

General Assembly of the Euromed Cities Network. Friday 4th November 2016. Summary.

Point 1 of the General Assembly: Review of the Network's strategy, development and structure.

The goal of this General Assembly is to propose to the membership a strategy for the Network, its development and its structure, and to discuss these subjects.

1. Strategy

Many networks coexist in the territory of the Mediterranean basin.

The two specific features of the Euromed Cities Network are that it consists of cities and that it includes, as well as cities in the Mediterranean basin, non-Mediterranean cities in Europe developing cooperative relationships with Mediterranean cities.

This is the reason for the proposal to base the Network's strategy on developing exchanges of experience and bilateral and multilateral cooperative projects, particularly economic, in the area of the roles of cities, with a dual focus on youth employment and fighting climate change.

The theme of the roles of cities is proposed due to the Network's particularity of consisting of local authorities.

The dual focus on youth employment and fighting climate change is proposed firstly because youth unemployment around the Mediterranean basin, and even further afield, is one of the main causes of economic migration and crisis situations; and secondly because the Mediterranean is the global area where the effects of climate change will be particularly amplified.

2. Development

The Network has thus adopted positions in recent months on the following cooperative actions:

- . Partnership with the Centre of Training and Decentralization Support in Tunisia,
- . European project for youth employment in the Mediterranean,
- . Project on energy efficiency in public buildings, part of the 2014-2020 European Interreg MED programme.

It also proposes the implementation of complementary cooperative projects in areas such as reinforcing cities' security, waste management, innovation and heritage management.

With regard to the partnership with the Centre of Training and Decentralization Support in Tunisia, this is a pilot scheme to support the decentralization process in Tunisian cities by reinforcing municipal councils in the exercise of their powers.

The Euromed Cities Network was chosen by the Tunisian government and its senior administration to conduct the trial, drawing on the skills of its member cities.

With regard to the European project for youth employment throughout the Mediterranean basin, this is a trial of a joint effort by the training sector and the business world focusing on the roles of cities, based on commitments by companies to recruit young people identified and made operational by the project.

With regard to the project on energy efficiency in public buildings, part of the 2014-2020 European Interreg MED programme, the Euromed Cities Network has recently topped the ranking in the call for proposals under the programme and been selected as the lead partner in the MEDNICE consortium (the European Interreg MED programme, which has a budget of 210million € for the period 2014-2020, focuses on the themes of innovation, the low-carbon economy and natural and cultural resources).

MEDNICE: the MED programme Networks for Innovative Cooperation in Energy efficiency is a horizontal project, which means that it is a strategic coordination, communication and capitalization project, in a territory covering 13 countries from Portugal to Cyprus.

MEDNICE will be the special partner of the European institutions throughout the programme and will defend the specific features of the Mediterranean regions with regard to energy efficiency in public buildings. The project will also involve cities on the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

3. Structure

Based on these actions, the Euromed Cities Network stakeholders' meeting was organized to propose a development strategy for the Network and to structure it around a Charter, Rules of Procedure and themed Working Committees.

Point 2 of the General Assembly: Charter and Rules of Procedure.

The purpose of the Charter is to agree on shared values that unite all the Network's stakeholders.

The purpose of the Rules of Procedure is to formalize the way the Network operates.

The proposed Charter refers to the general principles of the 1995 Barcelona Process, which are to build a common area of peace, stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean.

The Rules of Procedure include provisions for:

- . three possible statuses: members, observers and partners. Only local authorities can be members or observers. Each authority will designate a permanent representative and a deputy to represent it at the Network's General Assembly.
- . Working Committees established to reflect on the development and implementation of concrete cooperative projects. Each Working Committee will be presided by a member. The presidencies of the Working Committees will automatically confer a vice presidency of the Network.

- . the introduction of a contribution symbolising each member's commitment to the Network and guaranteeing active participation. An annual contribution of 500 euros is proposed. This is not a means of funding the Network.

The Charter and Rules of Procedure were adopted unanimously.

Point 3 of the General Assembly: Proposed Working Committees

To ensure the dynamism of the Network, themed Working Committees are proposed, whose purpose, as stated above, will be to reflect on the development and implementation of concrete cooperative projects.

Each committee will be able to include interested members and will define its objectives and its working methods, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Network.

Several members have applied for the presidencies of the following thematic Working Committees: Youth Employment, Innovation, Security and Migration, Energy, Waste, Urban Planning and Heritage.

The candidate cities – Algiers, Greenwich, Jdeideh, Nuremberg, Sfax and Tangier – spoke in turn.

Point 4 of the General Assembly: Election of the presidency and the presidencies of the Working Committees

The purpose of this Assembly is also to elect the presidency of the Network. The Nice Côte d'Azur metropolitan region is standing for election to continue the momentum and consolidate the Network's development as a catalyst for cooperative projects and a player recognised by European institutions and international organizations and funding bodies.

The vote is held for the presidency and the committee presidencies.

Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur and the cities of Algiers, Greenwich, Jdeideh, Nuremberg, Sfax and Tangier are respectively elected to the presidency of the Network and the presidencies of the above Working Committees.

The Working Committees are thus as follows:

- . **Youth Employment Committee:** presided by Algiers (Algeria)
- . **Innovation Committee:** presided by Greenwich (UK)
- . **Security and Migration Committee:** presided by Jdeideh (Lebanon)
- . **Energy Committee:** presided by Nuremberg (Germany)
- . **Waste Committee:** presided by Sfax (Tunisia)
- . **Urban Planning and Heritage Committee:** presided by Tangier (Morocco)

End of the General Assembly.

Partnership agreement

At this fourth Plenary Assembly, a partnership agreement was signed between the Euromed Cities Network and the Center of Training and Decentralization Support in Tunisia.