed about how local intermediate authorities (LIAs) are tackling the economical, social and territorial challenges face to the current crisis.

The European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (Confédération Européenne des Pouvoirs Locaux Intermédiaires, CEPLI) is the first and only European confederation of national associations of local intermediate authorities and associated networks.

CEPLI intends to be a model of cooperation and exchange to the benefit of its members and Europe. It aims to become a recognized partner of European institutions, other European, national and mondial associations.

European citizens are aware that the European Union is experiencing a crisis at different levels, which is far graver than previous situations. Within this context, we want to acknowledge the crucial role that local intermediate authorities are playing in ensuring territorial, economical and social cohesion.

The tsunami of the financial and economic crisis has put a halt to economic and social development in EU Member States, having severe consequences for social stability. Achieving the targets of the Lisbon Strategy will be increasingly difficult, taking into account the unemployment rates and the decrease of the GDP.

Local Intermediate Authorities (LIAs) can play a key role in providing immediate answers to the needs of the population and their territories. The knowledge they have because of their proximity and their critical mass makes them able to act in the most appropriate and efficient way.

In the current context, the structuring and cohesive role of local authorities is clearer than ever before. Local authorities are having to face the social consequences of the crisis and cope with a decline in economic development. They are perfectly aware of the fact that they must react and concentrate on the implementation of actions to help citizens face this economic and social crisis.

LIAs are carrying out innovative initiatives in order to fight the effects of the crisis at local level. This confirms that they have a great reaction and mobilisation capacity in response to a wide range of challenges.





THIRD POLITICAL CONFERENCE

The Third Political Conference of CEPLI was held in the city of Berlin on 9 and 10 November 2010 and focused on the most significant opportunities and challenges for local intermediate authorities and their citizens - approached and debated from the perspective of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) appreciates the new essential innovations of the Treaty of Lisbon. The role of local and regional authorities, and therefore the role of Local Intermediate Authorities (LIAs), is finally recognized on primary law level. The Treaty acknowledges, for the very first time in the history of the European Union, the importance and significance the local level has in the field of policy creation and administration for its citizens.

From now on, it is necessary to put in place and develop the content of this innovation, which implies the upholding of the fundamental principles of local self-government, fiscal autonomy, subsidiarity, multi-level governance and cultural diversity in the political everyday business and in all the EU strategies and policies.

As directly involved actors for the implementation of European law, the Local Intermediate Authorities can, also with respect to their key position between national government and citizens, have an important contribution to this process.

We appreciate the legitimization of the principle of local self-government in the Treaty of Lisbon also with regard to the ongoing territorial reforms in many EU Member States. Given the extensive territorial reforms taking place, the enforcement of the right to self-administration and of the principle of subsidiarity is essential for LIAs.

CEPLI would therefore like to express its attachment to the principles of subsidiarity and free local administration which seems to be questioned through these reforms. CEPLI reminds that those principles were already enshrined into the European Chart of Local Self-Government of 1985 which has been ratified by all the European Union countries.

Moreover, CEPLI recalls that the inclusion of the territorial cohesion as one of the fundamental values of the European Union represented a considerable step forward for its economic and social cohesion. This cohesion will not happen without the contribution of Local Intermediate Authorities or without the intervention of all the territorial levels of EU.

FOURTH POLITICAL CONFERENCE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF CEPLI

During its Political Conference held in Rome on 16th and 17th of June 2011, the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) has ratified the constitution of the CEPLI ASBL under Belgian law.

Starting with its creation in July 2008, the Constitutive Charter and the Partnership Agreement of 2009 formed the basis of the cooperation framework between the CEPLI members.

The participants agreed on the statutes of the ASBL and the new internal rules.

The President of CEPLI, Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione (UPI, Italy), the Vice-President, Mr. Paul-Emile Mottard (APW, Belgium), the Secretary-General, Mr. Claudy Lebreton (ADF, France) and the Treasurer, Mr. Helmut Jahn (DLT, Germany) have been reconfirmed.

The presidents of national associations representing the intermediate local authorities have decided to join their forces in order to increase their involvement and participation in the European decision-making process, to reinforce the consistency and visibility of their activities in the European area, to facilitate cooperation between intermediate local authorities and to establish the continuous exchange of information and good practices between their local authorities.





FIFTH POLITICAL CONFERENCE

On 3rd of July 2012 the APW (Association of Walloon Provinces) and the VVP (Association of Flemish Provinces) welcomed the 5th Political Conference of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI).

The event was organized in partnership with the Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), on the occasion of a Conference organized at the Committee of Regions on the theme of local democracy and multilevel governance.

The conference began with the presentation of a video message from Ms. Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of Regions, who welcomed the participants to the conference. She recalled that each government has its place in the Committee and expressed the wish that Local Intermediate Authorities will fully contribute to the definition of partnerships to be settled within the framework of the Cohesion Policy of the Union.

In his introductory remarks, the President of the CEPLI, Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione, stressed the importance of the debate on the future of local democracy. He noted that the economic crisis has an important impact on local authorities, being targeted by national governments wishing to rationalize public expenditures. If these reforms prove to be necessary, they must be made in a thoughtful way and by respecting the local democracy. The President of the CEPLI reiterated the need to comply with the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self Government of the Council of Europe, namely in terms of respecting the results of direct election of local communities' representatives.

Ms. Hilde Bruggeman, the President of the VVP, has stressed that the CEPLI Conference is opened for the very first time to such a wide audience and welcomed it. She recalled that Local Intermediate Authorities (LIAs) are being challenged in several Member States of the European Union and expressed her hope that this level of local community will be more involved, in the future, in the definition and implementation of European Policies. She regretted that LIAs were not involved in the debate on the White Paper on Multilevel Governance, especially as the Belgian provinces are not represented in the Committee of Regions.

The moderator of the conference, Mr. Patrick Salez, European territorial policy expert, introduced the debate by stating two important challenges of governance: improving the efficiency and quality of public action on the one hand, and strengthening the participation of citizens and stakeholders of territorial development in its implementation, on the other.

GUARANTEEING LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES' SUPPORT

The first part of the debate of the day was devoted to the intervention of two university professors. Professor Annick Magnier (Florence University) presented the study she conducted on the role of provinces in the Italian institutional framework. This study shows the great commitment of citizens and local communities to the provincial institution, meeting, in this way, the need to offer proximity answers able to provide high quality public services.

For his part, Professor Christian Behrendt (University of Liège) commented on the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, emphasizing the links that must be maintained between local autonomy and a clean fiscal power. The two go hand in hand. The fiscal power is the undeniable proof that local authorities can exercise their competences with a certain degree of autonomy. He also recalled that the corollary of this autonomy is the direct election of local representatives, who are accountable to their electorate and their elected assembly for the proper use of public funds.

WHAT KIND OF MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR A GOOD SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL COHESION?

Ms. Veronica Gaffey, from DG Regio, European Commission, stressed the need to include the European construction in a context of multilevel governance. She acknowledged that one of the major weaknesses of the Lisbon Treaty was the insufficient involvement of Local Authorities. The willingness of the European Commission is to organize partnerships with all levels of local authorities in order to involve institutional and civil society which can bring added value to the implementation of European Policies, and that from the next programming period of EU funds 2014 - 2020. The Commission is of the view that there is no single governance model and the specificities of each territory should be taken into account.

The President of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Luc Van den Brande stressed that the failure of the implementation of the objectives of the Lisbon Treaty is particularly due to lack of involvement of local and regional authorities. He also stated that in a context of economic, financial and identity crisis as Europe meets now, it is necessary to develop creative models of governance going beyond the administrative boundaries of States. For him, multilevel governance should allow the involvement of all actors who can bring added value to the debate but ensuring that institutional actors have a meaningful say.

In conclusion of this debate, Mr. André Viola, President of Arco Latino, presented the "Manifesto of Salerno". The document was adopted by the members of this network at their last General Assembly devoted to the role of Local Intermediate Authorities in Europe. He emphasized the role of CEPLI to bring the voice of intermediate territorial communities at European level. The Provinces are privileged partners of the Regions and States because of their proximity links with local communities and their capacity for action. They had a key role in planning and coordination of the development actors in the local economy.

THE LOCAL INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITIES IN EUROPE - DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE (CLRAE)

In his speech, Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Governance Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, presented what must be the only criterion that should guide reforms: the effectiveness of public action. He supports a pragmatic approach seeking to ensure that any changes will bring more efficiency, citizens' involvement and will contribute to take Europe out of the crisis.

Mr. Emilio Verrengia, CLRAE Rapporteur for the debate on intermediate local level, presented the stages and the essential elements of his report. He stressed that the reforms envisaged in Europe concerning the local intermediate level respond mainly to economic concerns and stand as an excuse to re-centralize certain powers. The approach must be totally different if we take into account the principles of subsidiarity and multilevel governance.

On behalf of the President of the Assembly of Departments of France, Mr. Claudy Lebreton, Mr. André Viola presented the main points of the Final Declaration of the Brussels Conference of CEPLI, which emphasizes the importance of the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the need to valorize the involvement of local actors in multilevel governance.

Mr. Paul-Emile Mottard, Vice-President of the CEPLI and president of APW, addressed the concluding remarks of the conference by highlighting the quality of debate, the great diversity of the competences performed by LIAs, which respond to the concerns about local anchoring and proximity to the areas they serve. This diversity does not allow foreseeing a single model of governance. He stressed the need for consultation between the States and Local Intermediate Authorities but also between the territories and Europe, in order to ensure the implementation of European Policies.



SIXTH POLITICAL CONFERENCE

On 17th of May 2013 the UNCJR (National Union of County Councils of Romania) welcomed the 6th Political Conference of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI).

The sixth Political Conference of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) was held on 17 May 2013 in Ploiesti, Romania.

Bringing together delegations from 11 national associations of local intermediate authorities (Germany, Belgium: Flemish and Walloon provinces, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania) and associated networks (Arco Latino and Partenalia), this Conference represented also the moment of the Confederation's leadership renewal.

The Political Conference elected a new Political Bureau:

- President - Mr Paul-Emile MOTTARD, President of the Association of Walloon Provinces (APW), Belgium, Provincial Deputy of Liège;
- Vice President - Mr Marian Oprisan, President of the National Union of County Councils of Romania (UNCJR), President of Vrancea County;
- Secretary-General - Mr Claudy Lebreton, President of the Assembly of French Departments (ADF), President of Côtes d'Armor Department;
- Treasurer - Mr Todor Popov, President of the National Association of Bulgarian Municipalities (NAMRB), Mayor of the Municipality of Pazardzhik.

On the same occasion, CEPLI granted the observer status to the Union of Districts Councils of the Republic of Moldova.

The theme of the 6th Political Conference of CEPLI was "Decentralization, resources and local autonomy".

Representatives of the European Parliament (Mr Victor Bostinaru), the Committee of the Regions (Mr Franz Schausberger, Mr Vladimir Kissiov, Mr Ion Prioteasa, Mr Silvian Ciuperca and Mr Mircea Cosma) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Mr Emilio Verrengia and Mrs Antonella Cagnolati) contributed to the debate and expressed their concerns about the way in which the territorial reforms are carried out in some European countries.

These reforms are legitimate when responding to a need for closer political decision to citizens, in a spirit of proximity and subsidiarity. It is important to ensure that they are thoughtful and concerted with all relevant levels of government.

The pretext of the economic crisis is too often used to justify the fundamental calling into question of the place of Local Intermediate Authorities, even if they provide elements of stability, trust and solidarity contributing, in this way, to the development of our territories.

The political representatives of CEPLI want to raise the awareness of the national authorities and European institutions on the principles that should govern the initiated territorial reforms in order to avoid territorial and social fractures, harmful to democracy and the well-functioning of services for the population.

The multilevel governance, manifested through an equitable participation of all political actors from different levels and increased subsidiarity, must be at the heart of underway or planned reforms. The correlation between decentralization and economic competitiveness of territories, based on the proximity between local authorities and citizens, ensures an effective development, mindful to democracy.

In this uncertain environment, CEPLI reaffirmed the irreplaceable role of Local Intermediate Authorities in relation with their citizens in order to fight against the effects of the crisis and give them a message of hope.

In his closing speech to the Conference, the President of CEPLI, Mr Paul-Emile Mottard, has set as a priority for the coming months, to ensure a closer cooperation with the Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, as legitimate institutions representing the voice of the territories. CEPLI will participate, in particular, in the debate of the Committee of the Regions on its evolution, on the occasion of the celebration of its twentieth anniversary.

Moreover, CEPLI will develop its contacts with the national delegations to the European Parliament, as well as with the European Commission and its Directorates-General. These approaches are aimed at developing, together with European partners, a reflection process on the role of Local Intermediate Authorities in Europe.



III - CLRAE RESOLUTION

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe recognizes the importance of the role of local intermediate authorities and reaffirms the necessity of maintaining the direct election of their councilors.



During the Political Conference of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI), held in Rome in June 2011, the members of CEPLI proposed to open a debate on the role of Intermediate local authorities in Europe at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. With the support of several members of the Congress, among which the contribution of the Italian delegation was significant, this process was completed on October 18, 2012, at the 23rd Plenary Session of the CLRAE, when a resolution and a recommendation on intermediate governance in Europe were approved.

The report on the situation of local intermediate powers in Europe proposed by Mr. Emilio Verrengia, member of the Italian delegation at CLRAE, was carried out with the assistance of CEPLI and has been the subject of debate at the Governance Committee of the Congress. The draft report was presented at the 22nd session of the CLRAE in March 2012.

During its Political Conference held in Brussels in July 2012, CEPLI has mentioned this document as an element of the highest importance in the context of proposed administrative reforms in Europe. The final version of the report "The second level of local community-intermediate governance in Europe", as well as the draft resolution and the recommendation approved by the Governance Committee on May 31, 2012, were debated and approved at great majority at CLRAE plenary on October 18, 2012.

Being concerned by the fact that the current economic crisis has led some governments to reorganize their territorial architecture by hastily engaging reforms that could cause lasting harm to the local and regional democracy, the Congress decided to intensify its efforts to ensure that territorial reforms will be implemented for the benefit of citizens and in full consultation with all levels of government. "It is important to reaffirm the need for citizens to express themselves and directly elect their political representatives," said Rapporteur Emilio Verrengia (Italy), stressing that local intermediate communities or second level communities have a well-established role in many Member States of the Council of Europe and they ensure a high level of responsibility. "

The document adopted by the Congress also emphasized that the action of intermediate local authorities is an opportunity to combat the effects of the crisis because of the services they provide to citizens.

Mr. Verrengia stated that saving money at any cost, ignoring the needs of citizens, constitutes a violation of their rights, leading to a weakening of the principles of autonomy and local democracy. In any case, if a territorial reorganization is necessary, it must occur in respect of the citizens' rights.

The Congress, through the voice of its members who spoke during the debate, is deeply concerned and attaches great importance to the principles contained in the European Charter of Local Self-Government. These principles are designed to ensure local democracy, direct election of the representatives in local and regional assemblies and territorial financial autonomy. The fact that the intermediate level is the subject of budget savings that governments want to achieve, proves that these governments neglect the importance of this level in the delivery of services closer to the citizen, which will certainly have adverse effects afterwards.

Despite the British demand to refer the report to the Governance Committee in order to clarify some aspects concerning the British situation, the text was adopted and the rapporteur stressed the important role played by CEPLI, the Association of European Regions (AER) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in its development and adoption.

The resolution - adopted with an amendment tabled by Ms Ludmila Sfirloaga, member of the Romanian delegation and six amendments proposed by the rapporteur - as well as the recommendation - adopted with four amendments tabled by Ms Ludmila Sfirloaga and three amendments proposed by the rapporteur – are available in the attached files and will be sent by CEPLI to the European institutions and to the member countries of the Council of Europe.

IV - OPEN DAYS

The Open Days is an event jointly organized by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, in partnership with regions and cities from all over Europe, companies, banks, international associations and academic organisations.



OPEN DAYS 2010

On the occasion of the 8th European Week of Regions and Cities, the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) organized a series of 6 seminars which will involve large consortia of European partners and will approach complex and innovative topics.

THE PROGRAM WAS:

5 October 2010

Local Intermediate Authorities: Mobilising Competitive Territories

11:15 - 13:00,

Territorial planning as a competitiveness strategy

14:30 - 17:00,

Innovative policies essential for sustainable growth

6 October 2010

Local Intermediate Authorities: Driving Territorial Cooperation

11:15 - 13:00,

Interterritorial cooperation, the path to EU

14:30 - 17:00,

Partnership mapping a new Europe

7 October 2010

Local Intermediate Authorities: Key Actors for Cohesion

09:00 - 10:45,

Innovative policies for territorial cohesion

11:15 - 13:00,

Leading change through Social Inclusion

OPEN DAYS 2011

The Regional Partnership structured under the aegis of CEPLI “Local intermediate authorities: Acting for Europe 2020”, organized on 12th of October 2011 an Open Days debate on “Unlocking Innovation and Efficiency at Local Level”.

On this occasion, panellists from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain discussed how LIAs (Local Intermediate Authorities) are facing the challenges set up by the Strategy Europe 2020.

The first part of the debate, entitled “Digital Europe and Innovation – the role of Local Intermediate Authorities in Europe 2020 strategy” related to innovation, digitalization and creativity in European provinces and cities.

The second part, entitled “Energy efficiency at local level for the benefit of Europe 2020 goals” related to actions towards energy efficiency and their influence in terms of future perspective of a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe.

The projects to be outlined during the debate will reveal how the problems were solved at local level in an innovative and efficient way, how the LIAs selected the adequate measures, what were the outcomes, positive results, challenges and lessons learned.

The speakers from these countries presented and discussed best practices for interaction between stakeholders at local level and the influence of innovation and energy efficiency on job creation and social policies.

Pictures from different parts of Europe showed how problems were treated, from the Balkans to Belgium and France and also to the South of Europe, using the EU regional policy funding. Speakers will challenge the debate by trying to find common features to comparable solutions

The debate tackled questions regarding the management of their local communities in the present economic situation in Europe and scarce financial and energy resources and ever-deepening problems of an ageing population, youth unemployment and public pressure to reduce administrative burden.

The panellists engaging in this debate were the following:

Mr. Valentín CORTÉS, President of Diputación de Badajoz (ES); Mrs. Guinka Tchavdarova, NAMRB – Executive director (BG); President of Diputación de Cáceres (ES) – name tbc after elections results; Mr. Hervé RASCLARD, First Vice-President of Drôme County Council (FR); Mr. Jean TOUZEAU, Deputy of Gironde County Council (FR); Mr. Georges PIRE, Provincial Deputy of the Province of Liège (BE); Mrs. Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of the city of Łódź (PL); Mr. Giovanni AVANTI, President of the Province of Palermo (IT); Mr. Piero LACORAZZA, President of the Province of Potenza (IT); Mr. Mircea COSMA, President of Prahova County Council (RO); Mrs. Francesca ZACCARIOTTO, President of the Province of Venezia (IT); Mr. Alain TRUSSART, Provincial Deputy of the Province of Walloon Brabant (BE).

V - CONTACT



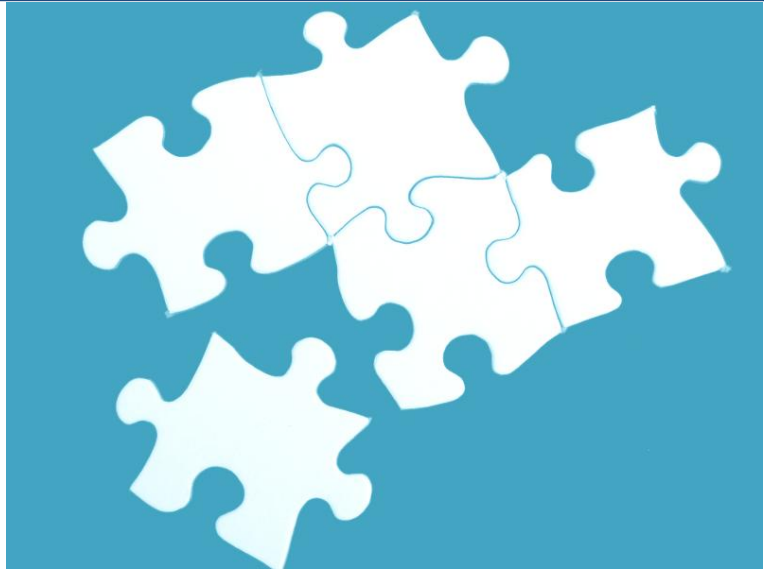
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VI - ENCLOSURES



- 1 - CEPLI Charter
- 2 - Declaration of the CEPLI on territorial cohesion
- 3 - Budapest final declaration
- 4 - Final resolution of the 3rd political conference of the CEPLI
- 5 - Final policy statement – Brussels conference
- 6 - Political declaration of the 6th political conference of CEPLI